

Fears for missing Australian journalist

For more information contact Jonathan Este on 0402 850 611 or NUSOJ office on +252 1 85 99 44 or omar@nusoj.org



No group has emerged to claim responsibility for abducting Australian photojournalist Nigel Brennan who went missing in Somalia at the weekend.

ABN: 84 054 775
598

Brennan, 37, with his Canadian colleague Amanda Lindhout, Somali journalist Abdifatah Mohammed Elmi and their driver, who has been identified only as Mahad, have been missing since Saturday after leaving the Somalian capital, Mogadishu.

FEDERAL OFFICE
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The secretary-general of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), Omar Faruk Osman, has told the Alliance and International Federation of Journalists that he believes the regional militia of the lower Shabelle region were behind the abduction of the four media workers.

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Mr Osman said: "This same militia group are the ones who in May this year kidnapped Italian humanitarian aid workers in that region and were given USD\$1 million for ransom."

Email
mail@alliance.org.au

The two Italians were subsequently released unharmed, Reuters reported at the time.

Mr Osman said he could not confirm that any ransom demands had been made for the four media workers kidnapped at the weekend.

Alliance Inquiry Desk
1300 656512

"It is not clear whether they are being held for political purposes, bargaining chips or financial purposes," an NUSOJ spokesman told the Alliance. "But journalists who spoke on condition of anonymity for their security said the abduction seems [to be a] pre-planned attack."

Alliance Membership
Centre 1300 656513

Alliance Federal Secretary Christopher Warren said: "We demand that those holding Nigel Brennan, Amanda Lindhout and Abdifatah Mohammed Elmi, free them unconditionally and immediately.

Website:
www.alliance.org.au

Federal President:
Patricia Amphlett

"At this point our primary concern is the safety of these journalists. Somalia is one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists, local and foreign.

Federal Secretary:
Christopher Warren

"It is a chilling reminder of the dangers faced by many reporters working in lawless areas around the world."

Eight Somali journalists were killed in the performance of their duty in 2007, according to *Deadly Stories*, IFJ's 2007 annual report. This year the IFJ has recorded the killing of two Somali journalists including the NUSOJ vice-president, Nasteah Dahir Farah, who was shot dead by gunmen in the southern town of Kismayu on June 7

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