



ITUC-Af/GSO/FEB09/43

PRESS STATEMENT

The ITUC-African Regional Organisation strongly condemns and mourns the assassination of Journalist Said Tahlil Ahmed by unknown gunmen in Mogadishu, Somalia

The International Trade Union Confederation - African Regional Organisation (ITUC-Africa) is outraged and deeply saddened to learn about the assassination of Mr. Said Tahlil Ahmed, Director of HornAfriK Radio by unknown gunmen in the Bakara Market area in Mogadishu on February 4, 2009 at about 14:45. At the time of his assassination Mr. Said Tahlil Ahmed was in a group of other directors of Radio Stations who had been summoned by Al-Shabaab Islamic group for a meeting. Due to this tragedy they were unable to attend the meeting.

The ITUC-Africa mourns the death of Mr. Said Tahlil Ahmed who was a dedicated and highly respected personality in the field of journalism in Somalia, Africa and the world at large. He is the second journalist to be killed since the beginning of this year following the assassination of Mr. Hassan Mayow Hassan who was formerly working for Radio Shabelle. We share the grief of the bereaved families over the loss of their loved ones. We pray to God to grant the dead eternal rest and to give the bereaved families the courage to endure the loss.

The ITUC-Africa is disturbed by the frequency at which journalists and other rights activists are being violently attacked in Somalia often resulting in a mindless loss of precious lives. We strongly condemn the cowardly act of the perpetrators of these heinous crimes and call on the authorities in Somalia to ensure that justice is done and that the perpetrators are hunt down and brought to book.

The ITUC-Africa through its allied organisation, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) will continue monitoring this matter.

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ITUC-Africa was founded on November 27, 2007. It represents 16 million workers in 46 African countries and has 87 national affiliates.

For more information you may contact:

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