

CONFLICT ALERT

From the Ethiopian side of the Somali Cluster- Dire Woreda

August 4th 2010

Field reports are emerging that Borana Community settlers in El Dintu, Sololo District Kenyan side are attempting to re-route trade goods that are destined for Forole, Chalbi District, Kenya. The Borana settlers had initially been in Ethiopia for the use of grazing land, upon migrating back to El Dintu along with Ethiopian Borana community members information has linked them with attempts to control the trade flow into Forole.

The targeted trade route extends from Turbi to Forole (Kenya) and is used for transportation of many goods. Since the residents of Forole are primarily Gabbra, this attempt to thwart trade may expand to communal dimensions and raise tensions. Reports have also indicated that the Gabbra community on both the Ethiopian and Kenyan side are mobilizing and preparing to attack if the trade flow is disrupted.

There is a high possibility that the conflict may expand to a more large scale confrontation between Gabbra and Borana communities. This could derail the highly successful implementation of the Dukana/Maikona Peace Accord. Local authorities and specially the district peace committees are advised to take the necessary steps to prevent any eruption of violence and possibly secure the trade route until both communities cease mobilizing for attack. **END**

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