

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: H.E. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
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Subject: Somalia

Mr. Secretary-General:

I apologize for this unconventional message, but my deep commitment to the United Nations, and my conscience oblige me to approach you in the matter of Somalia.

I am a great admirer of your Agenda for Peace which, I think, is a break-through and will have, over time, a profound impact on the restructuring, not only of the membership, but of the very concept, of the Security Council.

What has happened in Somalia just now, on the other hand, seems to me a travesty and a perversion of the concept of peace-keeping. The killing of 150 civilians, mostly women and children, from a helicopter in the streets of Mogadishu is a dreadful thing in any case, even if had been committed by a warring party. That it should have occurred in the name of the United Nations is deplorable beyond words.

As a concerned citizen, in a personal capacity, I beseech you to see to it that such horror should never more be repeated. I know I speak for millions of other concerned citizens. We need the United Nations more than ever. The world is unthinkable without it. But we cannot set our hopes on its blood-stained hands.

Sincerely yours,

*Elisabeth Mann Borgese*