

# URGENT ACTION

## FIVE CHILDREN EXECUTED, TWO OTHERS AT RISK

**Puntland authorities have executed five boys found guilty of murder. They were subjected to various forms of torture before “confessing” to the crime. Two other boys found guilty are at imminent risk of execution.**

**Seven boys** were arrested by police on 28 December 2016 in Bosaso, Puntland for allegedly killing three high ranking officials serving in the Puntland administration. Ayub Yasin Abdi (14), Muhamed Yasin Abdi (17), Daud Saied Sahal (15), Abdulhakin Muhamed Aweys (17), Hassan Adam Hassan (16), Nour Aldiin Ahmed (17), and Ali Ismaeil Ali (15) were detained in shipping containers for about two weeks before being transferred to a police station. Two of the boys told their families that they were all subjected to various forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including electrocution, being burned with cigarettes on their genitalia, binding genitals parts together, drowned in water, beatings and raped until they “confessed” and signed the murder confessions.

The seven boys were tried before a military court on 13 February where they were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. According to family members, the only evidence adduced by the prosecution was their confessions. They did not have access to a lawyer during the trial and were not permitted to retract the forced “confessions”. They unsuccessfully appealed their conviction and death sentence a month after the ruling, but the initial judgment was confirmed by a higher military court. They were denied access to lawyer in the appeal as well.

Five of the seven boys were executed on 8 April while, Muhamed Yasin Abdi and Daud Saied Sahal are still in detention and remain at risk of execution. The families of the five are not aware of where or how the execution was done- they merely heard the news over the radio. They have not been given access to the bodies for burial.

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

- Urging Puntland authorities to immediately halt any plans to execute the two other boys, and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;
- Calling on the authorities to retry them in a civilian court without recourse to the death penalty, in proceedings that meet international fair trial standards and exclude confessions and other evidence obtained through torture and other ill-treatment or else release them;
- Calling on Puntland authorities to open an effective, independent and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment;
- Calling on Puntland authorities to return the bodies of those executed to their families without delay; and
- Calling on Puntland authorities to amend Article 31 of the Puntland Constitution and completely abolish, without any discretion by the courts or other exceptions, the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by people below the age of 18, in line with Somalia’s obligations under international law.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 JUNE 2017 TO:**

Puntland Minister of Justice  
Hassan Hussein Haji  
Ministry of Justice, Puntland  
Bosaso, Puntland  
Somalia  
Email: info@mojrarpl.com  
**Salutation:** His Excellency

Puntland Attorney General  
Mohamed Hassan Aw Osman  
Bosaso, Puntland  
Somalia  
Email: mojrarpuntland@gmail.com  
**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General

**And copies to:**  
Somalia Minister of Interior & Federal Affairs  
Abdi Farah Juxa  
Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs  
Bondhere, Benadir  
Mogadishu, Somalia  
Fax: +252-6-1-753144

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

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## FIVE CHILDREN EXECUTED, TWO OTHERS AT RISK

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The children who were executed were from one of Puntland's minority clans, the Madibaan, which has been historically marginalized and discriminated against by the authorities and other clans. Amnesty International is concerned that the boys were targeted because of their belonging to a minority clan. The two who remain in detention are members of the more dominant Disheshe and Ali Seleban sub-clans.

UA: 96/17 Index: AFR 52/6112/2017 Issue Date: 28 April 2017