

His Excellency  
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of a young Christian family in Somaliland. The family was arrested during a police raid on January 21, 2021 in the capital, Hargeysa. I only have the first names of the parents, Mohamed and Hamdi, available to me. Along with them, their infant child was also taken into custody. The next day, the police searched the house of the young family, and additionally arrested a female co-resident. Property of Mohamed and Hamdi was also confiscated.

Further arrests of Christians followed in mid-February. They are accused of inciting disobedience and of insulting Islam. In court, Mohamed and Hamdi have to defend their abandonment of Islam and for engaging in Christian mission.

Dear Mr. President, thanks to your internationally recognized democratic endeavors, Somaliland is a relatively stable and secure country. However, as the above example demonstrates, the right of religious freedom, as formulated in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948, is massively restricted in Somaliland.

Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to advocate freedom of religion in Somaliland and to do everything in your power to have the incarcerated family released.

Most respectfully,