

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 17/90 (AFR 52/05/90, 12 January and follow-ups  
AFR 52/09/90 (26 January) AFR 52/10/90 (8 February) and  
AFR 52/37/90 (19 October) - Fear of Unfair Trial

SOMALIA:Abdirashid Abdi Kheyre, businessman

Farah Mohamoud Elmi, veterinary lecturer

Mohamed Osman Farah ("Oon"), former security official

Hassan Abdullah Hassan ("Goley"), businessman

Mohamed Sheikh Mohamud Guleid ("Gamadeere"), businessman

Hassan Gutale Abdullah ("Koshin"), businessman

Abshir Ali Isse ("Dirshe")

Mohamed Hassan Osman ("Sanweyne")

Mohamed Osman Tifow, veterinary scientist

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It was announced on 6 November that the nine prisoners of conscience listed above were among a total of 1,122 prisoners released by presidential decree in Somalia. The announcement came in a statement by the Attorney General, who indicated that the releases were part of a general amnesty which has been declared to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the revolution in Somalia, which was on 21 October.

The nine, who were arrested in Mogadishu in mid-July 1989 and charged with political offences punishable by death, had embarked on a hunger-strike on 13 October to protest against their continued detention following the release of other political prisoners shortly before the promulgation of the new Provisional Constitution on 12 October. Protests against the continued detention of these nine political prisoners formed the focus of anti-government demonstrations in Mogadishu on 22 October. These led to two days of disturbances in which the government acknowledged that three people were shot dead and 36 injured by the security forces - the "red beret" military police. Unofficial sources put the casualties much higher.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Express and airmail letters**

- welcoming the release of these nine political prisoners, considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience.

**LETTERS TO:**

His Excellency  
President Mohamed Siad Barre  
President of the Somali Democratic Republic  
Villa Somalia  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr Mohamed Omar Farah  
Attorney General  
Attorney General's Chambers  
PO Box 1745  
Mogadishu, Somalia

**COPIES TO: One or more of the following:**

His Excellency Mohamed Ali Samatar  
First Vice-President  
The Presidency  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr Abdulqasim Salad Hassan  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Brigadier General Aden Jama ("Irday")  
Commander of the National Security Service  
National Security Service Headquarters  
Box 432  
Mogadishu, Somalia

General Ahmed Elmi Sahal  
Commander of Somali Custodial Corps  
Somali Custodial Corps Headquarters  
PO Box 721  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr Ahmed Hassan Sheikh  
President of the Supreme Court  
Supreme Court  
Mogadishu, Somalia

and to diplomatic representatives of Somalia in your country service

**Thanks to all those who participated in this successful appeal.**