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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session, 13 June - 1 July 2016**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

SOMALIA

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Somalia's acceptance of recommendations to protect the human rights of internally displaced persons, to end the use of child soldiers, and to implement a zero tolerance policy on gender based violence.¹

However, Amnesty International is concerned about the lack of support to recommendations regarding ratification of key international human rights treaties, including the ICCPR-OP2, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty², the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment³, and the Rome Statute of the ICC⁴, and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.⁵ We call on Somalia to fast track ratification of these treaties.

Protection of civilians, especially the internally displaced persons (IDPs), is an important aspect of peacebuilding. Somalia has more than 500,000 IDPs living along the Afgooye corridor, an area between Mogadishu and Afgooye town in Lower Shabelle. The IDPs face limited access to health care, education and equal

1 Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Somalia, A/HRC/32/12, 13 April 2016, recommendations

22 A/HRC/32/12, recommendations 136.5 (Montenegro), 136.6 (Namibia).

3 A/HRC/32/12, recommendations 136.3 (Slovenia), 136.10 (Philippines), 136.11 (Uganda).

4 A/HRC/32/12, recommendations 136.30 (Lithuania), 136.31 (Costa Rica, France, Luxembourg, Estonia, Ghana, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland), 136.32 (Portugal), 136.33 (Cyprus), 136.34 (Uruguay), 136.35 (Latvia), 136.36 (Guatemala).

5 A/HRC/32/12, recommendations 136.8 (Madagascar), 136.24 (France, Japan, Spain), 136.25 (Estonia).

employment opportunities, as well as recruitment of child soldiers by both the Islamist al-Shaabab armed group and government forces. In January 2016, the Federal Parliament passed an IDPs and Refugees' Protection and Rehabilitation Law which had been pending since 2014. However, the implementation of the law has been encumbered by delays.

Mr President,

Amnesty International is concerned that the government of Kenya is attempting to close the Daadab refugee camp and forcefully return the affected refugees to Somalia. The November 2013 Tripartite Agreement between Kenya, Somalia, and UNHCR commits the three partners to close the camp and return the refugees to Somalia within three years. Forced return not only violates international law but risks converting the refugees currently in Kenya into IDPs in Somalia. Amnesty International is also concerned that the Federal Government of Somalia may have given mixed messages on whether it is ready to receive the refugees.

Thank you, Mr. President,