



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

For Immediate Release

International Day to End Impunity

Nairobi, 23 November 2012 – Today we condemn the targeted assassination of journalists in Somalia. We remember those journalists who lost their lives while exercising their right to freedom of expression and whose cases remain unsolved and unpunished.

This year alone, 18 media workers have been killed in Somalia, a statistic which starkly illustrates the dangers faced by Somali journalists as they struggle to tell their stories.

Free media is a prerequisite for a transparent, accountable and democratic society. We welcome President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's recent pledge on 9th November to tackle impunity and defend the right to freedom of expression, in line with the Somali provisional Constitution. We furthermore welcome the creation of a Task Force to investigate the killing of journalists and bring those responsible to justice.

This concrete step signals a new commitment by the Government of Somalia to address a culture of impunity. We stand ready to support the Government in this laudable and timely initiative.

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