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## **Somali Americans mourn the death of students and civil servants caused by al-Shabab, an al-Qaida linked terrorist group, in Somalia**

On Tuesday, October 4, 2011, in the midst of the worst famine in the history of the country, al-Shabab, an al-Qaida linked terrorist group, orchestrated the killing of 70 innocent people when their truck loaded with explosives was detonated in front of a government building in downtown Mogadishu. Among the people killed in this vicious attack were students taking exams for scholarships to study abroad and civil servants. Over 50 people were also injured.

Not long ago, al-Shabab also claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing on December 3, 2009 at Benadir University's graduation ceremony for medical students in Mogadishu, Somalia. Four ministers, 20 medical students, and three journalists were among the dead and about 40 people were wounded.

Al-Shabab, its foreign elements and other transnational terrorist groups have repeatedly shown an utter disregard for the lives of the Somali people and their hopes for the development of a peaceful and stable Somalia. These groups have killed and maimed scores of Somali people and repeatedly denied food to innocent civilians facing the worst famine ever in Somalia's history.

The Somali American Community Association and Save Somalia's Humanitarian and Refugee Awareness Campaign appeal to the Somali people inside and outside of Somalia to work together to end this long standing conflict that is costing thousands of lives and millions of men, women and especially children to suffer needlessly. We urge every Somali to commit to a peaceful and stable Somalia that can address both natural and man-made crisis.

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