

**H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**  
President of the Federal States of Somalia

Nairobi, 2 November 2014

Your Excellency,

We write to you on the International Day to End Impunity to raise concerns about the case of Mascuud Abdulahi Aadan, a correspondent for the Mogadishu based Dalsan Radio. Mascuud and Mohamed Farah Sahal, a correspondent for Mogadishu based Goobjoog radio, who were attacked on 17 July 2013 by Raas kambooni militia as they were returning from an assignment in Kismayu. The journalists had gone to report on a landmine attack on the Africa Union Mission in Somalia, in Calanley.

The journalists were immediately rushed to the Medina Hospital but Mascuud required a delicate operation that could not be carried out at Medina hospital. With the assistance of ARTICLE 19, Mascuud was airlifted to Nairobi Kenya for further specialized treatment. The journalist underwent surgery successfully and the bullets were removed. Upon discharge, Mascuud had physiotherapy so that he could regain full use of his limbs which he did successfully. In December 2013, about six months after the shooting, Mascuud returned to Somalia.

We call on you to order for conclusive investigations on the attack on Mascuud and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Impunity takes many forms. Thorough investigations and respect for due process and rule of law are essential for the public to be able to exercise their rights to free expression. Impunity for crimes committed against civil society, journalists and human rights defenders has a chilling effect, unduly limiting the fundamental right of free expression.

The case of Mascuud demonstrates a culture of impunity which must be tackled. Mascuud is now back to work but he still cannot walk very well and constantly requires pain relief and other medicine. Despite Mascuud's impressive recovery, the people who attacked him and Mohammed have never been arrested and held accountable. The circumstances remain unchanged and he lives in fear of being attacked again. This is a fear shared by many Somali journalists.

On the inaugural International Day to End Impunity, we call on you to take a positive step in promoting fundamental rights in Somalia by successfully investigating and prosecuting attacks on journalists.

Yours sincerely,

**ARTICLE 19 East Africa**  
**Africa Media Initiative**  
**Kenya National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders**  
**National Union of Somali Journalists**  
**Rwanda Journalists Association**