

## Media Monitoring Report, Somalia

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### Journalists Continue to Face Threats

#### Hand Grenade Hurlled into Radio Galkacyo

Dalsan Radio, January 16

- Unknown assailants have thrown two hand grenades into the Radio Galkacyo studio.
- The director of the station has confirmed that there were no casualties from the attacks.
- A similar attack in December 2014 left two journalists wounded.
- The Somali Independent Media Houses has condemned the attack and called on authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

#### NUSOJ Releases Annual Report on State of Press Freedom in Somalia

Shabelle News, January 15

- The National Union of Somali Journalists has released the tenth annual report on press freedoms in Somalia.
- The report provides a comprehensive overview of the state of press freedom, including chronological documentation of media freedom violations and legal repression against the media.
- Although deadly violence against journalists eased in 2014, this was due to widespread self-censorship that made media less of a target.

- In 2014, 5 media workers were murdered in Mogadishu, Galkayo, and Baidoa; seven journalists were injured; 47 journalists were arrested; five media houses were attacked; and a repressive legislation was enacted by the federal government and Puntland.
- The NUSOJ stated that the murder of journalists has become a routine way to control the independent media and send a message to political opponents.
- Al Shabaab remained the prime suspect of targeted killings with the federal government was directly or indirectly responsible for the arrest of journalist and the attack on Shabelle Media Network.
- Journalists in Somaliland have found themselves targeted in a pattern of intimidation and harassment by the Hargeisa authorities.

## **PM Announces New Cabinet**

### **Key President Allies Appear PM's Shamarke's New Cabinet List**

**Raxanreeb, January 12**

- Somali PM Abdirashid Ali Shamarke has announced his long-awaited cabinet list, consisting of 26 ministers and 25 state ministers.
- Key allies of the President were appointed to key ministries such as national security, justice, finance, federalism, and foreign affairs.
- Some of the old faces in the new cabinet are members of Damul Jadad, a religious group that the President is an active member of.

### **New Somalia PM Retains Majority of His Predecessor's Ministers**

**Kismaayo, January 13**

- Somalia's newly appointed PM named a cabinet of 60 people, an increase of 5 posts from the previous cabinet.
- Many of the appointees were also members of the previous government.
- The PM warned of the huge task associated with bringing peace and stability to the country.

### **Somali PM Names New Cabinet**

**Dalsan Radio, January 12**

- The Somali PM has announced his new cabinet, which includes many ministers from the previous government.
- The announcement was not a surprise to many, as several familiar faces retained their portfolios.
- The Cabinet's major tasks include the implementation of Vision 2016, the formation of an electoral commission, and spearheading the federalization of the country.
- The names of the new cabinet are set to be submitted to parliament next week.

### **New Faces in Cabinet Line Up**

**Garowe Online, January 12**

- New faces have appeared in the cabinet line up for the FGS.
- 59 members got portfolios in the new cabinet, with a number of former ministers making a comeback.

- Heavyweights from the former Puntland administration of Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Farole turned up.
- The new PM stated he held consultations with the President and the Speaker in deciding the cabinet.

## **PM Dissolves New Cabinet**

### **PM Shamarke Wants to Dissolve New Cabinet**

**Garowe Online, January 17**

- Somalia's PM has written to lawmakers following concerns over the outcome of a planned parliamentary vote.
- In a press statement from his office, the PM asked Federal MPs to let him review 59 choices in the cabinet lineup.
- This move comes less than 3 days after 120 lawmakers turned down his request for a deadline extension.
- Parliamentarians are protesting the choices for Justice Minister, Minister of the Interior, Finance Minister, and National Security Minister.
- Speaker Jawari announced that cabinet members would face a confidence in parliament.
- If the four are removed in a premature reshuffle, it will deal a severe blow to the President, who retains close links with the four.

### **Somali Premier Dissolves New Cabinet**

**Somaliland Informer, January 17**

- Somalia's new Prime Minister has dissolved his cabinet less than a week after appointing it.
- The motivation for the move is unknown, but the composition of the cabinet has been widely criticized due to the appointment of several supporters of the President.
- The members are seen as having been involved in the disputes between the President and the former PM.
- Shamarke must appoint a new cabinet within 14 days.

### **Somali PM Dissolves New Cabinet**

**Jowhar.com, January 17**

- The Somali PM has dismissed his newly nominated cabinet after a standoff in parliament over the approval of the new cabinet.
- The nominees were largely former cabinet ministers.
- Shamarke is expected to appear before the national assembly to request more time to form a new government.

### **PM Expected to Form New Cabinet in Two Weeks.**

**Garowe Online, January 17**

- The PM has dissolved his cabinet, clearing the way for the formation of a new government in two weeks.
- In a letter written to the Parliament, the PM said he needs two weeks to launch a review into the ministerial portfolios.

- 192 out of 202 present PMs endorsed the request.
- The PM, Speaker, and President are said to have agreed on the mass dissolution.
- Four ministers known to be close to the President are likely to be cleansed from the next lineup.

### **3 Men Sentenced to Life in Prison**

#### **Puntland Court Sentences 3 Alleged Traitors to Life in Prison**

##### **Garowe Online, January 13**

- A court in Garowe has handed down 3 life sentences to alleged traitors who allegedly participated in a conference on the formation of a federal state in central Somalia.
- Puntland's Deputy Attorney General declared the three men traitors who are a threat to the existence of the state.
- 11 others who had voiced support for the agenda received 10-year jail sentences.
- The three men reportedly traveled to Galgadud, representing North Mudug in a convention.
- Puntland protested the inclusion of north Mudug in the central state map in July 2013, following a trilateral meeting between Galmadug, Hima, Heeb, and the paramilitary group of Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jamea in Mogadishu.