



SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY

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October 18, 2006

Mr. Abdinur Mohamud
Founder/Board Member Pan-Somali Congress for Peace and Democracy
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Mohamud

I am very pleased that we had an opportunity to discuss your concerns relating to the treatment of Somali community in South Africa.

As indicated in the statement I furnished you with, from our Human Rights Commission, the South African Government views these extreme acts of xenophobia in a very serious light.

In this regard, I have conveyed your concerns to the South African Government and hope that in due course, I can follow up with a report of progress made by the South African authorities to address the violence against the Somalian community in South Africa.

I was greatly affected by the grateful meeting organized by the World Affairs Council and for the opportunity to meet with the Somalian leadership. Please convey my appreciation to your compatriots for their graciousness and the dignified manner in which we conducted our discussions.

As one of the victims of apartheid and a former exile of several decades, I can identify with the anguish you feel as exiles who must now also deal with the heightening of insecurity which is the bane of all refugees.

I trust that you are keeping well, and I look forward to further engaging with you on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Masekela'.

Barbara Masekela
Ambassador