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Two Years After The Assassination of Sultan Hurre in Puntland State of Somalia

**BYLINE:** Somali Peace Rally

**BODY:**

Today two years ago, on February 17, 2004, the great Sultan of Puntland, Somalia, Ahmed Mohamed Hurre was gunned down by the special body guards of Col. **Abdullahi Yusuf**, the brutal dictator of Puntland. It is widely believed that the Sultan was assassinated because of his political views.

It is common knowledge to all the people of Puntland, most of the Somalis and the international community involved in Somali affairs that Col. Abdullahi sent the assassins who gunned down the Sultan point blank. Co. Yousuf was few kilometres away from the site of the heinous crime the Kalabayr village.

The death of many people, of which Sultan Hurre and Col. Farah-Dheere were the most known, has simply passed as non event in Puntland. No finger was lifted to investigate simply because the killer was the boss. This is Col. Abdullahi's justice trade mark. Similar travesties in justice took place in Gaalkacyo when murderers in a jail were let go by force and in Buurtinle when Abdullahi ordered the release of criminal who had committed murder in a mosque, of all places.

This is Abdullahi justice trade mark - people are not equal and some can get away with a broad-day light assassination. Alas, Siyad Barre would be a saint in this regard.

Sultan Hurre's death is not simply going away as Col Abdullahi and his cohorts dream. It is an issue that all Sultan Hurre's acquaintances, those who did not know him but shocked by the killing, and the human rights activists will keep pressing until justice sees the light of the day and his assassins are brought before court.

SPR is welcoming the court procedure against the defendant (**Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed**) in UK. It is a tangible success that finally the Colonel came to realize that he can not hob-nob the world with blood on his hands. London, the Sultan's hometown, has fulfilled an obligation. SPR is asking the international community that Suldan Hurre's assassination should go to the crimes against humanity court as a test case for the Horn of Africa.

We have warned the Somalis that we should not have a short memory. We should not support or accept someone who is fixed on ruling with the barrel of the gun and brutal force. That is what brought us here. Elimination of intellectuals, respected officers, religious personalities is where the down fall of Somalia had started. Sultan Hurre, a high profile Issim in Puntland and Somalia at large, and the rest of those who were killed for political reasons, deserve a support from us we Somalis.

What brought us where we are now is silence that a dictator had translated as an approval. The record should be set straight and the criminals should face the music.

