

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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Headlines

- Puntland Suspends Elections
- Somalia Draft Media Law Raising Universal Condemnation and Concern
- Kismayu Residents Subject to an Unruly and Abusive Security Force

Puntland Suspends Elections

Puntland suspends elections, tensions diffused

[Garowe Online \(Pro-Puntland Media\), July 14, 2013](#)

- Puntland government in northern Somalia has announced a suspension of the 2013 Local Council elections, delaying the state's first direct elections in 45 years that was to be held on July 15
- President Farole defended the government's "difficult decision", citing the government's "paramount responsibility to safeguard the security, stability and unity of Puntland" and noting the government's "committed efforts to implement the democratization process".

- Government sources say that the Puntland government's decision was declared after the government had collected sufficient information about forces coalescing around the election, and planning to use election tensions as an excuse to foment violence and create instability

Nicholas Kay On the Postponement By the Puntland Govt of Local Election

[Shabelle \(Independent Media Network\), July 15, 2013](#)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Nicholas Kay has described today's decision to postpone the elections as "brave and wise" following violent clashes in parts of Puntland.
- Kay condemned the violence and encouraged all political actors in Puntland to take the opportunity now to work together to ensure a democratic process that is peaceful and credible

Somalia Draft Media Law Raising Universal Condemnation and Concern

IFJ Voices Concern over Somalia's Draft Media Law

[International Federation of Journalists \(Independent Organization\), July 16, 2013](#)

- According to National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), an IFJ affiliate, the council of ministers passed on 11 July, a draft media law which is considered as vague, potentially dangerous and will create governmental obstacles to media freedom
- The draft law contains several articles that would interfere with Somali journalists' ability to operate independently and could expose them to a range of restrictions for ill-defined offenses. If the draft is passed into law, journalists will be forced to disclose their sources, media houses will be compelled to name their unnamed reporters and those working for foreign media will be discriminated.
- The draft media law has been sent to the Federal Parliament for approval. Once approved by the parliament, it will require the signature of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud before becoming law.

Somali Govt Set to Silence Shabelle Media Station

[Shabelle \(Independent Media Network\), July 17, 2013](#)

- Somalia's ruling religious party Dam Jadid is planning to imprison the top officials of the most popular radio station, radio Shabelle. This has been confirmed by a written note from the government ordering the top officials of the media to report.
- Shabelle radio station is the most listened radio station within Somalia's capital and airs various programmes to the members of the public.
- On March 2011, the director of the media station at that time Abdirashid Omar Qase and Abdi Mohamed Ismail were detained for 4 days and later released without charges

Mogadishu Media Community Rejects the Proposed Law On Media

- [Shabelle \(Independent Media Network\), July 18, 2013](#)
- The media community in Mogadishu concluded, at a debate held on July 18, 2013, organized by the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), that the contents and the manner of preparation of the draft Law on Media proposed by the Government were utterly unacceptable
- As noted in the discussions, the draft Law goes well beyond the area of broadcasting media, the only media sector traditionally licenced by a legal system, and pushes the media and the journalists further into self-censorship. National Media Council is not independent and journalists will have to disclose their confidential sources and while representatives and journalists working for foreign media are discriminated.

UN rights office concerned over draft law that would curtail press freedom

[UN News \(International Organization\), July 19, 2013](#)

- The United Nations human rights office today expressed concern over a draft law in Somalia that would require journalists to reveal their sources and prevent them from disseminating information against Islam or Somali traditions.
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said it is also concerned about the composition of the proposed regulatory body, the National Media Council, and the selection process for its members, neither of which guarantee its independence.

Somali Prime Minister says concern over Somalia proposed new media law ill-informed

[Government of Ethiopia \(Foreign Government Media\), July 22, 2013](#)

- The Prime Minister said he was on record on numerous occasions defending press freedom and the rights of journalists and the government's commitment to this was unshakeable.
- He assured journalists and the international community alike that there was plenty of time for further consultations on and amendments to the Media Law.

Reporters Without Borders concerned about Somali media law

[Sabahi \(Foreign Media\), July 16, 2013](#)

- The bill, approved by the cabinet July 11th, empowers courts to demand that journalists reveal their sources. It also undermines the role of the National Media Council and describes media offences in vague terms, RSF (Reporters Without Borders) said in a press release.
- "By approving this bill, the cabinet has betrayed its contempt for journalists and the basic principles of media freedom," it said. "In what is already one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media, the self-censorship resulting in a lack of protection for sources would reduce reporters to near silence."

Raskanboni Militias and Kenya Forces Make Raping in Kismayo

[Shabelle \(Independent Media Network\), July 21, 2013](#)

- News sources from Kismayo in lower Juba region say that last night members of Raskanboni militias along with Kenyan troops entered houses residing ordinary civilians by force, as well as made raping actions there.
- At least 10 girls were raped last night in Kismayo in lower Juba region as Shabelle Media network confirmed by phone one of girls' mother.
- That mother who was very sad the problem inflicted on her girl called on Somali federal government and International community to strengthen out the constant problems that Raskanboni Militias and Kenya forces make in Kismayo lower Juba province.

Kismayu Residents Face Daily Abuses From the Indiscipline Raskamboni Militia and Corrupt Kenyan Peacekeepers

[Shabelle \(Independent Media Network\), July 21, 2013](#)

- Local news outlets in Kismayu and Mogadishu have been receiving numerous cases of rape, murder and other forms of ugly oppressions against the residents of Kismayu by the indiscipline militia of Ahmed Madobe and corrupt Kenyan troops.
- Mohamed Muse Ahmed, a Kismayu resident who contacted Shabelle radio station in Mogadishu said that the Kenyan troops and the Raskamboni militia targeted all those who were against Ahmed Madobe.
- Somalia's foreign minister recently wrote a letter to IGAD protesting against Kenyans participation in the war between rival clan militias. The Kenyan troops went ahead and disarmed the government troops who had bases in the city and bombarded residential estates.
- The federal government also accused Kenyan troops of hindering the countries peace progress and slowing down of the stabilization plan by directly supporting an anti-government elements in Somalia such as the Raskamboni