

Emergency ministerial-level meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Remarks by the Minister

Dr. Abdusalam H.Omer

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Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters and Ladies and Gentleman,

The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia is honoured to be in the Holy, beautiful and historic city of Mecca, participating in this important meeting. Indeed, it is only through consultation and internal agreement that we can decide on a credible strategy to move forward in all matters of importance to us all in the Islamic world.

I would like to thank the OIC Secretariat for organizing this most important meeting so efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to the brotherly Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm hospitality my delegation and I have received.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia protested and continues to protest in the strongest terms against the attempted missile attack on the Holy city of Mecca. Indeed, the very act, whether it succeeded or not, is evil and we sincerely thank the brotherly Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for intercepting and destroying this missile as a representative to all Muslims. The government and people of Somalia are ready to provide any supporting whether material or moral in order to protect the Holy Ka'aba. Knowing the centrality of Mecca to our beautiful Islamic religion, its understanding and history, we should all be outraged that anyone or group, let alone other Muslims, will ever consider attacking it.

The Holy city of Mecca is home to the Ka'aba, the house of Allah SWT and it is the birth place of our wonderful, most worthy prophet, Mohammed (PBUH). In addition, the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) declared Mecca as the holiest site in Islam, ordaining it as the center of Muslim pilgrimage, one of our peaceful religion's five pillars.

All Muslims must unite against the destruction of our common heritage and the sacred sites of our beautiful, peaceful Islamic religion. While Mecca is located in the blessed brotherly land of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it belongs to us all as Muslims. Since we are all created by our Most merciful and gracious Lord who is the master of heaven and Earth, Mecca is priceless inheritance for all Mankind who seek the blessings and favours of Allah SWT.

Despite our cultural differences, we are all united by our love for our religion and in line with this we must condemn the attempted attack on Mecca, our holiest city. More

importantly, we must be prepared to take all necessary steps to work with our Saudi Arabian brothers, the custodians of the Holy Mosques and sites, to safeguard them from all threats.

Across the Islamic world, we are witnessing difficulties and destructive confrontation. It is often, very painfully, us in this very room fighting each other on the grounds of sectarianism and we must address these key issues urgently for the stability, progress and prosperity of our region, people and to safeguard the sacred teachings and values of Islam. We must work even harder, given the increasingly critical security threats we all face, to find lasting solutions for peace, common progress and prosperity for us all.

Since we are in this most Holiest of cities, Mecca, I will like to take this valuable opportunity to pray for peace, stability and progress across the Muslim world which is currently challenged by terrorism and violence. The simple fact is that only by uniting against these common, deadly and evil actions can we protect ourselves and our religion from harm.

Given the potential chaos and destruction had the attempt to attack Mecca succeed, we join our brothers in this room in calling on the international community to unequivocally condemn it.

In conclusion, I pray that Allah SWT protects us all and our sacred Holy sites from all evil.

I thank you all.