

NUSOJ condemns murder of journo in Galkayo

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) is shocked and saddened to learn of the cold-blooded murder of journalist Liban Abdullahi Farah.

On Sunday, 7 July 2013, Liban Abdullahi Farah, who has been working for Bossasso-based Somali Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) and London-based Kalsan TV, was killed instantly when three unidentified assailants opened fire on him six times in Barahley neighborhood of Galkayo town.

"This latest killing confirms the horrifying reality facing Somali journalists today where intolerance and callous targeting seen in the killing of another journalist gunned down in Galkayo" said Omar Faruk Osman, NUSOJ secretary general. "Once again we look to the authorities to take their responsibility and protect journalists from this brutal injustice."

According to fellow journalists, Liban Abdullahi Farah, also known as Liban Qaran, was attacked at around 19:45 local time on his way home from work by men armed with pistols. He was immediately taken to a hospital in Southern Galkayo, but his body was returned to him home to prepare for his burial.

The motive behind the killing is unknown but journalists suspect his death may have relation with reports Liban filed about some Puntland political parties who were campaigning in Galkayo.

"The journalists of Galkayo and across the country are rightly angry that there has not been an effective response by the authorities to the wave of violence against journalists and media. They must act quickly to protect journalists and to eliminate the threat of impunity in the killing of journalists," said Abdirisak Omar Ismail, president of Supreme council of NUSOJ.

NUSOJ declares that Liban's death brings the number of Somali journalists killed since January 2013 to 5. Mohamed Ibrahim Rageh, was killed on 21 April, Abdiwahid Osman Adan killed on 18 January, Mohamed Ali Nuhurkey killed on 18 March and Rahmo Abdulkadir killed on 25 March.

"When journalists are being killed with impunity it is impossible to talk of the rule of law and respect for human rights in Puntland," said Abdiweli Hassan Abdi, Puntland Coordinator of NUSOJ.

Liban Abdullahi Farah, 25, is survived by seven children and a wife. He previously worked with several Radio and TV stations in Galkayo.

Source: APO