



Press Statement

Gordon K. Duguid, Acting Deputy Spokesman

Washington, DC

December 29, 2008

Somalia: President Yusuf's Resignation

We support and respect President Yusuf's decision to resign as President of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and welcome his commitment to continue supporting the Djibouti peace process. We acknowledge President Yusuf's contributions to long-term peace and stability in Somalia. In accordance with Article 45 of the Transitional Federal Charter, Parliament should act expeditiously to select a new President within 30 days.

We urge Parliamentary Speaker Madoobe, Prime Minister Nur Adde, and the leaders of the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) to intensify efforts to achieve a government of national unity and to enhance security through formation of a joint security force. The United States will provide \$5 million to support the formation of such a joint security force.

We also take this opportunity to emphasize our support for the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and for the rapid authorization and deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

2008/1101

Released on December 29, 2008



Published by the U.S. Department of State Website at <http://www.state.gov> maintained by the Bureau of Public Affairs.