



DATE  
20/3 2015

OUR REFERENCE  
INT/LOB/AN

YOUR DATE

YOUR REFERENCE

**H.E. Omer Abdirashid Ali Sharmaarke  
Prime Minister  
Federal Government of Somalia  
Mogadishu  
Somalia**

## **Trade Union Nominations to ALO**

Honourable Prime Minister

I write to you today concerning what appears to be an ongoing problem, the nomination of FESTU representatives to official meetings of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and other such meetings. Apparently, this is happening once again. On 12 March 2015, the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) received a written invitation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion to designate workers' delegate to the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of Arab Labour Conference (ALO), to be held from 18 to 25 April 2015 in Kuwait City. On 15 March 2015, FESTU subsequently submitted the names of its delegation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion.

Two days later, Minister of Labour, Abdiweli Ibrahim Sheikh Mudey, prepared the list of the tripartite delegation which excluded the FESTU delegation and instead included others who are personal friends of the Minister. They are not trade union leaders. We also understand that the Minister is claiming that there is some confusion as to who is a trade union leader to justify his decision. For us, there is no question that FESTU is the representative trade union organization in Somalia, and that Omar Faruk Osman is its elected leader. Further, he has represented FESTU in international meetings, including at the ILO and ALO last year.

Therefore, I urge you to direct the Minister of Labour to appoint Mr. Osman, as General Secretary of FESTU, to attend the ALO meeting as an official delegate of the workers. To do otherwise would be to intentionally undermine the elected worker representative in Somalia, which we would have no choice but to raise with the ILO at our next opportunity.

POSTAL ADDRESS 105 53 Stockholm  
OFFICE ADDRESS Barnhusgatan 18  
TELEPHONE +46 8 796 25 00 TELEFAX +46 8 24 52 28  
E-MAIL [mailbox@lo.se](mailto:mailbox@lo.se) HOMEPAGE [www.lo.se](http://www.lo.se)

**The Swedish Trade Union Confederation**

We thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loa Brynjulfsdottir', written in a cursive style.

Loa Brynjulfsdottir  
Head of International Department  
The Swedish Trade Union Confederation ó LO

cc:

H.E. Abdullahi Ahmed JAMA, Minister of Justice  
H.E. Abdusalam Hadliye OMAR, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organisation  
Ms Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, ITUC  
Mr Mikael Lindvall, Swedish Ambassador to Somalia