



**SOMALI COALITION FOR FREEDOM
OF EXPRESSION (SOCFEX)**
Press freedom situation in Somalia

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

2007

08 Journalists murdered/killed
05 Journalists wounded

42 Journalists jailed
34 Journalists attacked



Somali Coalition for Freedom of Expression (SOCFEX)
Press Freedom Monitoring Section
Mogadishu - Somalia

For further information, please contact Osman Moalim, Coordinator of Somali Coalition for Freedom of Expression, Maka Al-mukarama Street, opposite of Tre Piano building, Hodon District, Mogadishu, Somalia, Tel: +252 1 850 040 / 236 012 / E-mail: socfex@yahoo.com

Introduction

This report aims to give a comprehensive picture on the hostile and often fatal situations by those Somali men and women who are involved in the media. The report intends to be objective in its findings, conclusions and recommendations. The report is compiled and prepared by Somali Coalition for Freedom of Expression (SOCFEX).

The Somali Coalition for Freedom of Expression (SOCFEX) is a non profit and non governmental organization that aims to promote Freedom of Expression in Somalia and to campaign the rights of individuals and organizations to freely express their ideas and opinions without fear of persecution.

The Coalition was established in August 2005 by a network of 48 Somali organizations from all corners of the society such as media groups, civil society, human rights advocates, educational organizations, artist and professional associations.

Responding to the increasing threats to free expression and the targeted violence to media professional, human rights defenders, peace activists and the Somali professionals due to prolonged absence of law and order in Somalia, this national coalition for free expression was born.

The objectives of the coalition are as follows:

- To monitor and document free expression violations throughout the country and to share them with coalition members and international partners.
- To support individuals and institutions those are subjected to persecution as a result of expressing their opinions.
- To promote freedom of the expression throughout the country and raise public awareness on its vital role to the process of developing a sustainable peace based on democratic system of governance in Somalia.
- To advocate for legislative/ policy reform and to influence policy makers and legislators to guarantee freedom of the expression in Somalia in local and national level.
- To promote the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity and conduct in the journalism profession through training and education.
- To engage international partners in the promotion and defense of free expression in Somalia.

SOCFEX Activities in 2007

Awareness Campaign: On March 17, 2007 SOCFEX has organized a meeting to all editors of head news papers and executive directors of radio station to demonstrate solidarity for all the reporters that are in prison and/or threatened. The participant also decided to launch one month awareness campaign to spread a common message to make aware both the public and the authority (TFG) to respect the existence and the activities of the free media.

This message was printed on the front pages of newspapers, and was hard to miss as you look at the front pages of the papers. Simultaneously FM radios aired the messages at the front of their daily news hours for a month.



It was a historical day for the promotion and the advocacy of free express in Somalia. Following the decision of media houses in Mogadishu, all the newspapers, radios and TV carried out messages that advocate for the protection and the safety of reporters and also called for the adherence of media ethics.

Media Law: To responding to the emerging disagreements with the TFG on information collection and dissemination policy, SOCFEX decided to draft a media reform policy acceptable to all stakeholders including the community, the civil society groups, the TFG and the international media set-up. Departing from this aspect, with the help of International Media Support SOCFEX organized a two-day workshop for 40 civil society and freedom of expression activist organizations at Nasahablod hotel in Mogadishu on the 9th and 10th of April 2007. The workshop focused in the completion of a previous workshop held in Baidoa on the 19th - 21st of March 2007 conducted by NUSOJ. Both workshops were conducted for drafting a media law.

In addition, the second workshop held in Mogadishu was basically intended to complete the missing components of the previous workshop while adding necessary alterations in the proclaimed taskforce.

At the end of the workshop, participants unanimously accepted the formulation of the taskforce and elected eleven persons representing media houses, civil societies and minister of information.

Media Code of Conduct: In accordance with the stated objective aim of working together between SOCFEX and its members, Horn Afrik radio based in Mogadishu and a working group of SOCFEX have finalized in September 2007 a project aimed at drafting a code of conduct. The project that was funded by DFID (media support group based in UK) under the mentorship of Dr. Katrin Nyman Metcalf – an expert in the media - commenced in February 2007 in order to find a self regulating mechanism for media groups to adhere to. The final phase of the project will soon finalize.

Background

Somalia's press has been heavily under government control since 1969 and after ousted the late dictatorship regime of General Mohamed Siyad Barre, media started to change into an independent Media under the control of media corporations and privately owned by individuals. And the Somali media become one of the most independent in the world, because of the lack of government institutions in the country.

The year 2007, was the worst for all the previous years to be shed the most of the blood of Media practitioners in Somalia. Unforeseen, the year 2007 started when the country especially southern Somalia came under the influence of the Somali government forces supported by Ethiopian Army, after ousting and took control over Union of Islamic Courts who controlled Mogadishu and parts of south Somalia for six month.

Independent media in Somalia came in a critical situation and trapped inside the risk of continues conflicts and confrontations between allied Somali government and Ethiopian forces against Islamic Insurgents.

Somali Independent media tackled with torture, intimidation, harassments, detention and even bombardments against media houses especially in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.



Media violations became conventional and increasingly, working as a journalist meant being in a risk and destitution, and those challenging same in every aspect due to their hatred of the media wishing that media fulfill their interest.

Attacks on media houses, wounding and arresting journalists become common in everyday life in April 2007, furthermore ,an attack was carried out in April a vehicle carried a journalist ahead of his job was confiscated and stolen.

The pressure and ban from the authorities and Transitional Federal Government against the media have increased in a substantial number. In addition of the arrests of the journalists comes other aspect entering the media premises including studios of radio station by armed people by force.

Security forces of Somali Transitional Federal government enter Shamble radio station several times, creating tension and fear after harassing and threatening journalists inside. In August 2007, an other bloody month after three journalists were killed, other violations occurred threatening the life of many journalists some of them were apprehended for hours, others intimidated while some of the media outlets stopped their operations for lack of security.

It was the first that almost a high number of 58 journalists fled from the country seeking a safe heaven to Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti and northern part of Somalia (Somaliland). And in October, 24 journalists who sought asylum in Somaliland were expelled to Djibouti after Somaliland authorities ordered them to leave their territory.

South-Central Somalia

No more patience was left for the Freedom of Expression in Somalia and that is why that some Somali journalists sacrificed for their life, and came to be difficult how the accurate facts could reach and make known to the public.

The Transitional Federal Government come to the first place to the suppression of the independent media tackling to talk about the mass displacement in Mogadishu, the on going fighting continuing since last year in the Somali capital of Mogadishu.

The government comes ahead with obstacles before the media since failing to guarantee the safety and the protection of the journalists. Most of the slain journalists or arrested were operating in the southern parts of Somalia.

Although a new media law was approved by the Somali Parliament in Badioa, the official site of the parliament in 2007, some of the government establishments such the presidential office departments, the intelligence services and Mogadishu's regional Authority regularly harass and put pressure on the independent media in Mogadishu sometimes ignoring the role of the government itself and ministry of Information.



Puntland

The security existing in the Punt land semi-autonomous region of Somalia couldn't afford to guarantee for journalist to exercise and do their job freely. In Puntland journalists were killed, tortured and kidnapped.

Puntland in general all the printing media operating in the area including the most influential newspaper in Puntland called "Shacab" disappeared and was closed down. Many radio stations in Puntland receive censorship and intimidations on daily bases.

Somaliland

In the self declared republic of Somaliland set backs come to the freedom of press and in 2007 suppression has started after journalist from the Hatuf newspaper were arrested and their paper banned by the authorities, although later they released with pardon by the Dahir Rayale, president of Somaliland and the ban lifted over the newspaper.

With the lack of tolerance of the authority, the print media the only independent media consent to exercise come on pressure. Journalist flees from Mogadishu for safety was also expelled from Hargeysa, capital of Somaliland.

It is clear that Somaliland authorities were not pleased the Media law, so far adopted and in the second time prepared other media with constraints and the authorities face against the establishment of independent radio station in Somaliland.



Summary of Statistical Report

Journalists murdered/killed in 2007

NO.	NAME	MEDIA ORGANIZATION	PLACE	DATE
1.	Ali Mohamed Omar	Radio Warsan (<i>Radio presenter and reporter</i>)	Baidoa	February
2.	Mohamed Abdulahi khalif	Radio Voice of Peace (<i>Radio contributor</i>)	Galkaio	May
3.	Abshir Ali Gabre	Radio Jowhar (<i>Radio reporter</i>)	Near Jowhar	May
4.	Ahmed Hassan Mahad	Radio Jowhar (<i>Radio reporter</i>)	Near Jowhar	May
5.	Mahad Ahmed Elmi	HornAfrik Media (<i>Director and presenter</i>)	Mogadishu	August
6.	Ali Iman Sharmarke	HornAfrik Media (<i>Director and Co-founder</i>)	Mogadishu	August
7.	Abdulkadir Moalim Kaskey	Radio Banadir (<i>Radio reporter</i>)	Bardera/Gedo	August
8.	Bashir Nur Gedi	Shabelle Media (<i>Acting director</i>)	Mogadishu	August
TOTAL				8

Journalists wounded in 2007

NO.	NAME	MEDIA ORGANIZATION	PLACE	DATE
1.	Yahye Ali Farah	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	April
2.	Abdi Dhaqane Iye	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	April
3.	Abdihakim Omar Jimale	Radio Mogadishu	Mogadishu	August
4.	Sahal Abdulle	Reuters	Mogadishu	August
5.	Abdicaziz Saleban Ahmed	Radio Las Anod	Las anod	September
TOTAL				5



Journalists jailed in 2007

NO.	JOURNALISTS JAILED	PLACE	MEDIA ORG.	DATE
1.	Hassan Mohammed Abikar	Baidoa	Radio IQK	1 January
2.	Yusuf Abdi Gabobe	Hargeysa	Haatuf Newspaper	2 January
3.	Ali Abdi Dini	Hargeysa	Haatuf Newspaper	2 January
4.	Hussein Kalif Abdullahi	Hargeysa	Haatuf Newspaper	2 January
5.	Mohamed Omar	Borame	Haatuf Newspaper	17 January
6.	Hassan Sade Dhakane	Mogadishu	HornAfrik Media	9 March
7.	Mohammed Bashir Sheikh Abdirahman	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	21 March
8.	Osman Koryoley	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	21 March
9.	Mohamed Ibrahim Gesey	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	15 March
10.	Weriye Xuseen Awa	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	15 March
11.	Abdulkadir Mohamed Ashir "Nadara"	Muqdisho	Universal TV	8 April
12.	Bashir Dirie Nalei	Mogadishu	Universal TV	8 April
13.	Hamud Mohammed Osman	Mogadishu	Universal TV	8 April
14.	Abdirahman Musse Omar	Hargeysa	Somaliland TV	28 June
15.	Abdirahman Mohammed Habane	Borame	Jamhuuriya Newspaper	12 July
16.	C/fitaax Daahir Jeyte	Bosaso (Puntland)	Radio Voice of Peace	16 July
17.	Mohamed Xasan Mohamed (Pakistan)	Muqdisho	Radio Somaliweyn	23 July
18.	Hilal Sheikh Shuaib	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	14 August
19.	Abdi Moalim Aden	Hiran/B/weyn	Voice of Hiran	18 August
20.	Ilmi Mohamed Ware	Hiran/B/weyn	Voice of Hiran	18 August
21.	Sowdo Hussein Mohamud	Hiran/B/weyn	Voice of Hiran	18 August
22.	Mohamed Husein Jimcale	Mogadishu	Putlandpost .com	12 September
23.	Hussein Hassan Dhakane	Hiran	Radio Somaliweyn/Darban	22 September
24.	Liban Gahnug	Puntland	Freelancer	25 September
25.	Ahmed Adan Dere	Berbera	Haatuf Newspaper	27 September
26.	Abdullahi Ali Farah	Mogadishu	SIMBA Radio	11 October
27.	Mohamed Farah Talyani	Mogadishu	SIMBA Radio	11 October
28.	Isse Abdullahi Mohammed	Puntland	Radio Garowe	19 October
29.	Farah Jama Mire	Puntland	Radio Garowe	19 October
30.	Mohammad Dahir Yusuf	Puntland	Radio Garowe	19 October
31.	Abdullahi Mohammed "Black" Hassan	Mogadishu	Ayaamaha Newspaper	19 October
32.	Ayub Abukar Kasaro	Mogadishu	Ayaamaha Newspaper	19 October
33.	Abdirashid Abdulle Abikar	Mogadishu	AFP	19 October
34.	Mohamud Ali Yare	Mogadishu	VOD Radio	2 November



35.	Mohamed Ali Nur (So'dal)	Mogadishu	Towfiq Newspaper	13 November
36.	Salah Mohamed Adde	Mogadishu	Freelancer	15 November
37.	Mohamed Shakale	Somaliland	Freelancer	26 November
38.	Abdiqani Hassan Farah	Somaliland	Jamhuuriya Newspaper	26 November
39.	Abdiweli Hassan Gerash	Somaliland	Radio Lasanod	28 November
40.	Yusuf Mohamed Barrow	Mogadishu	IQK Radio	2 December
41.	Awale Jama Salad	Bosaso (Puntland)	Freelancer	23 December
42.	Abdicaziz Saleban Ahmed	Las anod (Somalialand)	Freelancer	30 December
TOTAL				42

MONTHLY STATISCAL REPORTS

January 2007

2007 started with misfortunes and a transitional period of hostilities and worst chaotic situation ever face by the independent media, and in January concisely happened acts of arrests closure of independent radio stations and torture.

In January 2007 journalists were arrested in Baidoa and Hargeysa, Radio Warsan, an independent radio in Baidoa was closed down.

Also in January 2007, Somali Intelligence Services ordered the closure of Radio HornAfrik, Radio Shabelle, Radio IQK and Arabic Aljazeera television office in Mogadishu.

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Hassan Mohammed Abikar	Baidoa	Radio IQK	1 January
2.	Yusuf Abdi Gabobe	Hargeisa	Haatuf Newspaper	2 January
3.	Ali Abdi Dini	Hargeisa	Haatuf Newspaper	2 January
4.	Mohamed Rashid Muhammed Farah	Hargeisa	Haatuf Newspaper	2 January
5.	Mohamed Omar Sheikh Ibrahim	Borame	Haatuf Newspaper	17 January



No.	Media Station closed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Haatuf Newspaper	Hargeisa	Newspaper	2 January
2.	Radio Warsan	Baidoa	Electronic Media	7 January
3.	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	15 January
4.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	15 January
5.	Holy Koran Radio	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	15 January
6.	Aljazeera office	Mogadishu	TV	15 January

No.	Media Station threatened	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Radio Warsan	Baidoa	Electronic Media	6 January
2.	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	14 January
3.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	14 January
4.	Holy Koran Radio	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	14 January
No.	Media Station stopped	Place	Media Organization	Date
5.	Qaran Newspaper	Mogadishu	Print Media	January

February 2007

The second month of 2007 violations against journalists continued, and in this month first murder case of a Somali journalist who used to work for WARSAN Radio in Baidoa, the the official site of the government and Somali Parliament.

That killing was the first journalist blood spill out inside Somalia in 2007 but the killing later continued.

Table 2

No.	Journalists killed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Ali Mohammed Omar	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	19 February



March 2007

In March there were violations against media and media practitioners, authorities and armed men reactivated their ill-wished acts against journalists, journalists from Hatuf newspaper in Somaliland were brought before a trial in Hargeisa and verdict for a long term period in detention.

Torture become additional mal-treatment against journalist and journalists doing their daily routine jobs were deliberately beaten and violence increased as well as fighting between allied Ethiopian /Somali governments forces intensified and conditions of journalists is worsening than ever before.

Table 3

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Hassan Sade Dhakane	Mogadishu	HornAfrik Media	9 March
2.	Mohamed Bashir Sheikh Abdurrahman	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	21 March
3.	Osman Koryolei	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	21 March
4.	Mohamed Ibraahim Gesei	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	15 March
5.	Xuseen Awa	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	15 March
No.	Journalists sentenced	Place	Media	Date
1.	Yusuf Abdi Gabobe (2 years imprisonment)	Hargeysa	Newspaper	2 March
2.	Ali Abdi Dini (2 years and five months imprisonment)	Baidoa	Newspaper	4 March
3.	Mohamed Omar Sheikh (2 years and five months imprisonment)	Mogadishu	Newspaper	4 March
4.	Ibrahim Mohamed Rashid (2 years and five months imprisonment)	Mogadishu	Newspaper	4 March
No.	Journalists harassed	Place	Organization	Date
1.	Abdurrahman Yusuf Al-adalla (by Ethiopian forces)	Darmoley (Near Mogadishu)	Electronic Media (Shabelle)	11 March
2.	Mohamed Ibrahim Rush (by Ethiopian forces)	Mogadishu	Electronic Media (Shabelle)	13 March
3.	Mohamed Hussein Rage (by Ethiopian forces)	Mogadishu	Electronic Media (Shabelle)	13 March
4.	Ismail Ali Abdi (Taht) (by TGF forces)	Mogadishu	Electronic Media (Shabelle)	13 March
No.	Media station closed	Place	Media	Date
1.	Telefishanka Aljazeera	Mogadishu	TV	23 March



April 2007

Media violations became conventional and increasingly , working as a journalist meant being in a risk and destitution, and those challenging same in every aspect due to their hatred of the media wishing that media fulfill their interest.

Attacks on media houses, wounding and arresting journalists become common in everyday life in April 2007, furthermore ,an attack was carried out in April a vehicle carried a journalist ahead of his job was confiscated and stolen.

The pressure and ban from the authorities and Transitional Federal Government against the media have increased in a substantial number. Some of the events in April 2007 include:

Table 4

No.	Journalists attacked	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Mohammed Ibrahim Isak	Near Jowhar	stringer for New York Times	1 April
2.	Mohammed Sheikh Nur	Near Jowhar	A stringer for AP	1 April
3.	Abshir Ali Gabre	Near Jowhar	Radio Jowhar	1 April
4.	Ismail Ali Abdi	Near Jowhar	Shabelle Media	1 April
5.	Farah abdullahi Warsame	Near Jowhar	AFP	1 April
No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Abdulkadir Mohamed Ashir "Nadara"	Mogadishu	Universal TV	8 April
2.	Bashir Dirie Naleie	Mogadishu	Universal TV	8 April
3.	Hamud Mohammed Osman	Mogadishu	Universal TV	8 April
No.	Journalists wounded	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Yahye Ali Farah	Mogadishu	Electronic Media (H/Afrik)	21 April
2.	Abdi Dakane Iye	Mogadishu	Electronic Media (H/Afrik)	21 April
No.	Media station bombarded	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Global Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	19 April
2.	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	21 April
3.	Ayaamaha Newspaper	Mogadishu	Print Media	22 April
No.	Media station stopped	Place	Media Organization	Date
4.	Global Broadcasting Corporation (GBC)	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	19 April
3.	Codka Xoriyadda Newspaper	Mogadishu	Print Media	18 April



May 2007

It was an other bloody month for the journalists in Somalia when three journalists were killed doing their daily routine job as journalists besides other violations.

The most tragic events of this month are as follows:

Table 5

No.	Journalists killed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Mohammed Abdullahi Khalif	Galkaio	Radio Voice of Peace	9 May
2.	Abshir Ali Gabre	Near Jowhar	Radio Jowhar	15 May
3.	Ahmed Hassan Mahad	Near Jowhar	Radio Jowhar	15 May
No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.				May

June 2007

To continue restrictions on the media and journalists some of independent radio stations in Mogadishu were closed down again, as well as arrests, intimidations and harassments faced by the Somali journalists in the country.

Table 6

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
4.	Abdurrahman Muse Omar	Hargeysa	Somaliland TV	28 June
No.	Journalists harassed	Place	Media	Date
2.	Abdirahman Muse Omar (by Hargeysa Mayor)	Hargeysa	Somaliland TV	28 June
No.	Media Station closed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	6 June
2.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	6 June
3.	Holy Koran Radio	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	6 June
No.	Media Station attacked	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Shacab Newspaper	Garowe	Print Media	26 June



July 2007

In addition of the arrests of the journalists comes an other aspect entering the media premises including studios of radio station by armed people by force.

Security forces of Somali Transitional Federal government enter Shabelle radio station several times, creating tension and fear after harassing and threatening journalists inside.

The events after being recorded were as follows:

Table 7

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Abdirahman Mohamed Habane	Borame	Jamhuuriya Newspaper	12 July
2.	C/fitaax Dahir Jeyte	Bosaso (Puntland)	Radio Voice of Peace	16 July
3.	Mohamed Hassan Mohamed (Pakistan)	Mogadishu	Radio Somaliweyn	23 July
No.	Media Station attacked	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	3 times in July

August 2007

In August 2007, an other bloody month after three journalists were killed, other violations occurred threatening the life of many journalists some of them were apprehended for hours, others intimidated while some of the media outlets stopped their operations for lack of security.

The events in this month were as follows:

Table 8

No.	Journalists killed/murdered	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Mahad Ahmed Ilmi	Mogadishu	HornAfrik Media	11 Ogost
2.	Ali Iman Sharma'rke	Mogadishu	HornAfrik Media	11 Ogost
3.	Abdulkadir Mahad Moallim Kaskey	Near Bardera	Radio Banadir	21 Ogost
No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Hilal Sheikh Shucaib	Baidoa	Radio Warsan	14 Ogost
2.	Abdi Moalim Aden	Hiran Beletwein	Voice of Hiran	18 Ogost
3.	Ilmi Mohamed Ware	Hiran Beletwein	Voice of Hiran	18 Ogost
4.	Sowdo Hussein Mohamud	Hiran Beletwein	Voice of Hiran	18 Ogost
No.	Journalists wounded	Place	Media Organization	Date
2.	Abdihakin Omar Jimale	Mogadishu	Radio Mogadishu	10 Ogost
3.	Sahal Abdulle	Mogadishu	Reuters	11 Ogost



No.	Journalists attacked and threatened	Place	Media Organization	Date
5.	Nima' Hassan Cabdi	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
6.	Aydid Abdirahman	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
7.	Aali Ajei	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
8.	Jafar Mohamed Kukei	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
9.	Abdinur Mohamed Kediye	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
10.	Muawiye Mudey	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
11.	Mustafa Hussein Omar	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
12.	Ahmed Tajir	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
13.	Bile Abdulahi Ali	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	10 August
No.	Media Station closed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	HornAfrik Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	6 August
2.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	6 August
3.	Holy Koran Radio	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	6 August
4.	Radio Warsan Baidoa	Baidoa	Electronic Media	14 August

September 2007

In September doing journalism in Somalia became critical and later of this month many journalists working in Mogadishu started to flee outside the country seeking a safe heaven place after being targeted by both confronting side in the conflict in Mogadishu.

The monthly report is as follows:

Table 9

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Mohamed Hussein Jimale	Mogadishu	Putlandpost .com	12 September
2.	Hussein Hasan Dhaqane	Hiran	Radio Somaliweyn/ Darban (B/weyne)	22 September
3.	Libaan Gah-nug	Puntland	Freelancer	25 September
4.	Ahmed Aadan Dere	Berbera	Haatuf Newspaper	27 September
No.	Media Station attacked	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	20 September
No.	Journalists wounded	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Abdiazis Salebaan Ahmed	Las Anod	Electronic Media (Radio Lasanod)	5 September
No.	Journalists harassed	Place	Media Organization	Date
2.	Abrizak Warsame Gadao	Mogadishu	Electronic Media (Shabelle)	6 September
No.	Journalists attacked/ threatened	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	19 journalists in Shabelle	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	15 September
No.	Media satation attacked	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	3 times in September



October 2007

It was the worst and most bloody month, shedding out more blood shed from the journalists and media administrators, an other media house administrator was deliberately assassinated, with out identifying the culprits behind the attack.

The monthly report is as follows:

Table 10

No.	Journalists murdered	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Bashiir Nur Gedi	Mogadishu	Shabelle Media	19 Oktober
No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Abdullahi Ali Farah	Mogadishu	SIMBA Radio	11 October
2.	Mohamed Farah Talyani	Mogadishu	SIMBA Radio	11 October
3.	Isse Abdullahi Mohammed	Mogadishu	Radio Garowe	19 October
4.	Farah Jama Mire	Mogadishu	Radio Garowe	19 October
5.	Mohammad Dahir Yusuf	Mogadishu	Radio Garowe	19 October
6.	Abdullahi Mohammed Hassan "Black"	Mogadishu	Ayaamaha Newspaper	19 October
7.	Ayub Abukar Kasaro	Mogadishu	Ayaamaha Newspaper	19 October
8.	Abdirashid Abdulle Abikar	Mogadishu	AFP	19 October
No.	Media station closed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Radio SIMBA (by TFG)	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	11 October
2.	Radio Garowe (by Puntland authority)	Puntland	Electronic Media	19 October
3.	Radio Lasanod (by Somaliland authority)	Lasanod (Sool)	Electronic Media	15 October



November 2007

November, the most unfortunate of all the other months of 2007 with the most notorious acts against Somali journalists. Arrests and threatening the life of the journalists, closure of radio station become popular with out apparent reason.

The violation against journalist was as in the following table:

Table 11

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Mohamed Ali Yare	Mogadishu	VOD Radio	2 November
2.	Mohamed Ali Nur (So'dal)	Mogadishu	Towfiq Newspaper	13 November
3.	Salah Mohamed Ade	Mogadishu	Freelancer	15 November
4.	Mohamed Shakale	Somaliland	Freelancer	26 November
5.	Abdiqani Hassan Farah	Somaliland	Jamhuuriya Newspaper	26 November
6.	Abdiweli Hassan Gerash	Sool (Somaliland)	Radio Las anod	28 November
No.	Media station closed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Shabelle Media	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	12 November
2.	Simba Radio	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	13 November
3.	Radio Banadir	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	13 November
No.	Journalists harassed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Mohamed Ali Yare (by Ethiopian forces)	Mogadishu	VOD Radio	2 November

December 2007

The last month of 2007 the most significant events recorded were kidnapping, Journalists flee for safe heaven places away from the violence and fighting in Mogadishu and the year 2007 was the worst ever seen with most casualties to the Somali journalists.

Here is the monthly report of December 2007

Table 12

No.	Journalists jailed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Yusuf Mohamed Barrow	Mogadishu	IQK Radio	2 December
2.	Awale Jama Salad	Bosaso (Puntland)	Freelancer	23 December
3.	Abdiazis Saleban Ahmed	Lasanod (Somaliland)		30 December
No.	Journalist abducted	Place	Media Organization	Date
4.	Gwen Le Gouil	Near Bosaso (Puntland)	Freelancer	15 December
No.	Media station closed	Place	Media Organization	Date
1.	Somaliweyn Radio	Mogadishu	Electronic Media	26 December



Somali Journalists annual Report (2007)

Month	Journalists/ Media worker killed	Journalists wounded	Journalists jailed	Journalists kidnapped	Journalists harassed	Journalists attacked	Total
January			5				
February	1						
March			5		4		
April		2	3			5	
May	3						
June			1		1		
July			3				
August	3	2	4			13	
September		1	4		1	19	
October	1		8				
November			6		1		
December			3	1			
Grand Total	8	5	42	1	7	37	100



Somali Media annual Report (2007)

Month	Media station closed	Media station attacked	Media station bombed	Media station threatened	Media station stopped	Total
January	6			4	1	
February						
March	1			3		
April			3	6	2	
May				4		
June	3			6		
July		1				
August	4			5		
September	1	3		7		
October	3			5	1	
November	3			10		
December	1			7		
Grand Total	22	4	3	57	4	90

Conclusion

For various reasons it has become extremely dangerous for the Somali media to continue to operate in the country without the fear of, at best, attack and at worst, being killed. The year 2007 numerous innocent journalists have been targeted, either, for their reports or in some case, their associations with the media houses that they work for.

The year 2007 has been the deadliest year for media houses as the journalists have been caught between cross fire, in certain circumstances deliberate targeting by either of the opposing forces. In the southern regions of the country, media houses and journalists have seen the most ferocious attacks that often led to lives of journalists being lost unjustly. In Puntland, despite the relative peace that exists in the region media houses and journalists alike did enjoy the freedom to report political events. Similarly, the break-away Somaliland, the media groups originating from the region benefit from being local but non local media groups have been subjected to uncomfortable restrictions without due diligence.



Recommendation

It is very difficult to recommend some sort of redress to the violence against the media organizations and journalists in a war zone environment. However, there are some tips provided in the *Live News- Survival Guide for Journalists* publications. We strongly recommend the publications for journalist and media organizations working in the country.

Findings

The findings of the report is based the actual situations that the press faced in 2007. Every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of the findings. However, in the event of inaccurate and/or information that is presented in the report that may or may not be necessarily the case, enquiries with relevant remedies should be addressed to SOCFEX at the address below.

For further information, please contact Osman Moalim, Coordinator of Somali Coalition for Freedom of Expression, Maka Al-mukarama Street, opposite of Tre Piano building, Hodon District, Mogadishu, Somalia, Tel: +252 1 850 040 / 236 012 / E-mail: socfex@yahoo.com

