

After violence breaks out — essential measures for resolution, protection and security

November 26, 14

Dear Mr. Chair thank you for giving me the floor. I am King Ahmed Ugaas limaartWarsame. I am the King for the Gabooye community.

Somaliland is a functionally autonomous breakaway part of Somalia. It is not a signatory to any of the Human Rights treaties because it is not recognized as an independent state. Atrocities and crimes against minority are committed with no consequences.

Two cases against minority women that happened in 2014 stand out. The women were killed in the most barbaric way. One woman was stoned to death in public and the other was knifed to death. The victims Mulki Ahmed Yassin and Farhia Abdi Yussuf deserve justice. They were both innocent.

Instead of receiving justice our houses were also torched as a form of intimidation so that we would not seek compensation.

It is a common practice in the Somali culture, where if there is a crime committed against a minority we are either not compensation through the traditional means of Diya (blood compensation) or only paid like the compensation for an animal (goat). This is so because the dominant clans consider each Gabooye individual as worth % of the worth of a member of the dominant clan.

The draft recommendation number 70 refers to transitional justice and complaint mechanisms but does not include reference to traditional justice systems or customary law. The recommendations should be amended to include reference to these systems that are still widely in use in many countries including my own.

The constitution of Somaliland states that all citizens are equal in article 8, in the following articles 24,25,26,27 and 32 they clearly state the rights of minorities and people who are deprived their freedom. The authorities in Somaliland need considerable support from all states and UN agencies in moving towards realization of these legal principles. This will also make the Gabooye feel they are full citizens of Somaliland with all the rights accorded to all.