

Somaliland Journalists Association (SOLJA)



2016

SOLJA's Annual Report *Somaliland Freedom Righter's Report*

freedom
right
information
frontiers
seek
regardless
without
expression
opinions
interference
includes
Everyone
impart
hold
media
receive
ideas
opinion



Somaliland Freedom Righter's Report

SOLJA's Media Cases Annual report (2016)

Executive Summary:

Chairman Remarks



As usual SOLJA records and documents the media cases against the journalists in order to act against the silencing of media by the government bodies or other entities that attempt to threaten the freedom of expression and right to information and spread the news by the journalists in the

interest of the large public.

During this year 2016, we have recorded 13 media cases and around 20 journalists put in jail for various reasons. These occurred across six regions of Somaliland. There is only one female detained this year 2016. In addition, It's important to mention that the DP world agreement by the government was the fueling agent of a number of journalists in different regions.

SOLJA has not only limited to their freedom fighting journey to create a fearless atmosphere with Somaliland Journalists but rather to the public and all citizens. We are committed to create an enabling environment for the individual journalists, Media institutions no matter private and public, the independent scholars, gifted poets and writers that express their freedom against the issues that press their life and nation.

On behalf of SOLJA leaders we are very proud to mediate and involved all these arrests by achieving their releases as soon as possible. Our response was immediate, by compromising and direct contacts with officials and groups that ordered these arrests

and managing very case with the convenience and soonest for freeing the journalists in order to exceed their professional practice without halting.

Mohamud Abdi Jama,
SOLJA, Chairman.

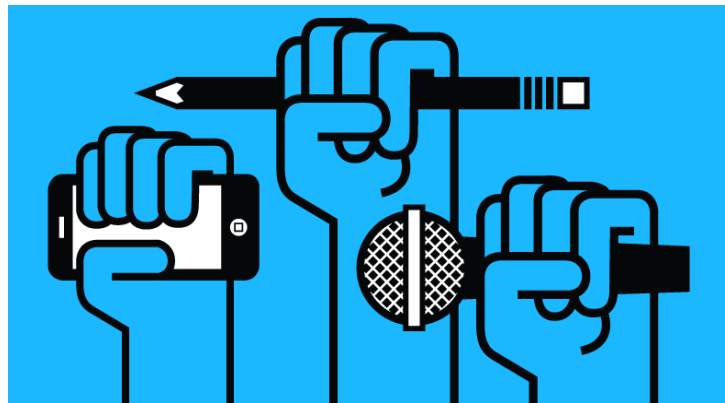
Executive Directors' remarks



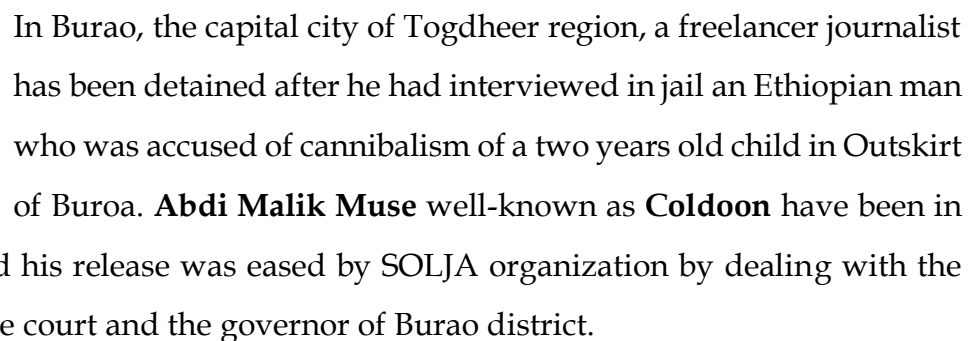
Freedom of expression plays a significant role in building democratic Somaliland. It's the urge we as Somali landers have been striving for in the colonial period in 1960. It's the same vision we have broken away from the Somalia republic due to the pressures, prejudice, illegal detention, mass killings and

censorship made by the regime of Siyad Barre that came to an end in 18 May 1991 once we had the bravery commitment and heading a new dimension for building an independent and democratic nation that reflects the will of the citizens that gets their full freedom of expression without the least intervention in terms of setting out their political path, creating a standardized socio-economic and most importantly enjoying their rights provided by the International Human rights law. For example, article 19(2) stated the right to freedom of opinion without interference, compromises, the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds. Moreover, the Somaliland Press law 27/2004 has also guaranteed the rights of journalists as well.

This report assesses and analysis the all cases reported from January 2016 and their full information in clear and concise process. In 2016 the freedom level was fading compared to last year according to Freedom houses report rated 54% is quite lower than 2015.



1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.



1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26



In Mandheera, a district that is located in the eastern of Hargeisa Capital were briefly arrested two journalists named **Ahmed Sa'eed Mohamed** who works for Kalsan Tv and **Abdirahman Ige** who works for Somnews private Tv. Both of them were accused on

Subversive or Anti-National

Propaganda after alleged with the higher police officials reporting. They were set free after SOLJA managed their release by mediation and compromise with police officials.



April 13



In Borama the capital city of Awdal region, two journalists have been arrested in 14 April 2016, one of the journalists were working **Rayo TV Ali Aare** was arrested for illegal reporting about local women's in the city. And the other one was working Boorama news agency called **Mohamed Omer**

Jaray respectively. Mohamed Jaray was arrested for sarcastic condemn of Somaliland national Song via choosing to sing Somalia's national anthem rather than that of Somaliland.

The two journalists were freed later and the Boorama news agency was banned by the Awdal regional court.



26 April:



The Minister of Interior **Mr. Ali Mohamed "Warancadde"** have kidnapped a journalist called **Abdifatah Ismail Arshe**. The young man was in his way to his way to home when a police catch him, beat and tortured than taken to a black house who have been kept there for as long as three days. It was a disaster to mention that the minister himself came while he was at jailed home, the minister threatened him why he has wrote and spread about a speech he supported the Waddani party before he have

been assigned as the Minister in the ruling party. The minister hit Mr. Arshe while his body guards were holding his hands back. As a result, he had some injury in his face due to this hard hits.⁷

After three days in jailed black room he was then submitted to the Central police station. Shortly afterwards, SOLJA have been contacted and we have took appropriate reaction to facilitate the release of Mr. Arshe were we have successfully achieved to regain his freedom.

Moreover, SOLJA have also submitted a complaint letter to the president of Somaliland Hon: Ahmed Mohamed Silaanyo to consider this cases threatening situation by bringing Mr. Warancadde to the court in order to stop his evil repeatedly occurring Journalists harassments.

May 4



In Laascaanod a reporter who works for Kalsan Tv called Mohamed Ahmed Jama was detained in Laascanod and his case was alleged with a news he has aired about the import of Miir Type of Qat in Laascanod city, its import created a conflict on rate of tax between the Ministry of Finance and the Qat dealers.

May 25



In Berbera, around 5 journalists have been arrested 25 May 2016. The journalists are both from private and public agencies particularly, Mukhtar Abdirahman who works for SLN TV, Ahmed Awsicid, Kalsan Tv, Cabdi Cige from Somali News, Mosa Jama who works for Somali Cable and lastly Sidiiq Carab who is a member of SBS TV. Their charges focus on the Government agreement of Berbera Port Investment by DP World Company from UAE. During an interview, with the higher officials of the DP World Company and the Local council of the Berbera city meeting those journalists

have been warned not to feed this news to a public reach. But later, they did and that is the main reason the Mayor of Berbera arrested as much as he could catch.

However, after some days SOLJA has responded these issues and starts effective mediation with government where their release was succeeded within short period of to 3 days after the Saaxil Regional Court ordered their release.

May 29



The journalists Mr. Abdi Hassan Abdi of Bulsho TV and Mr. Abdirashid Sh. Abdiwahab Sh. Ibrahim, the chief Editor of Foore Newspaper were arrested by officers attached to Somaliland Criminal Investigation Department on Sunday morning 29 May 2016, at a local hotel in Hargeisa.

However, Abdi Hasan who works for Bulsho Tv have been released after one day only while Abdirashid have been detained and kept in jail as long as two weeks. Abdirashid, the Editor of FOORE newspaper have been charged that he have written false news about the agreement of the DP World investment over the Berbera Port and the propaganda on the weekly ministerial meeting's disturbance of the First lady of the state. With reference, to his charges in the court these two issues were mainly behind his arrest and also the hunting of Mohamed Mohamud Yusuf, the Manager of FOORE newspaper who have been in search.

Hopefully, the Chairman of SOLJA facilitated his release by press conference against this and call for the presidential to release if not found guilty. After sometime, we have submitted a request of release to the president Mr. Ahmed Mohamud "Siranyo" and

SOLJA will guarantee his responsibility because he was ill-mannered and can't stay in Jail long time. After that, his case was in court, were we offered our utmost legal aid assistance. Not only limited to lawyers that advocates for but also facilitation of every single activity that needs effort. Now, the court hearing is finished and the decision of judiciary is only remaining.

June 19:



Ethiopian army have arrested five Somaliland Journalists in a small town called Wajaale located in the border line between Somaliland and Ethiopia. They are all based in Gebiley region were Muhyadiin from SLNTV, Ayanle from Bulsho Tv, Mohamed Jama from Star Tv, Caydaruus from Universal Tv and Mukhtaar Nouh Ibrahim from Horn Cable Tv. All of the four journalists are freed immediately except Mukhtar Nouh that works for Horn Cable Tv. He has been taken to Jigjiga and was in jail at least 20 days! Without facing any charge. He was alleged with a reporting on a killing that occurred in Somali region of Ethiopia. Afterwards, the signal for HORN CABLE Tv was out and dark for 6 days due to this issue.

SOLJA has produced a firm call and press release to the Somaliland Government to pay attention to this cruel act of Ethiopian Government against its journalists that were tactically taken from their town in Gebiley. SOLJA was leading all activism activities to achieve the releasing of Mukhtaar where we have achieved after a bit longer period of time compared to others.



June 23:

In Berbera, on June 23rd 2016 a Freelancer Journalist has been arrested by the Berbera Police officers while he was recording video from a protest which was occurring in the

city of Berbera against the government agreement on the Investment of DP World Company in the next 30 years.

The police took him and jailed. Since, we on behalf of SOLJA produced a call towards the government officials in Berbera in order to bring him on the justice or immediate release if he was not found guilty. Successfully on 26 June 2016, he was released and SOLJA managed his release.

June 28



In Buroa, the capital city of Tog-dheer region, the minister of interior Mr. Ali Mohamed Warancade arrested a journalist who works for the SLNTV, state television called Abdisatar Sabri have been put in jail for recording an uprising and protest going on in Burao city against the ethnic conflict of Gaashaamo killings. He was then released

July 20:



In Burao, the capital city of Togdheer region a journalist named Mahad Goodir who works for the Star Tv have been arrested. He was accused of recording video on local Sheikhs that affiliated with radicalism. SOLJA has managed his release and freed after a while.

September 9:



*Labo Wariye Tvga Qaranka Somaliland
Mustafe Iyo Cabdirisaaq*

During early September, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia a two Somalilander journalists who works for the State Television SLNTV named Mustafe Yusuf Ahade and Abdirazak Isak Duale were detained in the Suadiarabia after they are accused of invalid and illegal country entrance documents.

They are still in jail and the Somaliland Government has not yet facilitated their releasing efforts.

20 October



A female journalist named Farah Abdi Nuur who works for Horn Cable Tv was briefly detained by the Garadag police officials in Sanaag region she was accused of a video/news she made about a conflict that occurred after a food distribution by the government in response to the drought of eastern regions. She was immediately released by her after SOLJA managed her case within short period of time.

Closed media Houses and media cases that undergone the Court:

Somali Channel



In 8 February, the body guards of the Minister of Health Mr. Saleban Ise (Xaglatoosiye) opened and intentional firing with the Somali channel office in Buuhoodle in search of a member of journalists that works for the Tv named Ali dhagjar. Moreover, the bodyguards have destructed the office and overtook its control within short period of time and seized equipment's and furniture.

Hubsad



From Nov 2015, Hubsad was closed and its owners were arrested. They have been accused of illegal ownership of the agency and also false news they have wrote exposing the sale of public land with no reason by the Presidential Palace. The court started listening the case and its still going with no convincing decision.

Foore Magazine



The court proceedings and hearing of FOORE case was all finished but there is no yet court decision.

Ogaal:



Haatuf:

Haatuf has been banned since April 2014.



Hubsad:

Xogogaal and Codka shacabka:

The suspended local newspapers were not yet listened to their case by the court or neither set free for proceeding their daily activities.

Social Media Cases:

Ali Mahdi Jibriil Hassan:



Ali Mahdi Jibriil Hassan is journalist that works for Bulsho TV based in Hargeisa, the CID called him for investigation due to a recently news he has published in his Social Media especially Facebook. The news was alleged with a establishment of new port near Berbera called Ceel-garde.

Preserving the citizens Freedom of Expression!