PRESS STATEMENT

26 September 2026 | Mogadishu, Somalia

NIHRC Calls for Justice for Five-Year-Old Ikhlas and Accountability for Her Family

The National Independent Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) condemns the killing of five-year-old Ikhlas, whose body was found on the outskirts of Baidoa after she had been missing for three days.

The Commission extends its deepest condolences to Ikhlas's family, relatives and community. Every child has the right to life, dignity and protection from all forms of violence and harm.

The NIHRC calls on the security and justice authorities of South West State to conduct a prompt, thorough, impartial and effective investigation, and to ensure that all evidence relating to the case is properly preserved. Any person against whom sufficient evidence is established must be brought before the competent authorities in accordance with the law, with full respect for due process and legally guaranteed rights.

The Commission has been in contact with the relevant security authorities, which have informed the NIHRC that several individuals have been detained in connection with the case. The NIHRC will continue to engage with the relevant authorities and independently monitor the investigation and subsequent judicial proceedings, in accordance with the Federal Constitution of Somalia, Law No. 16 of 2016 establishing the Commission, and the Paris Principles.

The Commission also urges the media and the public to refrain from publishing or circulating graphic images of the child's body and to respect the dignity and privacy of Ikhlas and her family.

Ikhlas and her family have the right to truth and justice, and those responsible must be held accountable in accordance with the law.

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