



## HRLHA Press Release No 22 December 2009

### Refugees Poisoned to Death In Puntland, Somalia

Four Oromo refugees from Ethiopia have mysteriously been poisoned to death in Bosasso, Puntland in Somalia on the 12th of December, 2009.

1. Mahaddi Abdurrahman Ali
2. Abdi Mohammed Omar
3. Jibril Hassan Ahmado, and
4. Gasalli Ganota were killed at a local farm in Bosasso where they were doing a



casual job. According to information obtained by HRLHA from its correspondents in Bosasso, the poison was added to their food that they were cooking for their lunch in the kitchen on the work site. The four refugees died instantly after they consumed the poisoned food.

HRLHA believes that the employer of the refugees is operating within the legal frameworks of the country; and hence shoulders responsibilities to secure the safety of its workers, be they refugees or not. And, it would be the responsibility of the government of Puntland to make sure that such legal obligations and responsibilities are in place. So, HRLHA requests the Government of Puntland as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to do a thorough investigation in to death of the four refugees so that the perpetrators could be brought to justice and the feeling of safety and security could be restored among the other refugees in the area.

HRLHA would also like to express its concern, and to bring to the attention of all concerned regional and international bodies that the vulnerability of the defenseless refugees in Puntland has been worsening from time to time.

Background Information:- HRLHA reported in its press release No 21, a refugee has been killed and twenty six others injured in Bosasso Puntland, on December 1st 2009 at around 7:30 PM with what was believed to have been a hand grenade thrown by unidentified group of people. This attack, which happened in the town of Bosaso/Puntland, Halo Kismayo #1 area, only three weeks after the gunning down of two Oromo refugees in Garoowe/Puntland, targeted Oromo and Somali refugees from Ethiopia who were at the time watching television at a local snack bar. Among the twenty six wounded refugees were eighteen Oromos and eight Somalis.

According to some eye witnesses, the culprits arrived at the site of the attack in a car and drove away in the same vehicle after committing the attack. The attack claimed the life of one Somali refugee, while injuring twenty six others. The death of this Somali refugee and that of Mrs. Samira Ahmed Musa, a mother of five who was gunned down in her own temporary shelter in Bosaso, on 23rd on November, 2009, brings the total number of the victims of extra-judicial killing in a one month time to four. The killing of Mrs. Samira Ahmed Musa, which came following that of her husband a year ago, leaves behind five orphaned children refugees.

The HRLHA is a non-political organization which attempts to challenge abuses of human rights of the people of various nations and nationalities in the Horn of Africa. It works on defending fundamental human rights including freedoms of thought, expression, movement and association. It also works on raising the awareness of individuals about their own basic human rights and that of others. It encourages the observances as well as due processes of law. It promotes the growth and development of free and vigorous civil societies.