14) The Commissioner of El Ali Sends a Declaration to the Leadership of the Somali Government
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyKy5FfLS1g

For the last two days, there was much talk on social media about a rock that was allegedly taken from El Ali area in Hiiraan region. The commissioner of the El Ali area and the commander of the local Ma'awisley forces spoke about the issue today and they demanded the Federal Government of Somalia not to return the rock to the men who were captured with it. They said the rock's owners are the people of El Ali.

Commissioner: The rock is in the custody of the government of Somalia and we are grateful for their effort. I would like to clearly say as Commissioner of El Ali, that statements regarding the purchase of the rock, I reiterate that there was no purchase of the rock. Al Shabaab removed the rock by force. There was no agreement from the locals. I would like to tell the federal government of Somalia that the rock was taken forcibly and the people who had it are Al Shabaab. Since contradictory statements were made by some leaders, as the commissioner of El Ali district, and with me are some leaders from the area, such as the commander of local Ma'awisley forces, that the members of parliament are the sole representatives of locals on the rock.

Commander: We are the local people born in the area whose rock was looted. We would like to state that no one negotiated the rock with anyone. There was no local agreement. It was taken by force. Huge number of militiamen were brought to the area and live bullets were used against anyone who tried to come near the area. Conflict raged for weeks. People were killed. Others were injured. Others were abducted and their whereabouts remains unknown to this day. That is what we would like to tell the leaders and the government. The rock was stolen from the locals.

Commander 2. We tell the government that the rock was not taken easily. It was not taken through prayer (persuasion). Fighting against Al Shabaab Khawarij group occurred. Intermittent fighting continued there for seven days. Young people were captured and killed in the area of El Ali and Bur Aqable. That conflict continued for seven days. Ultimately, they outpowered us and that is how they took the rock.

Reporter: The speaker of the house or representatives of Hirshabelle region, Sheikh Osman Barre Mohamed and MP Dahir Amin Jesow, who are both from El Ali constituency, also spoke recently about this rock. Latest information regarding the rock say that it is in the custody of the Somali police who captured it in the outskarts of Mogadishu.

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