IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

BASHE ABDI YOUSUF, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

Civil Action No. 1:04 CV 1360

V.

:

MOHAMED ALI SAMANTAR

Defendant.

DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR ENLARGEMENT OF TIME TO FILE AND MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE OF THE DEADLINE FOR REPORTING THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Defendant Mohamed Ali Samantar, pursuant to this Court's Order dated February 7, 2005, hereby respectfully moves, through undersigned counsel, for enlargement of time to file this Motion for Continuance of the Deadline for Reporting on the Position of the Department of State (the "State Department") regarding whether the State Department should initiate the filing of a suggestion of immunity or a statement of interest. The Court's Order of February 7, 2005, apparently was not mailed to the pro haec vice counsel for Defendant, and Defendant's Virginia counsel was not aware until today that co-counsel had not received the Order and had not filed this Motion for Continuance. Plaintiffs' counsel has no objection to the requested entergement of time, nor to Defendant's request for a continuance of the deadline for thirty (30) days for reporting on the State Department's position.

Defendant has continued to communicate with appropriate
State Department officials regarding Defendant's request. In
particular, on or about February 11, 2005, Defendant's counsel
forwarded to the attorney advisor in the State Department with
responsibility for managing the State Department's response to
defendant's request a copy of a letter dated February 10, 2005,
addressed to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice from the new
transitional government of Somalia. The letter formally
requested that the Department file with this Court a suggestion
of immunity or statement of interest urging this Court to dismiss
the claims against Defendant (copy attached as Exhibit 1).

In addition, the following communications have been sent to the State Department: Plaintiffs' opposition to suggestion of immunity or statement of interest (copy attached as Exhibit 2); Plaintiffs' response to petition of the transitional government of Somalia (copy attached as Exhibit 3); Defendant's reply to Plaintiffs' opposition to suggestion of immunity of statement of interest (copy attached as Exhibit 4); letter to attorney advisor in the State Department from the individual styled as the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Somaliland in opposition to suggestion of immunity or statement of interest (copy attached as Exhibit 5); and Defendant's response to the letter from the individual styled as the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Somaliland (copy attached as Exhibit 6).

On March 15, 2005, counsel to Defendant spoke with the attorney advisor in the State Department with responsibility for managing the State Department's response to Defendant's petition in order to ascertain the likely timetable within the State Department for a response. The representative of the State Department indicated that the State Department is "working diligently" on a reply to the request. He noted that the Department has received numerous submissions on the issues and that the Department also has "a lot of case authority to work through." He stated that the matter is an "important" one for the State Department, and "we hope to have a position shortly."

Respectfully submitted,

SHAUGHNESSY, VOLZER & GAGNER

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Attorneys for Defendant

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

BASHE ABDI YOUSUF, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

Civil Action No. 1:04 CV 1360

MOHAMED ALI SAMANTAR

Defendant.

ORDER

Before the Court are Defendant's Motion for Enlargement of Time to File and Motion for Continuance of the deadline for reporting on the Department of State's position regarding whether the Court should grant defendant immunity. Given the continuing importance of the issues at stake and the reasonableness of defendant's efforts to secure this information in a timely fashion, defendant's Motion for Enlargement of Time to File and Motion for Continuance are GRANTED; and it is hereby

ORDERED that defendant report again to the Court regarding the Department of State's position on defendant's immunity within thirty (30) days of this Order.

The Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Order to counsel of record.

Entered this day of,	,	2005	
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Leonie M. Brinkema United States District Judge

Alexandria, Virginia

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Fred B. Goldberg, hereby certify that on this 15th day of March, 2005, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Defendant's Motion for Enlargement of Time to File and Motion for Continuance of the Deadline for Reporting on the Position of the Department of State by first-class U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, as indicated below on the following:

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Fred B. Goldberg