

**UNPOS**

United Nations Political Office for Somalia

**SRSG Francois Fall's statement at the Memorial Service in the honour of  
Abdulkadir Yahya Ali**

My dear friends,

We are here today to honour our lately departed Mr. Abdulkadir Yahya Ali - a remarkable and courageous man. I remember my first meeting with him which took place a few days after my arrival. He was, in fact, one of the first Somalis whom I met after arriving here in Nairobi. During our meeting Mr. Yahya impressed me by his commitment, by his optimism and by the remarkable efforts he was undertaking. For me, he was – and still remains - a symbol of hope for Somalia's future. Mr. Yahya was an enthusiastic worker for the cause of peace in Somalia and it was for that cause that he paid the ultimate price. Somalia lost him at a time when someone like him was needed the most. The shockwaves of his tragic death were felt not only in Mogadishu; not only in Somalia, but all over the world.

In his message expressing his own shock over Abdulkadir Yahya's death, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that "Mr. Yahya had devoted many years to foster peace and reconciliation in his country and was widely respected by his countrymen and by many in the international community." The Secretary-General condemned his murder and described it as an act "which undermined the prospects for peace and reconciliation in Somalia." On 14 July, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement in which it condemned "in the strongest terms the brutal murder" of Mr. Yahya. It called for the incident to be investigated immediately and for those responsible to be held fully accountable." I can only echo these two statements.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Yahya, and especially to his children who should be proud to have had such a father.

May God bless his soul. The best way for us to honour Yahya and his memory is intensify our efforts and work together to promote peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia. This is what he would have wanted us to do and this is exactly what I, my office, and the United Nations are committed to achieving in Somalia.

Thank You.

21 July 2005