



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

Speaking for those who are not heard

Press Release:

14/8/2022

The Human Rights Centre's statement on the demonstration taken place around Somaliland

The Human Rights Centre condemns the actions taken by the police force during the 11/8/2022 demonstrations in Somaliland. Prior to the protests that took place on 11/8/2022, six opposition members were arrested from Hargeisa and taken to Baki Prison in Awdal region. Deputy Chair of the Waddani Party, Ahmed Omar Haji Abdillahi(Hamarje) has also been arrested in hargesia during the protest.

The Human Rights Centre would like to extend our condolences to the lives taken by the unnecessary actions of the police. According to our documentation, the death toll in all regions totals five individuals and multiple injuries around the country. Our records show more than forty people injured in Burco, and ten individuals injured in Erigavo, twenty people arrested in Erigavo, two hundred people arrested and injured in Hargeisa as stated by the police, including the arrest of journalist Ahmed Zaki Ibrahim, and cameraman Abdinassir Abdinur. While there is still missing information to the full extent of the arrests and injuries that occurred on 11/8/2022, the Centre would like it to be known that the deaths and injuries of civilians and officers cannot be taken lightly. We condemn all police brutality actions against demonstrators, including use of illegal force and live ammunition. As such, we are demanding accountability and an independent investigation into the actions that transpired during the protests.

Peaceful demonstrations are a tenet of the rights enshrined in Somaliland's constitution. Somaliland's pledge to SDG16+ requires clear commitment from all relevant entities in Somaliland to follow national and international standards of human rights, respecting the rights of others to demonstrate peacefully.

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