

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK,
PHRN

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is discussing in depth the general environment of the project coverage area and activities undertaken by the peace and Human rights network, PHRN, in the period between July 2006 to Jun 2007. During this period, the PHRN has implemented several activities in different areas through different organizations and Task Forces. This period has also undergone swift political changes –from warlords to Islamism to the take over of southern Somalia by TFG soldiers supported by Ethiopia troops.

The armed conflict in Mogadishu has steadily escalated since the Ethiopian backed transitional federal government established itself in Mogadishu in January 2007.

Since January 2007, a coalition of insurgent groups has waged almost daily attacks on Ethiopian and TFG forces, including several suicide attacks.

On March 29, Ethiopian forces launched two major counter insurgency offensive in the city. Ethiopian troops indiscriminately bombarded insurgent strongholds with rockets, mortars and artillery making no apparent effort to distinguish between civilians and insurgent targets.

A second Ethiopian offensive from April 18-26 targeted and destroyed additional areas of the city and several hundred more civilians to the total death toll. With no precise numbers of civilians casualties is not known, estimate range from 400 – 1300 deaths resulting from both rounds of fighting.

In January 2007, the US launched several air strikes in southern Somalia.

The departure of the ICU militias from Mogadishu has created a power vacuum that TFG is so far unable to fill.

During the reign of the Islamists, the PHRN and other civil society organizations had problems working with the islamists. The southwest was also affected by the fighting and not the Islamists as they did not control their areas.

ICU authority, through their daily radio rhetoric's, clearly showed their skepticism of civil society organizations operating in Mogadishu. Some of the PHRN activities had to be put on hold due to the lack of obtaining clearance

letters from the ICU authorities. After several meetings between the ICUs top brass and leaders of the civil society organizations, the ICU started softening its position. PHRN started operating normally. Since the TFG and their backers established themselves in Mogadishu, the PHRN registered itself with the new administration.

Over ninety percent of the activities shown in Ghan chart were implemented despite the swift changes in southern Somali's political landscape from warlordism to Islamism to the final takeover of TFG and Ethiopian troops of areas controlled by the Islamists.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

TFG and Ethiopian soldiers who took over Mogadishu from the Islamists are not able to fill the vacuum left behind by the Union of Islamic Courts. There are almost daily clashes between the TFG/Ethiopian troops and unknown gunmen. It is becoming apparent that the TFG has no capacity to fill the political vacuum left behind by the Islamism.

3. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Overall goal:

To achieve sustainable peace, development of social progress in the context of Human rights, justice and the rule of law and good governance.

3.2 Objectives

1. Create an environment that enables the Somalis to widely represent their interests at international level.
2. Be a clearinghouse for other civil society groups.
3. Undertake lobby and advocacy activities, disseminate information human rights and peace processes
4. Organize and participate in seminars, conferences and workshops
5. Raise the awareness of civil society groups about their influential roles in shaping the future governments of Somalia.

4. IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THIS REPORT PERIOD

4.1 Opening of a new human rights section.

The PHRN has opened a new section in charge of the networks human rights activities. Advocate Omar Dhagey; former coordinator of the PHRN has taken charge of the new section. The post of the coordinator has since been advertised and filled. Other development includes PHRN CARE partnership. The contract has been signed and sealed and work completed. .

Early January, the PHRN was evaluated by an evaluation team sent by Novib Hague. The schedule for the evaluation was changed more than once in order to give time to the southwest and punt land officers to participate.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

The deportation of alleged Somali Islamism by Kenya government from Nairobi to group numbering over fifty, who were brought on board a plane blind folded and gagged, is not known. Many here believe that the deportees have already been taken to Ethiopian for interrogation.

6. INDICATORS FOR THE PROJECT PERIOD

Activities implemented by different organizations and task force s during this period and their achievements performance can be described satisfactory despite challenging political landscapes during this period.

Almost all the activities earmarked for Banadir , puntland and suthewest were carried out despite hurdles created by changing environment.

7. INFUENCING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

During this period the PHRN had difficulties in influencing policies and practices due to the lack of a platform on the part of the authorities – union of the Islamic Courts and the TFG. But, somehow, the PHRN succeeded in softening tie UIC rigid approach towards civil l society organization. the network also succeeded in forcing the UIC retreat from its rhetoric's

concerning the civil society . Finally, the UIC had to give in and thus extended its recognition of the civil society in the areas it operated .As with the TFG, the PHRN registered itself with the new authority.

7.1 SHIFTING LOCAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Somali politics, like the weather, is unpredictable. This year has seen several changes. The first being the stunning defeat of Mogadishu warlords at the hand of the Islamists. The second saw the departure of the Islamists within six months. The victory of the TFG/Ethiopian troops over the Islamists was locally seen as foreign-engineered win. With the warlords and the Islamists gone, the TFG is currently struggling to maintain the peace the Islamists introduced during their reign of Mogadishu and southern Somalia. So far they are unable to fill the political vacuum left behind by the UICS

8. PHRN ACTIVITIES IN SECTORS

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Activities	Beneficiaries		Venue	Date held	Performance
	Men	Women			
Awareness taskforce					
Rallies on peace and human rights promotion (international peace day)	400	250	Lujino stadium	21/9/2006	Good
Somali Independence Day	250	50	Peace Hotel	01/07/2006	Good
Radio Xurmo	26880	40320	Mogadishu	Daily	Excellent
Commemoration of Elman peace activist	60	40	Elman hall	9/3/2007	Excellent
Women's Day	80	30	Ex. Lujino	8/3/2007	Excellent
Somali Youth Day	50	20	Sahafi hotel	15/5/2007	Excellent
Training for law Enforcement institutions	25	5	Jedda hotel	6/4/2007	Excellent
Reconciliation taskforce					
Crises intervention	18	12	Kalsan center	20/2/2007	
Conflict Prevention and Mitigation workshop	28	2	Resource center	26-27/11/2006	Excellent
DDR Forum	25	5	Kalsan center	29/9/2006	Good
Traditional and intellectual forums	21	4	Resource center	16/10/2006	Good
Human right taskforce					

Commemoration of Somali human rights day	60	50	DIJHRO hall	22 July 2006	Excellent
Human rights advocacy and campaign skills training	23	7	PHRN Resource center	21/8/2006	Good
Training on minority groups on advocacy and lobbying	20	10	PHRN resource center	19/6/2007	Good
Spoke-Out Campaign for minority groups	43	28	Mogadishu	7 times	Excellent
Punt land					
Awareness taskforce					
Training for local administration for good governance	46	34	Bossaso / Galka'io	4 times	Excellent
Awareness on DDR of militia (DRAMA)	14	6	Bossaso	10/11/2007	Excellent
Somali Independence day	56	32	Bossaso	26/6/2007	Excellent
Radio debates	84	36	Bossaso / Galka'io	8 times	Excellent
Women's Day	36	57	Galka'io	8/3/2007	Excellent
Somali Youth Day	49	27	Bossaso	15/5/2007	Excellent
Training for law Enforcement institutions	20	10	Bosaso	23/10/2006	Excellent
Drama, songs and poems for preventions of rape violation and culture impunity	70	110	Badhan	30/12/2006	Excellent
Awareness on revenge killing	30	10	Bossaso	19/09/2006	Excellent
Awareness for immigrants	13	8	Bossaso	11/06/2007	Excellent
Reconciliation taskforce					
Crises intervention	35	15	Bossaso / Galka'io	2 times	Excellent
Conflict Prevention and Mitigation workshop	20	10	Bossaso	29/10/2006	Excellent
Traditional and intellectual forums	46	34	Bossaso	4 times	Excellent
Human rights taskforce					
Human rights advocacy and campaign skills training	15	5	Bossaso	04/10/06	Excellent
Training on minority groups on advocacy and lobbying	10	20	Bossaso	25/01/07	Excellent
Spoke-Out Campaign for minority groups	140	60	Bossaso / Galka'io	8 times	Excellent
SOUTHWEST					
Awareness taskforce					
Training for local administration for good governance	23	7	Jilib	22/08/2006	Good
Awareness on demobilization disarmament and reintegration of militia (DRAMA)	16	9	jilib	13/11/2006	Excellent
Somali Independence day	53	18	Bardera	1July 2007	Excellence
Public Gathering	24	11	Bardera	11/09/2006	Good
Women's Day	34	67	bardera	8/3/2007	Good

Somali Youth Day	25	5	Bardera	15/5/2007	Excellence
Training for law Enforcement institutions	25	5	Tieglow	25-26/08/2006	Good
Drama, songs and poems for preventions of rape violation and culture impunity	46	52	Baidoa	14/02/2007	Excellence
Reconciliation taskforce					
Crises intervention	24	6	Dolow district	15/09/2006	Good
Conflict Prevention and Mitigation workshop	27	3	Balethawo	8-9/11/2006	Good
Traditional and intellectual forums	49	16	Bardera	2 times	Good
Human rights taskforce					
Human rights advocacy and campaign skills training	20	10	Baidoa	16-17/	Good
Training on minority groups on advocacy and lobbying	9	11	Baidoa	21-22/10/2006	Good
Spoke-Out Campaign for minority groups	33	17	Southwest Somalia	Sept – Dec. 2006	Good
Meetings					
Executive Committee Meetings	11	16	PHRN HQ	Weekly	Good
RESOURCE CENTER					
Production Of Xurmo News letter	2500	900	Mogadishu	Twice a month	Good
	31,586	42,460			

The General assembly meeting, which PHRN member organizations are called once a year to be updated the achievements of the organization and also take decisions regarding the future of the organization was pushed back due to the security situation. The GA was to be held in January 2007 but there was a big political alteration. The Islamic courts Union were defeated and TFG backed by Ethiopian troops took the control of Mogadishu city.

8.1 BENIFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT

74,046 persons directly benefited from the project during this reporting period. 296,184 of indirect beneficiaries include the families of the participants, those living in the surrounding areas and those expected to follow the project through local fm radios.

The outcome and services provides by the PHRN task forces and organizations in the project areas matched with the project proposals activities shown in the ghan chart.

The availability of funds, experienced facilitators and convenient venues made the workshops, forums, Training, dramas, and peace rally a success. During these activities videotapes and digital cameras were in place to capture the proceedings. Xurmo newsletter (in English and Somali) staff was also handy to publish the activities in PHRN fortnightly newsletter

9. OUTCOME

1. ninety law enforcement officers trained on human rights
2. sixty local administrators trained on good governance
3. sixty activists trained on advocacy and campaign skills
4. sixty minority rights activists trained on advocacy and lobbying skills
5. local and international days commemorated
6. Dramas on DDR held
7. traditional and intellectual forums held civil society radio on air
8. Traditional and intellectual forums held

10. RISKS DURING THIS PERIOD

The main risks during this period emerged after the take over of Mogadishu by the Islamists. In the first days of their reign the Islamists officially said that they do not recognize the civil society organizations. After discussions among themselves and pressures from the civil society organizations the ICU backtracked and made an announcement that they do recognize CSO and that they would like to work them under certain conditions. As regards to women, ICU said they would adhere to what Islamic teachings say. This risk was overcome after several rounds of negotiations between the Islamista and heads for the civil society organizations operating in Mogadishu and the establishment of the Somali Civil society forum.

11. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Performance during this period can be described as satisfactory despite the tense period Mogadishu and Southern Somalia has under gone during this reporting period.

11.1 RECOMMENDATION

1. Oxfam Netherlands to make extra funds available when unexpected events unfolds i.c. floods and the ravages of conflicts
2. Regular contracts between Mogadishu and Amsterdam has improved but needs to be maintained
3. PHRN management staff be given the opportunity to visit NOVIB head office so that they can see how NOVIB operates and raise funds on the one hand and the PHRN officers to explain how the money raised by OxfamNovib is spent at this end on the other hand.

12. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Reconciliation and peace

Somali civil Society Meeting with Somali Prime Minister

Soon after the TFG and Ethiopian forces took over Mogadishu, peace and Human rights together with other civil society group held talks with the leaders of the TFG. The talks were intended to brack grounds for the civil society groups and TFG working relationship. The first meeting was held in Mogadishu with the prime Minister on 31st of December 2006. At this meeting the PHRN submit to the PM its concerns on security, peace and human rights

12.1 SOMALI CIVIL SOCIETY MEET WITH SOMALI CONTRACT GROUP

PHRN chairperson attended meeting between Somali Civil society groups and the contact group held at Serena Hotel in Nairobi /Kenya on January 2-2007. the contact group comprises of the U.S. ---EU, the Arab League , the African Union and UN. Agenda of the meeting was Somali civil society position on current developments in Somalia.

The chairperson of the meeting was Ms. Janday Fraier. We State Department Undersecretary for African Affairs. After exchange for pleasantries. The Somali Civil Society group submitted to the chairperson their position

paperm, which was distributed to the meeting. The members of the civil society forwarded their vie on the topic of the discussion.

After listening carefully the contract group accepted the position of the Somali Civil Society particularly the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops and their replacement by other African Union peacekeeping forces from countries that don not share borders with Somalia. The contract group has also accepted that emergency laws be introduced in order to resolving the Somali problems. Capacity building programs for the members of the Somali parliament was also endorsed.

12.2 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM FOR SOMALIA

After several meetings held in different venues a civil society forum for Somalia was established mid July 2006. The following civil society organization, networks and umbrellas attended the meetings. The are: peace and human rights Network (PHRN) Civil Society in Action (CSA) Coalition for Grassroots Women organizations (GOGWO) Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) and prominent individuals. After deliberations and brainstorming, the a/m organizations agreed on following:

1. To establish a civil society forum for Somalia
2. To organize and coordinate the voices and activities for the civil society
3. Membership of the forum to remain open

The meeting was attended by the following:

1. Abdinasir Ahmed Osman (PHRN) chairperson
2. Batulo Mohamed Mursal (COGWO) chairperson
3. Abdukadir Ibrahim Ga'al (Abkow) (CSA) chairperson
4. Hassan Sheik Mohamoud (CRD) acting director