

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Sado Isse, and I am writing to express my full support for my cousin, Qalinle Dirie. While I had known of Qalinle since he was a child in Somalia, I truly came to know him personally when he arrived in Minnesota from Africa around 2005. At that time, he stayed in my home for about a year, and that experience gave me a deep understanding of the kind of man he is.

When he first arrived, Qalinle was quiet and reserved, a soft-spoken contented young man adjusting to a completely new world. But over the years, I have watched him transform into a hardworking, motivated individual who consistently pushes himself to grow and contribute to his family and his community. I've seen firsthand his ability to adapt, learn, and thrive despite significant challenges. When he came to the U.S., he didn't know a word of English and hadn't completed school in Somalia, but he enrolled in ESL classes and worked hard to build a better life. His determination to educate himself and integrate into society is something I deeply admire.

Qalinle has always been there for me and my family. I honestly cannot count how many times he's stepped in to help with my children or taken on responsibilities when I needed support. He has a quiet strength, a humble heart, and a willingness to help without ever expecting anything in return. He leads by example, with kindness, consistency, and a deep commitment to those around him.

One of the most inspiring things about Qalinle is the way he cares for his children, especially his child with special needs. As a nurse who helped care for his son, I witnessed the love, patience, and attentiveness Qalinle showed day in and day out. He took the time to learn about his son's condition and went above and beyond to make sure his child had every opportunity for success. At the same time, he was caring for his two other children, ensuring each of them felt loved and supported.

In recent years, Qalinle has worked as an Uber driver, and that job has brought out his natural gift for connecting with people. He's not just a driver; he's someone who genuinely enjoys listening to others, sharing stories, and offering thoughtful advice to his riders. He brings that same warmth and generosity of spirit to everyone he meets.

Qalinle's journey has not been easy, but he has handled every challenge with grace, humility, and perseverance. He is a deeply good man whose presence enriches the lives of those around him. I respectfully ask that you consider his character, his contributions, and his ongoing potential when making your decision.

Sincerely,
Sado Isse

Judge Michael Burns
3109 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55408

July 8, 2025

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Ahmed Dirie Isse, and I am the father of Qalinle Dirie. I am writing to you with a heavy heart to share the kind of person my son is and the important role he plays in our family and community.

Qalinle grew up during the civil war in Somalia, and our family spent many years moving from place to place as refugees before finally settling in the United States. He is my oldest child here in the U.S., and he has always carried a deep sense of responsibility for his siblings and our family.

Qalinle is a devoted father to his four sons. He is actively involved in their lives and has always shown them love, care, and guidance. He has also been a strong support for his younger siblings, both here and in Somalia. He regularly communicates with them, offers emotional and financial support, and helps his sister and brother overseas.

He visits me often and checks on my well-being. He is a thoughtful and caring son who has been a pillar in our family—someone we all lean on in times of need. Beyond our family, Qalinle is active in our community. He sends financial support to extended family members in Somalia and has paid school fees for children, including orphans, who would otherwise not have access to education.

Since his arrest, our family has been in deep distress. I have had many sleepless nights, and this situation has been agonizing for all of us. We have never experienced anything like this before. Qalinle has a strong support system in me, his siblings, his grandmother, and our extended family. We are all here for him.

As someone who was separated from my children during the war, I cannot bear the thought of Qalinle's sons growing up without their father. I respectfully ask you to consider the man he is and the family that stands behind him.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Dirie Isse

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Adan Dirie, and I am writing this letter in support of my brother, Qalinle Dirie. I have known Qalinle my entire life—as a sibling, a role model, and a constant presence in my personal development.

Qalinle has always been a caring and hardworking individual, someone whose dedication to family and community has shaped the lives of those around him. He gifted me my first car when I was just beginning to establish my independence, and more importantly, he consistently encouraged me to pursue my dreams. While others might have expected me to shoulder family responsibilities, Qalinle urged me to focus on building my future. That single gesture, among countless others, demonstrated his belief in uplifting others, even when it meant putting his own needs second.

It is deeply difficult for me to reconcile the current circumstances with the person I have known all my life. Although he made a profound and incomprehensible mistake, Qalinle has consistently shown integrity, compassion, and thoughtfulness in his interactions. His ability to face challenges with resolve and moral clarity is something I have always admired. He is a person of strong character who genuinely strives to make meaningful contributions, not only to our family but also to the broader community.

Qalinle's positive impact is lasting and profound. He has been a pillar in our family, a source of guidance and generosity, and a person whose belief in doing what's right has never wavered despite life's complexities. I respectfully ask that you consider the depth of his character and the lives he has touched when weighing any decisions before you.

With utmost sincerity and confidence, I offer my full support for my brother.

Respectfully,

Adan Dirie

Judge Michael Burns
3109 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55408

July 8, 2025

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Maryama M. Urur, and I am the grandmother of Qalinle Dirie. I am writing this letter to share with you the deep and meaningful role Qalinle plays in my life and the lives of those around him.

Qalinle has been a constant source of support and care for me. As an elderly woman, I rely on him for many of my daily needs. He regularly takes me grocery shopping, helps with housekeeping, and ensures that my home is clean and safe. He also assists me financially when necessary, including helping to pay essential household bills such as electricity.

Beyond these practical supports, Qalinle helps me navigate important communications. He reads and responds to letters on my behalf, ensuring I stay informed and connected. He also takes me to my medical appointments and follows up with my caregivers, showing a level of responsibility and compassion that is rare and deeply appreciated.

Qalinle checks on my well-being every day. His presence gives me peace of mind and a sense of security. He also helps me support my mentally ill son who lives in Africa. Qalinle has been instrumental in assisting me with the process of sponsoring my son to come to the United States, a goal that means the world to me and our family.

I have witnessed Qalinle's kindness, patience, and unwavering dedication to family. He is a young man of integrity and strong values. His actions speak volumes about his character, and I am proud to call him my grandson.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope it gives you a glimpse into the kind of person Qalinle truly is.

Sincerely,

Maryama M. Urur

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Gullet Cabdullahi, and I am writing in support of my uncle, Qalinle Dirie. Qalinle has been an important figure in my life since I was around 12 years old, when he moved into our home after relocating from North Dakota. I am now 23, and over the past decade, he has become not only a trusted family member but also a role model and mentor to me and my siblings.

From the beginning, Qalinle supported me in ways that went far beyond what anyone asked of him. Whether it was attending my basketball games, taking me to the park to practice, or simply offering consistent words of encouragement, he showed up every time. His presence helped shape my work ethic, confidence, and how I view what it means to be there for others. He is the kind of person who, even when stubborn, stands firmly by his values. I've come to understand that his determination is rooted in a deep sense of responsibility and loyalty to those he loves.

Qalinle's generosity and compassion were evident from an early age. I remember moments where he would give what little money he had to homeless individuals on the street, without hesitation. At a time in my life when I didn't see many people modeling that kind of empathy, he showed me through actions, not just words, how to put myself in others' shoes. That lesson and others has stayed with me ever since.

I respectfully ask that you consider these aspects of Qalinle's character when making your decision. The impact he's had on my life, and on the lives of others in our family and community, is immeasurable. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Gullet Cabdullahi

Judge Michael Burns

3109 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55408

July 11, 2025

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Nafiso Isse, and I am the mother of three boys with Qalinle Dirie, ages 11, 9, and 7. I am writing to share the important role Qalinle has played in our children's lives and the impact his absence has had on them.

Qalinle has always been a devoted and present father. He cared for the boys two days a week, often taking them out in the afternoons and spending quality time with them. He supported them educationally, helping with reading and schoolwork, and was deeply involved in their development.

He provided consistent financial support and made sure to take them shopping during holidays like Eid. He never missed a birthday and made every effort to be a constant and loving presence in their lives. Our boys have never known a time without their father, and his absence has been deeply felt. They miss him dearly and ask about him constantly.

Qalinle's love and dedication to his children have always been clear. He is a caring father who has built strong, meaningful relationships with his sons. I hope you will take into account the bond he shares with them and the role he plays in their lives.

Sincerely,

Nafiso Isse

Dear Judge Burns,

My name is Fardosa Ibrahim, and I am a Registered Nurse. I had the privilege of caring for Qalinle's son and, through that experience, witnessed the unwavering love, dedication, and involvement Qalinle has shown toward his family. He plays a vital role in his son's daily care and overall well-being. His continued presence is essential to his son's emotional and physical health.

I am writing to express my strong support for Qalinle. Throughout the time I have known him, I have consistently been impressed by his integrity, compassion, and commitment to both his family and professional responsibilities. Qalinle is a person of high moral character, who meets challenges with calm determination and always strives to do what is right.

His positive influence on those around him and his dedication to serving his family and community are deeply admirable. It is with complete confidence that I offer my endorsement and support for Qalinle in any matters under consideration.

Sincerely,

Fardosa Ibrahim, RN

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BRANCH



Al-Ihsan Islamic Center Inc.

955 Minnehaha Ave West

Saint Paul, MN 55104

July 11, 2025

Community Support Letter for Qalinle Dirie

Dear Judge Michael Burns,

We, the undersigned members of the Somali community, write this letter to express our strong and heartfelt support for Qalinle Dirie, a member of our community.

Many of us first met Qalinle through our shared journey as Somali refugees — arriving in this country with little more than hope and the determination to rebuild our lives. Like so many of us, Qalinle has faced the challenge of starting over in a new culture: learning English, adjusting to a fast-paced system, and raising children in an environment far different from the one we grew up in.

Before this situation, Qalinle was known as a devoted family man and an outgoing person who would talk to anyone he came across in the community. Whether taking his children to school or a park, we witnessed his love for his family and kids. Many of us also know how close he is to his grandmother. He is her support line. Many of us have been to his home, worked with him, or met him in different community activities. Each time, Qalinle was a kind and outgoing human being.

He has also been an active volunteer in our mosque, Al-Ihsan Islamic Center, where he regularly visited during Friday prayers, Ramadan, and community events. You'll often find him helping elders find rides home or staying after to help clean up. His service has never been about recognition — just a quiet commitment to supporting the spaces that hold our community together.


Despite the financial pressures of life in the U.S., Qalinle also still managed to support needy family members back in Somalia. Whether it is helping with medical expenses or food during times of drought, his sense of responsibility has extended far beyond his needs. This is

something many of us can relate to, as many of us have family members and relatives there as well.

Throughout all the years we've known him, Qalinle Dirie has never been involved in conflict, nor has he caused any disturbance in our community. He is known for being a well-mannered, outgoing, respectful, and quick to lend a hand, someone who takes care of people.

The situation he is currently facing comes as a deep shock to all of us. It does not reflect the man we know — a man whose actions have consistently reflected family and community. We respectfully ask that this letter be considered as a sincere reflection of who Qalinle Dirie truly is. His contributions may not make headlines, but to us, he has made a positive difference.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Anshur 

Executive Director

Alihsan Islamic Center

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