29 September 2013

**General Abdihakin Said Dahir Said
Federal Police Commissioner
Police Headquarters
Mogadishu
Somalia
Email:** **saacidahir@gmail.com**
Dear General Said:

**RE: Take action on threats against labour leaders**
On behalf of the executive committee and the ten affiliated trade unions of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions, I am writing to express alarm at the deteriorating climate of insecurity, manifested in the form of direct threats against the trade union movement’s national leadership and our offices.

In the past one-week, death threats and intimidations against executive committee members of FESTU increased rapidly. Dates and times of the threats, names of targeted trade union officials and messages delivered to our officials were all submitted to Criminal Investigations Department (CID), which is under your command.

We strongly believe that hired militias who use contract killings in the capital city were hired as mercenaries to carry out these criminal acts.

Yesterday, Saturday, 28 September, a bomb was buried at entrance gate of FESTU offices, opposite of Mogadishu University building (administrative branch). Police was immediately alerted and the police unit at KM5 (Zobbe) came and removed it.
This bomb was seen some three hours before leaders of our ten-affiliated trade unions were supposed to have a meeting on death threats and intimidations.

These threats and intimidations come as the police have been investigating threats made on 2, 3 and 4 September and we are still to get full report of the outcome despite our full cooperation for the swift conclusions and action.

Taking too much time is endangering the life of trade union leaders, and without any swift action the safety and security of workers representatives will be unable to carry their legitimate trade union work.

We urge you as the highest official in the law enforcement to take every step necessary to end the impunity and to ensure that these crimes are investigated and that all those responsible are brought to justice.

We are copying this letter to the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC), Africa Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) and ILO. This is more the reason I have written in English for the understanding of the labour community.

We already informed this situation the Prime Minister of Somalia and Minister of Interior & National Security.  Hard copy of this letter was delivered to your office today.

Sincerely,

**Omar Faruk Osman
General Secretary
Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU)**