



## **Statement of condemnation of Artist Hacaaluu Hundeessaa's assassination and imprisonment of Oromo political leaders and closure of OMN in Ethiopia**

June 30, 2020

We, Board of Trustees of Oromia Media Network (OMN), is extremely shocked and devastated by the assassination of Oromo icon, artist and human rights activist Hacaaluu Hundeessa, the detention of Oromo Political leaders Jawar Mohammed, Bekele Gerba and the closure of OMN Finfinne Head Office.

We condemn in the strongest terms possible the targeted assassination of an Oromo musical superstar whose music has been instrumental in mobilizing the Oromo mass and other Ethiopians for peaceful protest against the former regime of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Forces (EPRDF) regime in Ethiopia. Hacaaluu was a voice for the voiceless Oromo mass until he was silenced at gun point two days ago. Hacaaluu passionately believed in a non-violent struggle and committed his entire life to promote respect for human rights and bringing social justice for the Oromo nation through his artistic talent. The OMN Board of Trustees believe that the environment that precipitated to assassination of Hacaaluu Hundeessa was set by the current Ethiopian regime. From day one the current Ethiopian regime embarked on praising and building new statues for the past emperors and dictators disregarding the deep historical wounds, collective bad memories and anger of the people who suffered under those rulers. The emperors, whom Abiy Ahmed made his role models, are known for committing gross genocide against different ethnic groups of the country during their reigns. By doing so, the regime created a political environment that led to the assassination of the human right icon Hacaaluu Hundeessa. We, the OMN Board of Trustees hold the Ethiopian regime of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed fully responsible for the assassination of Hacaaluu Hundeessa.

We condemn in the strongest terms possible the imprisonment of Oromo leaders, Jawar Mohammed and Bekele Gerba. Jawar and Bekele have been champions of non-violent struggle against the tyrannical regimes of the former EPDRF and the current Prosperity Party (PP). By imprisoning these leaders of non-violent struggle, the Abiy Ahmed regime is plunging the country into chaos and making violent struggle, the only option left for the oppressed people.

We also condemn in the strongest terms possible the closure of OMN Finfinnee by the government of Abiy Ahmed. We would like to remind the regime that OMN has persisted in the service of the people even during the darkest days of the previous regime and will remain so despite all challenges. Let it be clear to all that the Oromo people will not allow its only voice to be silenced. We call upon our people to continue its unwavering support for its only true voice, the OMN. Finally, we express our heartfelt condolences and solidarity with Hacaaluu's family, friends, and the Oromo Nation during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

(signed in the original by)

Kitaba Magarsa, Chairman  
OMN Board of Trustees