

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/djibouti-opposition-radio-reporters-24-11-2011,41458.html>

Africa - Djibouti

Provisional release

Two radio reporters freed conditionally after being held for four days and tortured

25 November 2011

La Voix de Djibouti correspondents **Farah Abadid Hildid** and **Houssein Robleh Dabar** were released provisionally at 8 p.m. yesterday after being held by the gendarmerie for four days, during which time they were both reportedly tortured.

Before being freed, they were questioned by state prosecutor Maki Omar Abdoukader and prosecutor general Djama Souleiman Ali in turn. They were then taken before an investigating judge at the supreme court, where they were charged with encouraging an illegal demonstration and insulting the president. They are subject to judicial control while on conditional release.

The mistreatment to which they were subjected was apparently ordered by Sgt. Maj. Abdourahman Omar Saïd, the gendarme allegedly responsible for the torture of Balbala resident Dirir Ibrahim Bouraleh, who died as a result of the injuries he received while held in a gendarmerie unit from 23 to 27 April.

The identity of the two gendarmes who tortured Hildid and Dabar this week is not yet known. They were not the ones who tortured Hildid while he was in the gendarmerie's custody for five days in February.

24.11.11 - Opposition radio reporters arrested again, concern about mistreatment

Reporters Without Borders condemns the 21 November arrests of **Farah Abadid Hildid** and **Houssein Robleh Dabar**, two journalists who were held for four months earlier this year, and is concerned about the treatment they will receive while detained. They are reporters for *La Voix de Djibouti*, an opposition radio station that broadcasts from Europe.

"This is the second time these two radio journalists have been arrested by the gendarmerie," Reporters Without Borders said. "Everything suggests that the authorities wanted to prevent them reporting the existence of a leaflet calling for an opposition demonstration. "As one of them was tortured the first time they were arrested, we fear they could suffer the same fate again. We call for their immediate release and firmly condemn this arbitrary attempt to control news and information."

Hildid and Dabar were arrested by the gendarmerie's Investigation and Documentation Section (SRD), which is headed by Lt. Abdoukarim Ibrahim Youssouf. One of its members, Sgt. Abdourahman "Doudou" Ali Ismaël, is believed to be the person who tortured Hildid while he was in the gendarmerie's custody for five days in February, before his transfer to prison.

It is thought that they were arrested this time to prevent *La Voix de Djibouti* publicizing the distribution of a leaflet calling for a "Day of Anger" protest. The leaflet was apparently written by Mohamed Souleiman Cheik Moussa, a magistrate was arrested the same day as the journalists.

Hildid and Dabar were previously arrested by gendarmes on 5 February and were transferred on 9 February to Gabode prison on a charge of "participating in an insurrectional movement." While in the gendarmerie's custody, Hildid was tortured by the gendarmes who interrogated

him. This serious violation of human rights conventions signed by Djibouti could result in a case being brought against those responsible before an international court.

After four months in Gabode prison, Hildid and Dabar were finally released on 23 June following appeals to the appeal court and the supreme court, but they remained under judicial control. Hildid was summoned by an investigating judge on 17 September but was released after questioning.

For more information, please see : [Six contributors to opposition radio station held in Gabode prison for past four months](#).
