



## **Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA)**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Mogadishu, 05 August 2025:** The Somali Civil Society strongly condemns the arrest of journalists from **SMS TV** that occurred on 3 August 2025.

The reasons for the journalists' detention remain unclear, but reliable sources indicate that the two journalists were arrested at the gate of the SMS TV headquarters by security forces in uniform. The journalists were returning from an assignment in the Sinay market area, where there had been a confrontation between some local residents and government forces.

This violation against independent media is a direct attack on freedom of expression and the principles on which democratic governments are founded. It is therefore regrettable that federal government forces have detained these **SMS TV** journalists without bringing them to court or releasing them to date. The detained journalists are **Hussein Isse Mohamed** and **Osman Abdullahi Arab**.

As a representative body of Somali civil society, **SONSA** expresses deep concern over this violation on journalists' rights and safety. Such actions undermine the critical role of independent media in promoting transparency, accountability, and democracy in Somalia, and create a chilling effect on media freedom.

According to Article 18 of the Somali Provisional Constitution, freedom of expression and media are guaranteed rights. **SONSA** encourages the government to fully respect the provisions of the constitution, affirm that the duties of journalists are protected by the constitution, and immediately cease any actions that violate these rights.

Therefore, the Somali civil society calls on federal government officials to uphold constitutional freedoms, respect press freedom, and immediately release the **SMS TV journalists**.

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