

**SOMALI DOMESTIC BROADCASTING
MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT – MIGS**

March 13 – March 26 2012

MARYAM MUSTAFA, MIGS REPORTER FOR SOMALIA

**HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

(Source: The Star, Nairobi, March 13th, 2012)

- As a result of a drought that hit Somalia several months ago, many citizens fled the country in order to avoid and/or to escape the devastating effects of famine.
- Most of these people fled to the bordering country of Kenya, and since the drought, hundreds of thousands of Somali citizens have been seeking refuge in Kenya.
- However, it was recently announced that the Kenyan government may send back more than 600,000 Somali citizens due to a lack of supports from UNHCR.
- Moses Wetang'ula, who is the Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister, told the Parliamentary committee on Defence and Foreign Relations that the refugees will be moved back to the areas of Somalia that have been liberated from the Al-Shabaab Militias and are now secure enough for citizens to return.
- The conditions would be much better for these people as well, because due to the over crowding in both the Dabaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya, living conditions are not suitable at all and are becoming increasingly difficult.
- He further urged the international committee to assist the refugees and facilitate their return to Somalia.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, March 17th, 2012)

- Days after sever humanitarian agencies were shut down in the semi-autonomous state of Galmudug, the ban was lifted and the agencies have resumed operations in the region.
- The agencies were shut down by Abdullahi Hassan Mohamed, Galmudug's health minister, after accusing them of corruption and mishandling of resources.
- The President and senior officials lifted the ban however, stating that the decision That was made to halt operations was hasty and was made without, "sufficient consultation."

- In order to avoid such problems in the future, President Mohamed Alin stressed the importance of improved communication between the agencies and the government, and the establishment of a separate office dedicated solely to the development planning and implementation of these health and development programmes.
- The four NGO's, WHO, UNICEF, SOFHA, and RI, are relieved that they can resume their aid work and continue to aid the thousands of needy people in the region, and are willing to work alongside the local government to ensure better humanitarian and health services.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, March 21st, 2012)

- As allied forces continue to capture towns in different areas of Somalia, complaints are rising from civilians complaining of abuse and maltreatment by AMISOM and TFG troops.
- Many people in recaptured towns fear that they may be punished, tortured or detained for any, or without reason or notice.
- "People from these regions believe the troops are less interested in their security and more in punishing people for their alleged support for Al-Shabaab."
- There have been ongoing reports of locals that are either killed or imprisoned during and after conflicts.
- Different civil society groups and human rights advocates are beginning to take notice of these injustices, and blame the lack of any judicial institutions in these regions, which thus make it very hard to protect innocent people from these abuses of human rights.
- It is unlikely that these offenses will stop if no establishments that will regulate the rule of law are implemented.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, March 26th, 2012)

- The famine crisis is still affecting thousands of Somali citizens around the country, and with limited aid, many, children particularly, continue to die of disease and malnutrition.
- The most recent reports come from villages located in the Lower Jubba Regions in southern Somalia, in which many people are suffering from malnutrition, and a recent spread of the measles.
- TFG Chairman in the region, Aden Ibrahim Dhaqane, confirmed the situation, saying that kids are dying from measles and hunger, and so many others are in serious conditions.
- Dhaqane stated that, "A lack of drinkable water, and a lack of nutritious food and medicines in these villages have contributes to the high number of deaths."
- The chairman is requesting for additional assistance, especially now that many internally displaced peoples are entering these villages, and there are simply not enough resources or infrastructure to host these IDP's.
- They are still waiting for a response from the TFG and NGO's in regards to the

dire situation, yet no requests for assistance have yet been met.

INTERNAL SECURITY

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 14th 2012)

- As operations to capture Somali cities and towns from Al-Shabaab intensify, a newly launched plan that aims to fully oust the extremist group from the country is now being implemented in the country.
- The plan is being headed by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and is comprised of four separate phases.
- AMISOM is now comprised of troops from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, and soon Sierra Leone.
- General Aronda Nyakairima gave more details regarding the plan and made the following statement. "The operations have now gone into their third phase and we have divided it into four parts. For the Mogadishu part, we have already liberated the city from Al-Shabaab and the remaining bit is Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle where Uganda and Burundi troops will now head to. A Burundi commander will lead AMISOM troops going to Baydhabo to take over from Ethiopians. Accompanied by Somali forces, they will also take control of Beled Weyne in the Hiiraan Region."
- The ultimate goal of this plan is to fully remove the presence of Al-Shabaab terrorist group from Somalia by August 2012.
- The current and final term of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia is set to come to an end at that time, and will be followed by a presidential election if all goes according to plan.

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 14th, 2012)

- With ongoing desperate attempts to weaken and fight against AMISOM and TFG forces, Al-Shabaab are still relying heavily on tactics such as suicide bombings.
- Most recently, the terrorist group has claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that occurred in the country's capital of Mogadishu.
- It occurred in a restaurant that was located in front of the Somali presidency and the residence of the Speaker of parliament, Sharif Hasan Shaykh Adan.
- Three people were killed, and several others injured in the explosion.
- This raises concerns on how safe and secure the capital really is from Al-Shabaab threats, or whether it is safe at all.
- The TFG and AMISOM have claimed that they have captured the city from Al-Shabaab, and have secured the region, yet these threats are still quite imminent and it appears that Al-Shabaab members are still able to gain access to specially secured areas of the city and cause harm.
- Security has been tightened once again due to this occurrence.

(Source: UN Integrated Regional Information Network, Nairobi, Kenya, March 15th, 2012)

- As clashes intensify between AMISOM and TFG forces as they fight against Al-Shabaab, several thousand Somali citizens in the southwest region of Gedo have been displaced.
- Residents of Gedo have been forced to locate from town to town to avoid the clashes, and many families are now left without homes, not knowing when they will be able to return.
- The governor of Gedo, Muhamma Abdi Kaliil, recently spoke in regards to the situation. He states the following: “We are trying to find some help for the displaced in our area, so far, nothing. Their main aim is to hide from the violence; the people desperately need help with shelter, health, water, and food.”
- The non-stop and escalating clashes between opposing forces has caused public services in the town to halt, along with important facilities such as health centers and schools, most of which have been shut down due to the conflict. A lot of trade has also been cut off with surrounding regions, leaving Gedo short stocked and without many supplies and resources available; another reason, apart from the violence, that is forcing people to flee.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 16th, 2012)

- As Al-Shabaab continue their attempts to recruit members in the fight against the government and foreign troops, they have begun to recruit young boys as part of their army.
- Most recently, the Islamist terrorist group paraded a large number of youths, approximately 100 boys, in southern Somalia, specifically in the town of Jowhar.
- These young boys were newly recruited, forcefully, to join take part in the fighting.
- The young boys will be used by Al-Shabaab to carry out suicide attacks and explosions in different regions of Somalia, mainly in Mogadishu.
- This has often been a tactic used by the terrorist group in Somalia.

(Source: Jowha website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 20th, 2012)

- Tensions continue to rise in two central towns in the Gedo region of Somalia.
- Both the Baardheere and Buur Dhobo districts are the only two in Gedo that remain under full control by the Al-Shabaab.
- AMISOM forces along with those of Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a are targeting these two specific districts.
- The heightened military activity in the region has now led to the cutting off of all communication lines.
- Kenyan troops, who are now operating under the banner of AMISOM are reportedly heading to the frontlines in preparation for a major attack that will hopefully result in ceasing of these districts from Al-Shabaab.

MIGS Somali Domestic Monitoring Report, 13 March – 26 March 2012

- Previous attempts to seize control of these towns have failed, but with the increased number of troops the chances of success are greater.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 14th, 2012)

- In support of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and AMISOM forces, Somali moderates are willing, and have offered to incorporate militias into the armed forces in the fight against Al-Shabaab.
- Recently, in a meeting held in the Xalane military base in Mogadishu, Somalia, officials representing Ahlu Wal Jama'a have said that they are prepared to join the TFG armed forces if accepted.
- Abdirahman Yarisow, a spokesman for the government, spoke to Shabelle Media about what occurred during the meeting.
- He stated that different ways of, "incorporating pro-government militias that support the TFG in the fight against Al-Shabaab were discussed."
- Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a have militia in numerous regions of Somalia, particularly in central Somalia.
- Their allegiance to the TFG would add a great deal of strength and support to those fighting against Al-Shabaab, and would undoubtedly boost the chances of victory.

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 14th, 2012)

- There has been growing opposition towards current UN envoy, Augustine Mahiga, by Somali clerics, civil society groups, and certain MP's.
- A meeting was held in order to discuss replacing Mr. Mahiga with someone that is more appropriate for the position.
- Mahiga is being accused of being opposed to the interests of Somalia, and the Somali people, causing problems for the Somali people, being dangerous for the country, leading it down an uncertain path, and being against the nation's sovereignty.
- No details have been given to any specifics regarding these accusations, yet the Council of Somali Religious Scholars, who organized the meeting in regards to this issue are requesting that, "both the government and Ban Ki Moon replace that man and expel him from the country."
- A rally has also been organized by the group to protest Mr. Mahiga's presence in Somalia, and is said to be attended by up to 1 million people on March 16th.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 24th, 2012)

MIGS Somali Domestic Monitoring Report, 13 March – 26 March 2012

- It has been announced by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Ministry of Constitution and Federal Affairs, that the new Somalia constitution is set to be endorsed by end of May of this year.
- Speaking to the media, the Minister for the Constitution and Federal Affairs, Abdullahi Xoosh Jabril, confirmed this, stating that a joint committee that will be comprised of MP's, ministers, traditional elders and civil society group members will all arrive into the capital on the 15th of May, in order to be working on the endorsement of the new constitution.
- There are some that argue that the date is too early, and that the drafts made of the constitution so far still have to be developed, are mistake ridden, and key changes and modifications still need to be made. It would not be possible to do all this before May.
- The debate on the matter has been on going regarding the timing of the new Somalia constitution, one of the main arguments being that it would not be wise to undertake such a task without the existence of an effective and unified government that has full control of the country.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, March 14th, 2012)

- It has been confirmed that another conference on Somali will be set to take place in May of this year, and will this time be hosted by Turkey.
- The conference will be held in Ankara, and is said to be a follow up on the conference that was recently conducted in London, England.
- The agenda for the upcoming conference will be to continue discussions regarding the ongoing conflict in Somalia, paying particular attention to terrorism and piracy in Somalia.
- The conference will continue to discuss different ways in which AMISOM and the TFG can continue their plans of peacekeeping and security building in the country, and the role of the international community in the rebuilding of Somalia.
- The conference will be attended by several different countries and representatives from around the world that have been and continue to be involved in the situation of Somalia.