

His Excellency Dr Ali Saïd Faqi

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia in the Kingdom of Belgium
Somali Embassy in Brussels
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 66
1050 Brussels
Belgium

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

6 November 2019

Your Excellency,

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

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

On the UN's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the IFJ has launched its annual campaign to 'End Impunity for violence against journalists', focusing on Palestine, Peru, the Philippines, Somalia and Ukraine. The IFJ is mobilising its 187 affiliates worldwide to highlight the impunity in these countries. [You can view the campaign here.](#)

Somalia is one of the most dangerous countries in Africa and presents a real risk of death for journalists. Corruption and insecurity are a serious obstacle to press freedom.

Since 2010, 55 journalists have been killed and only 4 killers have been punished. Since the beginning of 2019, 3 journalists have been killed. Most of these murders remain unpunished. This is unacceptable.

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

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**International
Federation
of Journalists**

YOUNES M'JAHED
President

ANTHONY BELLANGER
General Secretary

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

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Bellanger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Bellanger', enclosed within a rough, hand-drawn rectangular border.

IFJ General Secretary