



# MEDIA FREEDOM Report 2022



**SOLJA** | Somaliland  
Journalists Association

Envisions the existence of free, independent, and transparent media and regulatory system that is working and ensuring media pluralism, right to freedom of expression and information is guaranteed in law and respected in practice



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A Media case report (2022) reveals that forty-two journalists were imprisoned in a variety of circumstances. The entire number of detention cases for the previous year has already been surpassed by this figure.

Media outlets and practitioners in Somaliland are facing difficult times and censorship from government agencies when reporting on the nation's present political impasse and situation. Due to the impending elections, Somaliland is now dealing with polarized politics. As a result of this, it is understandable that journalists are subject to pointless detentions.

According to statistical data on detentions, the majority of incidents involving journalists are related to information and reports they post on social media. Currently, journalists use social media accounts to convey their thoughts, facts, and news items, and the government closely monitors these accounts.

Except for four journalists, none of the detained journalists had an arrest warrant when they were taken into custody. These actions taken by the police illustrate restrictions on media and freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution and unlawful tactics against media practitioners. It is particularly regrettable and unfortunate that seventeen (17) journalists were detained in a single day for no other reason than that they were reporting on a prison incident, even though some of those detained were not even aware of the case at the time they were detained and instead had their offices invaded.

These sweeping arrests expose the intolerance for independent reporting that has made Somaliland a hostile environment for members of the media.

Somaliland journalists were not only arrested without a warrant but also charged under the Somali penal code instead of the Somaliland Press Law. It is quite evident that the government is

overly sensitive and impatient about the media, which might play down or exaggerate the media status of Somaliland.

Except for two journalists who were sentenced to 16 months in prison for subversion and false news, anti-national propaganda, or publishing false news, it is very rare for journalists to appear in court; this is the most common allegation that the Somaliland police used media cases to hide the truth behind their goals.

Meanwhile, police officers often unethically and forcefully capture journalists while on duty for simply covering a breaking news story in real time or matters of public interest.

According to the two journalists reporting an incident related to primary students complaining about the quality of their school education, they were taken into custody without reason and released later with no compensation. Some of them

were detained while reporting on government-allowed peace demonstrations mobilized by political opposition parties, and the authorities accused the journalists of participating in the protests.

CBA TV's right to operate in Somaliland was revoked by the Ministry of Information, which claimed that the broadcaster's license had expired and that it had aired content that threatened peace, and it was fined \$10,000 USD. The arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists is simply because authorities dislike news stories that were covered by media institutions and shut them down. BBC Somali Radio was also banned by the ministry from the entire country of Somaliland for an infinite period of time. MMTv was also fined \$10,000 for unsubstantiated reasons and claiming a broadcasting license, despite the fact that the media house had been in operation for more than a year.

As a result, the majority of media cases involved social media posts, such as posts published by impersonated fake accounts pretending to be journalists and taking their names, clan issues, authority figures disliking news items, and even journalists making mistakes due to a lack of sources for news items or evidence.

## *The detailed information of each individual's specific case*

### **Abdisalan Mohamed Cawed (Germany)**

**Abdisalan Mohamed Cawed (Germany)** a freelancer Journalists was detained on 04 Jan 2022 after published multiples posts on his Facebook, he mentioned that president Muse Bihi Abdi is making power abuse by giving illegal contracts, Land properties, appointing unlimited positions in his administration to his relatives. but he did not present any evidence.

The plainclothes army arrested him from his house without warrant and they kept him in a deserted house without taking him to prison in a while. Finally release by mediation without any legal interventions on 07 Jan 2022.

In the meantime, this year second time Germany was arrested on 03 Apr 2022 and has been released After SOLJA advocated. While he has been in custody for 17 days at the Maroodijeex Regional Intelligence Center in Hargeisa.

### **Ali Aden dirir (Tani)**

**Ali Aden Tani** who works for horn Cable Tv detained twice in the year 2022. Firstly, Mr. Ali was arrested 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 22 while he was reporting a donation from a traditional elder expelled from Somaliland, and he was alleged disseminating biased and misleading information. The police caught him without a warrant and later released him without charge on 15 Jan, 2022. Secondly, Ali was arrested by the Caynaba district governor on 17 Sep, 2022 and has been accused of broadcasting a news item about the IDP Community experiencing a lack of water, food and education after their school collapsed. Lastly, his freedom was returned on 20 Sep. 2022.

### **Warsame Kaafi Abdirashid Adan**

**Warsame Kaafi Abdirashid Adan**, a Journalist from Gobanimo Tv was arrested by the Erigavo governor on 19 Jan 2022 the reason was he reported severe droughts in the Sanag region and later returned his freedom on 22 Jan 2022.

### **Jamal Ibrahim Mohamed (Gobonimo)**

**Jamal Ibrahim Mohamed (Gobonimo)** a freelancer Journalist detained after he was published on his private Facebook that the Saylac port has handed over to Ethiopia by president Muse Bihi and signed the contract during his last visit to Addis Ababa. Jamal was arrested 09<sup>th</sup> Feb, 22 and released 31 Apr, 2022.

### **Khadar Mohamed Abdi Tarabi**

Journalist **Khadar Mohamed Abdi Tarabi** was detained in Lasanod on 17 Feb, 22 after alleged in a case related that someone else created a Facebook account by pretending Khadar and criticized the Lasanod governor who ordered his detention

### **Abdiqani Jama Hersi**

**Abdiqani Jama Hersi** from Star Tv was sentenced to a year and 1 million SLSH fine by Marodi Jeh Regional Court on Mar 28, 2022. His arrest followed on Facebook post remarks against president Bihi as he posted “society says you to resign” and has been in detention since 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. Eventually he was released on 16 Apr, 2022.

### **Imran Hussein Aden**

**Imran Hussein Aden** from Horn Cable Tv was detained on 14 Mar, 22 in Awdal Region and police caught him after alleged that he collected a vox pop news item related to the journey of President Muse Bihi destined for the United States of America. Mr. Imran was released on 20 Mar, 22.

### **A Group of seventeen Journalists**

A group of **seventeen** journalists have been simultaneously detained in Hargeisa on April 13, 2022. They were reporting on a prison incident. Most of them have been released on April 19, 2022, and the rest are detailed separately in this report.

### **Mukhtar Nuh Ibrahim**

Journalist **Mukhtar Nuh Ibrahim** was arrested by the Mayor of Wajaale district 09 May, 22. He only video-tapped a lot of trash thrown at the valley-side before publishing the news item, the mayor got aware of the upcoming news. during in custody have been cleaned up the garbage and then Mr. Mukhtar was released on 16 Ma, 22 without appearing in court.

### **Abdirahman Cadaani**

**Abdirahman Cadaani** a Horyaal Tv reporter arrested in Erigavo 05 June 2022, Mr. Cadaani was accused that he reported a sensitive story related to closed MCH that caused maternal death. Finally released on bail in 06 June, 2022.

### **Hamse Geelle**

**Hamse Geelle** from Saab Tv Was detained by Somaliland police on 09 June, 22 while reporting a peaceful demonstration by opposition parties complaining about presidential delays. Muhiyadin Adan Ismail was working with Mr. Geelle as a Cameraman and videotaping protestors.

### **Ahmed-saki Ibrahim and Abdinasir Abdinour**

**Ahmed-saki Ibrahim** and **Abdinasir Abdinour** from Horyaal Tv were detained in Hargeisa while have been filming and reporting about protests mobilized by the opposition parties on 11 Aug. 22 and released after about 2 weeks in custody on 22 Aug. 22.

### **Mohamed Abdi Ilig and Abdijibar Mohamed Hussein**

**Mohamed Abdi Ilig** and **Abdijibar Mohamed Hussein** the owner of MM Tv and horn Cable Tv reporter were detained on 13 Apr, 22 along with 16 others but solely sentenced to 1 year and 4 months in jail on 23 May 2022. The two Journalists had been in custody for 81 days and were eventually released on 02 July 2022 by a presidential pardon.

### **Abdiqani Baylood and Abdirahman Arab Da'ud**

**Abdiqani Baylood** and **Abdirahman Arab Da'ud** from Horyaal Tv were both arrested by SL Police while they are trying to report Primary Students protesting and concerned about their school principal being fired from the school, they were not only arrested but also extremely tortured and beaten again and again. They were released on the same day 17 Sep. 22.

#### **Farhan Abdi Essa and Sa'ed Nuh Kibaar**

**Farhan Abdi Essa** and **Sa'ed Nuh Kibaar**, Mr. Farhan from horn Cable Tv captured by Police in Gabiley region. His detention ordered by the governor accused that he has been disseminating information about members of the Waddani party who are condemning the city bill. The detention of Sa'ed Nuh Kibaar was related to farhan's case both were released on 30 Oct, 2022.

#### **Ayanle Egeh Faroole**

**Ayanle Egeh Faroole** from Sahan Tv Burco agent was detained in Caynaba on 02 Nov. 22 after Wadamagoo's governor ordered his detention due to filming an under-construction road. Mr. Ayanle was released on 03 Nov. 22 by Mediation.

#### **Mohamed Ahmed Ali and Abdikarin Essa Abdilahi**

**Mohamed Ahmed Ali and Abdikarin Essa Abdilahi** were arrested on 10 Nov 2022. the two Journalists have been released after 48 hrs in custody and were alleged by the mayor of Sheekh district that they report untrue news. Released them on 10 Nov 2022. After SOLJA make an effort and the mayor failed to bring enough evidence to charge them.

#### **Abdimalik Muse Coldoon**

**Abdimalik Muse Coldoon**, a freelancer journalist who has been detained since the last year, the appeal court sentenced to 2 years in prison and fined 3 million slsh on 23 May, 2022.

#### **Sayid Mohamed Madar**

**Sayid Mohamed Madar** a Horyaal Tv Journalist arrested by Wajaale governor on 17 Dec 2022, Mr. Sayid has Published on his private Facebook a video showing the office of the municipality being closed during working hours. Mr. Sayid Published on his private Facebook a video showing the office of the municipality being closed during working hours.



## ANNEX 1: Media Cases Tracking Record

#	Name	Region	Detained	Released	Reason	W	Sentenced
1	Abdisalan Mohamed Cawed Germany	Hargeisa	04 Jan, 22	07 Jan, 22	Facebook Post Against president:	-	-
2	Ali Aden Dirir (Taani)	Ainabo	13 Jan, 22	15 Jan, 22	Boqor Buur Madaw's Donation	-	-
3	Warsame Kaafi Abdirashid Adan	Erigavo	19 Jan, 22	22 Jan, 22	Facebook post: clan issue	-	-
4	Jamal Ibrahim Mohamed (Gobonimo)	Hargeisa	09 Feb, 22	31 Apr, 22	Facebook post: related Saylac port	-	-
5	khadar Maxamed Cabdi Tarabi	Lasanod	17 Feb, 22	19 Feb, 22	Facebook post: fake account	-	-
6	Axmed Jaamac Xirsi (Star Tv)	Hargeisa	23 Feb, 22	16 Apr, 22	Facebook post against president	-	Yes Mar 28, 22
7	Cimran Xuseen Aadan (Hc Tv)	Borama	14 Mar, 22	20 Mar, 22	Facebook Post Vox Pop against SL	No	-
8	Abdisalan Mohamed Cawed Germany	Hargeisa	03 Apr, 22	20 Apr, 22	Facebook Post not specified yet	No	-
9	Hassan Suleiman Harun (Galaydh)	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
10	Mohamed Abdi Ilig	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	02 Jul, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	Yes

11	Aidarus Mohamed Ahmed	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
12	Ahmed Nur Samrawi	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
13	Ahmed Said Hassan Shimali	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
14	Ahmed Mohamud Yusuf	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
15	Abdijabar Mohamed Hussein	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	-	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	Yes
16	Mohamed Suldun Ahmed	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
17	Khalid Mohamed Aleeli	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
18	Ayanle Abdi Buni	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
19	Mustafa Muhumed Abdi	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
20	Abdifatah Mohamud Ismail	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
21	Mohamed Jamal Jirde	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
22	Hussein Ahmed Abees	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	19 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
23	C/raxmaan Cali Khaliif	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	23 May, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-
24	Naima Abdi Ahmed	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	13 Apr, 22	Reports Hargeisa Prison incident	No	-

25	Sagal Mustafe Hassan	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	13 Apr, 22	Reporting incident	Hargeisa	Prison	No	-
26	Abdilaahi Abdirahman Mohamed	Hargeisa	13 Apr, 22	15 Apr, 22	Reporting incident	Hargeisa	Prison	No	-
27	Mukhtar Nuux Ibrahim	Wajaale	09 May, 22	16 Ma, 22	Videotaped trash valley-side			No	No
28	Abdirahman Cadaani	Erigavo	05 June, 22	06 June, 22	Industry issue on Hospital area			No	No
29	Hamse Geelle	Hargeisa	09 June, 22	05 July, 22	Reporting Opposition Protest			No	No
30	Muxiyadiin Aadan Ismaacil	Hargeisa	09 June, 22	05 July, 22	Videotaping Opposition Protest			No	No
31	Axmed-saki Ibrahim	Hargeisa	11 Aug. 22	22 Aug. 22	Reporting Opposition protest			No	No
32	Cabdinasiir Cabdi Nuur	Hargeisa	11 Aug. 22	22 Aug. 22	Filming Opposition protest			No	No
33	Mohamed Jokar	odweyne	18 Sep. 22		Police stopped from president			No	No
34	Abdiqani Baylood	Hargeisa	17 Sep. 22	17 Sep. 22	Reporting protest	Primary students		No	No
35	Abdirahman Arab Da'ud	Hargeisa	17 Sep. 22	17 Sep. 22	Related to Abdiqani's case			No	No
36	Ali Aadan Taani	Caynaba	17 Sep. 22	20 Sep. 22	Report on collapsed IDP school			No	No

37	Farxan Cabdi Aw Ciise	Gabiley	22 Oct. 22	30 Oct. 22	Reported News about wadani party	No	No
38	Siciid Nuux Kibaar	Gabiley	24 Oct. 22	30 Oct 2022	Related to Farhan's Case	No	No
39	Ayanle Egeh Faroole	Saraar	02 Nov. 22	03 Nov. 22	filming under construction road	No	No
40	Mohamed Ahmed Ali	Berbera	10 Nov. 22	12 Nov. 22	Mayor sheikh ordered	No	No
41	Abdikarin Essa Abdilahi	Berbera	10 Nov. 22	12 Nov. 22	Related to Mohamed's case	No	No
42	Sayid Maxamed Madar	Gabiley	17 Dec. 22		Municipality closed working hours	No	No