

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2306

January 31, 2024

The Honorable Michael Guest
Chair
United States House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Wild
Ranking Member
United States House Committee on Ethics
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guest and Ranking Member Wild:

On January 28, 2024, a video circulated widely on X (formerly Twitter) showed United States Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (MN-5) delivering shocking remarks expressing allegiance to the interests of Somalia, the failed state and terrorist stronghold.¹ Congresswoman Omar's remarks are unbecoming of a United States elected official and a violation of the Code of Official Conduct of the House.

Speaking to the audience in Minneapolis on Saturday, the video that was first shared by Ambassador Rhoda J. Elmi, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Somaliland, translates Congresswoman Omar's remarks that characterize her influence on United States' foreign policy. Specifically, Representative Omar is quoted saying, "We are an organized society, brothers and sisters, people of the same blood, people who know they are Somalians first, Muslims second, who protect one another."² Congresswoman Omar continues to discuss the foreign nationals who have asked her to advocate for the interests of Somalia, to which she said, "The United States government will only do what Somalians in the United States tell them to do. They will do what we want and nothing else. They must follow our orders and that is how we will safeguard the interests of Somalia."³ She told her audience, "Sleep in comfort, knowing I am here to protect the interests of Somalia from the inside of the United States' system."⁴

I hold the First Amendment's protections for speech in the highest regard; however, her remarks suggest a disregard for her oath of office in a manner that is unbecoming of an American elected official, reflect poorly on the United States House of Representatives and is a slap in the face to the Minnesotans she represents. Such behavior is not immune from review of your committee for compliance with our internal ethical standards.

Given Representative Omar's statements, I request the House Committee on Ethics proceed immediately with an investigation into whether her remarks violate Rule XXIII, clause 1, which

¹ Ambassador Rhoda J. Elmi, X post, January 28, 2024, 1:12 p.m., <https://twitter.com/AmbRhodaJElmi>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

requires that "a Member of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the name "Tom Emmer" written in a cursive style. The "T" is large and has a long horizontal stroke that extends to the left. The "E" is also large and has a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

Tom Emmer
Majority Whip