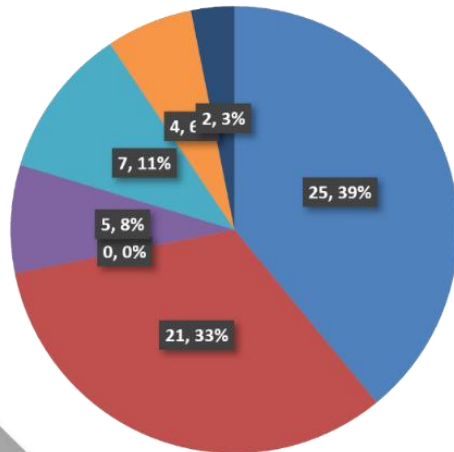


# Annual report Journalists Safety and Media Freedom in Somalia

June 2022 -2023



- Somaliland
- Benadir
- Puntland
- Hirshabeelle
- Southwestern
- Galmudug
- Jubbaland

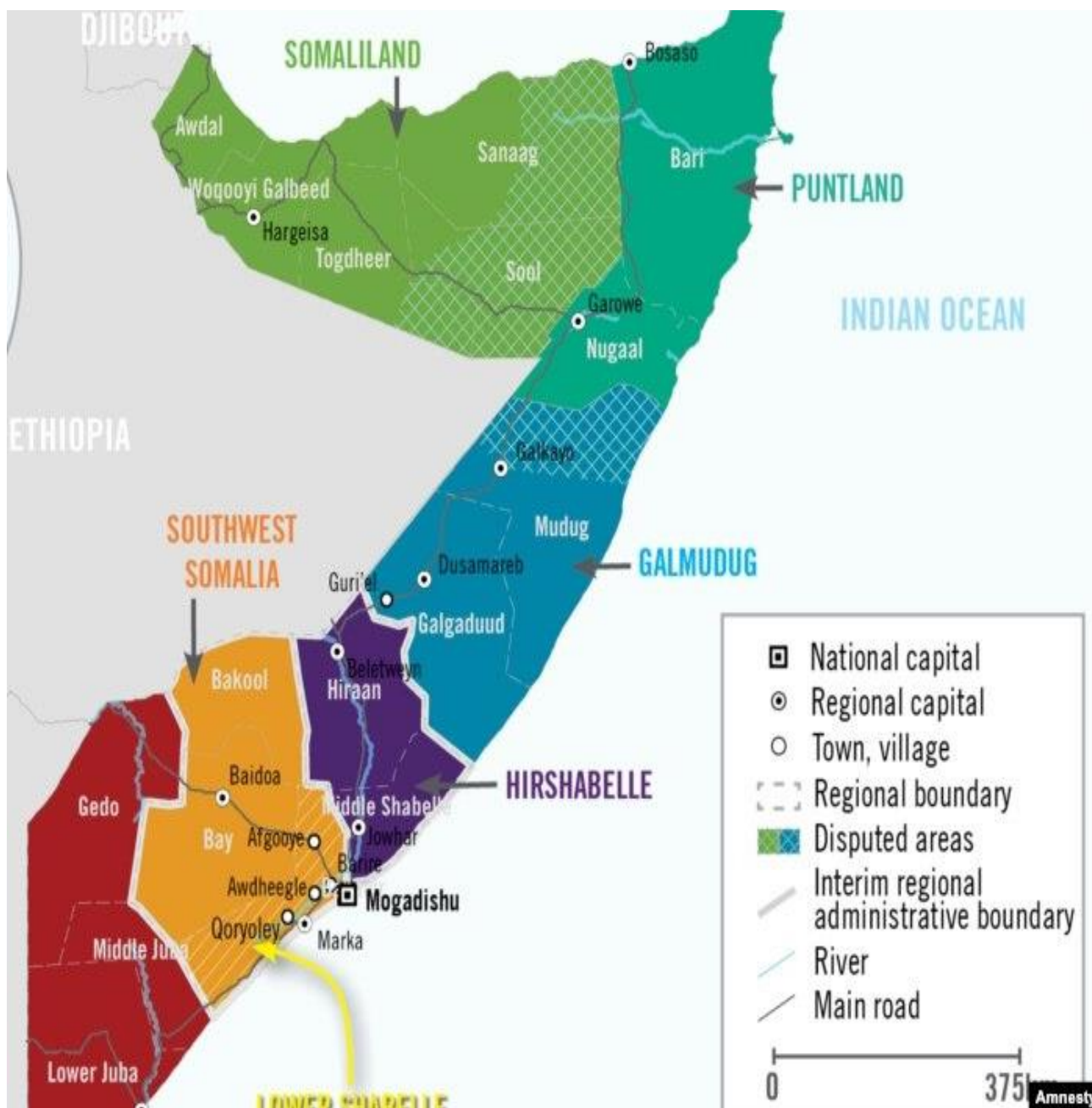
## June @2023

Somali Mechanism for safety of Journalists (SMSJ)  
Mogadishu, Somali

# ANNUAL REPORT

## JOURNALIST SAFETY AND MEDIA FREEDOM IN SOMALIA

### 2022/2023



**MOGADISHU-SOMALIA**  
**JUNE-2023**

Remarks from Chairman of SMSJ Network



It is my pleasure and happiness to announce that SMSJ network and its representatives from 7 media unions including SOMA, SJS, SWJ, SIMHA, MAP, FESoj, MEDIA WOMEN NETWORK have achieved both magnificent and significant achievement during the reporting period from June 2022 to June 2023 aimed at strengthening safety of Journalists and press freedom in Somalia on route to better freedom of expression and valuable information that brings about reform to country's good governance, accountability and transparency, elections, disasters, social affairs, humanitarian and drought situations and reaching out millions of Somali people across the country.

Some of the significant institutional milestones achieved during the year include is the finalization of strategic framework for all network representatives and fostering advocacy level, defending rights of journalists and campaigning for the release of many detained/arrested Journalists in which many of you have contributed a lot for pursuing the justice, safety and security of many Journalists and reporters who are working under difficult circumstances and more specifically low payment, political uncertainty and security challenges in Somalia. While Journalism is not crime, we will continue our collaboration and decent cooperation to ensure that press freedom is implemented in the country and the access of information and information access is obtained by Journalists who are committed and dedicated in serving for their citizens and the general public of Somalia.

As we are going to a new fiscal year, I would like to emphasize the importance of unity and friendly cooperation among media professionals, heads of media unions, Journalists and technical staff in working together with solid strategic and legal documents that will take SMSJ network forward for brighter media future for Somalia. In this opportunity, I would like to thank IMS for its generous, tirelessly and funding assistance to SMSJ network throughout its tenure and how it has helped so many of Journalists, media unions, media stations and SMSJ network. The network is also waving the assistance of international donors, embassies, charity organizations, the UN, the EU and any other organization that supports human rights, press freedom and safety of Journalists. . I am deeply grateful to IMS and its support and we are still interested to main this collaboration in building the media industry of Somalia.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you and I hope you brilliant work and way-forward for our new fiscal year.

Best regards,

Farah Omar,

Chairman of Somali Mechanism for Safety of Journalists (SMSJ) Network  
Mogadishu—Somalia

## About SMSJ

Somali mechanism for safety of journalist (SMSJ) is an independent journalists' advocacy that speaks for the human rights of the working journalists. ' human rights. SMSJ was established to defend the rights of the working journalists and promote press freedom. SMSJS defends press freedom, advocates for journalists' safety and provides legal aid to journalists whose journalism work results in court cases and in need of legal defense through professional lawyers. SMSJ monitors and documents violations against the media and the journalists across Somalia including Somaliland. SMSJS provides accurate, prompt and impartial information concerning attacks on journalists such as killings, arrests, torture, death threats and harassments, as well as acts of aggression against media organizations by releasing press statements, alerts and reports containing a constant stream of information to the local media, foreign press, local authorities, members of international community, inter-governmental organizations and the United Nations, urging them to take action to defend the press freedom and the human

Somali mechanism for safety of Journalists (SMJS) advocates at various levels, targeting local media, local authorities, government and the international community, calling for them to respect, protect and promote media freedom, journalists' rights and to improve unfair policies and practices. It's a champion of media freedom, human rights and the rights of working journalists.

Our goal is to create a platform for the journalists to interact and communicate and build professional and carry on their duties without fear and oppression either from the state or local Authority. We strive to promote human rights not only for journalist but for every citizen in Somalia and Africa at large we are built on the pillar of freedom to speech and above all that every life matters regardless of the status quo.

## **Acknowledgement**

SMSJ extends their sincere and heartfelt thanks towards all those who helped them in making this report, without their contribution, co-operation and encouragement, this report couldn't have been presented on time, As SMSJ fraternity we are grateful to, the U.S embassy in Somalia, British Embassy Mogadishu in Somalia and all other agencies for the support towards the generous struggle for press freedom in Somalia.

We would like to thank SMSJ partners and their staff for their continued support in pursuit of press freedom for Somali journalists. We also send sincere thanks to all the team members of SMSJ who stand amidst challenges and harsh policies in Somalia. Thank you for fighting for freedom so that every journalist does his or her work without fear or favor.



## Contents

Introduction & Background	05
Lack of access to information and press crackdown	06
Objective of SMSJ network	07
Methodology	08
Ban on press freedom	09
Increased impunity against Journalists and press freedom	09
Violations and media shutdown	10
Some achievement and output made by the network	12
Number of Journalists murdered while on duty	12
Number of Journalists injured while on duty	13
Number of Journalists detained while on duty	14-15
Number of media stations shut down	14-15
Arbitrary detention, violations against Journalists	21-29
Major Challenges	30-31
Strategic Recommendation	30-31
Recommendation on international partners and friends	31
Conclusion	32-33

## **Introduction and Background**

Somalia is among world's most dangerous countries in the world for Journalists to operate due an upsurge of intimidation, detentions, threats, obstruction of work and refusal of access to information and information access as the media workers of the Horn of African nation is facing critical challenges to get space in reporting to citizens for much needed and worth information, news and programs about key areas of interest including good governance, democratization, security, injustice, terrorism and corruption relates stories. Despite Somali government is largely working on security and humanitarian situations the issues of free press remains critical while access to information is quite limited this shows that country's Press freedom level is declining.

According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Somalia sits a top its 2022 Global Impunity Index for the eighth straight year. The index "spotlights countries where members of the press are murdered in retaliation for their reporting and the perpetrators go free." In this statement has shown that the number of crimes including harassment, torture, intimidation, threats and even killing as a result of silencing press freedom and freedom of expressions that remains critical in Somalia for the past few years and in 2023, Somali media remained silence in covering news and effective programs inside the country and abroad as every single movement for the work of independent Journalist and media workers required vigilance and putting safety and security first, however, 4 Journalists were killed in twin suicide car bomb explosions in Mogadishu's Zobe junction in 2022 and in Hiiran region in 2023. a move that has widely created panic to Journalists on key areas where they can have access to reliable information and data that can help their coverage and quality production that reach the citizens in countrywide and the general public as well.

According to SMSJ network record, 63 Journalists and reporters were detained or arrested, 4 Journalists have been murdered, 8 were injured and 25 others have been tortured while 2 media stations have been shut down in Somalia and Somaliland as of June 2022 up to June 2023 while they are on their duty and covering different feature stories from numerous events, demonstrations, protests, corruption and injustice related stories, Al-Shabab related stories, humanitarian and disasters in the country including floods and other incidents in almost all the regions of the country. This clearly indicates that level of press freedom remains complicated and in addition Journalists have limited space of work and access to information and information access is very critical comparing to other previous years. 4 Journalists were killed while on duty in different car bomb explosions in Mogadishu and Beledwetbe districts, while 6 Journalists have been injured while covering news and programs in Mogadishu and Jowhar. Government soldier has shot a cameraman working for RTN while covering an event news from KM junction in Somali capital and further 6 Journalists were injured in car bomb attack and other incidents. While those killed by Al-Shabab was claimed by them . The network further recorded the closure of 2 media stations in south-central Somalia, Somaliweyn Radio in Beledweyne and Radio Barawe in Lower Shabeelle Region and state troops of those areas also took away their equipment as well.

On top of that safety of Journalists and press freedom are two fundamental issues that are facing challenges and deteriorates according to SMSJ network data in 2023. Somali Journalists have been refused at some location on covering news and programs in the country and various events including the arrival of international delegation on April last year. The nomination event of Somali Prime Minister Hamsa Abdi on June and other conferences where reporters have been obstructed from attending and covering those events. SMSJ has realized that some Journalists that operate in in Somalia and Somaliland media stations and those in south-central Somalia cannot even interview a political opposition figure, a citizen complaining against government and a peaceful demonstration in which citizens are requesting the excess ban and pressure on the free press to be removed. Silencing the free press and the independent media signalizes the lacking of watchdog over how public funds are misused, partial acts of government officials and injustice that is widely spoken in all regions of the country. Despite Somali government banned against media in covering news and programs about Al-Shabab fighters during the massive war with national armed troops, yet Journalists are disappointed and

frustrated over covering one angle news and information while they have lost the art of reaching citizens with balancing and credible information.

Multiple Somalia-based media unions and journalist advocates and make lobbying over government-controlled areas to rely on the country's constitutional right to freedom of opinion and expression, but often this advocacy efforts remains stake and this requires joint dialogue between federal government and the independent media entities and unions and members of the international partners to have consultative forum over challenges that face the independent media in working for their citizens with enough space. Such forums will potentially decrease the pressure on media workers and Journalists and might set up a minimum space for working.

### **Lack of Access to information and press freedom crackdown**

Somali Mechanism for Safety of Journalists (SMSJ) has documented that there is an increase of complaints emerging from Somali Journalists, online reporters and camerapersons in getting access of information and information access to key areas including government institutions, events, disasters including humanitarian flood coverage, explosion attack coverage, public protest and demonstration against federal government and regional states in Somalia and Somaliland. As the number of detentions and media crackdown has increased from 2022 to 2023 as a result of Journalists who were blocked from reaching an event, conference, ceremony, and state or government institutions in the country by the police and different army units. These new challenges had caused concerns to many Journalists while they said that lack of access to information and space to cover feature stories and news has escalated up and police forces always clash with Journalists and reporters while on duty. Despite The right to access to information is a fundamental human right and constitutional provision with in the federal government of Somalia that aiming citizens to make informed decisions and effectively participate in the governance process, and hold the government officials accountable for their mistakes yet there is lack of required access of information and information access to both citizens and Journalists who are all on work while attacks against media workers and reporters have shown that nearly 25 Journalists were tortured during covering or filming events in Somali capital and state regions. Journalists are lacking the access to the ministries for normal interviews while they cannot make investigation Journalism feature stories, documentaries and panel discussion where government officials are questioned over their responsibility more specifically public asset management, resource management and that is why Somali journalists are lacking to cover real stories on the ground more specially government institutions.

Although the draft media law of Somalia has not yet been implemented and there are concerns and questions risen by media workers and Journalists over some specific provisions of the law, yet that no dialogue has been held between information ministry of federal government and independent media stations in the country. In addition, The Somalia's provisional constitution under article 32, explicitly stipulates that "Every person has the right of access to information held by the state" and, that the "Federal Parliament shall enact a law to ensure the right of access to information" but this is not implemented according to the situation on the ground and many media workers are detained, harassed and even threatened in to death for trying to get access in to information or the dissemination of real stories.

The lacking of functional Access to Information Law that provide a framework for the actualization of the right to access information. The government officials and political actors need to allow this law that could allow Journalists to unveil many untold stories in Somalia on areas of corruption, public asset management, recruitment and procurement and many other significant elements that the public has not information and idea of how those are managed. SMSJ has closely monitored that the federal government of Somalia and regional states pressurize Journalists while trying to access in to ministries, other institutions of the government in search of news and information that are much interested for citizens and the general public of Somalia. Somali Mechanism for safety of Journalists (SMSJ) has found out that there has to be discussion point on this law that will give more value and opportunity for media workers in the country



## **Objective of SMSJ Network Annual Report**

The Objective of Somali Mechanism for Safety of Journalists (SMSJ) annual report is aimed at presenting the fundamental situation of Somali media and number of violations and threat inflicted to Journalists and reporters, the documentation and monitoring of cases that are threat of safety of Journalists and Press freedom while freedom of expression is necessary for citizens. The reporter further is aimed at highlighting some of the critical challenges, setbacks faced by Somali Journalists while recommendation is made on how to go about resolving those challenges. On top of that it further flashes the need for better framework and space between independent media, federal government, regional states, security and justice institutions and other holders. The purpose of the safety mechanism is to improve the safety and protection for media and journalists in Somalia. Over the last 10 years, killings, imprisonments, harassment, threats, and abductions of journalists have reached historic increase. SMSJ has been created with the purpose of providing emergency support to the journalists and the media at risk. Its work includes producing monitoring of media freedom in Somalia and particularly the safety for journalists in Somalia.

The principle of media/press freedom is enshrined in international, regional, and national human rights laws. The principle of the right to seek, receive and impart information is recognized by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948. This right is restated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which has been signed or ratified by more than 140 states, including Somalia. Somalia's provisional constitution clearly guarantees and protects the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom of the media.

### **Key areas of intervention and Implementation for SMSJ network.**

- ❖ Advocacy and lobbying for safety, security, well-being for Somali Journalists
- ❖ Safety of Journalists
- ❖ Professional capacity building
- ❖ Dialogue between government, state and the independent media on seeking viable and friendly collaboration
- ❖ Documentation and monitoring of media cases
- ❖ Research and Data collection on media crackdown
- ❖ Seeking the availability of better press freedom in Somalia
- ❖ Present challenges face by the Journalists and media workers

## **Methodology**

SMSJ network has used participatory approach methodology in which the data and information in this report was collected by SMSJ network members based in five federal states of Somalia. The data collection methodology focused on using both qualitative and quantitative approach where members of the network contributed a lot for the submission of cases in all respective states of Somalia. The regional monitoring team also played an important role during the collection of cases and the technical team of program coordinator of SMSJ network where direct interviews, phone conversation and other means of communication has been adopted throughout the reporting period.



## Ban on press freedom and strict censorship

Press freedom and freedom of expression has deteriorated in Somalia in 2022/2023 and has shown large number of violations and media crackdown against Journalists, media workers in Somalia as a result of their normal duties. Somali federal government has announced new orders on October 8, 2022 in which it has banned the coverage of Al-Shabab news and programs relating to the on-going war against the Al-Shabab in the country and further said that neutrality could not be applied to the war situation.

Somali ministry of information official who held press conference at Villa Somalia has ordered Journalists to drop out any news and program relating to Al-Shabab group and further warned against the independent media in covering the news of the militants on social media. Secretary-general of SMSJ network Abdalla Mumin and Farah Moalim, the chairman of the network and other Journalists had held press conference on 11 Oct 2022 where they have protested against the new orders imposed by the ministry of information of Somalia and its affect to the Journalists. According to this annual report, SMSJ has documented several cases where Journalists were arrested as a result of reporting about Al-Shabab attack at a hotel in Kismayo town and elsewhere in the country. While some other Journalists were detained for reporting about AL-Shabab militants attacked government army base.

The level of violations and threats to press freedom has deteriorated in Somalia in 2023 when section of Journalists were barred from even covering and reporting floods in parts of Mogadishu caused by torrential rains and destroyed some of tarmac roads of Somali capital while some coverage on how floods and the rainfall affected the vulnerable communities camped at IDPs locations inside and outside Mogadishu.



This annual report between 2002/2023 highlighted that there is an upsurge of violations and abuses against journalists working in Somalia, making the country's press freedom worsened one according to SMSJ network record and documentation between the reporting period. In Somalia, impunity for violations of journalists' press freedom included arbitrary arrests, intimidation, death threat, and torture. According to the annual report 2022/2023, incidents of violation against the media increased dramatically.

The majority of violations targeted journalists comes from as result of their daily duties including covering election-related feature stories, news and programs demonstrations, protests, covering corruption, injustice, security, Al-Shabab issue and other programs In all these incidents, the Somali Mechanism for Journalist

Safety (SMSJ) recorded numerous incidents of detention, arrest, blockage from work, threats and intimidations from various local law enforcement agencies.

Police and other security agencies such as NISA carried out brutal attacks against press freedom, including physical assaults against reporters, violent raids on media outlets, arbitrary detentions, inflicting damage on press equipment, frequent harassment, and intimidation aimed at silencing the free press since 2018, Somalia Annual Press Freedom Report – 2022/2023 by the Somali Mechanism for Journalist Safety (SMSJ) found that there is an increase in the number of Somali journalists killed, Somalia's fatalities represent more than half of all journalists murdered in Africa.

In the period between June 2022 to June, 2023 SMSJ has recorded 63 cases of detention/arrest, 4 cases of murder, 25 cases of torture, 2 cases of Radio shut down, 8 cases of injury and other violations during the reporting period from June 2022-June 2023.

The SMSJ further underlines continuous assault, threats against the press and while there are not enough efforts by the federal government and regional states and other groups in ensuring that Journalism is not crime and a call for ending impunity against freedom of press and information access in order for citizens to obtain reliable, worthy and valuable information that motivate them to hold the leaders of their constituencies and government institutions more accountable and transparency while information will further encourage citizens to engage government and call for universal suffrage, security, justice, good governance job creation and other alarming issues in Somalia that require solutions as part of state-building.

### **Violations and media shutdown on January 2022 -2023**

On Dec 2022. Police forces of self-declared Republic Somaliland have stormed and shut down Independent SOMNEWS TV station based in Hargeysa city where the police took away the equipment of the station after the TV reporters covered news about demonstrations against Somaliland administration in Las'anod district of Sool Region. In addition, Somaliland police forces attacked MM Somali TV based in Hargeysa city, the capital of Somaliland in an effort to curb media freedoms. Somaliland was the scene of three such attacks including an attempt to shut down MM Somali TV.

The court in Hargeisa found no incriminating evidence against the television station but, nevertheless, the Ministry of Information of Somaliland imposed a hefty fine of US\$10,000 in response to an unsubstantiated allegation and fake claims that the broadcaster had illegally operated in Somaliland.

The fine was intended to put MM Somali TV out of business. Somaliland has issued a directive on April 2023 in which it has ordered the suspension and closure all social media including Facebook, Youtube and Twitter accounting belonging to some individuals who criticize Somaliland government. The orders were issued from the regional court of Marodi-Jeh Region in Hargeysa city.

The individuals use to publish information and news about the prolonged war between Somaliland troops and local armed forces in Las'anod town, the provincial capital of Sool Region. According to local Journalists in Somaliland, there has been an increase of pressure against Journalists working for independent media stations in Somaliland on the coverage and dissemination towards the crisis in Las'anod town which is against press freedom and other laws of the country.

**On April 15 2022**, Police forces of Somaliland government have detained 15 Journalists for allegedly covering and reporting about an incident that section of inmates in central jail in Hargeysa city have clashed and that some of the inmates staged demonstration against how the government managed the prison.

The detained Journalists were working for independent media stations. According to independent reports that SMSJ network received that those 9 Journalists have been detained while covering the incident near the jail in Hargeysa city while the remaining 6 Journalists were arrested from their duty stations.

1. **Naima Abdi Ahmed, founder of Carro Edeg Media**
2. **Hassan Galaydh, a BBC correspondent**
3. **Sagal Mustafe Hassan, a stringer for U.S. Congress-funded Voice of America (VOA)**
4. **Mohamed Abdi Ilig, a reporter and chairperson of MM Somali TV**
5. **Mohamed Jamal Jirde, a cameraperson with MM Somali TV**
6. **Aidarus Mohamed, a reporter and regional bureau chief with the Mogadishu-headquartered Goobjoog Media Group**
7. **Ahmed Nur Samrawi, a Bulsho TV reporter**
8. **Ahmed Said Hassan Shimali, a Horn Cable TV reporter**
9. **Ahmed Mohamud Yusuf, a Saab TV camera operator**

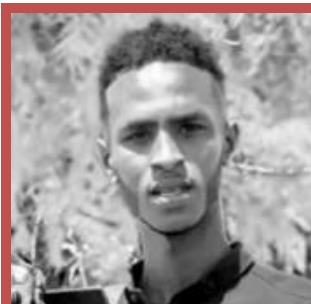
Later that day, security forces of Somaliland raided Independent Horn Cable TV office in Hargeysa and arrested from 6 more Journalists and reporters as confirmed by Zakariya Mohamed Ahmed, the chairman of Somaliland Journalists Association known as SOLJA who held press conference urged the government the journalists to be released unconditionally. Only 2 Journalists were released and 13 others remained in custody. Most of them were later released except Mohamed Abdi Ilig, director of Horn Cable TV and another Journalist. SMSJ network in collaboration with its representatives from different media unions and stakeholders worked hard and campaigned for their release.

On Dec 2022, the security forces of Hirshabeelle state administration has shut down independent Radio Hiiraanweyn in Beledweyne town, central Somalia after it aired Al-Shabab captured a locality from national armed troops and local militia. Additionally, 4 Journalists working for the Radio have been arrested despite they were later released following joint advocacy campaign made by SMSJ network in collaboration with its representatives and police officers of state region.

The police forces of Hiiran have taken away some of the equipment belonged to the independent media station but also returned them to the Radio later. The closure of independent media station and Journalists on duty was against press freedom and safety of Journalists while such attack could endanger the lives of media workers serving for the citizens.

### **Journalists and reporters murdered while on duty**

4 broadcast Journalists with significant passion in Media industry have lost their lives in short while they were both killed under Al-Shabab explosions in Mogadishu and Middle Shabeelle Regions, southern Somalia in 2022. Broadcast journalists, both relatively young men, had their lives needlessly cut short within a month of each other in 2022.



**Journalists and reporters  
murdered while on duty**

**On Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**, a reporter working for State-owned National TV Ahmed Mohamed Shukur, was killed in a landmine explosion attack in Basro locality of Bal'ad district in Middle Shabeelle Region, southern Somalia. . This young man who was tasked for the coverage of war was covering counter-terrorism operations by the Somali security forces, aimed at eliminating elements of Al-Shabaab militias in the region at the time of the incident. The police commander for the Banadir Region. The target reported was Police commander of Benadir regional administration Farhan Mohamoud Adan (Karole), who lost his live in that same day and some of his body guards. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility of the attack.

**On Oct 29, 2022** journalist Mohamed Isse Hassan, aka Kona, died in a double car bombing at the KM5 Junction in Mogadishu while trying to cover breaking news from twin car bombing attack targeted at the building for ministry of education and higher learning of federal government of Somalia. The first explosion attack targeted at the front gate of the ministry compound while the second explosive device was set off after eye witnesses including journalists gathered at the scene of the first blast. Hassan died on the spot. The reporter has been a competent and veteran Journalists seeking to serve for his citizens in Somalia and around the world. Many other civilians were also killed in that attack.

On Oct 29, 2022, Journalist Abdullahi Jama died in a double car bombing in Mogadishu's KM5 junction while trying to take videos from the incident in which Al-Shabab militants attacked the premise of ministry of education, heritage and higher learning of federal government of Somalia. Jama has been killed in the second explosion attack at the ministry. He used to work for former Horn Afrik Media and left the country unfortunately he was murdered when returned to the country.

### **Journalists and Media workers injured while on duty**

8 Somali Journalists were injured while on duty and covering news and programs from different regions in Somalia according to SMSJ network record between June 2022---June 2023. 3 among those Journalists have been injured by Al-Shabab suicide car bomb attacks in Beledweyne town, the provincial capital of Hiiran Region, central Somalia while the other 3 have been injured in Mogadishu as one of the Journalists has been injured by a police officer while covering news event from KM4 junction in Mogadishu. SMSJ expressed concerns over the injuries inflicted those Journalists as all of them recovered from their injuries in several months later.



### **Journalists and Media workers injured while on duty**

## Some achievement and Output made by SMSJ Network in 2022/2023

- Advocacy, Documentation, monitoring, investigation, analysis and recording of 110 cases including detention against Journalists, intimidation, torture, shut down of media stations, murder and threats. While SMSJ network has made extensive advocacy and lobbying activities during the years of 2022/2023 and network members also contributed and verification of some of the cases. Communication and networking with police and security institutions for the release of detained Journalists as result of numerous advocacy campaigns.
- May 16, the level of information sharing, networking and collaboration between representatives of SMSJ Network has been improved via virtual conference meeting and key activities have been noted and agreed including the acceleration of stakeholder and multi-stakeholder's meeting on safety of Journalists and press freedom. Other major issues achieved including the establishment of new financial, HR, procurement and the review of structural management and hierarchy of the network aiming the strengthening of viable legal approach of all interventions that SMSJ network planning for implementation.
- On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Representatives of SMJS network had virtual conference in which they have discussed substantive achievements made by SMSJ during the reporting year while it had conducted multi-stakeholders meeting, numerous stakeholders discussions, meeting with European ambassadors to Somalia more specifically the UK ambassador to Somalia where discussions focused on how the UK and SMSJ network will boost collaboration on strengthening press freedom in Somalia and the issue of safety of Journalists. The meeting also focused how the UK embassy in Mogadishu will provide assistance to SMSJ network and its representatives on building the skills of professional and ethical Journalists that cover key issues including good governance, democracy, universal suffrage elections, and other development programs. SMSJ network had discussed and agreed to expand its networking and collaboration with international embassies, donors, government officials and civil society in a way of creating a culture of cooperation and media development in Somalia and a solid strategy for SMSJ network.

## Details on Journalists murdered while on duty

Dates	Name of the victim	Position	Media station	Type of incident	Location	Responsible
Oct 29, 2022	Mohamed Isse Hassan Konan	Senior producer	Goobjoog TV/Radio	Explosion attack	KM5, Mogadishu	Al-Shabab
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Ahmed Mohamed Shukur	Producer	SNTV	Landmine explosion attack	Middle Shabeelle	Al-Shabab
Oct 29, 2022	Abdullahi Jama	Journalist	Freelancer	Explosion attack	Mogadishu	Al-Shabab
May 10, 2023	Ismail Sheikh Khalifa	Senior Journalist	Star FM and other media stations	Explosion attack	Mogadishu	Unknown

## Details on Journalists injured while on duty

Dates	Name of the victim	Position	Media station	Type of incident	Location	Responsible
June 27, 2022	Abdikarim Mohamed	Producer	Hirshabeelle TV	Injured	Jowhar	Al-Shabab
June 27, 2022	Khalid Mohamed Osman	Editor	Hirshabeelle TV	Injured	Jowhar	Al-Shabab
Aug, 21, 2022	Ahmed Omar Nur	Cameraman	M24 TV	Injured	Mogadishu	Police forces
Oct 3, 2022	Ali Farhan Anshur	Freelancer	Online media	Injured	Beledweyne	Al-Shabab
Oct 29, 2022	Faysal Omar Hashi	Stringer	Reuters	Injured	Mogadishu	Al-Shabab
Oct 29, 2022	Abdikadir Mohamed Abdulle	Reporter	VOA	Injured	Mogadishu	Al-Shabab
July 28, 2022	Mohamed Nur Mohamed	Journalist	Arlaadi Media network	Injured	Mogadishu	Police forces
July 28, 2022	Munsaar Mohamed	Journalist	Arlaadi Media network	Injured	Mogadishu	Police forces

## Details on Journalists detained/arrested while on duty

Dates	Name of the victim	Position	Media station	Type of incident	Location	Responsible
June 1, 2022	Fu'aad Shooble	Founder and director	Radio Barawe	Detention	Lower Shabelle	Police forces
June 1, 2022	Aweys Osman Barah		Radio Barawe	Detention	Lower Shabelle	Police forces
June 5, 2022	Omar Sabriye	Freelancer	Online reporter	Detention	Hargeysa	Police forces
June 13, 2022	4 Journalists	Journalists	Online media	Detention	Erigavo	Police forces
July 4, 2022	Kasim Ibrahim Aden	Journalist	Radio Risaala	Detention	Mogadishu	Police troops
July 4, 2022	Abdikadir Hussein Anshur	Journalist	Radio Risaala	Detention	Mogadishu	Police troops
July 5, 2022	Mohamed Abdirahim Mohamed	Journalist	RTN TV	Detention	Baidabo	Police forces
July 15, 2022	Hassan Alli Daud	Journalist	Arlaadi Media network	Detention	Baidabo	NISA intelligence forces
July 18, 2022	Munsaar Abdirahman	Journalist	Arlaadi Media network	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
August 4 2022	Mohamed Abdirahman Abdulle	Journalist	Radio Warsan	Detention	Baidabo	Police forces
August 4 2022	Hussein Haji Weerow	Journalist	Radio Warsan	Detention	Baidabo	Police forces
August 11, 2022	Abdinasir Abdi Haji	Journalist	Horyaal TV 24	Detention	Hargeysa	Police forces
August 11, 2022	Ahmed Zaki Ibrahim Mohamed	Journalist	Horyaal TV 24	Detention	Hargeysa	Police forces
Oct 3, 2022	Yusuf Mohamed Aden	Journalist	Arlaadi media network	Detention	Burhakaba	Police forces
Oct 4, 2022	Liiban Abdi Warsame	Journalist	Radio Goobjoog	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
Oct 4, 2022	Najjib Farah Mohamed	Journalist	Radio Goobjoog	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
Oct 11, 2022	Abdalle Mumin	Secretary-general	SMSJ and SJS	Detention	Mogadishu	NISA troops
Oct 17, 2022	Abdirahman Mohamed Aden	Journalist	Horyaal TV 24	Detention	Erigavo	Police forces
Oct 17, 2022	Jaabir Sa'id Du'ale	Journalist	SOMNEWS 24	Detention	Erigavo	Police forces
Oct 22, 2022	Sadik Said Nur	Journalist	Online media	Detention	Gaalkayo	Police forces
Oct 22, 2022	Farhan Abdi Isse	Journalist	Horn Cable TV	Detention	Gibiley	Police forces
Oct 23, 2022	Abdullahi Hussein Kilas	Journalist	Horn Cable TV	Detention	Kismaio	Police forces
Oct 25, 2022	Mawlid Mohamed Hassan	Journalist	Dalsan TV	Detention	Dhusamareb	Police forces
Dec 22, 2022	Abdimajid Abdirahman Adan	Journalist	Radio Hiranweyn	Detention	Beledweyne	Police forces
Dec 22, 2022	Mustaf Ali Adow	Journalist	Radio Hiranweyn	Detention	Beledweyne	Police forces
Dec 22, 2022	Abdullahi Osman Idow	Journalist	Radio Hiranweyn	Detention	Beledweyne	Police forces
Dec 22, 2022	Abdimajid Moalim Muse	Journalist	Radio Hiranweyn	Detention	Beledweyne	Police forces
Dec 25, 2022	SadaqAbdi Shidane	Journalist	Radio Adaado	Detention	Adaado	Police forces
Dec 25, 2022	Mubarak Mohamud Adan	Journalist	Radio Adaado	Detention	Adaado	Police forces
Dec 28, 2022	Sayid Ahmed Abdullaahi	Journalist	Risaala TV	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
Dec 28, 2022	Ilyas Daud Hassan	Journalist	Risaala TV	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
Dec 28, 2022	Ali Hassan Gure	Cameraman	Risaala TV	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
Feb 7, 2023	Ismail Ali Yare	Cameraman	Astaan TV	Detention	Mogadishu	Police forces
Feb. 13, 2023	Abdalle Ahmed Mumin	Secretary-general	SMSJ network & SJS	Arrested	Mogadishu	Regional court of Benadir
Feb. 23, 2023	Abdalle Ahmed Mumin	Secretary-general	SMSJ network & SJS	Arrested	Mogadishu	Police forces
Feb. 12, 2023	Kasim Ibrahim Aden	Journalist	Risala Media cooperation	Arrested	Mogadishu	Police forces
February 12, 2023	Abdikarin Mohamud Mohamed	Journalist	Risala Media cooperation	Arrested	Mogadishu	Police forces
March 13, 2023	Hussein Abdulle Mohamed	TV reporter	SYL TV	Detained	Mogadishu	Police forces
May 10, 2023	Ahmed Sa'id Ahmed	Journalist	Radio Kulmiye	Detained	Mogadishu	Police forces
May 20, 2023	Hussein Abdulle Mohamed	Journalist	SYL TV	Detained	Mogadishu	Police forces
	Farhan Baraale	TV reporter	5 TV	Detained	Mogadishu	Police forces
May 25, 2023	Mohamed Dulmadiid	Camera man	5 TV	Detained	Mogadishu	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Naima Abdi Ahmed	Founder	Caro-edeg media	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	<a href="#">Hassan Galaydh</a>	Stringer	BBC	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	<a href="#">Sagal Mustafe Hassan</a>	Stringer	VOA	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Mohamed Abd Ilig	Director	Horn Cable TV	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Mohamed Jamal Jirde	Camera person	MM Somali TV	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Aidarus Mohamed	reporter and regional media bureau chief	Goobjoog media	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Ahmed Nur Samrawi	Producer	Bulsho TV	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Ahmed Sa'id Hassan Shimale	Producer	Horn Cable TV	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
April 15, 2023	Ahmed Mohamud Yusuf	Camera operator	Saab TV	Detained	Hargeysa	Police forces
May 15, 2023	Bushaaro Ali Mohamed aka Baandhe	Freelancer and former Universal TV presenter	Online media	Detained	Wajaale	Police forces
June 7, 2023	Mohamed Kaafi Aden	TV stringer	Jubbaland State TV	Detained	Luq, Gedo	Police forces



## Details on Number of media houses shut down by the authorities

Dates	Name of the media station	Location	Region	Reason of the closure	Responsible	Status as of now
On Dec 22, 2022	SOMMA NEWS TV	Hargeysa	Somaliland	After covering war in Las'anod town	Somaliland Police forces	Re-opened
April 15, 2023	Hiiraanweyn Radio	Beledweyne	Hiiran	After covering Al-Shabab related stories	State police forces	Re-opened

## Number of Journalists, media workers detained/arrested by state.

#	States in in Somalia	Number of Journalists detained by state
1	Somaliland	25
2	Puntland	0
3	Benadir, Mogadishu	21
4	Hirshabeelle	5
5	Southwestern state	7
6	Galmudug	4
7	Jubbaland	2

SMSJ

## Number of Journalists detained by state

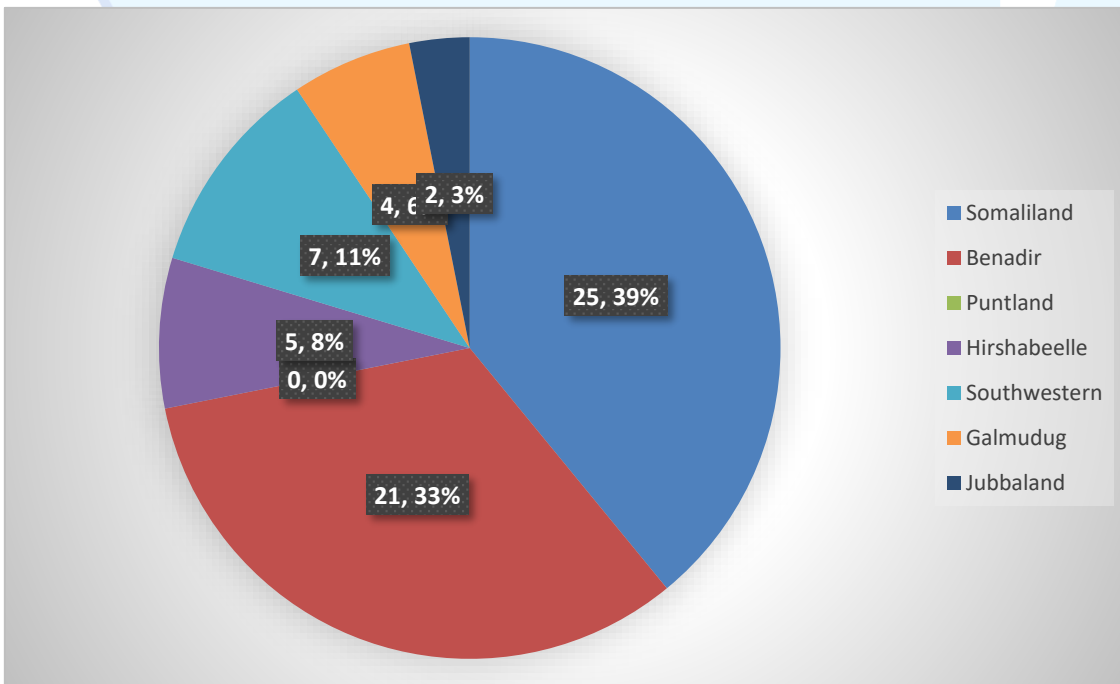
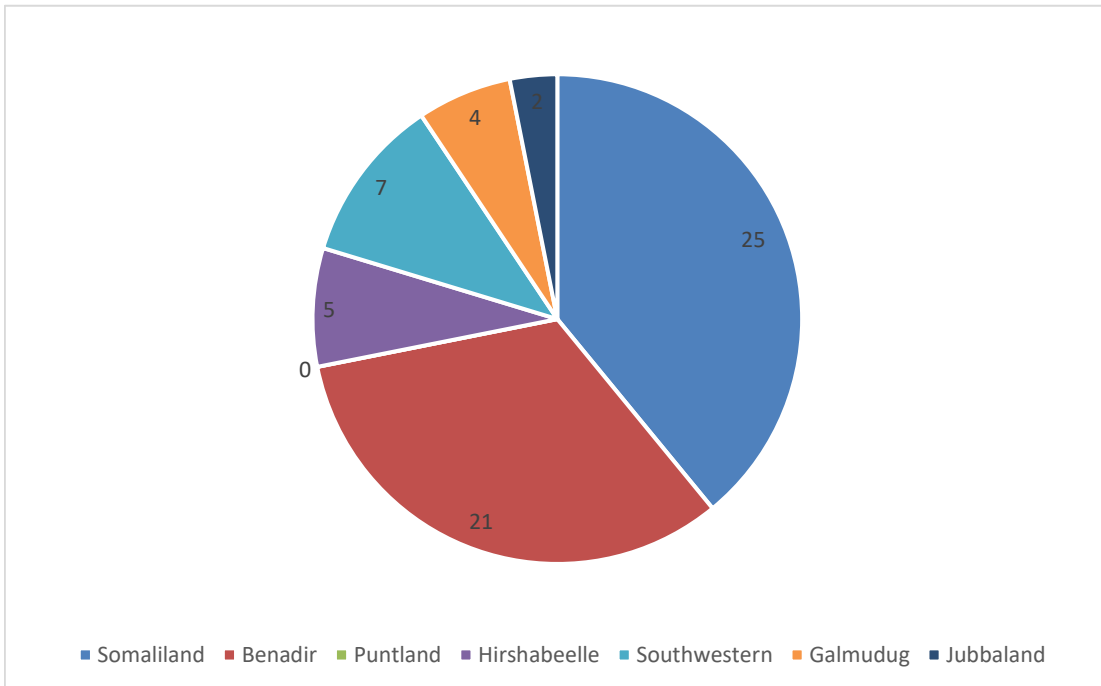
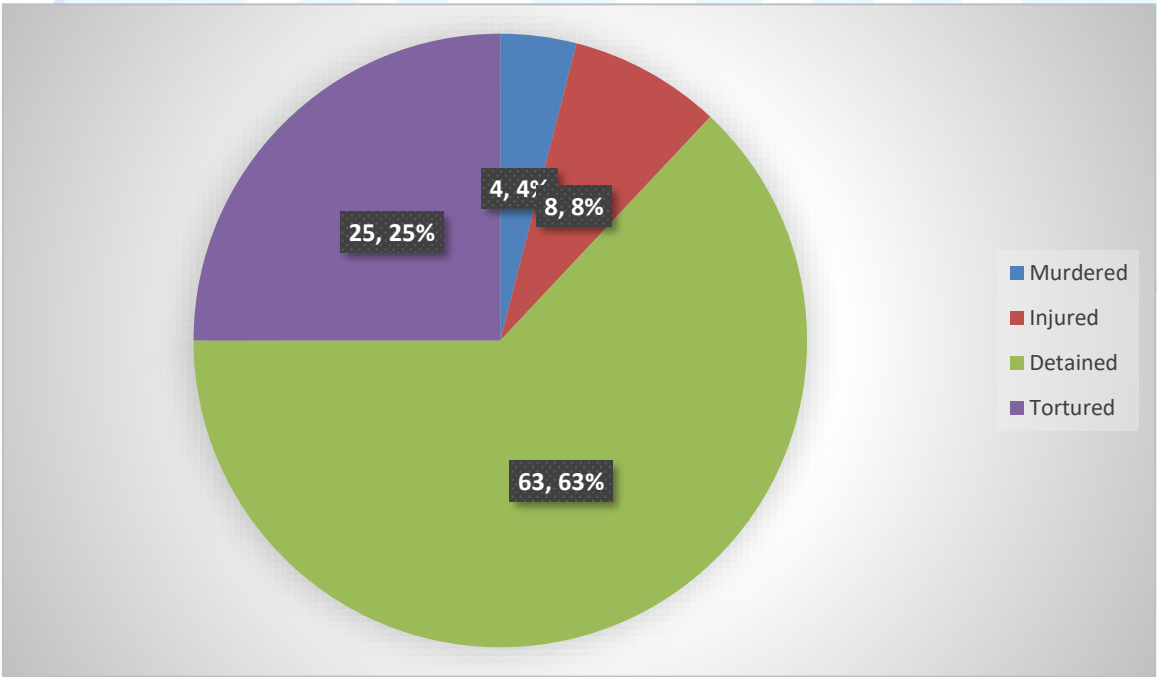
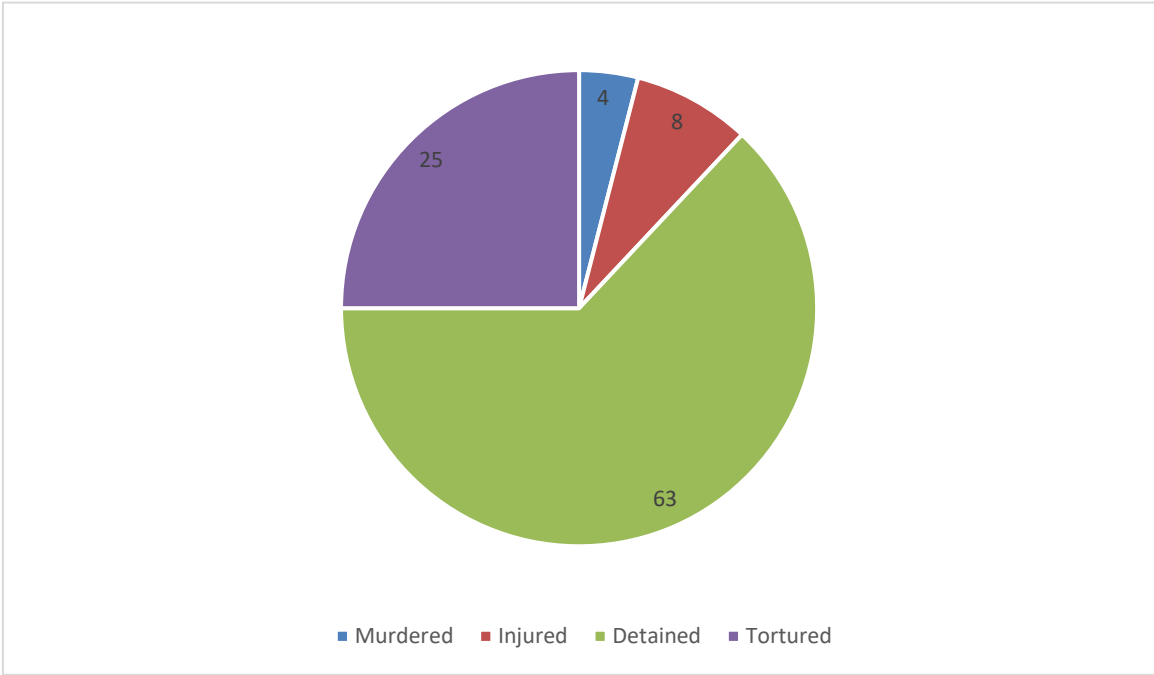


Chart defining the level of violations of Somali Journalists in 2022/2023



Source: SMSJ report June2022-June 2023

**Arbitrary detention, violations against Journalists, media workers and press freedom crack on 2022/2033**

**Journalists Killed, attacks, threats, Arrests & harassments**

**On May 9, 2022:** The Parliamentary Committee on Presidential Election released a memo restricting independent journalists from accessing the presidential election venue. on 15 May 2022, the day of the elections. The memo stated that journalists could follow the process through the TV screens installed outside the hall.



**On May 19, 2023.** Hassan Kulmiye , a videographer for KGS Media and Abdirashid Ismail Abukar of Radio Baidoa has been arrested in Baidoa city. The journalists have been accused of posting allegations on the social media about alleged corruption in Baidoa city.



**On May 23, 2022:** A Somaliland court in Hargeisa, sentenced the director of MM Somali TV, Mohamed Abdi Ilig and Abdijabar Mohamed Hussein, a reporter of Horn Cable television to 16 months in prison. Both were accused of spreading fake news, after they reported the shooting that took place in the central prison in Hargeisa. The journalists were later released after paying a fine of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars).

**June 5, 2022:** Omar Sebrie , a journalist who travelled from Mogadishu to Hargeisa has been arrested. As journalism is not a crime, the Somaliland authorities was requested to release the journalist.



**June 13, 2022:** Four journalists were illegally detained upon their arrival in Ergavo city of Sanaag region of Somaliland. Their arrival in the city has come a day after Muse Bihi, Somaliland President reached the city for talks with the traditional elders.

**On June 13, 2022:** Sensitives from the Villa Somalia communications department barred and intimidated journalists in Mogadishu reporting on the visit of Victoria Nuland, the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. The presidential staff allegedly locked journalists in a small room for an hour to prevent them from accessing the venue. Similarly, Villa Somalia security guards prohibited journalists from covering the appointment of the new prime minister, Hamze Abdi Barre, despite the fact that all the journalists had invitations and press accreditation to cover the event.





**On June 1, 2022.** South West State police officers in the city of Barawe raided the only media house in the old city, arresting two journalists, Fu'ad Shooble, the founder of the radio Barawe and Osman Aweys Bahar, who also covers for Universal TV. Both were released without charge.

**On June 27, 2022:** Abdikarin Mohamed Siyad and Khalid Mohamud Osman of Hirshabelle State-run media; were wounded after a landmine hit with the vehicle on board at Qabno in Hiiraan region. The attack also resulted the death of Abdirahman Adow, the driver of the journalists' vehicle.



**On July 4, 2022:** Hawl-wadaag district police force briefly detained two journalists from Risaala Media, Kasim Ibrahim Adan and Abdukadir Hussein Anshur, while they were conducting interviews on armed robbery incident in the neighborhood. Police confiscated their equipment. The journalists were freed afterwards without putting on a trial.



**On July 4, 2022:** Military personnel stopped two journalists at gunpoint while they were conducting interviews with fishermen at Liido beach. The military officers confiscated equipment and threatened to shoot Risaala Media Corporation journalist Abduqadir Osman Indhoy and his cameraman Mohamed Said Nur.



**On July 5, 2022:** Police officers detained RTN television reporter Mohamed Abdirahin Mohamed. Mohamed claims he was pursued after his interview with South West State Assembly opposition members. The political opposition member and six others had protested the revocation of their immunity and membership in the state assembly. Mohammed was warned against publishing the interview or criticizing President Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed (Laftagareen).



On July 5, 2022: The Jubbaland president's office banned independent media from covering the inaugural session of the Jubbaland Assembly's fourth session in Kismayo. President Ahmed Mohamed Islam (Madobe) addressed the regional lawmakers on 6th July 2022.



**On July 19, 2022:** Suleyman Yusuf Ali, the Minister of Information for Somaliland, announced at a press conference that the government would suspend all BBC activities. It was unclear whether the suspension would apply to all the outlet's reporting and broadcasting activities in Somaliland. Suleyman accused BBC Somali of losing its objectivity and was "undermining the integrity of the Somaliland state." According to a BBC spokesperson, the suspension was not formally communicated.

**On July 15, 2022:** National Intelligence and Security Agency forces raided the house of Hassan Ali Da'ud, a reporter for Arlaadi Media Network (AMN) and taken to unknown location. According to colleagues, the detention follows his coverage about a complaint made by members of South West State (SWS) opposition lawmakers in Baidoa on 6 July. The news was disseminated on AMN. He was held at the intelligence prison in Baidoa for 19 days when he was freed without charges.



**On July 18, 2022:** Police and military officers in Mogadishu’s Wadajir district targeted and wounded two Arlaadi Media Network (AMN) journalists Mohamed Nur Mohamed and Munasar Abdirahman during their coverage the impact of roads blocked by the ongoing rains due to lack of maintenance in Wadajir neighborhood.



**On August 4, 2022:** Baidoa police summoned and at that moment haphazardly arrested two journalists from Radio Warsan, Mohamed Abdirahman Abdulle ‘Malele’ and Farah Hussein Haji ‘Weerow’. Police held the journalists at the criminal investigation department in a week before they were freed later without charges.



**October 3, 2022:** Yusuf Mohamed Adam, journalist with the Arlaadii Media Network (AMIN) has been detained and held by the Ethiopian contingent under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in Burhakaba town, Bay region,



**On August 11, 2022:** Police in Hargeisa detained two Horyaal 24 TV journalists, Abdinasir Abdi Haji Nur and Ahmed-Zaki Ibrahim Mohamud after covering violent protests over the postponed elections in the capital city and other towns that day. FESQJ learned that police initially held journalists at the criminal investigation department before transferring them to the Mandhera prison on 15 August. They were released by the Hargeisa court without charges.

**On September 6, 2022:** Suleyman Yusuf Ali, Minister for Information of self-declared republic, banned CBA TV from operating in Somaliland. He claimed that their licence had expired and alleged that the broadcaster was airing content that "threatened the peace in the region." In his letter Suleyman accused CBA TV of breaching Article 45 of Somaliland's press law, which he said prohibits media from propagating content harmful to the stability of Somaliland. CBA TV noted that permits issued in 2018 by the Ministry of Information and the Attorney General's offices do not expire. They also claimed that their reporting was balanced.



**On October 17, 2022:** Somaliland police in Erigabo, detained two journalists, Abdirahman Mohamed Adani of Horyaal24 TV and SomNews TV reporter Jabir Said Duale were after they covered a story that exposed a Somaliland military officer who forcibly closed down the only available mother and child health centre in Fiqifuliye, a rural village in the southern Sanaag region which allegedly led to the death of a young expectant mother days earlier. They were freed on bail on the same day with their case pending at the Sanaag Regional Court.



**On August 21, 2022:** Haramacad officer, specially trained police forces unit, shot M24 TV photo journalist, Ahmed Omar Nur. The cameraman was among a group of local journalists who set out to cover the Hayat hotel attack at the KM4 junction. He was rushed to the hospital where doctors treated him.

**On September 30, 2022:** Somali National TV journalist Ahmed Mohamed Shukur was killed in a bomb attack while covering security operations against Al-Shabaab in Basra neighborhood.



**On October 4, 2022:** NISA member in Bakaro market, Mogadishu attacked two Goobjoog journalists injuring one of them. Television reporter Liban Abdi Warsame and cameraman Najib Farah Mohamed were attacked while conducting interviews in Bakaro market when the armed NISA officers attacked them and beat in juring Liban Abdi Warsame on the mouth and lips.



**On October 11, 2022:** Somali intelligence personnel arrested Abdalla Ahmed Mumin from Mogadishu's Aden Adde International Airport. Abdalla is the secretary general of the Somali Journalists Syndicate (SJS). At the time of his arrest, he was travelling to Nairobi. Abdalla was then transferred to the CID investigation center where he was detained for several days.



**On October 22, 2022:** Galmudug police in Southern Galkayo detained journalist Sadaq Said Nur after reporting a news story about armed militia, who obstructed at the Qaboobe displaced camp, on the outskirts of Galkayo, ahead of the visit by UNHCR delegation at the camp. The story was published on Mudug Journalist Facebook page. However, according to Sadaq Said Nur, he was freed on the same day without charges but was forced to remove the story from the page.



**On October 22, 2022:** Somaliland police in Gabiley haphazardly arrested, Horn Cable TV reporter Farhan Abdi Isse on the orders of Gabiley Mayor. The journalist's arrest follows after covering a news conference by Waddani opposition party members, who called for the Somaliland authorities to recognize Gabiley as a region instead of a town.



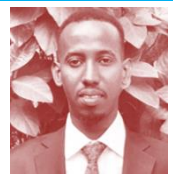
**On October 23, 2022:** Jubbaland intelligence authorities haphazardly detained Horn Cable TV reporter, Abdullahi Hussein Kilas, in Kismayo after covering an attack on a hotel in the heart of interim capital of Jubaland. Kilas was freed later in the day after authorities enforced Horn Cable TV to remove the news report.



**On October 25, 2022:** Police in Dhusamareb of Galmudug detained Dalsan TV correspondent Mowlid Mo'alim Hassan, following his coverage on a protest by a group of local women in the city. He was held at Dhusamareb police station and was not yet charged. However, he was freed later after the intervention of clan elders in Dhusamareb.



**On October 29, 2022:** Mohamed Isse Hassan, known as Koonaa who worked for the online television channel M24 TV, has lost his life in twin bombings targeted a government building at KM5 junction in Mogadishu.



**On October 29, 2022:** Abdullahi Jama, a journalist who recently returned from abroad has died in the tragic attacks targeted the ministry of higher education premise at KM5 junction in Mogadishu.





**On October 29, 2022:** Reuters photographer, Feisal Omar, Abdukadir Mohamed Abdulle of Voice of America and Isse Abdi Isse freelancer journalist, were injured in an Al-shabab suicide car bombings attack that targeted a government premise, ministry of higher education located at Mogadishu’s KM5 junction.

**On December 18, 2022.** Somali National Intelligence (NISA) members apprehended the UK-based Channel 4 News correspondent, Jamal Muhumed Osman at the Mogadishu’s Aden Adde Airport shortly after arriving at the airport from London.



The multi-award-winning journalist was held at an airport hotel overnight and his movement restricted until the next day when he was deported from the country with the intervention of members of the parliament.

**On December 22, 2022:** Police in Beledweyne briefly arrested four journalists from Hiiraanweyn radio; Abdimajid Abdirahman Adan, Mustaf Ali Adow, Abdullahi Osman Idow and Abdirahman Moalim Muse. And forced the radio station off-air, after the radio reported an al-Shabaab attack on the rural villages on the south of Beledweyne following pulling out of the local Militias forces who protested about lack of salaries. The four journalists were later released without charges and the radio resumed operation the following day.



**On December 25, 2022:** Galmudug police detained two reporters Sadaq Abdi Shidane and Mubarak Mohamud Adan in Adado district after they interviewed clan elders who had supposedly accused to have met with al- Shabaab members in central Somalia. The two journalists were freed on the same day without charges.



**On December 28, 2022:** Somali police in Mogadishu’s Hamar-weyne district haphazardly detained three Risaala Media Corporation journalists, Sayid Ahmed Abdullaahi, Ilyas Daud Hassan, and their cameraman Ali Hassan Gure, who were covering Hamarweyne community members complaining about the closure of city roads following the visit of Djiboutian president Ismail Omar Guelleh in Mogadishu.



**On the February 7, 2023.** Security personnel led by NISA's agent chief of Karan district, Ismail Ali Yare, have taken Mahad Mumin Dhicisow a cameraman from Astan TV to an unknown location. The journalist was to film a launching event at a sports center in the Karan neighborhood when he was taken into custody. He was later freed after interference with district authorities.

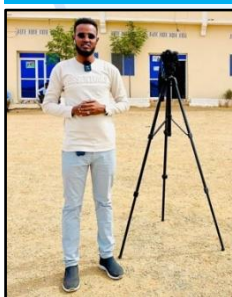


**On the February 12, 2023.** Karan district commissioner security guards raided and detained briefly two journalists from Risala Media Corporation, reporter Kasim Ibrahim Adan (Karama) and a photographer Abdikarin Mohamud Mohamed (Jokar). The two journalists were reporting on a protest by angry motorists who were blocking on roads. They were at the Sana'a intersection when they were arrested. They were released after the police confiscated and deleted footage from cameras recordings.

**On January 11, 2023:** Abdifatah Omar Gedi, a journalist in Garowe, was tortured by the Puntland president's security guards. During the attack against him, the journalist's property, including his own car, also got damaged. This heinous action has raised outrage in the independent media sector.



**February 13, 2023.** The Banadir regional court sentenced Abdelle Ahmed Muumin to 2 months in prison; he was sent to the central prison. On the same day, Central Prison officials released Abdullah. **On February 23, 2023:** Security forces re-arrested Abdalle Mumin, SJS Secretary General, at the Jazeera Hotel in Mogadishu. Mumin was detained while he was attending a meeting. He was in prison until he served his sentence.



On the March 13, 2023: Military personnel raided and tortured Mohamed Ali Abdi, a photographer, and Hussein Abdulle Mohamed, the editor-in-chief and the founder of SYL Somali TV, an online television channel that reports on corruption and abuse of state power. The targeted journalists who luckily escaped physical damage suffered material loss after one of the legs of the camera (Tripod) broke. The journalists who were targeted were reporting a protest by citizens who said that they had been looted their land by one of the banks in Mogadishu. The occurrence took place in Dharkeynley neighborhood.



**On April 19, 2023.** Osman Adan state-run media journalist, was injured in a fight between Al-Shabaab and government forces in Bud-bud of Galgaduud Region. He was wounded in the head.

Photographer A/llahi Qoryooley who went missing in the battle, was later found safe.



**On April 19, 2023.** A journalist Abdiweli Bile of Sonna News Agency was injured and tortured by government forces while in the Hamar Jajab neighborhood in Mogadishu.

The reporter was later taken to a hospital and treated for a head injury.



**On May 1, 2023.** Four journalists were beaten and tortured in the Fagax area of Mogadishu, where they were filming people who suffered from the recent rain in Mogadishu. An army led by an official from the local government injured the journalists. As a result, Sakarieh Ahmed Muse and Mahad Hassan Abdi Tawakal from Shabelle TV and Abdirisaaq Mohamad Jama (Maqosle) and Sadde Abdi Tahleel from Universal Somali TV were denied interviewing the residents about the problem caused by the rainwater. The news about the journalists' complaint that went out on TV was later removed from the line.

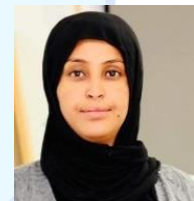
**On May 10, 2023.** The Criminal Investigation Center of the Police (CID) called journalist Ahmed Said Ahmed from Kulmiye radio and asked him about the journalistic investigative report he posted on his Facebook page about the issues of the government. Ahmed was released after questioning.



**On 10th May.** Veteran Journalist Ismail Sheikh Khalif who worked as senior director at STAR FM Radio in Mogadishu and couple of other media outlets has died in Mogadishu as a result of a prolonged injuries, he sustained from a massive explosion targeted on his personal vehicle in 2018 and then since that time he had been admitted hospitals for treatment in Turkey. Unfortunately, he succumbed to death on May 10th. The Journalist has been a pivotal member and contributed a lot to Somali media industry on areas of program production, storytelling and advocacy campaigns for Journalists and media workers in the country.



**On May 15, 2023,** Somaliland police forces have detained reporter online reporter and former Universal TV reporter based in the UK Bushaaro Ali Mohamed known as Bushaaro Bandhe for in Wajaale district of Somaliland. Bushaaro has been detained by Somaliland police forces while crossing from Ethiopian border to Wajaale district and on her capture, the police have inflicted her numerous injuries and torture on her face. Bushaaro who has been in jail since May 15 was accused of publishing news articles against Somaliland war in Las'anod town, the crisis in Somaliland, the autocratic leadership of President Musa Bihi and democracy crackdown on her social media Facebook account. While she criticized the Somaliland troops for shelling innocent civilians and people in Las'anod town. A court in Hargeysa has sentenced Bushaaro for 7 days in police custody. She is Somali diaspora female journalist from the UK.



**On May 20, 2023.** Reporter Hussein Abdallah Mohamed, who works at SYL Somali TV, was called to the prosecutor's office and questioned about the news about corruption that he broadcasted on SYL TV and was released. He was released after a few hours.

**On May 25, 2023.** Police forces of federal government of Somalia have detained two Journalists working for 5TV station in Mogadishu. The reporter Farhan Baraale and his camera man Mohamed Dulmadiid who were also tortured after they were involved in capturing voxpop program from the drivers of rickshaws in Mogadishu. The drivers complained about an increased funds on the registration of rickshaws in Mogadishu and new orders imposed by regional Benadir administration to all rickshaws in Somali capital. They have been detained for several hours at Mogadishu's Waaberi district police station but later were released following joint advocacy campaign by SMSJ network team and other media unions.



**On June 7, 2023.** Police forces that are loyal to the district commissioner and mayor of Luq in Gedo Region, southwestern Somalia have detained a Journalist Mohamed Kafi Aden who works for Jubbaland State TV and covers news and programs from the district. Aden has been detained after covering a news feature about traditional elders, elites and politicians of Luq district who held an event to welcome the move in which President of Jubbaland Ahmed Mohamed Islam aka Ahmed Madobe appointed new regional officials of the region. Some of the inhabitants in the district opposed the nomination earlier. The reporter's detention was ordered by the mayor of Luq Ali Kadiye who was also against the appointment of Jubbaland leader. Aden Kafi who was detained for 48 hours was later released from local police troops while he received warning and threats covering any news and programs relating to Jubbaland regional state administration in Gedo Region.



## Major Challenges

Journalists and media workers have major challenge in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the country as they cannot even cover programs around humanitarian situation, floods, political issues that require decision, demonstrations and other important issues that media has to make news and programs that reach citizens.

- The level of press freedom violation has scaled up as Journalists and media workers encounter harassment, work obstruction, intimidation and life threatening.
- Limited knowledge for advocacy and campaigning for Journalists at SMSJ members.
- Lack of common understanding and cooperation frame between independent media and federal government and regional states in Somalia.
- Lack of access to information and information access
- Continued concern and intimidation over safety of Journalists
- The absence of media regulator or media law that all sides are in acceptance
- Limited knowledge on the use of social media platform as a forum for advocacy, lobbying and campaigning for media on specific areas
- Misunderstanding between government, regional authorities and independent media workers and journalists.
- Continues violation against press freedom by federal and regional authorities in Somalia and Journalists feel to be unsafe in covering some of their news and programs.
- Limited understanding between government institutions and the independent media entities and media unions and the role of media is not understood well.
- Limited knowledge and skills for reporting humanitarian stories in Somalia including droughts, floods in some parts of the country
- Continued concern and intimidation over safety of Journalists
- Limited professional capacity for many of the Journalists who are on duty.

## Strategic Recommendation and way-forward

- ✓ There has to be Information access law for Journalists so that they can have a space to work in the country and this can be implemented via comprehensive collaboration between government and the independent media
- ✓ There should be a dialogue between representatives of different independent media houses and unions and federal government of Somalia more specifically ministries of information, security, interior, security agency, police and courts to discuss and agree on feasible cooperation frame between the two sides for the purpose of lifting pressure and burden on independent media and their work
- ✓ Capacity building for SMSJ network members about the use of social media on advocacy, safety and security and other interesting issues.
- ✓ A system of regulation conducive to freedom of expression
- ✓ Promote capacity of Journalists for audience responsive media
- ✓ SMSJ in collaboration with IMS has to conduct stakeholders meeting so that SMSJ network members will have clear understanding of how each union need to cooperate with SMSJ and vice versa.
- ✓ There should be a dialogue between representatives of different independent media houses and unions and federal government of Somalia more specifically ministries of information, security, interior, security agency, police and courts to discuss and agree on feasible cooperation frame between the two sides for the purpose of lifting pressure and burden on independent media and their work,
- ✓ SMSJ team with support from IMS has to encourage Journalists in demanding the draft of Information access law that will empower Journalists in getting some of the important information that is worth for citizens. This law will also give a space for Journalists.
- ✓ IMS and other international partners in collaboration with SMSJ organize a media conference with federal government of Somalia in Mogadishu aimed at reducing pressure against independent press and encourage state officials to provide better space for Journalists.
- ✓ IMS in collaboration with SMSJ to set Media awareness campaigns that looks like civic education around importance of media that will be composed of Panel discussions, University awareness campaign, Radio messages in which SMSJ, ministry of information of Somalia and independent media will have a bigger role on this.
- ✓ Advocacy training for Journalists, media unions and the best practices of conducting effective advocacy for change. This will help media workers and Journalists to have basic knowledge on advocacy strategies and approaches.
- ✓ IMS to continue its support and financial and technical assistance to SMSJ network as the network team and representatives have substantive strategy to develop media industry in Somalia and bring about greater reform on areas of press freedom and democracy that are worthy for citizens in the country and the general public of Somalia.
- ✓ There should be a dialogue between representatives of different independent media houses and unions and federal government of Somalia more specifically ministries of information, security, interior, security agency, police and courts to discuss and agree on feasible cooperation frame between the two sides for the purpose of lifting pressure and burden on independent media and their work,
- ✓ SMSJ team with support from IMS has to encourage Journalists in demanding the draft of Information access law that will empower Journalists in getting some of the important information that is worth for citizens. This law will also give a space for Journalists.
- ✓ IMS and other international partners in collaboration with SMSJ organize a media conference with federal government of Somalia in Mogadishu aimed at reducing pressure against independent press and encourage state officials to provide better space for Journalists.
- ✓ IMS in collaboration with SMSJ to set Media awareness campaigns that looks like civic education around importance of media that will be composed of Panel discussions, University awareness campaign, Radio messages in which SMSJ, ministry of information of Somalia and independent media will have a bigger role on this.
- ✓ Advocacy training for Journalists, media unions and the best practices of conducting effective advocacy for change. This will help media workers and Journalists to have basic knowledge on advocacy strategies and approaches.

## Recommendation to international partners and friends

- ✓ There has to be civic education around how media works across all the regions in Somalia and organize workshops for government institutions and Journalists in establishing a comprehensive and viable framework
- ✓ Condemn all actors who have made a habit of carrying out brutality against the media with impunity.
- ✓ We urge development partners to provide support for the training and capacity building of security agencies on how to protect and work with the media including observing respect for media freedoms, human rights conventions and demanding justice for missing Nationals
- ✓ Support public education campaigns on respect for human rights including the right to freedom and expression.
- ✓ Carry out mass sensitization to the citizens of Somalia to know their rights and defend the freedom of speech
- ✓ Co-operation among the press fraternity is paramount if they are to achieve the common goals, the media should have one “voice”
- ✓ The foundation of human rights commission, Africa Union, and all other partners should raise their voices in order to condemn the harsh treatment of journalists
- ✓ In areas where the violation of media is high, like in the city of Mogadishu, there is need to provide security for journalists and media houses.
- ✓ Journalists require both solid ethical and security training workshops that help them address their duties in more responsible and professional way without any harm.

## **Conclusion**

Somali Mechanism for Safety of Journalists (SMSJ) network has underlined the need and importance of the adaptation and implementation of country's media draft law, the drafting of access to information legislation and facilitation of all policies that back up the functionality of the independent media law while lacking genuine legal framework, the media workers and Journalists could suffer. As the network and its representatives, colleagues and stakeholders are committed in speeding up the work on safety of Journalists and the materialization of press freedom on route to democracy and development in Somalia yet there are some challenges that are above mentioned and require remedial solutions, mitigations, strategic approaches and guidance that allow Journalists to get space, access, safety, skills, and conducive environment to work. While Journalism is not a crime, the federal government, federal member states and all groups need to understand that Somali Journalists who are working under difficulty situations and circumstances and further dedicating their time and efforts to serve the nation and deliver accurate, reliable and credible information where they can decide on their future based on the information received and make their leaders in each constituency accountable for their actions. While media plays an important role of becoming watchdog on state institutions, they are also required to act on more ethical, responsible and accountable ways in producing programs that are based on the reality with facts and figures, sources and references so that they will not be affected in the future by the government or regional states.

The absence of strong capacity building program that builds the skills fo Journalists can also be contributed to some of the challenges and problems that occur between the independent media stations and the state government and regional states. In addition, low payment at local media stations is another barrier and the collection of top ups from government officials, well-known people and influential individuals during the production of news feature, program or documentary is unethical and against the true work of becoming a professional Journalist. In Somalia, one other important note is that government and federal member states to lift the burdance and pressure on Journalists during their normal duties and should allow Journalists and media workers access to film, record or interview key news matters in the country.

Our final advice will be free press and freedom of expression are fundamental elements for democratic country that is shifting from clan-power sharing deal pf 4.5 in to Universal suffrage election where citizens will cast their votes and elect their leaders. A dream in which SMSJ network and its allies have in mind to work together and advocate for viable democracy while they will make they will break the silence of silenced people, the voices of women and vulnerable communities, the voices of those suffer with injustice and the voices of anyone that feels left behind.

***Drafted and compiled by  
SMSJ network  
Mogadishu-Somalia***

**Special thanks to our esteemed members:**

The Somali Mechanism for Safety of Journalists (SMSJ) consists of the following organizations: the Federation of Somali Journalists (FESOJ), Media Association of Puntland (MAP), Media Women’s Network (MWN), Somali Independent Media Houses Association (SIMHA) Somali Journalists Syndicate (SJS), Somalia Media Association (SOMA) and Somali Women Journalists Organization (SWJO)



Media Association of Puntland(MAP)



For enquiries contact:  
SMSJ: [smsjsom@gmail.com](mailto:smsjsom@gmail.com)  
Mogadishu, Somalia

The Somali Mechanism for safety of Journalists (SMSJ) is supported by the IMS-Fojo Media Program in Somalia.



IMS (International Media Support) is a nonprofit Organization Supporting local media in countries effected by armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition. We push for quality journalism, challenge repressive laws and keep media workers of all genders safe so they can do their jobs. Peaceful, stable societies based on democratic values rely on ethical and critical journalism that aims to include, not divide.

Forfreemedia  
InternationalMediaSupport  
Forfreemedia  
International-Media-Support  
[www.mediasupport.org](http://www.mediasupport.org)