

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

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MARYAM MUSTAFA, MIGS REPORTER FOR SOMALIA

**HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 20th, 2012)

- Al-Shabaab has recently imposed a new order on civilians in regions of Somalia in which they control, which has caused widespread panic.
- The Islamist terrorist group has ordered all families to marry their daughters to Al-Shabaab 'Mujahidin,' or soldiers fighting against AMISOM and TFG troops.
- Al-Shabaab commander, Shayck Fu'aad Muhammad Khalaf made the order, and said that all parents are expected to follow this demand.
- Somali citizens in these areas, particularly women and their parents feel a great sense of oppression, and have begun to flee these areas in order to avoid these extreme rules.
- This will likely increase the number of women who will now be displaced within their own country as they try to escape such an oppressive regime.
- A reason or explanation for which why Al-Shabaab made such an extreme decision was not mentioned by Al-Shabaab or any media reporters.

**INTERNAL SECURITY
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

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

- As the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia along with African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces expand and continue to take control of more regions in the country that are currently controlled by Al-Shabaab forces, they are now setting up more army bases in the outskirts of the capital, Mogadishu.
- The next area that is being targeted is Afgooye town, which is located in Lower Shabelle Region in southern Somalia. This was confirmed by Paddy Ankunda, who is the spokesman for AMISOM.
- The expansion is one of the strategies being used in order to seize control from Al-Shabaab.

- Leaders from both the TFG and AMISOM are optimistic about the capture of Afgooye, and have suggested that the capture will happen soon.
- If the capture is successful, it will be a key victory for the government of Somalia, because that region is one of Al-Shabaabs strongholds.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 15th, 2012)

- As part of an effort to continue broadening the peacekeeping operations in Somalia that are being conducted by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and African Union's Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), more troops from both parties will be deployed in Beled Weyne, Hiiraan Region in central Somalia.
- The area was captured by Ethiopian troops in the country towards the end of last year.
- Abdisamad Ma'alim Mahmud, who is the Minister of Internal Affairs and National Security for the TFG, stated that, "The plan is to deploy AMISOM troops in any location that is captured from opposition groups that are opposed to use and particularly Beled Weyne, which is a first priority."
- Furthermore, the government plans to establish all inclusive administrations in regions of Somalia that are captured from Al-Shabaab that will be elected by the people, as well as ensure security.
- The Ethiopian government also made a statement, saying that after areas are captured from Al-Shabaab by their troops, operations will then always be handed over to AMISOM troops.
- The number of AMISOM troops in Somalia will soon increase to 17, 7000 soldiers as the peacekeeping operations continue and expand.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 15th, 2012)

- Following the recent confirmation by Al-Shabaab that they had now officially merged, are now a part of the terrorist group Al-Qa'idah, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) has reached out to the United Nations in order to urge them to lift the arms embargo on Somalia, which was imposed on the country in 1992 following the collapse of Muhammad Siyad Barre's government.
- The reason for this is to give the TFG the opportunity to better engage in fighting against the terrorist group in Somalia.
- An issue stated by the TFG stated that, "The Security Council lifting of the arms embargo will allow for the restoration of peace and security in the country and its liberation from Al-Shabaab."
- The TFG also urges other surrounding countries to work together and collaborate to oust Al-Shabaab from the entire region, not only Somalia, for the group poses a security threat to several nations.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 17th, 2012)

- There have been reports that say a large number of Al-Shabab fighters that have come from different areas of Somalia still controlled by Al-Shabaab have been spotted in the outskirts of Mogadishu; in the Ceelasha Biyaha locality specifically.
- The fighters were armed with anti-tank and aircraft weapons.
- It is unclear whether they are there in defence or if they are planning an offensive attack against AMISOM and TFG forces who have taken control of regions near Ceelasha Biyaha.
- Thousands of people in the area have begun to flee in fear of armed conflict between opposing forces.
- Many of those fleeing were already displaced, and had fled to the area because of their drought and famine.

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, Somalia, 1015 GMT, Feb 18th, 2012)

- With the recent merger of Al-Shabaab and Al-Qa'idah terrorist organizations, the hard-line Islamist group in Somalia has threatened to intensify attacks against the TFG and AMISOM forces in the country.
- According to reports, Shaykh Abu Mus'ab, who is a spokesman for the Al-Shabaab military group, the group intends to carry out "coordinated suicide attacks."
- This tactic has always been used by the extremist group, but they will employ them at an intensified level now.
- These attacks will target locations such as AMISOM bases, and government buildings, particularly.
- He also urges that civilians who reside near such areas vacate in order to avoid getting injured.

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 20th, 2012)

- In order to maintain security in Mogadishu, and surrounding areas, and to counter the threat of increasing attacks by Al-Shabaab, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) has appointed a committee specifically to address the issues of insecurity.
- The committee will be formed by security forces and commissioners from the 16 Mogadishu districts, who will all work together to ensure security in the nation's capital.
- They plan to do so by halting attacks by Al-Shabaab, especially the common suicide and explosion attacks that have been and continue to be plotted by the group.
- Abdisamad Ma'alim Mahmud who is the Minister for Internal Affairs and National Security for the TFG, stated that, "all Somalis have responsibility to ensure security, and

urged the public to be wary of the plots by Al-Shabaab and Al'Qa'idah."

- The most recent attack occurred yesterday (Feb, 19th) in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in Mogadishu.
- Explosions were carried out in the above-mentioned locations using vehicles that were loaded with explosives.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Feb 14th, 2012)

- If all goes according to plan, and Somalias 'Road Map' to peace is successful, the country faces a presidential election in August of this year.
- Most recently, it was announced that three of Somalia's largest Islamic political parties have formed to create one unified party.
- The three parties, Al-Itisaam, Al-Isla and Ala-SHEikh, have unified to create a new party, Daljir. The party will take part in the presidential elections, running against TFG president, Shaykh Sharif.
- The party is made up mainly of former government officials, and have met together in order to elect leaders for the party.
- Shaykh Dahir Mahamud Gelle, who was the former minister of information, was elected to be the chairman of Daljir.
- Many members of the party are closely affiliated with the president of the TFG, have worked closely with him, and helped him secure the presidential seat.
- The three former groups have different religious interpretations however, so it is unclear how they will function as one unified group to benefit Somalia and its citizens.
- They have made clear however, that they have goals in which they all agree to. One of the main ones being to oust Al-Shabaab, and continue fighting the group until their presence is no longer in Somalia.
- The official announcement confirming and making official the establishment of the new political party will occur in the next few days.
- More reports are surfacing that more parties are starting to form, one of which will be created by former leaders of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU).

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 15th, 2012)

- Conflict within the Federal Somalia Parliament has not yet been solved, and due to the ongoing disputes and corruption, the implementation of the political road map plan for

the nation is becoming increasingly difficult.

- The situation is becoming alarming and the international community is now expressing high levels of concern.
- Alexander Rondos, who is the European Union Special Representative to the Horn of Africa, sent a message to the government of Somalia, threatening that if the situation was not solved and the TFG does not continue to pursue the peace process, the European Union would block all aid to the TFG.
- He stated the following: "Although the TFG has so far attained victory in the fighting with the Al-Shabaab, the international community remains concerned about the delay in reforms in TFG institutions...we cannot just sit back and give the TFG the funds."
- If the TFG does not react to this threat and they fail to resolve the issues in parliament, they risk losing one of their biggest donors; a consequence that will surely affect all peacekeeping operations and future progress within Somalia in a drastically negative manner.
- Between the years 2008 and 2013, the EU would have given Somalia approximately 1 billion USD; money that has been going into areas of security, education, anti-piracy operations, and AMISOM operations.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 17th, 2012)

- The second National consultative conference, which is taking place in Puntlands capital, Garoowe town, has begun.
- The conference is attended by government officials representing TFG, Puntland, Galmudug, and Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a administrations, and international delegates.
- Shortly after the start of the conference, disagreements amongst delegates prompted a walkout and the conference was suspended.
- Reports state that the disagreements were caused due to the Galmudug regional administration demanding to be represented in the constitutional committee, and the technical committee.
- There was no agreement concerning these demands, and thus delegates from the Galmudug administration walked out of the conference.
- Augustine Mahiga, UN envoy for Somalia, who was present at the conference, intervened in the conflict and the conference resumed after 5 hours.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 18th, 2012)

- The Somali consultative conference has now officially ended, and was closed with all delegates signing agreements.

- During the closing ceremony, leaders stated that they agreed on the outcome of the conference.
- Some of the key outcomes included agreements on the constitution, and that 30 % of membership in Somalia's parliament should be composed of women.
- All parties seemed content about the agreement between different factions, and it was urged that all delegates continue to work in a joint effort until the end of the transition period.
- President of the TFG, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad said, "The outcome of the meeting will benefit Somalis, and that he expected good results at the end of the conference."