

## SOMALIA

- **SOM-14:** Abdullahi Hashi Abib
- **SOM-13:** Amina Mohamed Abdi (Ms.)



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## Somalia

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session (Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*



© Facebook – Abdullahi Hashi Abib

### SOM-14 – Abdullahi Hashi Abib

#### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

#### A. Summary of the case

Mr. Abib is an independent member of the Somali House of the People. According to the complainant, Mr. Abib has faced escalating threats against him and his family as well as intimidation due to his efforts to expose alleged human rights violations and instances of corruption within the government. He has also been exposed to confrontations within parliament calling him to stop his investigations. As a result, Mr. Abib has been compelled to reside outside the country occasionally for his safety. When in Somalia, he has to take extreme precautions to avoid getting in harm's way, which limits his freedom of movement and ability to work with his constituents. According to the

#### Case SOM-14

**Somalia:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** An independent member of parliament

**Qualified complainant(s):** Section I.(1) (a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** February 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** March 2024

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the delegation of Somalia at the 150th IPU Assembly (Tashkent, April 2025)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: March 2025
- Communication from the complainant: March 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (March 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: March 2025

complainant, Mr. Abib has repeatedly requested additional security guarantees from the authorities, as the mounting threats he faced prevented him from taking part in all sessions of parliament but has received no reply in return.

The complainant also shared that Mr. Abib has been repeatedly denied the opportunity to speak in parliament, prevented from introducing motions and has faced warnings of sanctions for making critical statements against the authorities. The complainant also notes that, during a parliamentary session where the accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was to be discussed, the Speaker did not allow any discussion on this item despite broad support among the parliamentarians present. According to the complainant, such a decision violates parliamentary rules, was taken under pressure from outside parliament and was motivated by a desire to protect high-ranking officials for their involvement in numerous human rights violations, including the murder of Mr. Abib's colleague, Ms. Amina Abdi, in March 2022 (see case SOM-13), who was known for her calls for accountability in parliament. Mr. Abib continues to call for accountability in that case in the hope that it could put an end to the endemic impunity of political murders of female leaders in Somalia.

In March 2024, the IPU Governing Council adopted a decision in which it expressed concern over the threats and alleged interference faced by Mr. Abib. It requested additional information on the allegations and urged the parliamentary authorities to do their utmost to guarantee Mr. Abib's security and his rights as a parliamentarian.

In early 2025, tensions between Mr. Abib and the Speaker escalated as the latter reportedly continuously refused to register a motion to impeach the President over controversial foreign policy decisions that Mr. Abib saw as undermining Somalia's sovereignty. In March 2025, the complainant reported that Mr. Abib's mandate may soon be revoked by the Speaker in reprisal for information provided by Mr. Abib during a meeting with the United States State Department alleging multiple cases of misappropriation of overseas aid and corruption allegedly perpetrated by the President of Somalia and other top officials. On 15 March 2025, the Speaker took a decision to terminate the mandate of Mr. Abib under Article 59(1)(d) of the Provisional Constitution for having failed to appear in more than two sessions of parliament without presenting a valid reason for his absence. Mr. Abib and 100 of his fellow parliamentarians decried the decision as a politically motivated, unilateral and arbitrary measure, insisting that, according to existing rules, the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the full parliament and that the recall of members of the House of the People does not feature in the list of powers of the Speaker under Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure.

The complainant adds that Mr. Abib is the first parliamentarian to be stripped of his mandate in Somalia's recent history, which was refuted by the delegation of Somalia to the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the members of the Somali delegation for the information provided during a hearing with the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent;
2. *Is deeply concerned* that Mr Abib was deprived of his parliamentary mandate and the allegation made by the complainant that this decision came about in reprisal for Mr. Abib's oversight work on issues of corruption, embezzlement of humanitarian aid and human rights violations; and *considers* that the revocation of the mandate of a duly elected parliamentarian is an extremely serious measure, which should only be taken as a last resort and as the outcome of a fair and transparent process in line with clearly established legal requirements and universal principles of human rights;
3. *Is perturbed* by the discrepancy between the position of the complainant, who claims that the decision to recall Mr. Abib was expedited unilaterally by the Speaker of the House of the People in the absence of a clearly defined competency to do so, and the position of the authorities, who insist that the Speaker abided by the Provisional Constitution and Rules of Procedure of the House of the People, which define the Speaker as the custodian of the administration of the House; and *takes note* of the argument put forward by the complainant that all parliamentarians retain their immunity unless they are stripped of it by their peers

through a two-thirds majority vote, and that *a fortiori*, no parliamentarian may be subject to the more serious measure of revocation of their parliamentary seat without the entirety of parliament pronouncing itself on such a crucial issue;

4. *Is concerned* by the information submitted by the complainant and confirmed by the authorities that this decision was carried out despite the fact that Mr. Abib had written to the parliamentary authorities that his absence was justified by particularly grave threats arising from his oversight work, as communicated by an official letter in which Mr. Abib requested additional protection measures to allow him to take part in parliamentary sessions safely; *acknowledges* the position of the authorities, which declare that the security concerns faced by Mr. Abib were not specific enough and that his demands for additional protection were unreasonable; *is shocked* to observe not only that no effort has been made to provide Mr. Abib with additional protection and allow him to take part in the affairs of parliament, but also that the authorities assert that they are not aware of any security concerns faced by Mr. Abib; and *urges* the parliamentary authorities to do everything possible to ensure the physical safety of all Somali parliamentarians and to seek additional protection measures from the executive branch when a request is made by parliamentarians who face threats as a result of their work;
5. *Believes*, in light of the information submitted to it by both parties, that Mr. Abib was deprived of his mandate in a manner which was inconsistent with the requirements of legal clarity and due process, which affected both his rights as a parliamentarian and that of his constituents; *urges* the parliamentary authorities of Somalia to consider reviewing their domestic norms and practices to ensure that such cases do not recur in the future and to guarantee that the rights and mandate of parliamentarians are respected, which is a key condition for preserving parliamentary independence, democratic governance and the rule of law;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to bring this decision to the attention of the Speaker of the House of the People of Somalia, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## Somalia

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 211<sup>th</sup> session  
(Manama, 15 March 2023)*



Amina Mohamed Abdi ©AMISOM

### SOM-13 – Amina Mohamed Abdi

#### Alleged human rights violations

✓ Murder

#### A. Summary of the case

Ms. Amina Mohamed Abdi entered parliament in 2012; she was re-elected in 2016 and remained a member of the House of the People until her assassination in March 2022.

According to the complainant, Ms. Amina Mohamed Abdi was killed on 23 March 2022 as she left a polling station in the constituency of Beledweyne. Reportedly, a suicide bomber ran up to hug her and detonated his explosive vest, killing her and many others. According to media reports, the al-Shabaab jihadist insurgent group claimed responsibility for the attack, which was followed by another blast at the hospital of Beledweyne, ostensibly to ensure that all survivors taken there for treatment were killed.

The then President, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (also known as Farmaajo), condemned the attacks and the then Prime Minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, urged the security agencies to carry out an investigation into the murder.

The complainant claims that, despite the official position alleging that al-Shabaab was behind the murder, Ms. Abdi was in fact the victim of a State-sponsored attack due to her fearless efforts to investigate the disappearance of Ms. Ikran Tahlil, a young female civil servant who was allegedly killed by agents from the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) in June 2021. Several high-ranking officials, including former Prime Minister Roble, have publicly stated that the killing of Ms. Abdi was an attempt to disrupt justice in Ms. Tahlil's case. In September 2021, Prime Minister Roble had dismissed the NISA chief following Ms. Tahlil's disappearance, leading to tensions with President Farmaajo, who proceeded to withdraw the Prime Minister's executive powers.

#### Case SOM-13

**Somalia:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Opposition member of parliament

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.1(d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** June 2022

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2022

**Recent IPU Mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing(s):** - - -

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: March 2022/23
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the House of the People (February 2023)
- Communication to the complainant: March 2023

Since the death of Ms. Abdi, the complainant asserts that a suspect has been identified and apprehended by the authorities. A man named Mohamed Abdi Nuur (also known as Dr. Fanah) has testified that he was tasked with organizing the attack by a regional deputy of the al-Shabaab armed group on behalf of high-ranking Somali officials with links to the insurgency group. However, the complainant reports that the relevant segments of the video recording of that testimony have been removed. The complainant alleges that this was done to mislead the public into concealing the true mastermind of the murder as well as the collusion of certain State officials with al-Shabaab.

Somalia is facing an increase in violent armed attacks as part of a decades-long civil war against insurgent groups. In past cases before the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the federal authorities have not been able to investigate the murder of parliamentarians due to structural challenges plaguing the country's judicial system. The complainant is of the view that the justice system is not reliable due to the normalization of impunity for violent crimes and chronic corruption, and calls for an international investigation of the murder.

Following the May 2022 elections, there was a peaceful transfer of power in June 2022, raising hopes for a more democratic and peaceful future for the country. The newly elected President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, appointed Mr. Hamza Abdi Barre as Prime Minister. Both belong to the same party as Ms. Abdi, the Union for Peace and Development Party.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Condemns* the brutal murder of Ms. Amina Abdi; *stresses* that this vicious crime must not be left unpunished and that all those responsible for Ms. Abdi's death must be held to account in keeping with principles of accountability and human rights law; *urges* parliament – within the boundaries of the separation of powers – to help ensure that justice is done and thereby send a strong signal that the assassination of a parliamentarian will not be left unpunished; *calls on* the Somali authorities to do their utmost to ensure that justice is done; and *wishes* to receive information on any steps made by the authorities in that regard;
2. *Regrets* that the Somali parliamentary authorities were not able to meet with the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 146<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, despite the invitation extended by the Committee; and *recalls* in this regard that the Committee does everything possible, in accordance with its Rules and Practices, to promote dialogue with the authorities of the country concerned, and primarily with its parliament, so as to achieve a satisfactory resolution in the cases before it;
3. *Acknowledges* the efforts undertaken thus far to identify the culprits and try one of the suspects, an individual under the name of Mohamed Abdi Nuur, also known as Dr. Fanah, as reported by the complainant; *is shocked* by the testimony of the suspected organizer of the attack about the manner in which the attack was allegedly planned and carried out; *is disturbed* by allegations put forward by the complainant that certain high-ranking state officials are behind this vicious attack as a reprisal for Ms. Abdi's advocacy for accountability in the case of the enforced disappearance of Ms. Ikran Tahlil; and *wishes* to receive the official views of the authorities on these allegations and to know whether the investigation into the murder is taking this lead into account;
4. *Affirms* that the IPU stands ready to provide assistance, if so requested, aimed at building the capacities of parliament and other public institutions to identify any underlying issues that may deter the resolution of this case and to rectify such issues, given the sizeable challenges faced by state institutions in Somalia and the recent efforts aimed at a transition towards peace and democracy based on the rule of law; *requests* the competent authorities to provide further information on how the IPU could best provide such assistance; and *calls on* the authorities to make use of the expertise of the United Nations special procedures, including the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, to ensure accountability in this case;
5. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
6. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.