

# Center for Justice and Accountability

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

**<https://cja.org/what-we-do/litigation/yousuf-v-samantar/related-resources/somali-general-and-commander-of-the-armed-forces-liable-for-war-crimes/?id=1077>**

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

On February 23, 2012, former Somali General Mohamad Ali Samantar accepted liability before U.S. federal judge Leonie Brinkema for torture, extrajudicial killing, war crimes and other human rights abuses committed against the civilian population of Somalia during the brutal Siad Barre regime. This draws to an end a seven year quest in the U.S. courts for justice for those harmed by General Samantar and troops under his command.

After the collapse of the Siad Barre dictatorship, General Samantar fled Somalia and then ultimately settled in Fairfax, Virginia where he has lived openly for the past fifteen years.

Samantar accepted liability in open court today and in the presence of survivors include the four plaintiffs:

Mr. Bashe Abdi Yousuf, then a young business man who was arbitrarily detained, tortured, and kept in solitary confinement for over six years;

Mr. Aziz Mohamed Deria, whose father and brother were abducted by Somali soldiers, threatened with execution, and never seen again;

Mr. Buralle Salah Mohamoud, a rural goat herder, who was abducted and tortured by Somali soldiers, along with his two brothers, who were summarily executed; and

Mr. Ahmed Jama Gulaid, then a Somali soldier, who was arbitrarily detained and shot by firing squad, but miraculously survived, waking up under the bodies of other Somali soldiers with whom he had served.

This is the first time that anyone has been held to account for the atrocities committed by the brutal Siad Barre regime in Somalia. General Samantar was the Minister of Defense and the Commander of the Armed Forces.

In the words of Steven Schulman of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld:

In the words of CJA client Bashe Yousuf:

This case was filed by the Center for Justice & Accountability in 2004 and was litigated by CJA and pro bono co-counsel from Akin Gump.



Center for Justice and Accountability  
268 Bush St #3432  
San Francisco, CA 94104

T: 415 544 0444  
F: 415 544 0456



# GERALD GRAY LEGACY CIRCLE

GERALD GRAY FOUNDED CJA IN 1998 AND CONTINUES  
WORKING TO HELP TORTURE SURVIVORS TODAY.

## Join the Gerald Gray Legacy Circle

To join, please let us know that you have included CJA in your estate plans, insurance policy, or planned giving instrument by contacting us at [center4justice@cja.org](mailto:center4justice@cja.org). We will ensure your gift supports CJA's mission and welcome you to the Gerald Gray Legacy Circle.

Legal name: Center for Justice & Accountability  
Tax ID# 94-3299-686  
(415) 544-0444 • [www.cja.org](http://www.cja.org)



***"We will never catch all the torturers—but we will always catch some,  
and none of them will ever know who is next."***