European Union Training Mission Somalia

PRESS SUMMARY

10th April 2018

“In Media’ stat virtus
Somalia’s Speaker of Parliament, Mohamed Osman Jawari, has resigned after a three-week power struggle with the country’s prime minister, officials say.

Constitution Minister Abdirahman Hosh Jibril announced in a tweet that Speaker Jawari had submitted his resignation.

Member of Parliament Hussein Arab Isse also told VOA Somali that the Speaker has resigned.

“Deputy Speaker (Abdiweli Mudey) read the resignation letter from the Speaker in front of us this morning,” Isse said.

Isse also said that the Speaker took into account advice from President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, to avert further political stand off.

One of Speaker Jawari’s aides told VOA that he chose to resign.

“It’s done, he resigned,” says the aide who didn't want to be identified. “He will say his good-byes to the parliament on Wednesday.”

Lawmakers supporting Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire accused Jawari of “violating” parliamentary rules and of slowing down legislative affairs. But Jawari denied the allegations,
arguing that it was executive branch overreach from the office of the Prime Minister, which wanted him out. Jawari’s camp said the executive branch proposed no-confidence motions against him in order to consolidate power.

Neither the President nor the PM publicly commented on the fiasco.

The resignation came as lawmakers supporting the PM were planning to vote on a no-confidence motion against the Speaker on Monday.

Jawari, 73, first became Speaker in August 2012, and was re-elected again in January 2017. He was known as more of a technocrat than a politician and has led the parliament during series of political crises.

The Lower House of Parliament has two weeks to elect a new Speaker.

https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-speaker-steps-down/4338447.html
THE JORDAN TIMES

Somalia parliament speaker quits as Gulf rivalries boil

By Thomson Reuters Foundation - Apr 09, 2018 -

The speaker of Somalia's parliament, Mohamed Sheikh Osman Jawari, attends his election process in Mogadishu, Somalia, on January 11, 2017 (Reuters photo)

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The speaker of Somalia's parliament resigned on Monday after a dispute with President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed that analysts said was fuelled in part by a crisis in the Gulf spilling into the politics of the volatile Horn of Africa nation.

The resignation of Mohamed Osman Jawari came the day after the seizure of $9.6 million in cash at Mogadishu airport from a plane that had landed from the United Arab Emirates, according to police and government sources.

The Mogadishu government confirmed the seizure, but did not say what the money was for.

The mystery cash has fuelled a widespread view among Somalis that the political problems in their country are the work of foreign powers, said Rashid Abdi of the think tank International Crisis Group.

The speaker's dispute with the president had simmered for weeks and came close to violence. Last week a no-confidence vote against him did not go ahead after he and his opponents arrived at parliament with armed guards.

The president and speaker have long been rivals, analysts said, with much of their enmity fuelled by the perception that they back opposite sides in the dispute that erupted last year between Qatar and Turkey against Saudi Arabia and its ally, the United Arab Emirates.
The Arab states have strong trading links with and influence in Somalia, which lies across the Gulf of Aden, although this clout is offset by the sway of Turkey, one of Somalia’s biggest foreign investors and the owner of an in-country military base.

"Somalia is vulnerable and the Gulf crisis is a catalyst," Abdi said. "The executive was concerned [about] where this speaker was headed."

It was unclear if Jawari’s resignation would ease the recent tension, and there was no immediate comment from the president, whose fragile administration is partly propped up by African Union peacekeepers.

Somalia has been in a state of lawlessness since the early 1990s, when dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was toppled by warlords.

Jawari blinks first in duel with Khaire as political turmoil holds

April 9, 2018

*Jawari was elected Speaker in 2012 and has survived several no-confidence motion threats*

Embattled Lower House Speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari has resigned following a month-long political drama that saw African Union forces intervene even as a faction allied to Prime Minister trooped to the House this morning to debate the motion against the Speaker.

Deputy Speaker Abdiweli Mudey who has been at the forefront in demanding his bosses’ exit cut short proceedings this morning to announce Jawari’s resignation which came amid day long talks with President Mohamed Farmaajo Sunday.

Lower House Secretary General Ibrahim Buuh and another MP Mohamud Benebene both confirmed the resignation to Goobjoog News in what could mark an end to one phase of a long drawn political fight but could herald another following earlier indications the Jawari allied faction was aiming its guns on the Prime Minister Hassan Khaire.

Impeccable sources have also intimated to Goobjoog News the long serving Speaker is indisposed at the moment.
President Farmaajo’s efforts to have Jawari step down seem to have borne fruit. Jawari told reporters last week the President was no longer keen on resolving the political dispute but wanted him out.

“Since Saturday, the President has been asking me to resign but I refused,” Jawari said last Tuesday.

“We agreed with the President to allow a ten days window period through which we would find a solution,” Jawari noted. “But the fact that the motion against me has been announced for tomorrow (last Wednesday) means he has blessed it and party to it.”

Indications were clear Sunday both the President and Muday were still reading from different scripts on handling the political dispute. As Jawari and Farmaajo held talks at Villa Somalia, Muday was engaging his phone sending texts to MPs to meet today to dispose of the motion.

Jawari has fended off fights pressure from Villa Somalia and what he termed as intimidations from the Prime Minister. He was stripped of his security after last Wednesday’s debacle in the House and has since been under security from Amisom forces.

AU, UN Special Envoys on Funding Consultations for AMISOM make assessment visit to Somalia

April 9, 2018

The Special Envoys on Funding Consultations for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), made a day’s visit to Mogadishu, to discuss sustainable funding to peace operations in the Horn of Africa country.

Ramtane Lamamra and Jean-Marie Guehenno, the Special Envoys from the African Union and the United Nations respectively, emphasized a gradual shift of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces, without a regression in the progress already made securing the country.

“It is very important that gradual shift from AMISOM to the Somali authorities happens in a way that doesn’t jeopardize all the efforts that have been made so far,” said UN Envoy Guehenno.

Mr. Guéhenno acknowledged the presence of a multiplicity of actors who are supporting security and peace building programmes in Somalia and highlighted their importance towards the achievement of sustainable peace.

“In the coming phase, the coordination between all these actors is more important than ever and it is of course a very sensitive issue,” he remarked. The two Special Envoys met with the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo, the Prime Minister H.E. Hassan Ali Khaire, the AU and UN Special Representatives for Somalia, Francisco Caetano Madeira and Michael Keating respectively, ambassadors from the Troop Contributing Countries to AMISOM, who are accredited to Somalia, and European Union officials.
Discussions with these teams focused on achieving a smooth transition of the security responsibility from AMISOM to the Somali security forces.

The Envoys’ assessment visit to Somalia is part of ongoing consultations on peace support operations for AMISOM, spearheaded by the African Union and the UN.

The AU Special Representative for Somalia Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira expressed concern that unpredictable funding to AMISOM, may have far reaching implications on Somalia.

“It is no longer an issue of charity. Supporting SNA or AMISOM is not charity at all. Success of security in Somalia, in all its aspects, is success for everything, including international business,” Madeira said.

Upon completion of their assessment, the Envoys will submit a report, which will inform decisions of the African Union Commission and the UN, on the level of funding and provision of logistical support to AMISOM.

In related news (AMISOM has started the biometric registration of the Darwish militia in Jubbaland state, preceding their integrating into the state’s security forces.

Over five-thousand members of the militia group will be registered in Gedo, Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions. The biometric registration entails collection of key personal data including photographs and fingerprints of each member of the group.

“This is in line with AMISOM and UN programme aimed at developing the force into a police force in Jubbaland that will be mandated to keep law, order and security in the state,” Martin Abili, the AMISOM Police Coordinator in Kismayo explained.

Abili said the militia will be integrated either into the Jubbaland state’s police force, the paramilitary or the Somali National Army.

Somalia: tribunale militare conferma condanna a morte per maggiore Abdinassir Hosh

Mogadiscio, 09 apr 18:27 - (Agenzia Nova) - Il tribunale militare della Somalia ha confermato la condanna a morte per il maggiore Abdinassir Hosh, accusato di aver ucciso il vice comandante della marina somala, Said Adan Yussuf. Lo riferisce il sito di informazione somalo “Goobjoog”. Yusuf è stato ucciso a colpi d’arma da fuoco nella capitale somala di Mogadiscio lo scorso gennaio. Un mese dopo è arrivata la condanna a morte per Hosh, che ha fatto ricorso contro la sentenza.

QC sends emergency relief to 6,000 drought-hit families in Somalia

April 10 2018

Qatar Charity (QC) has started distribution of dry food to more than 6,000 families affected by drought in Baidoa city of Somalia.

The drought has displaced thousands of Somali families from remote areas affected to nearby villages and towns.

In a statement, Qatar Charity said the dry food was distributed to 670 affected families in Baidoa and nearby areas, as the first phase of a drought-affected aid project.

Qatar Charity noted that the emergency relief project included the distribution of dry food, safe drinking water through tanks, medical convoys, and the distribution of plastic blankets for families to protect them from the heat of the sun and the cold of the night.

QC said that the relief campaign will be implemented in the displaced people camps in the outskirts of Mogadishu and most affected regions from the far north to the far south.

The emergency relief projects include medical convoys providing primary medical services in Somalia, in order to reduce the spread of diseases and epidemics, in addition to a charity kitchen benefiting daily about 2,000 families the cities of Mogadishu and Baidoa.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia may worsen this year due to drought, based on climate reports and forecasts, according to international humanitarian reports. (QNA)

http://www.gulf-times.com/story/588434/QC-sends-emergency-relief-to-6-000-drought-hit-fam
Somalia ranks last in ease of doing business—World Bank report

April 9, 2018

People queue at a money transfer shop at Aden Adde Airport in Mogadishu. File Photo: Goobjoog News

By T. Roble

It takes 70 days to start a business in Somalia while a similar practice in Rwanda takes only four days, a World Bank report has said ranking Somalia last in the Doing Business profile for 2018.

The Doing Business 2018 just released by the World Bank ranks Somalia at number 190 based on several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to local firms.

The report which is derived from ten indicators such as starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency also puts Somalia at 187 in the starting a business rank.

MEASURES

The Doing Business is anchored on two aggregate measures namely distance to frontier (DFT) score and ease of doing business ranking. The former compares economies with one another while the latter benchmarks economies with respect to regulatory best practice, showing the absolute distance to the best performance on each Doing Business indicator.
In the new report, Somalia managed a DFT score of 19.98 out of a possible 100 with the lowest being zero. Rwanda has a score of 73.40.

New Zealand has been rated the best in both the ease of doing business and DFT score with rank 1 and 86.55 respectively. It takes half a day to start a business and only one procedure. Neighboring Kenya is ranked at number 80 in overall ease of doing business with a DFT of 65.5. It takes 25 days to start a business in the East African nation.

The time it takes to start a business is based on the median duration that incorporation lawyers or notaries indicate is necessary in practice to complete a procedure with minimum follow-up with government agencies and no unofficial payments such as bribes.

MOST REFORMS

The regions implementing the most reforms making it easier to trade across borders in 2016/17 were Sub-Saharan Africa (46% of reforms in this area) and East Asia and the Pacific (18%). Together, the economies in these two regions account for nearly 64% of reforms in this area as captured by Doing Business 2018.

The indicators provide actionable frameworks for governments such as setting the minimum capital requirement for new firms, investing in company and property registries to increase their efficiency, or improve the efficiency of tax administration by adopting the latest technology to facilitate the preparation, filing and payment of taxes by the business community.

Governments can also undertake court reforms to shorten delays in the enforcement of contracts.

Ethiopia troops pull out of Somalia town

April 8, 2018 - Hundreds of Ethiopian troops pulled out of a town in central Somalia Sunday, latest location vacated by their forces in recent months, a security official said.

Mahad Hassan Mohamed, the deputy minister of security for Galmudug state has confirmed the withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops from their fixed military bases in Dhusamareb town.

Mohamed said that the troops moved to the border between Somalia and Ethiopia for an undisclosed reason, adding that the surprise pullout has not affected the city’s security.

Continuing, the minister pointed out that Galmudug state troops are no ready to take over the security responsibility and operate in the camps vacated by Ethiopian troops.

Dhusamareb which serves as the administrative capital of Galmudug has been previously under the moderate Islamist group, Ahlu Sunna that now joined in the regional administration following power share deal.

Galmudug forces move into military bases vacated by Ethiopian troops

April 9, 2018 - The troops of Somalia’s central Federal member state of Galmudug took over the military bases in Dhusamareb after the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces on Sunday, a governor said.

Speaking in an interview with Radio Shabelle, Galgadud regional governor Nur Ahmed Hassan said the state troops are now in control of the all camps deserted by the Ethiopians.

Hassan added that the pull-out of the Ethiopian forces from Dhusamareb did not result any impact on the city’s overall security as their forces were already on standby for the move.

“Galmudug forces are capable of securing all areas under the state control,” he said.

Ethiopian forces who are partly serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia, known as “AMISOM” have previously left several towns in central Somalia in what they described as military tactics.

Hirshabelle In Crisis As Mps Plot To Oust President Ware

On Apr 9, 2018 - A fresh political stalemate has emerged in the Hirshabelle State pitting President Mohamed Abdi Ware and the Speaker of the regional Parliament Osman Bare Mohamed.

The regional Parliament is now sharply divided into two rival groups of Pro Ware and Pro Mohamed Mps.

Radio Dalsan has learnt from a reliable source that rival Mps are preparing a motion of no confidence against Speaker Mohamed and President Ware.

“45 Mps have presented their signatures against the Speaker while 52 signatures for the motion against the President” former Spokesman Hirshabelle government Mohamed Shiine told Radio Dalsan.

To oust the President or Speaker the threshold is 66. The total number of Mps is 99. Deputy President is backing the ousting of Ware while the First Deputy Speaker is backing the President.

Sources have told Radio Dalsan that Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire met with Speaker Mohamed. The Speaker is said to have asked for backing from the Premier on the ousting of Ware to ensure legitimacy of a new government in case the motion passes through.

Pro Speaker Mps accuse Ware of not meeting his pledges including appointments. According to a regional Mp Mohamed Bashir Daqare the Speaker is accused of misconduct and absenteeism and lack of commitment and dedication to his duties.

“The Speaker has been frequently traveling out of the region when sessions are on” Daqare said. Reports are Pro Speaker Mps are also plotting a counter motion against the President.
President Ware is in Beledweyne to resolve an administrational conflict in the Hiraan region.

Mohamed Abdi Ware is in his seventh month as President was elected in September 2017 after voting by regional MPs.

Its first leader Abdullahi Ali Osoble was hounded out barely 11 months into office in a no confidence vote by the state assembly in August 2017

Somaliland: Foreign Minister speaks on reports about Russia build military base in Zeila

April 9, 2018

Somaliland Foreign Minister Dr. Saad Ali Shire Speaking at a conference in London to mark the 26th anniversary of Somaliland’s contested declaration of independence, Horndiplomat- The government of Somaliland has commented the news about Russian government may build military base in Somaliland.

The Somaliland foreign minister Dr. Saad Ali Shire told Geeska Afrika Newspaper said Russia there was no official submission to Somaliland about military base.

“We didn’t receive any official offer of that military base and we have not met with Russian Officials, This news its absolutely a fake news.” Said Dr. Sa’ad Ali Shire Somaliland foreign minister

Dr. Shire also added

“When it comes of that offer, it will be consulted and we are reviewing the benefits of that submission” Said Dr Sa’ad Shire Somaliland Foreign Minister.

Last week the Somaliland local media and other foreign media reports that Russia seeks a permission to construct “a small navy and air facility, housing no more than 1,500 personnel outside the city of Zeila.” The naval facility should serve two destroyers sized ships, four frigate class ships, and two large submarine pens.

Moscow May Recognize Breakaway Somaliland Republic to Open a Base There

Paul Goble

Staunton, April 9 – Russia hopes to open a 1500-man naval base in the breakaway republic of Somaliland in the horn of Africa, a region where numerous countries have done so in recent years because of its strategic location. But in exchange, Africa sources say, the Somaliland leadership expects Russia to recognize its independence from Somalia.

If that happens, Moscow, which under Vladimir Putin has recognized two breakaway republics on the territory of the former Soviet space and promoted secessionist movements in Europe and the United States, would send a powerful signal that it is now prepared to get involved with secessionist groups in Africa, which are both numerous and troublesome.

And that more than the extent to which such a base would challenge other countries including the United States and China which have military facilities in the horn could open the way to even greater Russian adventurism, especially coming on the heels of Russian intervention in the Central African Republic.

According to reports in the Moscow media this week, Russian diplomats began talking with the breakaway government at the end of last year about the possibility of establishing a base in Somaliland and are close to an agreement (newizv.ru/news/society/09-04-2018/rossiya-razmestit-voennuyu-bazu-v-nepriznannom-gosudarstve-na-territorii-somali and iarex.ru/news/57044.html).

The base would be home for two minesweepers, four frigates, and two submarines, a reflection of Russia’s inability to build larger ships. It would also have two long runways capable of handling up to six military transport jets and 15 fighters, the Russian media say. Moscow reportedly has offered 250 million US dollars in investment.
Somaliland in turn wants official Russian recognition and has not been shy about talking about that in the media. Whether the republic will get that remains to be seen, especially as one country – the UAE – already has a base there but has not officially recognized the breakaway republic.

Moscow, however, has shown itself more than willing to violate the international rules of the game; and consequently, it may be quite prepared to shake things up by taking this step, especially as that likely would allow Russia to claim a military presence there without having to spend money it does not now have.

http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.co.uk/2018/04/moscow-may-recognize-breakaway.html
Somaliland Elders Approve 'Historic' Law Criminalizing Rape

April 09, 2018

FILE - Women are seen in Hargeisa, Somaliland, Nov. 13, 2017. Somaliland passed its first law against rape on April 9, 2018.

NAIROBI — Rapists in Somaliland face up to 20 years in jail after the breakaway conservative Islamic region passed its first law against rape in a drive to combat gender violence, a senior official said Monday.

The bill, which passed parliament's upper house Saturday, also criminalizes other forms of gender violence such as forced marriage, trafficking for sexual slavery and sexual harassment.

Ayan Mahamoud, Somaliland's representative in Britain, said the draft law had been awaiting parliamentary approval for years — and that President Musa Bihi Abdi's government, which was elected in November, saw curbing sex crimes as a priority.

"This really is a historic law for Somaliland. For the first time, potential rapists will be scared that they will be punished and end up in jail for years," Mahamoud told Reuters by phone from London.

"It also means that survivors can, at last, seek redressal and have access to justice, instead of being forced to marry their rapists to save the so-called family honor."

The bill was passed by the lower house in January.

Mahamoud said it was expected to be signed into law by Abdi in the coming weeks.

Until now rape was not defined as a crime in Somaliland, a self-declared republic in the Horn of Africa.
That meant perpetrators faced no penalty. Victims' families were instead paid off or the victim was forced to marry her rapist to avoid public shame.

Women's groups said they were encouraged that parliament's more conservative upper house, known as the House of Elders, had approved the bill with 35 out of 50 votes in favor.

"This bill provides both procedural provisions to support managing sexual offenses and substantive provisions on the punishments of the offenses," said a statement from Nagaad, a network of 46 women’s organizations in Somaliland.

However, they stressed that the government would need to ensure people knew about the law, and that adequate resources be provided to ensure law enforcement agencies and the judiciary implemented and enforced it.

Somaliland, which has a population of about four million, declared independence from Somalia in 1991 following a bloody civil war, but is not internationally recognized as a country.

Somalia does not have legislation against sexual violence.


http://news.trust.org/item/20180409172414-jt17f
Somaliland: President appoints a new committee amid 27th anniversary

By Ahmed Abdi

Somaliland president Muse Bihi Abdi appointed a new committee that will organize 18 May of Somaliland’s national holiday according to a decree released on Saturday.

“The Committee will arrange the National Day of the Republic of Somaliland,” said an E-mail statement received by Somaliland Informer.

On May 18th, Somaliland will celebrate 27 Years of Self-Declared Independence from the Federal Republic of Somalia.

UNESCO, UN create NGO based in Somaliland aimed at producing videos on Gender Based stereotype

UNESCO and UN Women have partnered with Media Ink, a local media development NGO based in Hargeisa, Somaliland, to produce short videos featuring female journalists in Somalia talking about their encounter with gender stereotyping in their daily media work, and what they have done to challenge such stereotypes. In this video, Farxiya is owner of Cosob Newspaper in Mogadishu. She is the head of the female journalist association.

Somaliland: UK All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland Concludes Fact Finding Mission

04/08/2018 - Somalilandsun – “Apart from the issue of recognition we are taking back a clear message to the British government about the imperatives of enhancing consular services and presence in Somaliland

This was stated by MP Stephen Doughty during an interview with Somalilandsun in Hagias where he was leading an All UK Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland on a three days fact finding mission.

The three member team chaired by MP Stephen Doughty- Labour party from Cardiff included MP Liz Moiness-Labour Party from Greater Manchester and MP Mathew Offord-Conservativer Party representing North London

Briefing on their three days program in Hargeisa the UK legislator revealed that interinary of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland he chairs included meetings and fruitful discussions with

Government officials among them the ministers of Foreign affairs, interior, planning and that of trade and investment culminating with candid discussions with Somaliland Vice president Abdirahman Ismail Sayli.

“We also held very candid discussions with opposition parties leaders represented by Abdirahman Irro of Wadani and Eng. Feisal Ali Warabe of UCID” followed by constructive talks with National Election Commission
as pertains status post November 2017 presidential elections and the way forward as per 2019 planned parliamentary and local council polls.

Other meetings included a visit to the university of Hargeisa where a ground tour of facilities was followed by discussions on their programs and how British universities can assist while most impressive was a sojourn to the journalism faculty where a modern studio is nearing completion.

Another was a round table hosted by the Hargeisa Cultural Centre HCC with youths discussed revolved around their aspirations and frustrations especially travel to the UK for one purpose or another owing to the non-recognition of Somaliland.

Similar sentiments by the youths were expressed during a Meeting with British- Somalilanders who shared practical concerns with consular services support i.e. passport renewals and lack of business investment support which usually require expensive trips to Nairobi.

Discussions with Civil Society organizations were also under by the three members UK All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland where views by the non-state actors on various local issues were shared.

Another meet of note was with business leaders where various issues were discussed notably that of DP world contract to manage and develop the Berbera port worth $420m and spanning 30 years as of 2017.

On the purpose behind constitution of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland, the legislator from Cardiff said

“Our group is part of several others dealing with specific issues with membership from all parties in the UK parliament but more specifically the All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland has the mandate of Educating the legislature about Somaliland, Raise awareness more so on issue of recognition, regional issues, trade etc. pertinent to Somaliland, Call for debates in parliament and ask concerned ministries on issues Somaliland.
Another important function is that of hosting Somaliland delegations visit the UK be it from government, political parties or business community.

According to MP Doughty the UK All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland is apolitical thence don’t take sides in domestic politics but listen to ruling and opposition parties as well as engage diaspora

“We listen to all stakeholders” said the British legislator

Queried on the issue of UK funding to Somaliland as pertains amount and channeling the MP said

“Having worked as an advisor to DFID during the last Labour, I can empirically state that good programs are receiving UK funding though Desire for more support to infrastructure development i.e. rods electricity and buildings and plea that if not from UK others might

The other issue is though most UK funding passes through multilateral institutions in the name of Somalia thence not very clear what portion is allocated Somaliland

“To this effect it is apparent that a clear distinction of funds ender user be it either Somaliland or Somalia, does not exist and that said its worth mentioning that other EU countries among Denmark are also chipping in nicely in addition to that from EU itself

On the position of UK on issue of the much talked about multimillion DP world Berbera port contract MP doughty said he could not speak for the British government though on a personal level the investment is very crucial for the advancement of Somaliland while stressing that “Somalia has no purview of this contract despite taking its objections to the UN Security council with the objective of having it scrapped

Though the British legislator was very conducive to the DP world contract, and while treading diplomatically the on works UAE military base in Berbera is of concern

“I have some caution about Somaliland getting involved in the wider military rivalry that might result from hosting an UAE military base in the country more so as pertains ongoing conflict
the Emiratis are embroiled in Yemen through the Saudi led coalition waging war in the neighbouring country not to mention the conflict with Qatar

Stressing that Somaliland has a good security reputation, being pulled into regional conflicts might smear this “though the ultimate decision rests with the people and government of this country”

On the oft claimed border dispute with Puntland which is a regional administration of Somalia and with Britain having been responsible for demarcating it over a century ago, the silence by the UK government that might resolve the dispute at a click is disconcerting, the MPs take was

“It is indisputable that present Day Somaliland was a British protectorate until 26th June 1960 when the Queen signed its proclamation of independence, followed by a voluntary union with present day Somalia which is a former Italian colony” It joined this union with clearly defined borders thence any jurisdictional dispute is a sham”

Stressing that creation of new boundaries is according to international law illegal unless with acquiescence of concerned stakeholders MP Stephen Doughty was of the opinion that the border between Somaliland and Somalia should not be disputed for they are not only legal but historical as well.

Queried on Brexit vis ‘a’ vis Somaliland and Scotland, The legislator who chairs the All parliamentary group on Somaliland was of the opinion BREXIT does not determine how the UK deals with the issue of Somaliland recognition as opposed to that of Scotland for the former now self-ruling for 27 years since withdrawing its voluntary later turned fateful union with Somalia

Said he, “Considering developments in Democracy, trade, security etc., to me it seems perverse that we do not acknowledge these achievements of which I have picked a lot of frustration both locally and within the diaspora community in the UK

Pushed on the fact that this failure by Britain might push Somaliland to seek Russian and Chinese recognition MP Doughty Said “I have on numerous occasions raised this concern and
will continue to do so adding that failure to act as well as Somalilanders frustration with the condition of one more election in which they continue to wonder how many it will take, the United Kingdom might lose its influence unless it acts fast.

“Apart from the Historical and legal claim realities on the ground here in Somaliland dictate that the UK government in partnership with parliament make the right decision if for nothing else, to sustain its foot and influence”

Finally MP Stephen Doughty thanked the government and people of Somaliland for the welcome accorded him and team members of MP Liz Moinnes and MP Matthew Offord during their three days working visit in the country.

The last all UK parliamentary group on Somaliland visit was in 2017 under the leadership of Rt Hon Alun Michael MP who was then Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland that culminated with A report to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association titled Somaliland: Home-grown Democracy in Action

5 calendar items for Federica Mogherini

COMMISSIONER Federica Mogherini

- **Thu 12 Apr**
  - MEETING | Belgium
  - Meets Mr Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium

- **Thu 12 Apr**
  - MEETING | Belgium
  - Receives Mr Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan

- **Thu 12 Apr**
  - MEETING | Belgium
  - Receives Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi, Leader of Tunisia’s Ennahdha political party

- **Fri 13 Apr**
  - MEETING | Belgium
  - Receives Mr Heiko Maas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

- **Fri 13 Apr**
  - MEETING | Belgium
  - Receives Mr Winston Peters, Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand