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UN Representative for Somalia denounces killings of Somalis and calls for addressing impunity

Nairobi, 02 January 2009--UN Special Representative for Somalia Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah fiercely denounced the recent killings of several prominent Somalis.

“This is a brazen disregard for international law and should no longer be tolerated by the Somali people,” he said. “It was with great sadness that I learned of the apparent deliberate killings of prominent Somalis devoted to promoting reconciliation in their nation.”

Member of the National Reconciliation Commission Abdullahi Abdi Egaal and Radio Shabelle’s Hassan Mayow Hassan were killed in separate incidents yesterday while Deputy Minister for Reconciliation Ismail Hassan Timir was shot down on 27 December.

Mr. Ould-Abdallah appealed to all Somalis to join him in condemning these crimes and all similar acts of violence. “I call on the present authorities to investigate these unacceptable crimes. The perpetrators should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. They should not be allowed to continue to perpetuate the lawlessness of the country. The focus should now be moving towards peace and stability and addressing impunity.”

He recalled the Security Council Resolution 1738 in which the Council emphasizes “an obligation to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for serious violations.”

“I offer my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families and loved ones of those killed as well as to the families and loved ones of those who are still being held hostage against ransom,” Mr. Ould-Abdallah said.

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