

URGENT ACTION

TWO BOYS JAILED FOR LIFE AFTER UNFAIR TRIAL

Two boys have been imprisoned for life for murder. The boys say they were forced to confess to the murder.

Muhamed Yasin Abdi and **Daud Saied Sahal** have had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by the Supreme Court Martial in Puntland. The two were among seven people arrested by police on 28 December 2016 in Bossaso, Puntland, following the killings of three high ranking officials serving in the Puntland administration. Five others arrested with them were executed on 8 April. The ages of all seven is currently contested. According to family members, they were all under the age of 18 at the time they allegedly committed the crime. The authorities of Puntland however maintain that they were adults.

According to the father of Ayub Yassin and the uncle of Ali Ismaeil (Ayub and Ali were among those who were executed) the seven suffered various forms of ill treatment and were detained in shipping containers for about two weeks before being transferred to a police station. They were then tried before a military court on 13 February where they were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. They were all denied access to a lawyer during the initial trial. The defendants appealed their conviction and death sentence a month after the ruling, but the initial judgment was upheld by a higher military court.

Please write immediately in Somali or your own language:

- Urging Puntland authorities to retry Muhamed Yasin Abdi and Daud Saied Sahal in a civilian court in accordance with the principles of juvenile justice and international fair trial standards, excluding evidence obtained through torture or other ill-treatment;
- Calling on them to open a prompt, independent, impartial and effective investigation into allegations of torture or other ill-treatment; and
- Calling on them to establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 JULY 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice
Hassan Hussein Haji
Ministry of Justice, Puntland
Bosaso, Puntland
Somalia
Email: info@mojrapl.com
Salutation: His Excellency

Puntland Attorney General
Mohamed Hassan Aw Osman
Bosaso, Puntland
Somalia
Email: mojrarpuntland@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copies to:

Minister of Interior and Federal Affairs
Abdi Farah Juxa
Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs
Bondhere, Benadir
Mogadishu, Somalia
Fax: +252-6-1-7531444
Salutation: His Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 96/17. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/6112/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International had previously reported that the two boys had been sentenced to death but later confirmed that their death sentences had been commuted to life sentences.

Another five who were executed in relation to the same case were from one of Puntland's minority clans, Madibaan, The families of the five who were executed report that they were not aware of where or how the execution was done- they merely heard the news over the radio. Muhamed Yasin Abdi and Daud Saied Sahal, are members of the more dominant Diseshe and Ali Seleban sub-clans.

Name: Muhamed Yasin Abdi, Daud Saied Sahal

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 96/17 Index: AFR 52/6231/2017 Issue Date: 12 June 2017