

Thank you Mr. Chair for giving me the floor. My name is Biibi Khaliif Mohamed-I am member of the Somali Parliament and chair of Somali women parliamentarians.

In Somalia there are people called the Benadiri, people who live in coastal towns of Somalia. They are a minority group.

By profession they are traders, civil servants and fishermen, they are not fighters and have never carried arms all the years Somali has been at war.

People from the Benadiri community were instrumental in the fight for independence of Somalia. Of the 13 founders of SYL 5 members were from the Benadiri clan.

Some of the crimes committed against the Benadiri

1. They are victims of violence during and after civil war. Some of the crimes against the Benadiri include the dumping of dead bodies outside the doors of community members and armed militia from the dominant clans forcing them to pay compensation for the crimes they did not commit.
2. Young girls from the Benadiri community were kidnapped in broad daylight and forcibly married by men from dominant clan and parents could not fight for their children.
3. Some of the women are still missing to date.
4. Somalia has now become a federal system and members of the state should develop their area. The Benadiri cannot develop Mogadishu which is their home for the following reasons:
 - Mogadishu is the capital of Somalia, so the majority clan will not allow the Benaadiri to become the regional leader.
 - Only majority clans can become a leader of Mogadishu.
 - The Benadiri have lost all their properties to the majority clans.

According to the theme of discussion, the Benadiri can be instrumental in ensuring lasting peace in Somalia. They can guide the government on peaceful co existence.

I recommend that Somalia adopts recommendation 17 and to take concrete steps to ensure good and inclusive governance.

Thank you.

Biibi Khaliif Mohamed.

