



Reply by the delegation of Ethiopia to the allegation made by the representative of the Ogaden Youth Student Union

Mr President,

I am taking this floor to refute the misleading and politically motivated allegation by Ogaden Youth and Students Forum.

As rightly pointed out in your intervention Mr. President this platform is meant for constructive dialogue. This is not a forum to promote one's political agenda. We respect and support the participation of NGOs in this forum. It is regrettable once again politically motivated Organizations registered as NGO distorted the noble cause of the forum.

Ethiopia is a country with a rule of law and effective judicial system. No one deprived of his rights and liberty without due process of law.

The Somali National Regional State is one of the nine vibrant regional national States in Ethiopia. Somali Language is the Official Language of Somali National Regional Government of Ethiopia. The people in the region are administered by their own people. They have been registered remarkable economic growth and political stability in the past two decades.

The region hosted the eighth nations and nationalities day in Jijiga in the presence of heads of states and governments. The event was covered by national and international media. The Government of Ethiopia is praised by the international community and UN agencies for maintaining its firm and refugee friendly approach and allowing humanitarian access and protection to those seeking refugees on its territory. Currently, Over 630,000 refugees from neighbouring Countries are hosted in Ethiopia by sharing its meagre resources. There are 8 Refugee camps in Jigjiga and Dollo Ado run by UNHCR and other humanitarian Agencies. This is a fact endorsed by our development partners and donor groups endorsed equal treatment of all people in need in and outside refugee camps in equal terms.

Once again we ask the Ogaden Youth and Students Forum and its affiliates to refrain from disseminating wrong and misleading information and to stand beyond their political motive.

I Thank You