

Saado Ali Warsame.

At the end of July the news of her death appeared in Dutch newspapers: in memoriam Saado Ali Warsame (circa 1944 -2014). On Wednesday July 23 she was shot from a passing car in Mogadishu. The car she was in was sieved with bullets. She died instantly. Who was this woman many thought might have been the first female president of Somalia?

As early as in the seventies she made her name as a singer, who loved her country, but who was also very socially critical. In her well-known songs she sang about the repression and the injustice under



Siad Barre. She performed without headscarf, sometimes clad in trousers. Warsame was a symbol of the liberal character of Somalia before Al Shabaab; a Somalia that is now never associated with music, theatre and poetry. In the beginning of the nineties she left for the United States to return from there to Somalia in 2012, where she made herself eligible for parliament.

In Somalian parliament there are 275 seats; 30 of those are occupied by women and Saado was one of them. Sometimes she still performed as a singer.

The assassination of this remarkable woman was claimed by Al Shabaab, who didn't kill her for her music, but for her political activities. She is the fourth politician who was killed in 2014.

A statement by the American foreign office read:

'her death will be felt throughout Somalia!' And perhaps far beyond!