

# URGENT ACTION

## FEMALE DETAINEES SEXUALLY ATTACKED IN PRISON

**For the past month, female detainees at Gabiley prison have complained of sexual violence, including rape, and other forms of torture and ill-treatment by the male guards at the prison. Female guards that report these incidents to prison authorities fear reprisals. The female detainees risk further torture and other ill-treatment during their detention.**

In the past month, four **female detainees** at Gabiley prison in Hargeisa, Somaliland have reported to Amnesty International several instances of sexual violence amounting to torture, including rape and other ill-treatment by male prison guards working during the prison's evening shifts. These detainees have also reported other, specific instances of torture such as severe beatings, and extreme deprivation of food and water for between two and four days.

Female detainees who attempt to make formal complaints to prison authorities are in most cases punished with further beatings. Female guards are reluctant to raise this issue with the prison's administration as they fear reprisals. This puts the female detainees at Gabiley prison at risk of further torture, including rape, and other forms of ill-treatment during their detention.

The sexual and other forms of violence against these female detainees violates their rights to security of person under Article 24(2) of the Somaliland constitution as well customary rule of international law prohibiting torture and other ill-treatment in all circumstances without exception.

### **Please write or call immediately in Somali, English or your own language:**

- Calling on Somaliland authorities to order an immediate impartial investigation into allegations of rape, other sexual violence, and other forms of torture and ill treatment of female detainees at Gabiley prison. Wherever sufficient evidence is found against individuals, including those in positions of command, they must be immediately suspended, and prosecuted in trials that meet international fair trial standards;
- Calling on them to immediately take steps to enhance female detainees' security at Gabiley Prison to prevent further sexual violence and other forms of torture and ill-treatment, including by ensuring that all contact with female detainees is done either by or under the supervision of female staff;
- Calling on them to ensure that anyone who reports any incident of sexual violence and other forms of torture or ill-treatment is adequately protected from reprisals.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 NOVEMBER 2016 TO:**

Minister of Justice

Hussein Ahmed Aideed

Ministry of Justice

Hargeisa, Somaliland

Email: [moj@somalilandgov.com](mailto:moj@somalilandgov.com)

**Salutation: Mr. Hussein Ahmed**

**Aideed**

Commander of Somaliland Prisons

Mohamed Osman Ibrahim

Hargeisa, Somaliland

Email: [asluubsv@hotmail.com](mailto:asluubsv@hotmail.com)

**Salutation: Mohamed Osman Ibrahim**

**And copies to:**

Commander of Criminal Investigation

Department

Daahir Mousse

Hargeisa, Somaliland

**Salutation: Mr. Daahir Mousse**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**

