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## **Political and Humanitarian Crisis in Djibouti, East Africa Independence for the Republic of Djibouti**

**Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul, MN, USA (March 27, 2021)** - Right now, one million people in Djibouti are suffering without the essential food, shelter, and safety that those living in independent, democratic, and civilized nations take for granted. In the Horn of Africa, between Europe and Asia, Djibouti is strategically located at the gateway to the Suez Canal which is one of the busiest shipping routes in the world (connecting Asia, Africa and Europe) linking 19 countries and 380 million peoples. Djibouti has a decidedly disproportionate amount of foreign military within its borders including France (their largest base in the world), Japan, Italy, Spain, China (their first and only overseas naval station), and the US Naval Expeditionary Base Camp Lemonnier (the only permanent US military base in the entire Continent of Africa). Saudi Arabia is planning to have a military base there as well.

The upcoming Djibouti presidential election on April 9, 2021, is an opportunity to help Djibouti achieve true independence through a peaceful transition to democracy led by a transitional government, CTD-Djibouti, that represent more than 70% of the communities and population in Djibouti. This diverse group of ethical leaders is dedicated to end the cycle of corruption and abuse, once and for all, to provide a better future for all people in Djibouti.

**The official CTD-Djibouti Spokesperson in the USA Omar Ali Hassan states,** “We, the political parties, public figures, representatives of the civil society and politico-military organization, in our meeting on February 20, 2021 through video conference have adopted the Chart of the Transition put in place by the commission founded in July 2020.”

“Facing the lack of willingness to achieve a democratic change through fair elections and the possibility of facing all the current government fraudulent practices in the future elections, we have no other choice but to build a multifaceted balance of power to save the country from an irreversible collapse.”

“To prevent the currently raised specter in the country from leading to a chaotic situation, once the current government in power is overthrown, the need of a democratic transition imposes itself, *following the outcome of Bourquet Appeal of September 2018*. “

“Our aim is to preserve the country from the chaos once the authoritarian system is removed from power and launch a democratic process and quickly establish strong national institutions.”

“This transitional mechanism will help the country transition from the clan-based system established since the dawn of the independence, to a true national and democratic state.”

“This transition is intended primarily to end the crisis that lasted for nearly 44 years. This should primarily; during this period of at least (24) months put in place the necessary democratic reforms.”

“This mechanism will lead to the formation of the Transitional National Unity Government, bringing together all the political forces, the organizations and the civil society leaders who are in favor of the change. This mechanism will include the following:

- The President of the Transitional Chart will assume the role of the Head of State
- The Prime Minister will be appointed by the President
- The National Council will be the legislative body during this period
- A National and Security body in charge of ensuring the peace and the security and the Constitutional Council will be further developed in the chart”

“This transitional government will be responsible to implement the resolutions of the transitional chart, particularly:

- The Democratic reforms
- The army, the security and the police institutional reforms
- The citizenship
- The electoral lists
- A real decentralization of different regions
- Reconstruction of areas destroyed by the war (Mainly in the northern regions)
- The reparation of crimes and massacres committed by government forces against civilians in certain regions of the country
- Economic and social reform”

“This democratization process will be followed by another phase of democratic consolidation; A new constitution will be drafted, which will be submitted to a referendum.”

“We are calling all the different political actors and the civil society to unite their energy behind this transition in order to build an alternative to this current system, while drawing the lessons from our past experiences and mistakes. Our country's existence is at stake given the

president's stubbornness to remain in power and how much he is preoccupied in perpetuating this clan system.”

“In the first 6 months of the transition, we commit ourselves to fight as a priority against the famine, the extreme poverty, affecting the great majority of our population as well as fend off thirst and make change the exorbitant cost of the electricity. A committee is set up to steer the initiation of this life-saving process.”

“Together, beyond political posturing, we have the obligation to change the situation and thus turn the page on these 44 years of family dictatorship,” says Omar Ali Hassan.

Through this initiative, Djibouti will create a model for true independence and democracy that can be followed by other oppressed nations in Africa and throughout the world. Independence.org will work with CTD-Djibouti to provide the personnel, systems and other resources required to establish a transitional government and conduct democratic elections within a specified timeframe that is set by the civic leaders.

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Omar Ali Hassan, CTD-Djibouti Spokesperson in the USA, is currently living in the State of Minnesota in America and is in the early stages of his political asylum process. His wife and three minor children are still living in Djibouti within reach of the government and are not safe there. Omar has received death threats for engaging in the liberation of his beloved nation of Djibouti. Omar is a national hero for his service as a Special Forces Company Commander fighting terrorists in Somalia for 24 months and as a former Commander of the Rapid Intervention Battalion. On July 18, 2020, Omar received the *International Rosa Parks Prize* for his courage and civic contribution to fight injustice and to establish democracy, freedom, and peace in Djibouti. For more information on Omar visit: <https://independence.org/blog/heroes-fighting-for-djibouti.html>

Independence.org was founded in 2021 to provide critical funding for the investigative research, communications, systems and resources that are needed to help enable oppressed nations achieve independence through the establishment of democratic governments with ethical laws, policies, and practices that support human rights, justice, and equality. We believe that all people on this civilized planet should enjoy the basic human rights of independence and freedom that democracy offers. We are dedicated to end the massacres and genocides, slavery and human trafficking, government control of media, baseless arrests of activists and political oppositions, corrupt taxation and financial dealings, and all other abusive practices of oppressive dictators, worldwide.

For additional information on how you can make a difference, visit: <https://independence.org/>  
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