

## **A Call from Al Azhar to the Peoples of Somalia on the eve of the Somalia Conference in London**

Praise be to God, the Lord of the Worlds. God's blessings and peace be upon the last of the Messengers, his brothers the Prophets and the supporters of righteousness at all times.

O' People of Somalia

God Almighty tells you [in the Qur'an] *"And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you; for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, you became brethren"*

God's Messenger, blessings and peace be upon him, said:

*A believer in regard to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other.*

He also said:

*A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. So he should not oppress him nor does he let him down. Whoever fulfils the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfil his needs; whoever removes the troubles of his brother, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection; and whoever covers up the fault of a Muslim, Allah will cover up his fault on the Day of Resurrection.*

O Somali brothers: Your noble people have suffered much pain and wounds and it may seem that the world's conscience is barely moving or helping.

You have to work to heal your wounds, take care of your orphans and dispossessed and prevent the shedding of innocent blood.

*"The whole of a Muslim for another Muslim is inviolable: his blood, his property, and his honour." (Prophetic Tradition)*

O' Brothers in faith and belief, are you not weary of the life of division and fighting? Are you not weary of the dialogue of weapons and the atmosphere of conflict which has scattered your people around the world, exposed women and children to loss, suffering and misfortune and awakened others' greed?

When I learnt of the conference in London, I was greatly moved and wanted to address you, hoping that my words will reach your hearts and be accepted. In the path of reconciliation, forgiveness and tolerance are needed so the wounds of your homeland may be healed and the plight of your people may come to an end.

We ask God to grant you success in your honourable endeavours and we look forward to a bright future for your great people who have suffered terrible ordeals.

O God, we ask You to grant us mercy with which to guide our hearts, unite us and protect us from tribulations, O Lord of the Worlds. Amen.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Shaykh Al Azhar

Dr Ahmed El Tayyeb