



Somali Journalists Syndicate

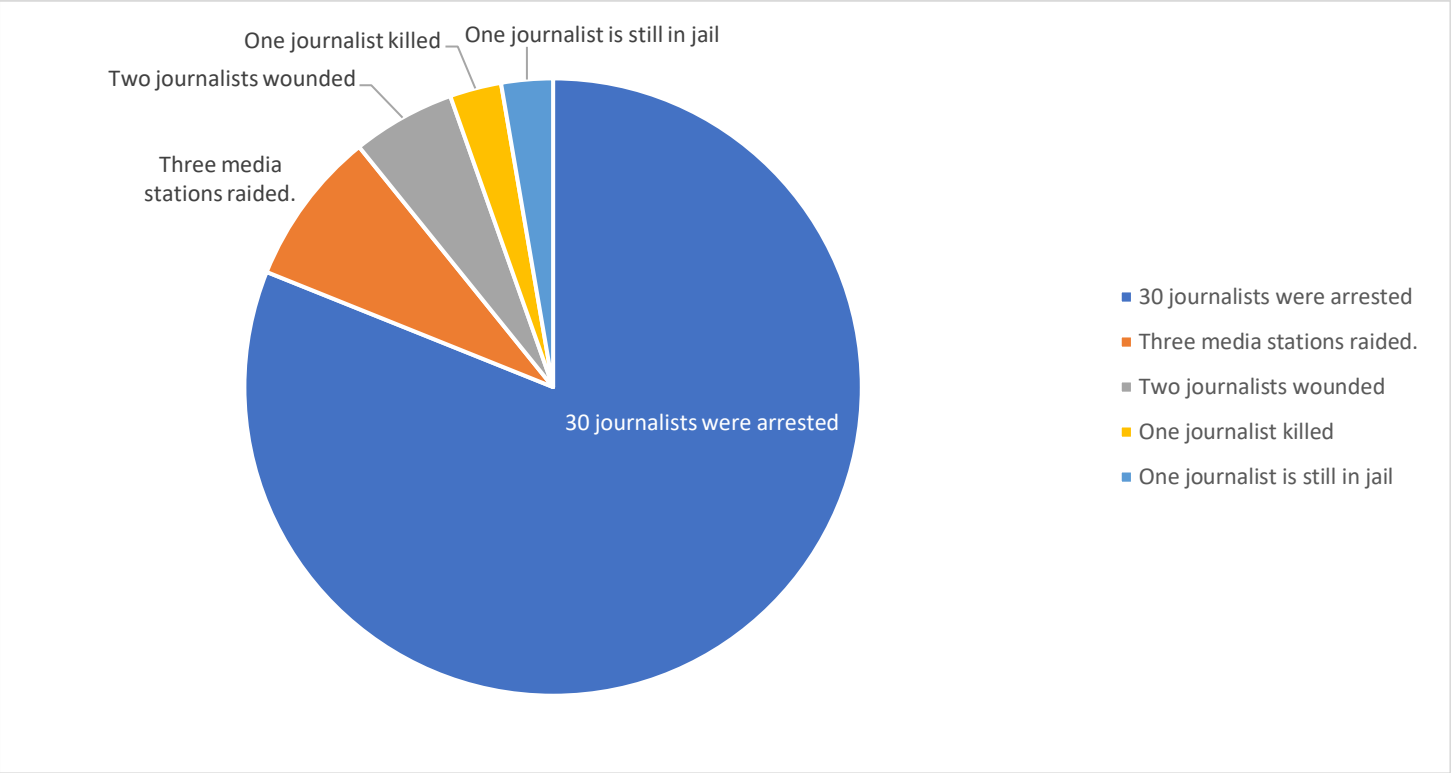
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MAY

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2021

*Information as a Public Good*

**PRESS FREEDOM UNDER THREAT  
IN SOMALIA**

From January to April alone



## JANUARY 2021

On 2 January, about 10 armed South West police officers entered the premises of Radio Barawe, a local community radio in the coastal town of Barawe<sup>1</sup> and detained journalist Osman Aweys Bahar following a news report<sup>2</sup> broadcasted by the radio on 30 December 2020, which featured complaints of local elders, youth and women about the marginalization of Barawe residents in both government services and development projects. He was released four days later without charges.

On 13 January, journalist Mohamud Nur Mohamud (known as Bolbire) working for the privately-owned independent Simba Radio station in Mogadishu was intimidated by the Somali police officers and threatened<sup>3</sup> with arrest as he had to report a bomb blast in Mogadishu's Bakaro market that day, according to the journalist and his editor. The armed police beat the journalist and ordered to stop video recording which he did. The journalist then left the site fearing for his safety.

On 16 January, Somaliland police in Borame detained four journalists<sup>4</sup> (Husein Ateye Gaafane, Universal TV; Abdillahi Dahir Waeyes, SAAB TV; Ahmed Diriye Iltire, SBC TV; and Shu'eyb Mohamed Kahin, Bulsho TV) after reporting unannounced trip by the Mayor of Borame City, Saleban Hassan Hadi amid an ongoing audit investigation on the Borame City Council, according to the journalists. They were not charged and were all freed without condition on 20 January.

On 20 January, Galmudug police arrested two journalists<sup>5</sup> (Mohamed Abdiwali Tohow Universal TV and Radio Kulmiye and Abdullahi Warsame Roble SNTV) in Dhusamareb. The arrest was ordered by Galmudug State Presidential officials due to the journalists' recent reporting on al-Shabaab attacks in Galgadud region including area near Dhusamareb, the seat of Galmudug State. The journalists were held at the Dhusamareb police station and both were freed on 21 January without charges<sup>6</sup>.

On 20 January, the security guards of the Vice President of Hirshabelle State, Yusuf Ahmed Hagar raided the premises of Radio Hiiraanweyn in Beledweyne and

<sup>1</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/01/05/south-west-state-police-raid-radio-barawe-and-detain-its-journalist/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/107247783994714/videos/804776820388374>

<sup>3</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/01/24/sjs-condemns-recent-multiple-journalists-arrests-across-somalia-raid-on-a-radio-station-and-verbal-threats-from-regional-state-leaders/>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/01/24/sjs-condemns-recent-multiple-journalists-arrests-across-somalia-raid-on-a-radio-station-and-verbal-threats-from-regional-state-leaders/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://radiokulmiye.net/2021/01/21/ciidamada-ammaanka-oo-xalay-xiray-weriyaal-ka-howgala-dhuusamareeb/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Tooxoow1/posts/493940291994230>

detained<sup>7</sup> journalist Omar Muhidiin Omar<sup>8</sup> over allegation that he created a Facebook Page used to criticize the Hirshabelle State Vice President, and allegation that the journalist refused. He was held at the Beledweyne police station for 24 hours. On 21 January the journalist was arraigned at Hiiraan Regional Court without a lawyer. The court then freed him due to insufficient evidences to charge him on the same day.

On 29 January, Mohamed Bashir Osman (Xilif) who is the founder of Sooyaal Online<sup>9</sup> Television was arrested by the police in Abudwak town in Galgadud region of Galmudug State. He was accused for reporting a case of a raped and murdered female in Abduwaq in which the elders of both clans agreed to pay Dia but the mother who was interviewed by the journalist protested the claim of the elders of the two clans and demanded the rapists to be brought before the court of law. The journalist was freed late on the same day of his arrest without charge<sup>10</sup>.

On 31 January, a freelance online journalist (Nune Ali Hassan) was arrested<sup>11</sup> and detained in unknown custody in Mogadishu by the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) soldiers. The journalist was covering the Al Shabaab attack<sup>12</sup> on Hotel Afrik in Waberi district in Mogadishu that afternoon when he was detained. The journalist was released on 1 February without being informed the reason he was arrested and kept in an unknow custody controlled by NISA.

## February 2021

On 3 February, Galmudug police arrested a journalist Sadaq Said Nur<sup>13</sup> in Wisil town, Mudug region. The journalist travelled from Galkayo to a village near Wisil town to cover elders complaining about a new administration appointed by the Galmudug to their village. Police in Wisil forced the journalist to delete all what he filmed from the elders in the village in order to facilitate his release and the journalist agreed to fulfil their order and deleted to trade for his freedom. The journalist was released in the same day and was not charged.

<sup>7</sup> <https://radiohalgan.com/deg-deg-wariye-cumar-muxudiin-cmar-oo-ka-mid-ah-wariyayaasha-ka-howlgala-magalada-beledweyne-ayaa-lagu-xiray-beledweyne-ee-xaruunta-gobolka-hiiraan/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/01/24/sjs-condemns-recent-multiple-journalists-arrests-across-somalia-raid-on-a-radio-station-and-verbal-threats-from-regional-state-leaders/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=750049465933269&id=204196037185284](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=750049465933269&id=204196037185284)

<sup>10</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/11/sjs-condemns-recurring-violent-targeted-attacks-on-journalists-in-galmudug-puntland-hirshabelle-and-mogadishu/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/HalbeegMedia/posts/2755575591371707>

<https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/11/sjs-condemns-recurring-violent-targeted-attacks-on-journalists-in-galmudug-puntland-hirshabelle-and-mogadishu/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/31/somalias-al-shabab-rebels-attack-hotel-in-the-capital-city>

<sup>13</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/11/sjs-condemns-recurring-violent-targeted-attacks-on-journalists-in-galmudug-puntland-hirshabelle-and-mogadishu/>

On 4 February, journalist Yusuf Mohamud Yusuf working for SBC Television and Radio in Bossaso, who also free-lances for the Voice of America radio was briefly detained<sup>14</sup> by police officers attached to the Governor of Bari region Abdisamad Yusuf Abwan in the Southern police checkpoint of Bossaso town<sup>15</sup>. The Governor also physically assaulted the journalist by hitting a stick and ordering his guards to beat him. The journalist was reportedly accused by the Governor that his previous events was not covered by the journalist in his media/online social media pages<sup>16</sup>. The Journalist was released in the same day without charge<sup>17</sup>.

On 8 February, Somali Cable TV freelance journalist Liban Abdulle Mohamed<sup>18</sup> was assaulted and intimidated by the Chairman of the Middle Shabelle Chamber of Commerce who threatened to kill him. The Chairman was complaining against a report about a gunfight that resulted the death of a kat trader and injured another one near the Jowhar Airport aired on Somali Cable TV on 4 February. The journalists reported the case to the police in Jowhar but no action was taken as of the date of writing.

On 8 February, NISA officers raided Somali Cable TV studio in Mogadishu and detained two staff members (cameraman Sayid Ali Abdi and driver Ali Malaq)<sup>19</sup> who were preparing to leave for an assignment. They were held at Godka Jila'ow for an hour on allegation that they were secretly filming the notorious NISA detention facility, which is adjacent to the TV station. They were freed without charges and no further explanation was given. This was the second raid by NISA on Somali Cable TV since May 2020<sup>20</sup>.

On 11 February, Officers from the Somali National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) briefly detained Anadolu News Agency camera journalist, Sadaq Mohamed Mohamud<sup>21</sup> in Hodan Police Station in Mogadishu. Sadaq was carrying out an interview on public views on the impact of COVID-19 in Mogadishu. The NISA officers who reportedly assumed that the journalist was collecting the public opinion on the political stalemate and elections took the journalist to Hodan District Police Station and searched his camera and released the journalist after they checked his camera on the issue.

On 18 February, Somali federal government's Haramcad police briefly arrested three journalists: Mohamed Ibrahim bulbul Universal TV who is also SJS Human Rights and

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<sup>14</sup> <http://allsbc.com/maamulka-sbc-oo-ka-hadlay-xariga-wariye-yuusuf-maxamud-yuusuf/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/wariye.maxamuud/videos/3609487075801728>

<sup>16</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/11/sjs-condemns-recurring-violent-targeted-attacks-on-journalists-in-galmudug-puntland-hirshabelle-and-mogadishu/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/sbcsomalitv/posts/3616182091799732>

<sup>18</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/11/sjs-condemns-recurring-violent-targeted-attacks-on-journalists-in-galmudug-puntland-hirshabelle-and-mogadishu/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/saleemaan.xaajiaxmed/posts/5037532586318979>

<sup>20</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/11/sjs-condemns-recurring-violent-targeted-attacks-on-journalists-in-galmudug-puntland-hirshabelle-and-mogadishu/>

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

Information secretary, Mahad Hassan Abdi, and Zakariye Ahmed Muse both from Shabelle TV)<sup>22</sup>. The three journalists were on duty to report the development of police deployment ahead of the following day's promised opposition rally in the capital. They were held in K4 area in Hodan district for three hours before they were freed and were not charged.

On 19 February, Haramcad police unit stopped and detained four journalists (Farhan Mohamed Hussein, Radio Kulmiye; Fu'ad Mohamed Mohamud, Radio Risaala; Mohamed Yahye Jinow, free-lancer; and Abdinasir Yusuf Socdal, free-lancer) while covering an opposition protest near Daljirka Dahson Square, where opposition presidential candidates planned to hold an anti-government rally<sup>23</sup>. The police took the four reporters to Shangani police station where they were held and were freed later in the day without charges.

On 22 February, Puntland police in Bosaso arrested freelance online journalist Ahmed Botan Arab<sup>24</sup> who reports on social media. His arrest followed after he posted video interviews on his Facebook page showing some residents of Bosaso commenting on a speech by the Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni had made the previous day. The speech touched on political developments in the region and the ongoing stalemate on the implementation of an electoral agreement between Somalia's regional and federal leaders. He was first taken to outside of the Bosaso on a police truck and was later transferred to a detention inside the Presidential Palace in Bosaso, and on late on the afternoon of 22 February he was taken to the Bosaso Central Police Station where he was detained. He was freed on 24 February and was not charged.

On 23 February, two Goobjoog journalists (news reporter Abdirahman Mohamed Abdi and cameraman Abdirisak Abdullah Fagas)<sup>25</sup> were stopped by NISA officers at Daljirka Dahson in Mogadishu where they were filming shortly after the Presidential Opposition Candidates announced to hold a protest scheduled for 26 February. The NISA officers confiscated the camera and deleted their footage. However, the two journalists were not arrested and were set free after the footage was deleted.

On 25 February, Puntland police in Garowe detained Abdifatah Abdullahi Farah (known as Jiib) who is the editor of Somali Television Network<sup>26</sup>. The police from Criminal Investigation Department visited the TV office in Garowe and detained him in connection with his coverage of a news story<sup>27</sup> that contained some residents of Garowe town commenting on a speech by the Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni had made the previous day. He was detained<sup>28</sup> and interrogated for several hours at Garowe central police station and later released on the same day without

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<sup>22</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/02/20/with-impunity-somali-police-detain-confiscate-equipment-and-intimidate-journalists-at-gunpoint-in-mogadishu/>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/03/27/sjs-alarmed-by-the-increased-attacks-on-journalists-across-somalia/>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.keydmedia.net/news/puntland-oo-lagu-eeedeeyay-caburinta-saxaafadda>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/cabdifitax.cabdullahi.3/videos/2833568263547741>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.keydmedia.net/news/puntland-oo-lagu-eeedeeyay-caburinta-saxaafadda>

charge only after he had agreed not to publish reports critical of the Puntland government and its leaders.

On 25 February, plain-clothed NISA officers intimidated and stopped two Goobjoog journalists (news reporter Isaq Hersi Maalin and cameraman Mohamed Abduqadir) during their assignment to collect vox pops about the election impasse from people on the streets at the Taleh junction in Hodan district. The NISA officers showed their pistols to the journalists and started insulting them by saying that 'Goobjoog is qaran dumis and that its journalists were thieves'. The NISA officers then forced interviewees who were ready to speak not to talk to Goobjoog journalists. The journalists left and were not arrested.

25 February, Goobjoog cameraman Abdirisak Abdullah Fagas<sup>29</sup> was stopped at K4 by two plain clothed NISA officers after he finished recording a video story. The NISA men asked Fagas where he came from and what he was doing as they thought that he was going for the opposition candidates. After the journalist told them that he was not on assignment that day they let him go without any action.

## March 2021

On 1 March, around 7.00pm local time two men armed with pistols approached and shot dead an independent Somali Journalist Jamal Farah Aden outside a shop he owned in Sinay neighborhood in Galkayo's northern district controlled by Puntland authorities. At least one other male has been reportedly injured in the attack<sup>30</sup>. The perpetrators fled before police reached the scene.

On 4 March, Somali police detained the Nation FM radio journalist, Mohamed Yahye Jiinow in Mogadishu's Hamar Jajab district after the district police chief ordered his detention. Jinow was arrested a day after interviewing<sup>31</sup> a man who complained that his son was eaten by an alleged cannibal in Mogadishu. The journalist was held at Hamar Jajab police station for four hours before he was released later that day without charges<sup>32</sup>.

On 17 March, Puntland military court sentenced freelance journalist, Kilwe Adan Farah<sup>33</sup>, who was in jail since 27 December 2020, to three years in jail on spurious allegation and during what SJS and its lawyers described as a farcical kangaroo court trial that took place inside the Garowe Central Prison. Kilwe was freed on 22

<sup>29</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/03/27/sjs-alarmed-by-the-increased-attacks-on-journalists-across-somalia/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/RDaljir/posts/3918424514890009>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/mohamedyahye.jiinow/posts/159885669307892>

<sup>32</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/03/27/sjs-alarmed-by-the-increased-attacks-on-journalists-across-somalia/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/03/17/in-a-kangaroo-military-court-puntland-sentences-three-years-jail-term-on-journalist-kilwe/>

March following Puntland president's decree<sup>34</sup> to grant a special pardon ending 84 days behind bars.

On 20 March, Somali police officer shot and injured Goobjoog cameraman Sharma'arke Abdinur Wehliye as he was heading home from work when a police officer fired one bullet at him penetrating his stomach before fracturing his left forearm, according to a family member and Goobjoog management who spoke to SJS. Wehliye was admitted at a private hospital where doctors performed an emergency surgery on his stomach and made a blood transfusion. He continues to receive medication at the time of writing.

On 24 March, Radio Gedo journalist Abdirizak Sheikh Ismail sustained a serious pelvic injury after a gunshot fired by Somali police officer hit him during an event where government officials received opposition officials<sup>35</sup> and soldiers on the outskirts of Beledhawo tow, Gedo region. Abdirizak's injuries was transferred to Mogadishu and neither the officer who him was arrested nor the motive of the incident was investigated, according to the journalist's family members.

## April 2021

On 9 April, Galmudug police in Adado detained radio Adado journalist Hashim Omar Hassan after he reported a police gunshot<sup>36</sup> which resulted the death of a young goalkeeper during a football game between Adado and Beledweyne teams in Adado, Galmudug on 9 April. The journalist, who also reporters for Five Somali TV, was held at the Adado police station until the next day (10 April) when he was freed without charge but was told to keep off reporting about police related incidents.

On 13 April, Somaliland police in Hargeisa detained<sup>37</sup> veteran journalist Adan Abdi Idle. According to a Facebook video he recorded, Idle said that the Governor of Somaliland Central Bank Ali Ibrahim Baghdadi has ordered his arrest over publication of "photos and an article" alleging the Bank Governor of corruption. Idle appeared before the Marodi Jeh Regional Court twice on 19 and 26 April<sup>38</sup>. On 26 April 2021, after finding no evidence for the allegations brought by the Bank Governor, the court released journalist Idle on 28 April 2021<sup>39</sup>.

On 16 April, U.S-trained Somali special force Danab raided independent Radio Deegaan in Galkayo south in Galmudug and detained journalist Mohamed Omar Yusuf. The special also confiscated a laptop computer and a voice recorder as the

<sup>34</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/03/22/after-84-days-in-jail-and-under-perpetual-judicial-harassment-journalist-kilwe-is-freed/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/sntvnews/posts/4084695481591213>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/702491020195940/posts/1174484796329891/>

<sup>37</sup>

[https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2021/Apr/182304/veteran\\_somaliland\\_journalist\\_adan\\_idle\\_arrested\\_by\\_p\\_olice.aspx](https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2021/Apr/182304/veteran_somaliland_journalist_adan_idle_arrested_by_p_olice.aspx)

<sup>38</sup> [https://twitter.com/sjs\\_Somalia/status/1387421017866375169](https://twitter.com/sjs_Somalia/status/1387421017866375169)

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.hornfacts.com/somaliland-journalist-held-for-reporting-govt-corruption-is-now-freed/>



forces raided the radio station and residential houses<sup>40</sup> midnight. According to the radio director and local journalists, Yusuf was held at undisclosed location and was not allowed to contact his family and lawyer. Also, the reason of the raid and the journalist's detention was not explained. He remains detained as of the date of writing.

On 21 April, Galmudug police forces detained independent journalist Ali Said Mohamed<sup>41</sup> who reports for Facebook news page<sup>42</sup> which covers Galmudug region following a news report alleging the Galkayo police of soliciting bribes from detainees at the police station. Ali told SJS that after interrogations and harassment he was freed on the afternoon of 22 April without charges.

On 23 April, Somaliland police in Borama detained freelance journalist Abdiqadir Mohamed Ishqi<sup>43</sup>. Local journalists told SJS that police entered Ishqi's residence on the early hours of Friday 23 April after he posted a video, he recorded from a critic imam called Sheikh Hassan Diheye who calls for greater Somalia<sup>44</sup>. While the journalist was detained, however police did not arrest the imam. Local authorities did not provide additional explanation.

On 25 April, Armed NISA officers stopped Universal TV reporters: Mohamed Ibrahim Bulbul and Khalid Maki<sup>45</sup> at gunpoint as they were leaving the scene of violent protest in Karan district in Mogadishu<sup>46</sup>. The officers confiscated the journalists' camera and ordered to delete the footage they were recording. When the pair demanded explanation, the officers cocked their pistol and threatened to shoot forcing the two journalists to adhere to the officers' instruction and deleted their footage.

On 25 April, newly trained Dufan force [the storm] detained beat and shot at Radio Hubal journalist Bashir Ali Shire<sup>47</sup> who was live-reporting a violent protest and a gunfight in Karan district in Mogadishu. One armed officer snatched the journalist's phone and started kicking him and beat with the gun until another officer with a balaclava arrived and shot one bullet towards the journalist which luckily did not hurt the journalist. According to Bashir, he was taken to interrogation about his journalism and questions included his clan identity before he was released without charge.

## Raid on Media Houses

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/mudug12>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Xasan.fantastik/posts/3726648450766291>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/mudug12/posts/938972563584327>

<sup>43</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=2966021290302194&id=2259409277630069](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2966021290302194&id=2259409277630069)

<sup>44</sup> <https://hornobserver.com/articles/863/Somaliland-journalist-held-for-reporting-an-alleged-corruption-is-now-freed>

<sup>45</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/04/26/journalists-arbitrary-detained-harassed-in-mogadishu-galmudug-and-somaliland/>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.hornfacts.com/protests-and-fierce-gunfight-rock-somali-capital/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/04/26/journalists-arbitrary-detained-harassed-in-mogadishu-galmudug-and-somaliland/>

On 2 January, Armed Somalia's South West police officers raided Radio Barawe, a local community radio in the coastal town of Barawe<sup>48</sup> and detained its journalist Osman Aweys Bahar following a news report<sup>49</sup> broadcasted by the radio on 30 December 2020, which featured complaints of local elders, youth and women about the marginalization of Barawe residents in both government services and development projects. The radio was off-air four days before it resumed its operations.

On 16 April, U.S-trained Somali special force Danab raided independent Radio Deegaan in Galkayo south in Galmudug and detained journalist Mohamed Omar Yusuf. The special also confiscated a laptop computer and a voice recorder as the forces raided the radio station and residential houses<sup>50</sup> midnight. According to the radio director and local journalists, the reason of the raid and the journalist's detention was not explained.

On 27 April 2021, the Turkish-trained Somali police unit "Haramcad" violently raided the privately-owned radio Mustaqbal Media in Mogadishu<sup>51</sup>. According to journalists and management of Mustaqbal Media, the armed officers entered the radio premises in K4 area at 6:00am and ordered the staff on duty to come down at gunpoint, where they beat and harassed radio editor Bashir Mohamud Yusuf before confiscating computers, laptops, phones and cameras. The radio programming was suspended due to the raid, however it resumed operations on the following morning. A Haramcad officer was later quoted<sup>52</sup> that the reason was due to Radio Mustaqbal's editorial line to use the term describing the "expiration of President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo's term in office".

## Other Threats and Censorship against Media Freedom

On 17 January, while addressing newly trained police force in Qardho<sup>53</sup>, the Puntland State President, Said Abdullahi Deni warned critics on social media with legal action saying that "Puntland police will arrest those insulting government officials on Facebook and those using Facebook to incite the public or call for uprising and murder"<sup>54</sup>. The President further threatened that "police will impose criminal charges on them wherever they go or live".

<sup>48</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/01/05/south-west-state-police-raid-radio-barawe-and-detain-its-journalist/>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/107247783994714/videos/804776820388374>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/mudug12>

<sup>51</sup> <https://sjsyndicate.org/2021/04/27/turkish-trained-somali-police-raid-radio-mustaqbal-beat-its-journalist-and-confiscate-equipment/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/MustaqbalMedia/posts/3971059752983401>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/plstatehouseofficial/videos/735593187344697>

<sup>54</sup> [https://www.hiiraan.com/news/2021/Jan/wararka\\_maanta17-176355.htm?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium](https://www.hiiraan.com/news/2021/Jan/wararka_maanta17-176355.htm?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium)

On 19 January, during a public address in Galkayo, Galmudug State President, Ahmed Abdi Kariye Qoorqoor threatened journalists and media houses<sup>55</sup> with undefined consequences “for reporting and exaggerating<sup>56</sup> al-Shabaab attacks saying “those who exaggerate the menace caused by the terrorists are like the terrorists and we are at war with them”.

On 6 and 8 February 2021, eight journalists covering the Lower House of the Somali Federal Parliament for local and international media were harassed and intimidated<sup>57</sup> and their photos taken without consent by plain-clothed officers of the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA)<sup>58</sup> at the Lower House (Parliament) building. Four of the eight affected journalists told SJS that at least three NISA officers with pistols approached them and threatened with unspecified consequences during interviews with opposition-affiliated Members of Parliament. They also said that they had noticed that the NISA men were taking photos of the journalists’ faces with their mobile phones.

On 24 April, Somali Information Minister Osman Abokor Dubbe publicly harassed Universal TV journalist, Mohamed Ibrahim Bulbul during a press conference at the Ministry of Information in Mogadishu. The minister, who seemed to be irritated by Bulbul’s questions about election impasse-related violence had angrily called the journalist “a wedding videographer”<sup>59</sup> while describing the journalist’s questions as “irrelevant”.

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<sup>55</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GalmudugSHouse/videos/407845533833831>

<sup>56</sup> <https://puntlandtimes.ca/2021/01/daawo-madaxweyne-qoorqoor-oo-u-hanjabey-dadka-taageera-alshabab-ee-ku-sugan-galkacyo/>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.mustaqbalradio.net/suxufiyiinta-tebiya-fadhiyada-golaha-shacabka-oo-ka-cabanaya-dhallinyaro-dharcad-ah-oo-hanjabaad-ku-haysa-xilliga-ay-kujiraan-shaqada/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/universalsomalitv/videos/465008441187343>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/rtnsoomaalitv/posts/905321903358798>