



August 23, 2019

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo
Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin
USAID Administrator Mark Green
House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Eliot Engel
House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Michael McCaul
Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair James Risch
Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Robert Menendez

Dear Sirs,

The undersigned organizations write to you out of deep concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia and the potential to make matters worse by adding al-Shabaab to the UN sanctions list under UN Security Council Resolution 1267. This designation would result in harsh restrictions to the operation of humanitarian aid organizations in al-Shabaab held territory, and jeopardize vitally needed aid. To avoid tragic and unnecessary loss of life due to starvation, we strongly urge you to support a formal U.S. objection to the proposed listing at the UN Security Council.

Al-Shabaab is already subject to UN sanctions under Security Council Resolutions 1844 and 1916, which include humanitarian safeguards that have worked well. Resolution 1267 has no such safeguards, so the effect of placing al-Shabaab on the 1267 list would be to limit the ability of humanitarian assistance providers to help the 2.2 to 3 million people in Somalia facing starvation due to drought.

The impact of a listing under Resolution 1267 on innocent civilians outweighs the potential benefits, especially given that al-Shabaab is currently subject to UN sanctions and its revenue primarily comes from domestic sources transferred via mobile phones.

On August 6, 2019, 20 former diplomats, national security experts and humanitarian leaders wrote to you urging the United States to make a formal objection to listing al-Shabaab under Resolution 1267.¹ We add our voices to theirs. The United States took the lead in creating the current humanitarian

¹ Devex 16 August 2019 "Humanitarians Warn Against Adding al-Shabaab to UN Sanctions List" Available online at <https://www.devex.com/news/humanitarians-warn-against-adding-al-shabab-to-un-sanctions-list-95465>

safeguards for UN sanctions in Somalia, and it is vital that the U.S. maintain leadership on this issue and avoid unintended consequences that spark a wider humanitarian crisis.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Peacebuilding
American Friends Service Committee
American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa
Charity & Security Network
Defending Rights & Dissent
Finn Church Aid
Friends Committee on National Legislation
International Civil Society Action Network
Kinder USA
Peace Appeal Foundation
Peace Direct
Terre des hommes
Young-adult Empowerment Initiative