

DAWLAD G. PUNTLAND

EE SOOMAALIYA

Ciidamada Ilaalinta Xeebaha



PUNTLAND STATE

OF SOMALIA

Coast Guard Forces

Office of Coast Guard Forces

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To: H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs

Royal Thai Government

Bangkok, Thailand

To: The Supreme Court of Royal Thai Government

Bangkok, Thailand

Subject: Release of Somali Nationals Detained in Thailand

Your Excellency,

My name is Abdi Ali Egal, an official from Puntland Coast Guard Forces. The Puntland State in the northeast of Somalia is part of Somali Federal Government and it has its own regional government. Though Somalia was in a civil war since the collapse of Somali central government in 1991, the state of Puntland is very stable and secure place where both nationals and foreigners enjoy a peaceful environment. This is the main reason that businessmen from Thailand, particularly from the fishing sector to do a thriving business in Puntland. It is very notable that owners of fishing vessels (SIRICHAJ Fishing Company) from Thailand have entered into business agreement with Puntland State Government. To my opinion, I am well positioned to talk this incident since I am one of the officials of Puntland Coast Guard Forces working with the Thai company and I am well informed on the history of the incident.

As part of the agreement, Puntland State Government provides protection and security by stationing Puntland State Police in each fishing vessel. On 17th of March 2005, three Puntland government Police forces (namely - Mr. Yusuf Aden Seed; Mr. Mohamud Abdullahi Jama and Hussein Abdulahi Adan) stationed in the fishing vessel "SIRICHAINAVA 12" and the crew have clashed over an issue that is not clear to me. The incident took place while I was away from the vessel. Since none of the security officers speak English language and there was no translator with them, this has worsened the situation and hostility ambience developed on the board of the vessel. From there, the crew requested assistance from the International Forces patrolling the Somali waters against terrorists. British and German Forces met with the vessel and I've joined them later. After discussion with British and German forces and clarifications on the misunderstanding, we've all decided that the case should be solved within Somalia. Thereafter, the American forces joined our meeting and told us that they will investigate the case. The Americans, against the advice of British and German forces as well as the advice of Somali Coast Guard officials, have decided to arrest the three Somali servicemen and investigate the case with their own system. The British and German forces insisted that the case should be solved in Somalia since the incident has taken place in Somalia water. Also, these two forces informed the Americans that taking these servicemen outside of Somalia is illegal according to the International Maritime Laws and will complicate the situation further. Consequently, we (British, German and Somali) were all disappointed and could not understand the objective behind such action done by Americans. The servicemen were taken to Thailand via Oman where are actually detained. Consequently, this might damage the commercial relationship between the two governments and the interests of the two nations.

In conclusion, following discussions with both sides (Puntland Security Officers and the Crew of Sirichainava 12), according to personal opinion, the three Somali servicemen could not be considered as pirates. Rather, the problem was caused by misunderstanding between both sides with major cause of lack of communication skills – Speaking of common language. I, therefore, fully support the request of Puntland and Somali Central Governments on the release of these servicemen as their detention have already created conflict and confusion on the fishing activities of the Sirichai Fishing Co. and the interest of both countries in general.

Sincerely yours

Abdi Ali Egal

Chief Officer of Puntland Coast Guard - Somalia

