

Press Release GSD

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**Selling and trafficking Somali young girls, especially those came from the diaspora:**

**Global Somali Diaspora (GSD) is calling for a thorough investigation into these criminal activities**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Indeed, it is saddening and worrying development the news from the Chair of Somali Women's Organisation in Banadir Region, Mrs Jawaahir Barqab.

Recently, there were increase of reports on trafficking and selling the Somali young girls particularly those from the diaspora to Mogadishu city. Of course, these acts are against our religion, culture, the Somali good characteristics and the basic human rights of these girls.

Jawaahir Daahir (BEM), Chair of Somali Global Diaspora said: "We are welcoming the leadership and courage showed by the Chair of Somali Women's Organisation in Banadir Region, Mrs Jawaahir Barqab and the way she stood up publicly to speak up on these cruel and barbaric actions. We are requesting from the Mayor of Mogadishu and Chair of Banadir Region, Mr Abdirahman Omar Osman 'Engineer Yarisaw' and the Somali Federal Government to investigate this urgently and take appropriate actions according to the law".

It is absolutely unacceptable to condone or turn a blind eye to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of our young Somali girls in the heart of our country, Mogadishu city while we are a Muslim society that should be protecting those vulnerable in our society.

Couple of years ago, we have witnessed the scandal involved the AMISOM troops and those who were working with them as well as how they misused their power and exploited our young Somali girls which resulted in selling and raping our young vulnerable girls.

Jawaahir Daahir (BEM) added: "It is imperative that the Mayor of Mogadishu and Chair of Banadir Region, Somali Federal Government, institutions of security and justice give this

matter the highest priority and nominate an independent committee to investigate it with the aim of protecting the Somali young girls' human rights, their dignity and honour".

We are sending a very strong message to those who are engaged with such ugly and cruel activities to think about their mother, daughters and sisters. No one would allow to happen such events to their loved ones and they need to treat all young girls the way they would like their girls to be treated.

We are supporting the voice of the Chair of Somali Women's Organisation in Banadir Region, Mrs Jawaahir Barqab, other Somali women and all institutions that advocate for the rights of young girls in order to work together and prevent the trafficking and exploitation of Somali young girls.

We need to see urgently an action from the Somali Federal Government.

[END]



#### Notes for Editors:

1. Global Somali Diaspora is the largest Somali organisation that brings together the Somali diaspora community and it has over 100 representatives around the globe.
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