

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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Headlines:

- **President Mohamud – “Human Rights Must be Protected, Adopted and Supported by Somali Society**
- **Jailed Reporters in Hargeisa Released on Bond**
- **Somali Woman who Reported Rape Sentenced**
- **Aid Agencies ‘Paid Somalia’s Al-Shabaab’ During Famine**

President Mohamud – “Human Rights Must be Protected, Adopted and Supported by Somali Society

December 10 Dalsan Radio (Domestic Media)

- His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, today marked International Human Rights day. The President said: "Somalia witnessed abuses of human rights through two decades of civil war and the first step to take when addressing any problem is to admit there is one. Today, I want to send the message that human rights abuses have no place in the new Somalia.

- "I want to reiterate the government's commitment to upholding human rights. We are working towards a position where there are no human rights violations in Somalia and we abide with best international practice in human rights.
- "The Federal Government has adopted a Human Rights Road Map 2013 - 2015 which lays the foundation for improving the protection and promotion of human rights in Somalia. The Roadmap defines the government's responsibilities and sets goals to be achieved in a short period of time in collaboration with civil society, NGOs and our international partners." He stated.

Jailed Reporters in Hargeisa Released on Bond

December 9, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)

- Somaliland authorities on Monday (December 9th) released from jail several reporters who were arrested for holding protests and reporting on political issues in the region, while one reporter remains imprisoned on the outskirts of Hargeisa.
- Said Khadar and Abdulsalam Abdirashid Ali, who work for Hargeisa-based Bulsho TV, Hassan Maal, a photographer with Universal TV, and independent reporter Abdiaziz Bashir Nur were arrested last Tuesday after protesting the release of a man accused of attacking Hubaal newspaper headquarters in April.
- They were released to make the situation appear less serious because December 10th is Human Rights Day, Farah said. "[B]ut they can be put back in jail any time," he added.
- "They went there to report on the complaints of elders who refused a new district administration named by the deputy minister of defence for Jalelo after dismissing the previous administration," Farah said. "But when the reporters came back, they were arrested on the eastern checkpoint of Hargeisa and returned to Dar-Buruq district where they were jailed."

Somali Woman who Reported Rape Sentenced

December 10, 2013 Shabelle Media (Domestic Independent Media)

- A Somali court has sentenced a woman who said she was raped and two journalists who reported her story.
- The court passed the verdict on Monday in the capital Mogadishu, saying the journalists were guilty of defamation and insulting state institutions.
- The 19-year old unidentified woman, who is also a journalist, was handed a suspended six-month jail sentence for defamation and lying, during which time she will be confined to her home, said Judge Hashi Elmi Nur.
- The journalists are to serve out their sentences, of one year and six months respectively, or pay a fine in order to win early release.
- It is the second time this year Somalia has jailed a woman for speaking out about rape and journalists for interviewing her.
- Last month the United Nations in Somalia called for a "proper investigation" into the case, while the United States said it was "deeply concerned."

- The alleged victim last month told the independent Radio Shabelle she was attacked and raped at gunpoint by two fellow journalists. But it was the journalists who reported her story who were jailed.
- Neither of the men accused of the rape were arrested.

Two Senior Jubba Administration Officials Assassinated in Kismayo As Security Deteriorates

December 11, 2013 Dalsan Radio (Domestic Media)

- Armed groups have assassinated and killed two senior Raskamboni commanders in the town of Kismayo as security deteriorates following clan-based conflict. According to local sources, a close aide of Kismayo security chief and a security officer were both gunned down in the town on Tuesday night.
- The local militias in Kismayo started to attack civilian interests including homes and hotels as they arrested dozens of people.
- The security of the port town in Southern Somalia has been deteriorating since clan-based conflicts sparked on the town resulting targeted assassinations, bomb explosions and wider displacement.

Aid Agencies Paid Al-Shabaab During Famine

December 9, 2013 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Aid agencies paid Somalia's al-Shabab militants for access to areas under their control in the 2011 famine, according to a joint report by two think tanks. In many cases al-Shabab insisted on distributing the aid and kept much of it for itself, the report says. Some of the groups are still paying al-Shabab to operate in the large parts of Somalia it still holds, it adds.
- More than 250,000 people died during the famine, caused by a drought. The disaster affected more than 13 million people across the Horn of Africa and triggered a major refugee crisis, with hundreds of thousands of Somalis fleeing the rural areas controlled by Al-Shabab.
- The report - by the Overseas Development Institute and the Mogadishu-based Heritage Institute for Policy Studies - details how al-Shabab demanded from the agencies what it described as "registration fees" of up to \$10,000 (£6,100).
- The report does not specify which agencies agreed to pay fees to al-Shabab. The UN declared the famine over in February 2012.
- It also describes how al-Shabab gave people extra food if they spied on the aid groups. Some agencies were banned outright by al-Shabab, including most UN agencies, while others withdrew because of the demands.
- The report says agencies who worked in al-Shabab-held areas had to complete special forms and sign a pledge saying they would refrain from certain social and religious activities.