



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

For Immediate Release

UN Special Representative for Somalia statement on killing of Warsame Shire Awale

Mogadishu, 30 October 2012 – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia (SRSG), Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga condemns in the strongest terms the latest killing of another media worker in Mogadishu. The latest victim is a playwright and comedian for Kulmiye News Network, Warsame Shire Awale; who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen last night in Mogadishu.

“This has been the deadliest year for journalists and media workers in Somalia” said SRSG Mahiga. The latest killing raised the number of Somali media professionals killed in 2012 to 18.

Two days ago, Mohamed Mohamud Turyare, a journalist and producer with Radio Shabelle, died as a result of wounds inflicted on 21st October when he was shot in a similar attack.

“I strongly condemn the targeted and persistent assault on Somalia’s media professionals. The world is concerned that none of these murders have resulted in conclusive arrests, investigations and due process or convictions of suspects. We renew our offer to facilitate assistance to the Government in addressing impunity and urge the Somali public to assist the Government by providing information, which will expose perpetrators of these violent acts to law enforcement agencies” said SRSG Mahiga.

“The role of the media is paramount in fostering a democratic society and bringing lasting peace and stability” said SRSG Mahiga. “The media proved most valuable in advancing the Roadmap process, which have brought welcome change in Somalia” added SRSG Mahiga.

“I send my condolences to the family and friends of Warsame Shire Awale and to the Somali media community, which continues its service with exceptional courage, undeterred by the risks and threats associated with their profession.”

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