

# STATE OF THE MEDIA REPORT

Media Under Pressure:  
Attacks on Media Freedom in Somalia



**NUSOJ**

Ururka Qaranka Suxufiyiinta Soomaaliyeed  
National Union of Somali Journalists

2026



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## About NUSOJ

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) is the oldest and most representative media organisation in Somalia. It is a professional union dedicated to the promotion and protection of media freedom and the rights of journalists across the country. NUSOJ represents more than 1,200 member journalists and works to defend freedom of expression, improve working conditions for journalists and advocate for a safe and enabling environment for independent media. The union is affiliated with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) and the Federation of Eastern Africa Journalists (FEAJ). NUSOJ also holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

## Methodology Note

This report is based on systematic monitoring, investigation, verification and documentation of media freedom violations across Somalia. All cases included meet internationally recognised standards for media freedom violations, aligned with the frameworks of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Information is gathered through regional networks, media monitoring and direct engagement with affected journalists and media organisations.

## Acknowledgements

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## FOREWORD (Message from the Secretary General)



**The killing of a journalist in 2025, alongside dozens of documented violations, demonstrates that these are not isolated incidents but part of a broader and deliberate pattern targeting journalists for simply carrying out their professional duties.”**



The State of the Media Report 2025 is published at a time when journalism in Somalia continues to face serious and persistent challenges. In 2025, one journalist was killed, underscoring that the risks facing media professionals remain real and, at times, life-threatening. This reality makes clear that media freedom remains under sustained and dangerous pressure. Rather than signalling safety, the overall pattern reflects a shift in the nature of repression, where systematic violations and organised crimes against journalists continue unabated to restrict the work of journalists across the country.

This report, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025, documents 72 cases of media freedom violations. These are not isolated incidents. They form part of a broader pattern in which journalists and media organisations are targeted for carrying out their professional duties. From the killing of a journalist to arbitrary arrests, intimidation, legal harassment and obstruction of reporting, the violations recorded in this report demonstrate that the space for independent journalism remains perilously constrained. The killing recorded during the year, even within a broader security context, reinforces the gravity of the risks facing journalists.

A particularly concerning finding is the central role of state actors, especially police forces, in carrying out these violations. Equally troubling is the complete absence of accountability. Not a single security official has been held responsible for attacks against journalists. This entrenched culture of impunity continues to undermine the rule of law and remains the greatest obstacle to media freedom in Somalia. It sends a clear message that those who attack journalists can do so without consequence. The continued absence of accountability, even in cases involving serious harm to journalists, further entrenches this cycle of impunity.

The report also highlights the difficult conditions under which

journalists operate. Many work without contracts, protections or adequate income, with some earning less than 100 US dollars per month and others receiving no pay at all. These conditions expose journalists to exploitation and external influence, weakening editorial independence and affecting the quality of journalism. The fact that the majority of journalists are young further underscores the urgency of addressing these structural challenges.

In addition, women journalists continue to face specific and serious risks, including sexual and gender-based violence in newsrooms, in the field and online. These violations harm individuals and limit the participation of women in the media sector and weaken the diversity of voices in public discourse. The findings of this report show that attacks on media freedom are closely linked to efforts to control information, particularly on issues of public interest such as corruption, political disputes and security developments. When journalists are prevented from reporting on these matters, it undermines transparency, accountability and public trust. It also affects Somalia's broader development, making progress towards national priorities and global commitments more difficult to achieve.

Despite these challenges, Somali journalists continue to demonstrate resilience and commitment to their profession. They persist in reporting under difficult conditions, ensuring that the public remains informed. This dedication is a testament to the importance of journalism in our society. However, resilience alone is not enough. There is an urgent need for concrete action.

Ending impunity must be the starting point. This requires political will, independent investigations and accountability for all violations, including past cases. Legal reforms are also necessary to ensure that laws protect rather than restrict freedom of expression. At the same time, improving working conditions and ensuring the safety of journalists must be prioritised, including through the effective implementation of the National Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists adopted in 2022.

This report is both a record of violations and concrete evidence of the difficult and dangerous environment in which journalists operate. The fact that a journalist lost his life in 2025 underscores that the stakes for journalism in Somalia remain extremely high. It is intended to inform, to challenge and to encourage change. Protecting media freedom is not only about safeguarding journalists. It is about protecting the right of all citizens to access information and to participate in public life. NUSOJ remains unapologetically determined and effectively mobilised to defend media freedom and support journalists across Somalia. We call on all stakeholders, including government authorities, security institutions, news media organisations and international partners, to take responsibility and act decisively to create a safe and enabling environment for journalism.

**Omar Faruk Osman**

Secretary General

National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The State of the Media Report 2025 provides a comprehensive assessment of attacks on media freedom in Somalia during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. As the flagship publication of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), the report documents violations based on internationally recognised standards aligned with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF), drawing on systematic monitoring, verification and investigation of cases across the country.

During the reporting period, 72 incidents of media freedom violations were documented. These include 69 cases targeting individual journalists, 2 cases affecting media houses and 1 case involving the killing of a journalist, confirming that journalism in Somalia continues to face serious and, at times, life-threatening risks. The journalist killed in

2025 was Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, also known as Dabaashe, a freelance journalist for Sirta TV. He was killed on 18 March 2025 in Mogadishu when a suicide bombing targeting the presidential convoy caused the collapse of the building he was in as he was on his way to work. While the killing occurred within a broader security context and was not a targeted attack linked directly to his journalistic work, it highlights the continued exposure of journalists to life-threatening risks in Somalia.

Beyond this fatal incident, the report documents a sustained pattern of repression characterised by arbitrary arrests, intimidation, physical violence, legal harassment, obstruction of journalistic work and targeted retaliation. These violations were not isolated but form part of a broader and consistent pattern aimed at restricting independent

journalism and controlling information. The geographical distribution of violations reveals a high concentration in Banadir region, which accounts for the majority of cases, followed by Somaliland, with other Federal Member States also recording incidents. The monthly distribution shows peaks during periods of heightened political activity, confirming a strong link between violations and sensitive reporting moments.

The majority of victims were male journalists, although women journalists faced both general violations and targeted forms of abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, with 29 cases documented. These violations occurred in newsrooms, online platforms and in the field, highlighting the multiple layers of risk faced by women in the profession. A key finding of the report is that police forces remain the primary perpetrators of attacks on media freedom, including Banadir Regional Police and police units across Federal Member States. Notably, no police officer or security official was held accountable for these violations. This entrenched culture of impunity continues to undermine the rule of law and is identified in the report as the most serious threat and the worst enemy of media freedom in Somalia.

The report also highlights structural challenges affecting the media sector. The legal environment remains restrictive, with continued reliance on the 1964 Penal Code, the problematic provisions of the Media Law of 2020 and the broad application of the Anti-Terrorism Law contributing to the criminalisation of journalism. At the same time, working conditions for journalists are extremely poor, with many earning less than 100 US dollars per month or working without pay, often without contracts or protections. These conditions weaken editorial independence and undermine the quality and ethics of journalism. The report demonstrates that attacks on media freedom

are closely linked to reporting on issues of public interest, including corruption, land evictions, political disputes, security incidents and engagement with opposition voices. This confirms that journalism is targeted when it seeks to hold power to account.

Beyond the media sector, the report establishes that these violations have wider implications for national development. Attacks on media freedom undermine transparency, accountability and public participation, making the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) increasingly difficult to realise. Despite the resilience demonstrated by Somali journalists, the findings of this report show that media freedom in Somalia remains under significant pressure. The killing of a journalist in 2025, even within a broader security incident, reinforces that the risks facing journalists in Somalia are not only persistent but can be fatal. The combination of ongoing violations, restrictive legal frameworks, poor working conditions and entrenched impunity continues to limit the ability of journalists to operate freely and safely.

The report calls for urgent and sustained action, including ending impunity through accountability for all violations, reforming restrictive legal frameworks, improving working conditions for journalists, addressing sexual and gender-based violence and effectively implementing the National Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists adopted in 2022. Without these measures, the space for independent journalism in Somalia will continue to shrink.

**Media freedom in Somalia faces serious pressure, with frequent violations, impunity, and poor conditions limiting journalists' ability to work safely and independently.**

## II. OVERVIEW OF MEDIA FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

The year 2025 was marked by a sustained pattern of media freedom violations across Somalia, confirming that repression of journalism remains a serious and entrenched concern. During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) documented 72 incidents of media freedom violations based on internationally recognised standards aligned with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Of these, 69 cases targeted individual journalists, 2 cases affected media houses and 1 case involved the killing of a journalist, demonstrating that both media practitioners and institutions continued to operate under sustained pressure.

The journalist killed in 2025 was Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, also known as Dabaashe, a freelance journalist for Sirta TV. He was killed on 18 March 2025 in Mogadishu when a suicide bombing targeting the presidential convoy caused the collapse of the building he was in as he was on his way to work. While the incident occurred within a broader security context and was not a targeted attack linked directly to his journalistic work, it highlights the continued exposure of journalists to life-threatening risks in Somalia. Beyond this fatal case, journalists were subjected to arrests, threats, physical attacks, obstruction, legal harassment and retaliation linked to their work. These violations were not isolated but form part of a broader pattern aimed at restricting independent journalism and controlling information.

The geographical distribution of violations reveals a clear concentration in specific regions. Banadir accounted for more than half of all violations, reflecting the political sensitivity of the capital, where journalists frequently report on governance, protests, corruption and security developments. Somaliland also recorded a significant proportion, confirming that violations are widespread across.

**Table 1: Attacks by Region (FMS/State), 2025**

Region	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
Banadir	39	54.2%
Somaliland	23	31.9%
Puntland	5	6.9%
Galmudug	3	4.2%
Jubaland	1	1.4%
Southwest	1	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>

The monthly distribution shows that violations were not evenly spread, with peaks in May and September. These spikes correspond to periods of heightened political activity and public scrutiny, indicating a strong link between attacks and sensitive reporting.

**Table 2: Attacks by Month, 2025**

Month	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
January	1	1.4%
February	4	5.6%
March	9	12.5%
April	12	16.7%
May	15	20.8%
June	1	1.4%
July	2	2.8%
August	4	5.6%
September	11	15.3%
October	2	2.8%
November	8	11.1%
December	3	4.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>

The gender breakdown shows that male journalists were the majority of those affected. However, women journalists faced both general violations and specific forms of abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, which is examined in detail in a later section.

**Table 3: Cases by Gender**

*(Gender data applies only to individual journalists (70 cases) and excludes media houses)*

Category	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
Male Journalists	63	89.9%
Women Journalists	7	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>

The data also shows that 2 media houses were directly targeted, demonstrating that attacks extended beyond individuals to affect institutional media operations and access to information. The nature of violations documented during the year reflects a wide range of tactics used to suppress media freedom. Journalists were subjected to arrest, intimidation, violence, obstruction, legal pressure and surveillance. These attacks were often triggered by reporting on sensitive issues, including land evictions, protests, corruption, political disputes, security incidents and engagement with opposition voices.

A critical finding of this report is the identity of the perpetrators. The majority of violations were carried out by police forces, including Banadir Regional Police and police units across Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, Jubaland and Southwest. Among these, Banadir police emerged as the leading perpetrators. This raises serious concerns about the role of state institutions, which are expected to protect journalists but instead feature prominently in violations.

The data presented in this section shows that media freedom violations in Somalia in 2025 were widespread, systematic and closely linked to efforts to control information and limit accountability. The combination of geographic concentration, recurring triggers and the involvement of state actors points to a media environment under sustained pressure, with significant implications for freedom of expression, public access to information and democratic governance.



### III. TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF MEDIA FREEDOM VIOLATIONS



The pattern of violations recorded in 2025 reflects a deliberate and sustained effort to restrict the broader media space in Somalia. The cases documented by the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) show that repression extended beyond individual journalists to affect media institutions, editorial processes and the overall ability of the media to operate freely. These violations were not isolated or incidental. They formed part of a recurring pattern in which actions were taken to control information, limit scrutiny and influence public narratives on issues of national importance.

The patterns observed during the year also include a fatal incident involving a journalist. The killing of Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, also known as Dabaashe, although not directly

targeted at his journalistic work, reflects the broader risks within which journalists operate. It demonstrates that media actors remain exposed to life-threatening harm within Somalia's volatile security environment.

An examination of the types of violations reveals a wide and coordinated range of methods used to suppress media freedom. The attacks documented during the year demonstrate that repression is multi-layered, combining physical, legal, administrative and psychological tactics aimed at weakening independent journalism.

**Media freedom in Somalia was restricted in 2025, affecting journalists and limiting independent reporting.**

**Table 4: Types of Media Freedom Violations in 2025**

No.	Type of Violation	Description
1	Arbitrary Arrest and Detention	Short-term or prolonged detention without charges or due process
2	Intimidation and Threats	Verbal abuse, coercion or pressure to stop or alter reporting
3	Physical Violence	Beatings, assault or use of force, including use of live ammunition
4	Obstruction of Journalistic Work	Preventing journalists from filming, reporting or accessing locations
5	Forcible Removal from Duty	Journalists removed from events or workplaces
6	Legal Harassment	Summons, interrogations and court cases without credible evidence
7	Confiscation or Destruction of Equipment	Seizure of devices, deletion of footage or withholding of equipment
8	Censorship and Media Shutdowns	Closure of media houses or banning of broadcasts
9	Surveillance and Monitoring	Journalists placed under observation or required to report to authorities
10	Targeted Retaliation for Reporting	Arrests or harassment linked directly to specific stories or criticism
11	Killing	Death of a journalist occurring within a broader security incident.

As reflected above, the violations recorded during the year were predominantly non-lethal in nature. The inclusion of a killing reflects a security-related incident in which a journalist lost his life, rather than a targeted attack on journalism. Nonetheless, it underscores the severity of risks within the operating environment. These violations took multiple forms, often occurring in combination rather than isolation. Arbitrary arrest and detention remained a dominant tactic, frequently used to silence journalists or disrupt coverage of sensitive events. These arrests were often carried out without due process and were accompanied by intimidation intended to discourage further reporting.

Intimidation and threats were widely used as tools of pressure, ranging from verbal abuse to direct warnings aimed at forcing journalists

to alter or abandon their work. In many cases, these threats were preventive, targeting journalists before publication or broadcast, particularly when covering politically sensitive topics. Physical violence continued to be used to enforce compliance and deter coverage, especially during protests, security operations and public gatherings. Journalists were exposed to beatings and excessive use of force, highlighting the risks associated with field reporting. The presence of a fatal incident during the year further underscores the seriousness of risks faced by journalists.

Closely linked to this was the widespread obstruction of journalistic work, where reporters were prevented from accessing locations, filming events or carrying out interviews, effectively limiting independent coverage.

Another recurring pattern was the forcible removal of journalists from duty, particularly from official events and public spaces. This was often accompanied by confiscation or destruction of equipment, including the seizure of cameras and mobile phones, deletion of recorded material and withholding of journalistic tools. These actions not only disrupted immediate reporting but also erased critical evidence.

Legal and administrative measures also featured prominently. Legal harassment, including summons, interrogations and court proceedings without credible basis, was used to exert pressure on journalists and media organisations. In parallel, censorship and media shutdowns directly targeted media institutions, restricting their ability to operate and limiting the dissemination of information.

Emerging patterns also point to increased use of surveillance and monitoring, where journalists were placed under observation or required to report to authorities. This was closely linked to targeted retaliation for reporting, where specific stories triggered direct responses such as arrest, harassment or administrative action. These practices reflect a more sustained and controlled form of repression that extends beyond individual incidents to ongoing oversight of media activity.

The triggers behind these violations remained consistent throughout the year and provide important insight into the motivations driving attacks. Journalists were frequently targeted for reporting on land evictions, protests and corruption, as well as for covering political disputes and security incidents. The growing role of digital platforms also introduced new risks, with Facebook commentary and online political reporting emerging as areas of vulnerability. Engagement with opposition voices, particularly through interviews, also attracted retaliation, highlighting sensitivities around dissent and political plurality.

Taken together, these trends show that media freedom violations in 2025 were systematic and closely linked to efforts to control information and limit accountability. The combination of physical, legal and administrative pressures created an environment in which both journalists and media institutions faced continuous constraints. This pattern not only affects the safety and independence of media actors but also restricts the public's access to information, with wider implications for governance and democratic participation in Somalia.



## IV. INCIDENTS OF MEDIA REPRESSION

The incidents documented in 2025 provide a clear and detailed picture of how media repression manifests in practice across Somalia. These were not isolated occurrences but repeated actions carried out in different regions, often following similar patterns and targeting journalists engaged in routine reporting. The cases show that repression is both widespread and systematic, affecting journalists in their daily work and restricting the overall functioning of the media.

During the reporting period, 72 incidents of media freedom violations were recorded. These include 69 cases involving individual journalists, 2 cases affecting media houses and 1 fatal incident involving a journalist. Together, these cases demonstrate that journalists in Somalia continue to operate in an environment marked by both persistent pressure and exposure to serious harm. The violations recorded during the year were mostly closely linked to specific reporting activities. Journalists were targeted while covering protests, political developments, security operations and issues related to land evictions and corruption. In many instances, the act of reporting itself triggered the violation, demonstrating a direct connection between journalistic activity and the response from authorities or other actors. This reflects an environment in which critical reporting is perceived as a threat rather than a legitimate professional duty.

The only fatal case recorded during the year involved Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, also known as Dabaashe, a freelance journalist for Sirta TV. He was killed on 18 March 2025 in Mogadishu when a suicide bombing targeting the presidential convoy caused the collapse of the building he was in as he was on his way to work. While this incident occurred within a broader security context and was not a targeted attack linked directly to his journalistic work, it highlights the reality that journalists remain vulnerable to life-threatening risks within Somalia's volatile environment. A breakdown of the incidents shows that repression occurred across a range of contexts and was driven by identifiable triggers.

**Table 5: Common Triggers of Media Freedom Violations, 2025**

Trigger Area	Description
Land Evictions, Protests, Corruption	Reporting on public grievances and misuse of resources
Political Disputes	Coverage of governance conflicts
Security Incidents	Reporting on security operations and conflict-related events
Digital Expression	Facebook commentary and online political reporting
Opposition Engagement	Interviews and coverage of opposition actors
Investigative Reporting	Reporting on sensitive or unsavoury issues exposing wrongdoing

As shown above, the triggers are closely tied to issues of public accountability and governance. Journalists reporting on land evictions, protests and corruption were frequently targeted because such reporting exposes abuses of power and raises public awareness. Similarly, coverage of political disputes and security incidents often placed journalists at risk, particularly where information is tightly controlled.

Digital expression emerged as an increasingly significant area of vulnerability. Journalists using social media platforms, particularly Facebook, to share commentary or report on political issues were subjected to threats, harassment and, in some cases, arrest. This reflects the expanding scope of media activity beyond traditional platforms and the corresponding efforts to regulate or control online discourse. Engagement with opposition voices was another common trigger. Journalists conducting interviews or providing coverage to opposition figures were often targeted, highlighting sensitivities around political plurality. Such actions indicate an attempt to limit diverse viewpoints and restrict balanced political coverage.

Importantly, journalists working on critical or investigative stories, particularly those exposing wrongdoing, corruption or abuse of power, faced heightened risk. These types of reports are often perceived as threatening by those in positions of authority, leading to direct retaliation. This further confirms that attacks are closely linked to efforts to suppress accountability and control narratives.

The incidents also reveal a pattern in the timing and context of attacks. Many violations occurred during public events, protests or politically sensitive periods, where journalists were actively documenting developments. In these situations, journalists were often obstructed, removed from locations or subjected to force, preventing them from carrying out their duties.

The response to these incidents further illustrates the broader problem of repression. In most cases, there was no effective follow-up or accountability. Journalists affected by violations rarely received protection or justice, reinforcing the cycle of abuse. This lack of response contributes to an environment where such incidents continue to occur without deterrence. Generally, the incidents documented in 2025 demonstrate that media repression in Somalia is closely tied to the control of information. The triggers, contexts and responses all point to a pattern in which journalism is restricted when it seeks to inform the public on issues of significance. This not only affects the safety of journalists but also limits the public's access to information, with wider implications for governance, transparency and democratic participation.

**Media repression in Somalia in 2025 is strongly linked to reporting on governance issues such as corruption, land evictions, protests, and political disputes, where journalists are often targeted for exposing accountability. Digital platforms and engagement with opposition voices have also become key risk areas, with increased threats, harassment, and arrests reflecting tighter control over both traditional and online media. Investigative journalism and reporting on sensitive events continue to face the highest level of pressure, especially during protests and politically tense periods, often without accountability for those responsible. Overall, these patterns show a consistent effort to control information and limit public access to independent reporting.**

## V. BREAKING FREE FROM A DEADLY PAST

For many years, Somalia was regarded as one of the most dangerous places in the world to practise journalism, marked by repeated targeted killings of journalists and a climate of extreme violence. The history of the media sector has been shaped by these attacks, leaving a lasting impact on the profession and contributing to a culture of fear and self-censorship. Against this background, any reduction in killings has often been considered a sign of progress, though the loss of one journalist is a serious and irreversible loss.

In 2025, one journalist was killed, marking a continuation of the risks that have historically defined Somalia's media environment. The killing of Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, also known as Dabaashe, occurred in a suicide bombing in Mogadishu that targeted the presidential convoy. Although this was not a targeted assassination linked directly to his journalistic work, it demonstrates that journalists remain exposed to lethal danger within the broader security context in which they live and operate.

This distinction is important. While deliberate and targeted killings of journalists appear to have reduced recently, the overall environment cannot be considered safe. Journalists are still at risk from direct attacks and the country's broader insecurity. The presence of even a single fatality underscores the reality that the risks faced by journalists are not only persistent but can be fatal. At the same time, the shift from targeted killings to other forms of repression does not represent a meaningful improvement in media freedom. Instead, it reflects a change in tactics. Arrests, intimidation, physical violence, legal harassment and administrative restrictions have become more prevalent, creating a sustained and systematic pressure on journalists. These methods, while less immediately visible than killings, are equally effective in restricting independent journalism and silencing critical voices.

The legacy of past killings continues to influence the behaviour of journalists. Many remain cautious in their reporting, particularly on sensitive issues such as corruption, political disputes and security matters. The knowledge that previous cases of killings have not been resolved reinforces a sense of vulnerability and contributes to self-censorship. In this way, the impact of past violence extends into the present, shaping the media landscape even in the absence of frequent targeted killings.

Moreover, the lack of accountability for killings in previous years remains a major concern. The failure to bring perpetrators to justice has created a culture in which crimes against journalists go unpunished. This history of impunity continues to cast doubt on the ability of institutions to protect journalists and uphold the rule of law. These factors show that Somalia has not fully broken free from its deadly past. While the reduction in targeted killings may suggest some change, the persistence of a highly insecure environment, combined with ongoing repression and lack of accountability, means that journalists remain at significant risk. The challenge is not only to prevent future killings but also to create conditions in which journalists can operate safely, freely and without fear in all aspects of their work.



**Journalist Mohamed Abukar Mohamed (Dabaashe) was killed on 18 March 2025 in Mogadishu, an incident that highlights the serious risks and dangers faced by journalists operating in Somalia's challenging security environment.**

## VI. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE THREATS TO MEDIA FREEDOM



The legal and administrative environment in Somalia continues to pose significant challenges to media freedom. While constitutional provisions recognise freedom of expression, the practical application of laws and regulatory frameworks often contradicts these guarantees. In 2025, journalists continued to face legal pressure through outdated legislation, restrictive provisions and the discretionary use of administrative authority.

One of the most persistent concerns is the continued reliance on the 1964 Penal Code, which remains widely used to prosecute journalists. The media freedom community has long condemned this law, inherited from earlier administrations and historically applied across different regions, including

Somaliland, for its vague provisions and broad interpretation. It has been repeatedly used to criminalise journalistic work, restrict reporting and suppress freedom of expression. Journalists have been subjected to charges such as spreading false information or undermining state authority, often without clear evidence or due process. On 4 December 2025, the Council of Ministers approved a draft revised Penal Code and submitted it to Parliament, with the intention of replacing the 1964 framework. While this development signals an effort to modernise the legal system, concerns remain about whether the revised law will adequately safeguard media freedom. Without clear protections and alignment with international standards, there is a risk that new provisions may replicate or even expand existing restrictions.



The Media Law of 2020, which was expected to improve the regulatory environment, continues to present significant challenges. Journalists and media stakeholders have raised concerns about provisions that allow for excessive state control over licensing, content regulation and sanctions. In practice, the law has been used to exert pressure on media houses, including threats of suspension or closure, particularly where reporting is perceived as critical of authorities.

Similarly, the Anti-Terrorism Law has been applied in ways that affect journalistic work. While intended to address security threats, its broad and sometimes ambiguous provisions have created space for misuse. Journalists reporting on security issues or engaging with sources in conflict-affected areas have faced accusations linked to this law, leading to intimidation, arrest or surveillance. This has had a chilling effect on reporting related to security and conflict, limiting public access to critical information.

Administrative actions also play a significant role in restricting media freedom. Journalists have been denied access to events, prevented from covering official activities and, in some cases, subjected to informal directives limiting their work. Media houses have faced warnings, suspensions or threats of closure without transparent procedures. These actions are often carried out without clear legal justification, reflecting the discretionary power exercised by authorities.

The cumulative effect of these legal and administrative measures is a restrictive environment in which journalists must constantly navigate uncertainty and risk. The threat of legal action, combined with administrative pressure, contributes to self-censorship and discourages investigative reporting. It also weakens the independence of media institutions, as compliance becomes a strategy for survival.

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive legal reform and stronger safeguards for freedom of expression. Laws governing the media must be aligned with constitutional provisions and international standards, ensuring that journalism is protected rather than penalised. At the same time, administrative practices must be transparent, accountable and subject to oversight. Without meaningful reform in this area, legal and administrative pressures will continue to undermine media freedom in Somalia. The use of law as a tool of restriction rather than protection remains a central obstacle to the development of an independent and professional media sector.

## VII. WORKING CONDITIONS OF JOURNALISTS

The working conditions of journalists in Somalia in 2025 remained deeply concerning and represent one of the most serious structural threats to media freedom. The findings of this report show that journalism is among the most poorly paid professions in the country, with many practitioners operating under extreme economic hardship, without contracts, protections or basic professional support. These conditions do not only affect the welfare of journalists. They directly undermine the independence, quality and ethical standards of journalism in Somalia.

A defining feature of the sector is the abysmally low level of remuneration. A large number of journalists work without any salary, contributing their labour primarily to gain recognition, build experience or secure a future position in the industry. Among those who are paid, earnings are extremely low and inconsistent.

**Table 6: Monthly Earnings of Journalists in Somalia (2025)**

Income Category	Description
No Pay	Journalists working for exposure or experience
\$20 – \$50	Very low-paid journalists
Less than \$100	Majority of paid journalists

The table above illustrates the severity of economic vulnerability within the profession. The majority of journalists fall below even the most basic income threshold, making it difficult to sustain a livelihood. This situation reflects both the weak financial capacity of many media houses and the absence of enforceable labour standards within the sector.

The lack of formal employment arrangements further compounds these challenges. Many journalists work without written contracts, job security or defined terms of engagement. This leaves them exposed to arbitrary dismissal, exploitation and abuse, with no clear mechanisms for redress. In addition, journalists often lack access to essential protections such as health insurance, legal support or safety equipment, even when working in high-risk environments.

These conditions have a direct and damaging impact on media freedom. Economic insecurity makes journalists more vulnerable to external pressure, influence and manipulation. When basic needs are not met, the risk of compromise increases, whether through self-censorship, acceptance of inducements or alignment with political or commercial interests. In this way, poor working conditions weaken editorial independence and reduce the ability of journalists to report freely and critically.

The impact on the quality and ethics of journalism is equally significant. Journalists working under financial stress and without institutional support are less able to invest time in verification,

in-depth reporting and balanced coverage. The pressure to survive may lead to prioritising speed over accuracy or avoiding complex and sensitive issues altogether. In some cases, it creates conditions where unethical practices can emerge, further undermining public trust in the media.

The demographic composition of the sector adds another layer to this challenge. The bulk of journalists in Somalia are young adults, many entering the profession with limited experience and few protections. While this reflects the growth and dynamism of the media sector, it also means that a large proportion of the workforce is particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Without mentorship, training and stable working conditions, these young journalists face significant barriers to building sustainable and professional careers.

Despite these constraints, journalists continue to demonstrate resilience and commitment to their work. Many persist in reporting on critical issues, often under difficult and unsafe conditions. However, this resilience should not obscure the structural weaknesses within the sector.

Improving working conditions is essential for strengthening media freedom in Somalia. Addressing low pay, lack of contracts and absence of protections is not only a labour issue but also a fundamental requirement for ensuring independent, ethical and high-quality journalism. Without meaningful improvements in these areas, the media sector will remain fragile and its ability to be an effective watchdog that contributes to accountability, public discourse and democratic development will continue to be undermined.



## VIII. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN JOURNALISTS



Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women journalists remained a serious and persistent challenge in Somalia in 2025, reflecting both the broader repression of media freedom and the specific vulnerabilities faced by women in the profession. The cases documented during the year show that violence against women journalists is not incidental but systemic, occurring across workplaces, public spaces and digital platforms.

During the reporting period, 29 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were recorded. These cases reveal a disturbing pattern in which women journalists are targeted in ways that are directly linked to their gender, aimed at silencing, humiliating or pushing them out of the profession. The distribution of these cases across different environments highlights the widespread nature of the problem.

**Table 7: Breakdown of SGBV Cases Against Women Journalists**

Location/Context	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
Newsrooms	17	58.6%
Online	12	41.4%
Public/Field Spaces*	Included above	.....
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*Note: Some cases overlap across contexts, particularly between field assignments and online harassment.**

A significant number of cases, 17 out of 29 (58.6%), occurred within newsrooms. This highlights a deeply troubling reality where workplaces that should provide safety instead become spaces of abuse. These incidents involved harassment, coercion and misconduct by individuals in positions of authority, including directors and editors. The power imbalance in such environments makes it difficult for survivors to report abuse or seek justice, especially in the absence of formal workplace protections.

Online platforms accounted for 12 cases (41.4%), demonstrating the growing role of digital spaces in shaping the risks faced by women journalists. These attacks included sexualised insults, threats and the circulation of manipulated images intended to intimidate and discredit. The online nature of these violations amplifies their reach and impact, often exposing victims to sustained harassment that extends beyond professional settings.

Incidents were also reported in public and field environments, particularly during assignments. Women journalists covering events in different regions, including Mogadishu, Baidoa, Beledweyne, Galkayo, Garowe and Kismayo, faced harassment from a range of actors. These included private individuals, political figures, security personnel and, in some cases, colleagues within the media sector. This wide range of perpetrators highlights the systemic nature of the problem and the multiple layers of risk faced by women journalists.

The impact of these violations goes beyond immediate harm. Sexual and gender-based violence creates a climate of fear that limits participation, restricts career progression and undermines the presence of women in the media. Many women journalists are forced to reconsider the assignments they take, the topics they cover and their level of public engagement. In some cases, this leads

to withdrawal from certain areas of reporting or from the profession altogether.

A particularly concerning aspect is that many cases remain unreported, while some survivors have begun to come forward in recent years, many cases remain unreported due to fear of retaliation, stigma and lack of trust in justice mechanisms. This means that the 29 documented cases likely represent only a portion of the actual scale of the problem. The absence of accountability further reinforces this silence, allowing perpetrators to continue their actions without consequence.

The persistence of sexual and gender-based violence has broader implications for media freedom. When women journalists are unable to work safely and equally, it limits diversity in the media and reduces the range of perspectives in public discourse. This weakens the overall quality of journalism and undermines inclusive representation.

Addressing this issue requires targeted and sustained action. News media organizations must implement clear policies, reporting mechanisms and safeguards to protect women journalists. Authorities must ensure accountability for perpetrators, regardless of their role in the media or in the society, while broader efforts are needed to challenge norms that enable such abuse. Without these measures, the safety and participation of women journalists will remain at risk and media freedom in Somalia will continue to be constrained.

## IX. THE PERSISTENT PROBLEM OF IMPUNITY

Impunity remains the most entrenched and damaging challenge to media freedom in Somalia. It is not simply one of several issues affecting the sector. It is the enemy of media freedom that enables and sustains violations, allowing perpetrators to act without fear of consequences. In 2025, the findings of this report confirm that impunity continues to define the operating environment for journalists across the country.

Despite the documentation of 72 incidents of media freedom violations, including arrests, intimidation, physical violence, legal harassment and one fatal incident, no perpetrator was held accountable. Not a single police officer, security official or authority figure was investigated, prosecuted or disciplined for committing violations against journalists. This absence of accountability reflects a systemic failure in which attacks are neither deterred nor addressed. The role of state actors in these violations makes the problem of impunity even more serious. Police forces, identified throughout this report as the primary perpetrators, operate within a system where their actions are rarely questioned. When those responsible for enforcing the law are also responsible for violating it and face no consequences, it weakens the rule of law and undermines public trust in institutions.

The killing of Mohamed Abukar Mohamed, also known as Dabaashe, in 2025 further underscores the urgency of addressing impunity. Although his death occurred within a broader security incident and was not a targeted killing linked directly to his journalistic work, it nevertheless highlights the vulnerability of journalists to life-threatening harm. The absence of clear accountability mechanisms in such cases reinforces the perception that harm against journalists, whether direct or indirect, does not lead to justice. Impunity in Somalia is not limited to current violations. It is deeply rooted in the country's recent history, particularly in

relation to the killing of journalists in previous years. In those cases, no effective accountability has been achieved and perpetrators continue to operate freely. This unresolved legacy continues to influence the present, sending a clear message that crimes against journalists carry no consequences.

This environment has a direct impact on the behaviour of journalists. Knowing that there is no protection and no recourse to justice, journalists are forced to weigh the risks of reporting against the likelihood of harm. In many cases, the situation leads to self-censorship, particularly on sensitive issues such as corruption, political disputes and security matters. The absence of accountability, therefore, not only enables violations but also restricts the scope and depth of journalism. The broader implications for media freedom are profound. Impunity undermines the ability of the media to function as a watchdog, weakens democratic accountability and restricts the public's access to information. It creates a climate where violations are normalised and where the protection of journalists is not treated as a priority.

Addressing impunity requires more than statements of concern. It demands concrete and sustained action. This includes independent investigations into all violations, prosecution of those responsible and enforcement of disciplinary measures within security institutions. It also requires political will to ensure that no individual or institution is above the law. In 2025, impunity continued to remain the defining feature of the media environment in Somalia. It continues to protect perpetrators, deny justice for victim journalists, silence journalists and undermine efforts to improve media freedom. Until this cycle is broken, progress in other areas will remain limited, whereas the safety and independence of journalists will continue to be at risk.

## X. ATTACKS ON MEDIA FREEDOM AS A THREAT TO SDGS



The attacks on media freedom documented in this report are not abstract or isolated incidents. They have direct and visible consequences for Somalia's development trajectory and seriously undermine the country's ability to realise and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The patterns of violations outlined above, including arrests, intimidation, obstruction of reporting, legal harassment and censorship, directly interfere with the systems and processes required for sustainable development.

At the core of this link is the role of the media in ensuring transparency and accountability. The report has shown that journalists were repeatedly targeted for covering issues such as corruption, political disputes, protests and governance failures. These are precisely

the areas that require public scrutiny for development to take place. When journalists are arrested, threatened or prevented from reporting on these issues, information is suppressed at the point where accountability is most needed. This weakens oversight of public institutions and allows misuse of power and resources to go unchecked, making progress on development goals increasingly difficult.

This has a direct bearing on SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The documented violations, particularly those committed by police forces, demonstrate a breakdown in institutional accountability. When state actors are identified as the main perpetrators of attacks and no action is taken against them, it erodes trust in institutions

and weakens the rule of law. The persistence of impunity, already highlighted as the most serious challenge, means that there is no corrective mechanism to prevent repeated violations. In such an environment, achieving strong, transparent and accountable institutions becomes untenable.

The link is equally clear in relation to SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth. The report has shown that journalists are among the most poorly paid professionals in Somalia, with many earning less than 100 US dollars per month and others working without pay. The absence of contracts and labour protections means that the media sector does not meet basic standards of decent work. These conditions directly affect the sustainability of the media industry and limit its ability to contribute to economic development. At the same time, poorly paid journalists are more vulnerable to influence and pressure, which affects the credibility and independence of information, further weakening the foundations for sound economic decision-making.

The documented cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women journalists also establish a direct link with SDG 5 on gender equality. When women journalists face harassment in newsrooms, in the field and online, their participation in the media sector is restricted. This reduces the representation of women's voices in public discourse and limits the media's ability to cover issues affecting women and girls. The result is a narrowing of perspectives that undermines inclusive development and weakens efforts to achieve gender equality.

In addition, the attacks linked to reporting on land evictions, protests and marginalised communities highlight the connection with SDG 10 on reduced inequalities. When journalists are prevented from reporting on these issues, the experiences and grievances of vulnerable populations remain invisible.

This limits public debate and reduces pressure on authorities to address inequalities. In this way, media repression contributes directly to the persistence of social and economic disparities.

More broadly, the cumulative effect of these attacks is the weakening of informed public participation. Sustainable development depends on citizens having access to accurate and timely information, enabling them to engage in decision-making processes and hold leaders accountable. The patterns documented in this report show that this flow of information is repeatedly disrupted. Journalists are obstructed from accessing events, prevented from documenting realities on the ground and targeted for publishing critical content. This creates gaps in public knowledge and undermines the ability of communities to participate meaningfully in development processes.

The result is that the achievement of the SDGs in Somalia becomes increasingly difficult to realise. Development efforts rely on transparency, accountability, inclusion and informed decision-making. The attacks on media freedom documented in 2025 directly weaken each of these pillars. Without functioning and protected media, the systems required to monitor progress, expose shortcomings and drive reform cannot operate effectively.

In this context, protecting media freedom is not an optional or secondary issue. It is a central requirement for Somalia's national developmental agenda. The continued pattern of violations, combined with legal restrictions, poor working conditions and entrenched impunity, creates conditions in which progress towards the SDGs is not only slowed but, in key areas, becomes untenable. Ensuring that journalists can operate freely, safely and independently is therefore essential for restoring the foundations needed to advance sustainable development in Somalia.

## XI. FINAL REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The State of the Media Report for 2025 presents a clear and sobering picture of the media freedom landscape in Somalia. While the number of journalist killings remains low, one journalist was killed in 2025, underscoring that the risks facing journalists remain real and, at times, life-threatening. A total of 72 documented cases, affecting both journalists and media institutions, reflect a pattern of sustained pressure on the media. These violations, ranging from arbitrary arrests and intimidation to legal harassment and censorship, demonstrate that repression has not diminished but has instead evolved into persistent and systemic forms.

The findings of this report show that media freedom in Somalia is shaped by a combination of interrelated challenges. Legal and administrative frameworks continue to be used to restrict expression rather than protect it. Journalists operate under extremely

poor working conditions, with low or no pay, lack of contracts and minimal institutional support, exposing them to exploitation and external influence. Women journalists face additional risks, including sexual and gender-based violence in newsrooms, in the field and online. Across all these areas, the most critical factor remains the entrenched culture of impunity, which allows perpetrators to act without fear of consequences and continues to undermine all efforts to improve the situation.

The concentration of violations in specific regions, particularly Banadir, the dominance of police forces as perpetrators and the clear patterns linked to sensitive reporting all point to a media environment where control over information remains a priority. The recurring triggers of attacks, including coverage of political disputes, corruption, protests and security issues, confirm that journalism

continues to be targeted when it seeks to hold power to account.

Despite these challenges, Somali journalists have continued to demonstrate resilience and commitment to their profession. Many have persisted in reporting under difficult and often dangerous conditions, ensuring that the public remains informed. This resilience is a strength of the media sector, but it should not be relied upon as a substitute for protection, reform and accountability.

Addressing the situation requires urgent and sustained action across several areas:

1. There is a need to end impunity for crimes against journalists. Independent and credible investigations must be carried out in all cases of violations, including past killings and those responsible must be held accountable through legal and disciplinary measures. Without accountability, violations will continue.
2. The legal framework governing media and expression must be reformed. This includes reviewing the Penal Code, the Media Law of 2020 and the Anti-Terrorism Law to ensure alignment with constitutional guarantees and international standards. Laws should protect, not criminalise, journalism.
3. Working conditions for journalists must be improved. This requires fair remuneration, formal contracts, access to legal and safety support and investment in the sustainability of media organisations. Addressing economic vulnerability is essential for strengthening editorial independence and professional integrity.
4. Targeted measures are needed to address sexual and gender-based violence against women journalists. Media organisations must establish clear policies and reporting mechanisms and authorities must ensure

accountability for perpetrators. Creating safe and inclusive workplaces is essential for a diverse and representative media sector.

5. There is a need to strengthen institutional protections for media freedom, including ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect the rights of journalists and that administrative actions are transparent and subject to oversight. Building trust between journalists and public institutions is critical.
6. There is an urgent need to effectively and judiciously implement the National Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists adopted in 2022. This framework provides a structured approach to improving the protection of journalists, but its impact depends on genuine commitment, coordination and enforcement by all relevant stakeholders. Full implementation is essential to move from policy commitments to real protection on the ground.
7. Sustained efforts are required to support the professional development of journalists, particularly young media practitioners who form the majority of the workforce. Training, mentorship and capacity-building initiatives can help strengthen ethical standards and improve the quality of journalism.

Media freedom in Somalia in 2025 remains under significant pressure. While the absence of killings is an important development, it does not offset the broader pattern of violations that continue to affect journalists and media institutions. The way forward requires a comprehensive approach that addresses legal, institutional and economic challenges while placing accountability at the centre of all efforts. Without such measures, progress will remain limited and the space for independent practice of journalism will continue to shrink.

# ANNEX 1: DOCUMENTED CASES OF MEDIA FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN 2025

This annex presents a detailed list of documented cases of media freedom violations recorded by the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. The cases included in this table meet internationally recognised standards for media freedom violations, following verification, investigation and documentation processes. The table provides information on affected journalists and media organisations, location, nature of the violation and brief case descriptions.

No.	Journalist Name / Media House	Gender	Date of Incident	Date of Release	Duration	Media Outlet	Location	Region / FMS / Admin
1	Shafifi Abdi Mohamed	M	16 January 2025	22 January 2025	6 days	Freelance	Hargeisa	Somaliland
2	Universal TV	N/A	12 February 2025	Ongoing	Indefinite	Universal TV	Hargeisa	Somaliland
3	Sa'ed Ali Osman	M	25 February 2025	27 February 2025	2 days	Sky TV	Burao	Somaliland
4	Ayanle Egeh Du'ale	M	25 February 2025	27 February 2025	2 days	Sahan TV	Burao	Somaliland
5	Abdiasis Saleban Sulub	M	25 February 2025	27 February 2025	2 days	Cawl Media	Burao	Somaliland
6	Ali Abdullahi Hussein	M	18 March 2025	18 March 2025	3 hrs	Risaala TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
7	Hamdi Hassan Ahmed	F	18 March 2025	18 March 2025	3 hrs	Risaala TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
8	Mohamed Said Nur	M	18 March 2025	18 March 2025	3 hrs	Risaala TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
9	Liban Abdullahi Hussein	M	18 March 2025	18 March 2025	3 hrs	Risaala TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
10	Abdullahi Sherif Nur	M	18 March 2025	18 March 2025	3 hrs	Risaala TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
11	Mohamed Abukar Mohamed	M	18 March 2025	N/A	Killed	Sirta TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
12	Abdiladif Sa'ed Ahmed	M	19 March 2025	21 March 2025	2 days	Freelance	Erigavo	Somaliland
13	Yusuf Abdalle Yusuf	M	20 March 2025	20 March 2025	4 hrs	Xog-Ogaal	Hargeisa	Somaliland
14	Dalmar Isse Ahmed	M	25 March 2025	26 March 2025	15 hrs	Freelance	Galkayo	Puntland
15	Feisal Omar Hashi	M	10 April 2025	10 April 2025	3 hrs	Reuters	Mogadishu	Banadir
16	Mohamud Abdinasir Sofeysane	M	12 April 2025	12 April 2025	6 hrs	Shabelle	Mogadishu	Banadir
17	Abukar Sheikh Mohamud	M	12 April 2025	12 April 2025	5 hrs	Shabelle	Mogadishu	Banadir
18	Sa'ed Muse Farah	M	20 April 2025	14 June 2025	8 weeks	Freelance	Erigavo	Somaliland
19	Abukar Mohamed Keynan	M	28 April 2025	28 April 2025	4 hrs	Risaala	Mogadishu	Banadir
20	Abdirashid Addow Ibrahim	M	28 April 2025	28 April 2025	4 hrs	Risaala	Mogadishu	Banadir
21	Bashir Ali Shire	M	28 April 2025	28 April 2025	4 hrs	MM Somali TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
22	Mahad Abdirizak Abdi	M	28 April 2025	28 April 2025	4 hrs	MM Somali TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
23	Shukri Aabi Abdi	F	29 April 2025	29 April 2025	4 hrs	Shabelle	Mogadishu	Banadir
24	Dek Moallim Jinow	M	29 April 2025	29 April 2025	4 hrs	SAAB TV	Mogadishu	Banadir

25	Najib Farah Mohamed	M	29 April 2025	29 April 2025	4 hrs	SAAB TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
26	Hussein Makaran Abdi	M	29 April 2025	29 April 2025	4 hrs		Mogadishu	Banadir
27	Mohamed Suldan Osman	M	01 May 2025	02 May 2025	1 day	Freelance	Gabiley	Somaliland
28	Abdiladif Sa'ed Ahmed	M	19 May 2025	02 June 2025	14 days	Freelance	Hargeisa	Somaliland
29	Ali Maalin Nur	M	23 May 2025	24 May 2025	24 hrs	Horn Cable	Galkayo	Galmudug
30	Abdikadir Mohamed Aw-Hassan	M	24 May 2025	In custody	6 months	Freelance	Hargeisa	Somaliland
31	Shukri Hashi Abdi	F	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Goobjoog	Mogadishu	Banadir
32	Ja'far Abdirizak Mohamed	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Goobjoog	Mogadishu	Banadir
33	Ayanle Abdinor Ali	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Goobjoog	Mogadishu	Banadir
34	Sundus Ali Botan	F	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Goobjoog	Mogadishu	Banadir
35	Ismail Yabarow Hassan	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Somali Cable	Mogadishu	Banadir
36	Mohamed Adan Hassan	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Somali Cable	Mogadishu	Banadir
37	Abdinasir Abdulkadir Salah	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Shabelle	Mogadishu	Banadir
38	Abdiasis Yusuf So'dal	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Shabelle	Mogadishu	Banadir
39	Abdirahman Abdulle Roble	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	SYL TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
40	Hassan Ahmed Taakow	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	SYL TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
41	Abdirahman Ahmed Hassan	M	24 May 2025	24 May 2025	2 hrs	Five Somali TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
42	Abdirasaaq Qaasim	M	23 June 2025	25 June 2025	2 days	SAAB TV	Berbera	Somaliland
43	Yasir Ahmed Abdiullahi	M	01 July 2025	05 July 2025	4 days	Freelance	Hargeisa	Somaliland
44	Mohamud Nadif Shire	M	22 July 2025	22 July 2025	4 hrs	Freelance	Bosaso	Puntland
45	Ahmed Mohamud Dool	M	05 August 2025	03 September 2025	28 days	Freelance	Hargeisa	Somaliland
46	Hussein Isse Mohamed	M	24 August 2025	25 August 2025	1 day	SMS TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
47	Osman Abdullahi Mohamed	M	24 August 2025	25 August 2025	1 day	SMS TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
48	Mahad Mohamed Abdirahman	M	24 August 2025	24 August 2025	5 hrs	Daash TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
49	Hassan Jeylani Ali	M	09 September 2025	Intimidated, not detained	—	Milgo Media	Garowe	Puntland
50	Suweys Gacayte Ali	F	09 September 2025	Intimidated, not detained	—	Puntland TV	Garowe	Puntland
51	Ahmed Sheikh Muse Hassan	M	11 September 2025	11 September 2025	3 hrs	Horn Cable	Borama	Somaliland
52	Abdirisaaq Omar Me'ad	M	11 September 2025	11 September 2025	3 hrs	Horn Cable	Borama	Somaliland
53	Ahmed Dayib Nor	M	11 September 2025	11 September 2025	3 hrs	CBA TV	Borama	Somaliland
54	Maymun Abdirizak Kalif	F	14 September 2025	Forcibly removed from duty	—	DM TV	Garowe	Puntland
55	Said Muse Farah (Qurbawi)	M	27 September 2025	27 September 2025	4 hrs	Sabar TV	Erigavo	Somaliland
56	Said Abdirahman Hussein	M	27 September 2025	27 September 2025	4 hrs	Sabar TV	Erigavo	Somaliland
57	Ibrahim Abdi Adan	M	27 September 2025	27 September 2025	4 hrs	SBC TV	Erigavo	Somaliland
58	Mohamed Yusuf Ali	M	27 September 2025	27 September 2025	4 hrs	Kalsan TV	Erigavo	Somaliland
59	Mohamed Abdi Omar Ismail	M	27 September 2025	29 September 2025	2 days	Freelance	Gabiley	Somaliland

60	Abdale Abaas	M	06 October 2025	Beaten and shot at by police while filming	N/A	Gallaydh TV	Hargeisa	Somaliland
61	Abdi Hafid Nur	M	25 October 2025	25 October 2025	1 hr	Somali Cable	Mogadishu	Banadir
62	Ibrahim Hassan Ahmed	M	02 November 2025	02 November 2025	1 hr	Hirasho TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
63	Abdi Khani Said Mohamed	M	02 November 2025	02 November 2025	1 hr	Hirasho TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
64	Sakariye Ahmed Hassan	M	02 November 2025	02 November 2025	1 hr	Daash Somali TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
65	Hibo Mohamed Mohamud	F	02 November 2025	02 November 2025	1 hr	Daash Somali TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
66	Mohamed Abdi Hassan	M	02 November 2025	02 November 2025	1 hr	M24 TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
67	Osman Hassan Mokoma	M	02 November 2025	02 November 2025	1 hr	Five Somali TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
68	Abdullahi Mohamed Ali	M	21 November 2025	25 November 2025	4 days	Himilo TV	Mogadishu	Banadir
69	MarkaFM	N/A	29 November 2025	08 December 2025	9 days	MarkaFM	Marka	Southwest
70	Abdullahi Abdi Hersi	M	17 December 2025	22 December 2025	4 days	Somali Cable TV	Dhusamareb	Galmudug
71	Abdullahi Abdikadir Nor (Wadani)	M	18 December 2025	22 December 2025	3 days	Daardheer Radio	Dhusamareb	Galmudug
72	Ali Mohamed Diriye	M	29 December 2025	30 December 2025	1 day	Kalsan TV	Dolow	Jubaland



