



His Excellency Mohamed Hussein Roble
Prime Minister
Villa Somalia
Mogadishu
Federal Republic of Somalia

8 November 2021

Concern: Call to End Impunity for Killers of Journalists in Somalia

We are writing as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's largest organization of journalists representing over 600.000 members in more than 140 countries, to urge your government to address the issue of impunity for violence against journalists in Somalia.

The IFJ's principal mandate is to promote and defend the rights of journalists, including the right to life and physical safety. In this regard, we constantly monitor violations of our members' rights around the world and we publish an annual report on journalists and media staff who are killed for no other reason than the legitimate practice of their profession.

On the UN's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the IFJ has launched its annual campaign to 'End Impunity for violence against journalists', focusing on Mexico, Afghanistan, Yemen, Kosovo and Somalia. We are mobilizing our 187 affiliates worldwide to highlight the impunity in these countries. You can view the campaign [here](#).

Somalia is one of the most dangerous countries in Africa and presents a real risk of death for journalists. Journalists are in danger of being killed in crossfire, bombings or targeted attacks. Corruption and insecurity are serious obstacles to press freedom.

Our records show that 58 journalists have been killed since 2010 and only 4 killers have been punished. It is unacceptable that most of the killings remain unpunished.

Since the beginning of 2021, a journalist has been killed. Freelance journalist Jamal Farah Adan was shot dead by two gunmen on March 1 in Galkayo city, in the Somali state of Puntland. He was a veteran freelance journalist whose radio programs were critical of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group and its operations in the region.



This brutal murder is an is the clearest example of the difficult and dangerous reality that Somali journalists face daily. Thorough investigations and relentless prosecutions are needed to send a signal that crimes against journalists will not go unpunished and to achieve justice for the victims and their families.

Somali media workers are also regularly threatened by state actors. At different levels, the Federal Member States or regional administrators are major abusers that are responsible for all arrests, detentions and compromised court sessions.

We welcomed the decision of Attorney General Suleyman Mohamud in September 2020 to appoint a Special Prosecutor for journalists' killing. This was a positive first step in the fight against impunity, but more needs to be done considering the dreadful situation of journalists' safety in Somalia. This appointment should help to bring both non-state and state actors that attack journalists and violate their fundamental rights to justice.

Together with our affiliate in Somalia, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), we demand your government, judiciary and law enforcement agencies undertake complete and effective investigations of all violations of journalists' rights and bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes against journalists.

We urge your government to dispel the impression of indifference in the face of deadly assaults against journalists. There is so much more that can be done with a genuine commitment to fighting impunity. It needs to start with justice for the victims of violence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony BELLANGER". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capitalization.

Anthony Bellanger
IFJ General Secretary
