Reporters Without Borders

Africa - Somalia

Presidential pardon
Website reporter pardoned and freed in Puntland
1 August 2011

Reporters Without Borders hails yesterday's decision by Abdurrahman Mohamed Farole, the president of the semi-autonomous northeastern region of Puntland, to pardon and release **Faysal Mohamed Hassan**, the correspondent of the news website *Hiiran Online* (*HOL*).

Hassan was arrested on 29 June and was sentenced three days later to a year in prison on charges of putting out false information and "endangering Puntland's security."

See also the article on *Hiiran Online*

05.07.2011

More information about the sentence.

01.07.2011

Call for release of jailed online journalist

Reporters Without Borders today declared its support for a National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) appeal to the authorities in the breakaway Somali territory of Puntland to free **Faysal Mohamed Hassan,** correspondent of the news website *Hiiran Online (HOL)* in Bossasso, where he was arrested on 29 June and accused of putting out "false news." He has not yet been brought before a court.

"Puntland police must stop arresting journalists for publishing news reports or expressing critical views," said Abdiwelli Hassan, the NUSOJ's Puntland coordinator.

"Taking a journalist to prison because of his news reports is a real menace to media freedom," NUSOJ Secretary General Omar Faruk Osman added.

Reporters Without Borders, a partner organisation of the NUSOJ, said the 48-hour temporary detention limit had expired. "The authorities must immediately give clear reasons for this illegal and arbitrary arrest."

Hassan was arrested at HOL offices at around 11:30 and Puntland police chief Col. Ali Nur said the order had comes from "top leaders." The next day, police reportedly refused to take him for a hearing at the Bari regional court in Bossasso.

Photo : Faysal Mohamed Hassan (Center), source : Hiiran Online

See :

Hiiran Online