

Media Freedom Review in Somaliland:

The office of legal aid of SOLJA have provided legal assistance and support to various media practitioners and media houses who have been violated including journalists detentions and media agencies. SOLJA vets the reported media violations, evaluates and then prepares for legal support both legally and sometimes informally.

During this year 2019 the Somaliland journalists association have provided legal aid assistance over 20 journalists and 3 media agencies targeted due to their media work. Journalists are mainly detained after they publish or broadcasts stories against government's political agenda, decisions which public need to know for example the late detention of corruption reporting where 3 journalists detained in 30 July 2019, also there are others including the several cases which happened in Gebiley district which journalist Jacfar Ismail have made investigation over the mayor's corruption on public money and property, he was charged and fined after the mayor filed a case against him.

From April 2019- August 2019-SOLJA legal aid department provided support to the following media houses and journalists: All cases were supported by the two senior lawyers hired in cooperation with SOLJA staff.

Detailed media cases provided to Legal assistance and court facilitations: March-August 2019

Sagal Beel-deeq:

Sagal BeeL-deeq is a female journalist who works for popular HCTV, she was assaulted, threatened and detained by a police officer in the Hargeisa city center in 27 April 2019. Sagal with her cameramen Ridwan Yusuf were both detained while they have been making 'Vox-pop' Interview in the market regarding the working conditioner of street-vendors. Sagal was hurt and injured after the policeman hit. She was later released through negotiation with government facilitated by HCTV and SOLJA. Later on 4/3/2019, SOLJA filed a case against the police to bring the military court for investigation to held the police officer who assaults this female and bring him before the law

Abdirahman Keyse Tungub X2

Abdirahman Keyse who works for Bulsho Tv is detained twice for his journalism work. Firstly, Abdirahman was detained by the Sool region governor & have been accused on broadcasting a program supporting the Puntland administration-semi-

autonomous region of federal government of Somalia which is . He was immediately release within a day after SOLJA managed the case with the governor

Abdimalik Muse Coldoon:

Abdimalik Coldoon was journalist and activist, he was detained in 17 April 2019 where the police caught him from Buroa(Tog-dher region), he was accused of spreading false news information against Abarso secondary school and also accused of defamation against the public officials including describing the president in to dictatorship style administration. Abdimalik appeared in court 1st hearing 18 June 2019, after several hearing he was Charged 08 July 2019 three years and half imprison after found guilty of Abarso school false news propagation and slander against president. SOLJA Coldoon for lawyers to defend him on fair trail, he was also provided legal advices and court proceedings.

Bedri Kosar, Abdirahman Fantastic, Caydarus and Kamaal:

Four journalists who all them work for Independent Eryal Television were detained in Hargeisa while have been filming about a corruption allegation over the Somaliland service program examination on 30 July 2019. The police stand against interviewing the people to complete the other side of the story, while in detention the police have ordered to delete the vedio clip of the interviewed students complaining about corrupting justifying non-service program members are sitting for the exam. However, SOLJA resisted and identified this police act as censorship. Due to stalemate, the police released three of journalist and remained the director of Eryal Bedri kosar who was in charge of the news collecting. SOLJA have advocated and pressured the government and successfully released him one day after on 31 July 2019.

Mohamed Yusuf Bakayle

The Criminal investigation department officers detained Mohamed from summertime hotel in 26 July 2019 at night, he was in detention for 21 days under investigation over spying for Somalia before he was found any evidences and unconditionally freed him. Somaliland journalists association provided legal advices and coordination with government to be released while in detention.

During this reporting period three media houses were targeted:

Foore Newspaper

Foore an independent newspaper was suspended one-year and also fined in February 9, 2019 after found guilty of publishing articles against the relocation of the presidential palace to Xaraf area.

Waaberi Newspaper

Waaberi newspaper also independent was accused of improper media registration. The newspaper was banned for operation, after that SOLJA submitted appeal towards appeal court on 02/4/2019, the appeal court also failed to provide us convincing judgment and finally submitted the case to Supreme Court and we succeeded to assist that the newspaper officially lifted from the ban after court hearing.

Horyaal and Eryal Televisions

The ministry of information have banned Horyaal Tv and Eryal Tv banned in operation at 18 June 2019 in a ministerial degree released 15/6/2019 accused of anti-national propaganda broadcasts. The police raided to the headquarters and ordered immediate cease of their activities which was one-day both television. SOLJA in cooperation with the television owners have several meetings with the ministry of information, along the meetings, we have also drafted a case against this horrific media attacks against freedom of media which no media cannot be closed or arrested without warranty. Our lawyers drafted the complaint letter to the court and dropped submission because the ministry released the televisions in 30 July 2019.

Annex

The tables below provides detailed media cases that happened from Jan-August 2019

1. Journalists arrested in Somaliland - 2019

Name of the journalist	Date arrested	Date released	Who arrested	Where	Media Outlet	Reason that he/she was arrested/any charges
Abdilahi Hasan Jama and Ridwan Ismail Gaydh	04/Jan/2018	04/Jan/2019 8hrs	Police	Hargaissa	CBA TV	In January 4 th the Somaliland police in Koodbuur-Hargeisa sub-district detained illegally journalists Abdilahi Hasan Jama and Ridwan Ismail Gaydh who works for CBA Television. The two journalists were capturing a neglected governmental vehicle that fall-over a bridge in Koodbuur district.
Khadar Abdi Abdilahi	20/1/2019	22/1/2019	Deputy governor of Wajaale	Wajaale	Somnews Tv	Khadar Abdi Abdilahi, a journalist from Somnews Tv was detained two days by the deputy mayor of Wajaale district after a dispute. The deputy mayor resisted to provide an interview to the journalists, then the mayor said I have detained due to his

						misbehavior and abuse against me.
Jacfar Awil		05/02/2019	Mayor of Gebiley	Gebiley	Horyaal Tv	The mayor of Gebiley district Mohamed Amin filed a case against journalist Jacfar Awil of Horyaal Tv after broadcasting allegation of the mayor on corruption. After two hearings that SOLJA hired lawyer for defending, he was saved to imprison and the court fined him to pay 4million SL shillings where SOLJA paid half of the payment.
Khadar Abdi Abdilahi Zakaria Nouh Ibrahim	30/1/2019	31/1/2019	Police	Gebiley	Facebook	Journalists Khadar Abdi Abdialhi and Zakaria Nouh Ibrahim was detained in Gebiley allegation Facebook posted tagged to them a couple of months ago claiming they were involved terrorists although this became deformation.
Yusuf Mohamed Ibrahim	3/2/2019	4/2/2019	Police	Hargaisa	Website	Yusuf Mohamed Ibrahim was detained in 3/1/2019 after he published article against Anchor Business Company. They claimed false and propaganda. The case was mitigated before

						court after negotiation between SOLJA and , business, the government
Mukhtar Nuh	22/2/2019	23/2/2019	Gebiley Mayor	Gebiley	Eryal Tv	Mukhtar aired Eryal Tv a program on the poor health care system of the Gebiley district hospital. He is detained by the governor.
Sagal Beel-deeq & Ridwaan Yusuf	27/2/2019	27/2/2019	Police	Hargeisa	HCTV	Sagal Beeq-deeq was assaulted, threatened and detained by a police officer in the Hargeisa city center. Sagal with her colluage were both detained while they have been making 'Vox-pop' Interview in the market. Sagal was hurted an injured after the policeman hit. She was latter released by SOLJA. Later on 4/3/2019, SOLJA filed a case against the police to bring the military court for investigation.
Abdirahman Keyse Tungub * 2	15/2/2019 May-	15/2/2019	Governor	Laascanod	BTV	Abdirahman was detained by the Sool region governor & have been accused on broadcasting a program supporting the Puntland

						administration. He was immediately release within a day after SOLJA managed the case with the governor
Siciid Nuh Jacfar Awil Mohamed Abdi-watiin	10/3/2019	Charged 2/4//2019	Police	Gebiley	Horyaal, Eryal Tv, Somnews	The Gebiley regional administration illegally detained 3journalists. They have been cought after a video clip on frighten between the two journalists Saciid and Jacfar went viral while they've been trying to get in a new football playground event, the police resisted and fired them. Mohamed was detained in the mayor's office after they collided the security guard as well. 24/3/2019 SOLJA & Lawyer visits. Released 17 April 2019. 1 st Hearing scheduled Thursday, 28 2019. Charges Disobedience & anti-national propagation on violating district

						security(Penal code: 263.332.268)
Yusuf Dool	17/4/2019	20/4/2019	Police	Hargeisa	Website	This journalists was detained while in the ministry of information and the police accused of publishing a fake news revealing the Khadra H Khaydh the first lady of Djibouti visited to Hargeisa.
Abdimalik Muse Coldoon	17/4/2019					1 st hearing 18 June 2019, Charged 08 July 2019 three years and half imprison after found guilty of Abarso school false news propagation and slender against president
Mohamed Yusuf Bakayle	26 july 2019	8/18/2019	C.I.D			The Criminal investigation department officers detained Mohamed from 26 July 2019 at night, he was in detention for 21 days under investigation over spying for Somalia before he was found any evidences and unconditionally freed him.

Bedri Kosar, Abdirahman Fantastic, Caydarus and Kamaal	30 July 2019	Freed 3journalists of them only remained Badri Kosar after one day 31 July	Police			They have been filming about a corruption allegation over the Somaliland service program examination.
Yaasiin Dhago-cade	5/8/2019	6/8/2019	Governor	Caynabo	RTN	Yasin was filming IDP people living in Caynabo district complaining about negligence and lacks the basic necessities from government. The governor ordered his detention.
Sayid Osman Mire	07/09/2019	16/09/2019		Hargeisa	Horyaal TV	
Abdirisaaq Good and Abdiqani Asporo	10/09/2019				Horyaal	
Shiine & 2	16/09/2019					

2. Media houses filed against criminal cases in 2019

Name of the Media House	Date filed criminal case against them	Who filed?	Where	What are the charges/accusations
Foore Newspaper	14/10/2018	Marodi-jeh-regional Attorney general office	Hargaisa	Foore Newspaper was suspended 1 year & fined 3 million Somaliland shillings by the Hareisa regional court. The chairman is also was detained. Foore newspapers
Waaberi Newspaper:	19/6/2018 08/1/2019	Attorney general office	Hargeisa	The newspaper was accused of improper media registration. Appeal submission date 02/4/2019
Eryal and Horyaal TV	15 June 2019	30 June 2019	Hargeisa	Ministerial degree

On September 3rd 2019, Somaliland regional court issued a letter of banning against HadhwanaagNews-one of the leading websites where the internet providers were ordered to block out. Several articles against the chairman of Somaliland central bank were published on corrupting public funds. The decision was made after several interrogations with Abdirazak Good and Abdikani Asporo who are both working for hadhwanaagNews. Where Abdikani Asporo was detained last night (10/9/2019). The police were hunting since the court decision though no court proceedings and no found guilty over the website before suspending.