

Video 1: A rock taken away from El Ali Area

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=539735773558662>

Reporter: Parliamentarians who are members of Somalia's National Assembly and the Speaker of the parliament of Hirshabelle regional government who held a press conference in the city of Mogadishu have spoken out intensely about a huge rock which was stated to be expensive which was taken away from El Ali area in Hiiraan region. The rock is currently under the custody of security institutions and Member of Parliament Dahir Amin Jesow stated that many people were harmed because of it and the rock was bought for \$264,000 which was given to Al Shabaab organization and he sent the following appeal to the leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia:

MP Jesow: "El Ali, the rock that was taken away from there, we were following it for a long time. It was coming to different places at a time. It was taken from El Ali. It was brought to Buqdi. The transaction occurred in Buqdi. The cranes that excavated it – most of the bottom part of the rock was deep in the ground – its pictures are everywhere. You can all see them. Of course, it is an expensive mineral. If it were not expensive, no one would have paid \$264,000 for nothing. Thank God, today it is in the hands of the Federal Government of Somalia. We are the Members of Parliament from that area. The people are putting pressure on it for the asset that is astray – and astray animal belongs to the owner upon sight. The Federal Government is our government. We are part of its strongest supporters. It is therefore required to negotiate with us about the astray that it confiscated which was robbed from our constituency. We thank "the government" for confiscating it. And the relatives of the people who died, as well as the relatives of the people who were injured will feel relieved that what they died for is in the hands of the government."

Member of Parliament Maryan Ahmed Harun whose electoral constituency is El Ali urged the top leaders to return the rock to their hands.

MP Maryan: "But it is unfortunate that the area that I come from, which is my constituency, where no one can go, today, the rock taken away from there can be transported by road – while the government has its troops everywhere- be they military, be they police, be they AMISOM- are stationed on the road – for it to be brought to Mogadishu, and our negotiation is about why our resource was removed. To add to that, many young people were killed. People whose head was cut off are more than two. They are at least six and the number of injured has not been confirmed, it is more than that. The problems committed against us are more than we can count one, two, three, four. The reason for that the area is controlled by none other than this group (Al Shabaab). Therefore, we request the government to address our problems- the extraction of our minerals, killing of our kids. The resource that was taken away from there is like a stolen she-camel that came to Mogadishu. Once found, you ask who is the owner. This stolen she-camel came from the constituency where I represent which is El Ali area. And this came as a result of use of force, robbery, and killing. Our people were killed and then it was brought here. We ask the government led by our President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, who I know is a partioptic president, my Prime Minister Khaire, who I know is working on debt forgiveness and national reconstruction and they are all committed to realizing development for our country. I request them all for the stone that was confiscated today to go back to the people and land since the rock is from El Ali area.

Reporter: The Speaker of Hirshabelle parliament Sheikh Osman Barre Mohamed has called on Hirshabelle security forces to stop individuals who are taking resources from Hirshabelle and he thanked the Federal Government of Somalia for confiscating the rock.

Speaker Osman: “I urge the various security forces of Hirshabelle to defend the resources of the state. Again, a second and a third time, I thank the Federal Government of Somalia for successfully seizing this asset and we will talk to them on behalf of Hirshabelle regional government and national MPs who speak on behalf of Somali people in general. We want to collaborate on this issue, and for the government to support us, and to be accountable. And later on, we will consult on how to defend the state, all states and the country at large. Thank you very much. I say this once again, anyone who deals with Al Shabaab regarding national resources is like Al Shabaab.”

Abdirahin Haylawe, Somali Cable, Mogadishu