

**SOMALI DOMESTIC BROADCASTING
MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT – MIGS****Feb 7 – Feb 13, 2012****MARYAM MUSTAFA, MIGS REPORTER FOR SOMALIA****HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000GMT, Feb 11th, 2012)

- As a means to help internally displaced persons in Somalia, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia's (TFG) Posts and Telecommunication has begun to distribute of up to 6,000 radio sets in Mogadishu.
- The distribution of these radio sets began in one of the biggest camps in Mogadishu, Badbaado camp, and most were given to women, seniors, and young Somali people.
- The purpose of these radios is to give internally displaced people a source of information, and allow them to follow news pertaining things such delivery of humanitarian aid, where to get water, basic amenities, issues of health, hygiene, education, and any other information that may be applicable to them.
- Furthermore, having these radios will keep them informed on the issues and the situation in Somalia, helping to further educate them and keep them well informed about their surroundings.
- Having this source available to them at any time will help boost the morale of these internally displaced people, and will help give them more independence.

**INTERNAL SECURITY
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 7th, 2012)

- As bitter fighting continues between the Transition Federal Governments of Somalia and AMISOM troops, against Islamist extremist group Al-Shabaab, attacks between the opposing forces are beginning to worsen.
- Al-Shabaab have most recently attacked the bases of Kenyan troops using bombs and land mines in Gaarbaaharey District, the provincial capital of the Gedo Region in central Somalia.
- The losses in this attack are still unclear.
- However, as more Ethiopian troops enter into Somalia as part of the mission to oust Al-

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Shabaab from the region, and travelling towards Gedo, tension is rising even more.

- Al-Shabaab has also made it known that they will continue to "step-up" their attacks as more troops enter Somalia.
- The government urges citizens to work and cooperate with troops in order to help improve security in the country.

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, Somalia, Feb 10th, 2012)

- A suicide attack, planned and executed by Al-Shabaab, occurred yesterday, Feb 9th outside Hotel Muna, located in Mogadishu, Somalia.
- That attack was said to have killed approximately 15 people, and injured more than 20.
- The British government, and British ambassador to Somalia, Matt Baugh, immediately condemned the attacks during a news conference that was held in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.
- He stated that this would not "hamper" or deter the international community from continuing their efforts in Somalia, in support of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)
- Baugh added that despite these attacks, the international community will continue to aid in the process of restoration, security, and peace in Somalia.
- He further accused the terrorist group for, "being against peace and stability in Somalia."

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 10th, 2012)

- It has been confirmed and made official that Al-Shabaab, Islamist extremist terrorist group in Somalia, have joined and are now part of the Al-Qa'idah network.
- Leaders from both groups, Ayman Al-Zawahiry, representing Al'Qu'idah, and Shaykh Muqtar Abdirahman Abu-Zubayr, representing Al-Shabaab, both spoke and made statements regard gin the official union on pro-Islamist media.
- Shaykh Abu-Zubayr said that, "Al-Shabaab will continue fighting in Somalia, and that it is ready to fight alongside Al-Qa'idah."
- Ayman Al-Zawahiri stated that the union between the two was important, and urged Al-Shabaab to continue to fight, and carry out suicide bombings specifically.
- The two groups expressed feelings of happiness over the official union of the two groups.
- Although the international community had long affiliated Al-Shabaab with Al-Qa'idah, this is the first time that Al-Shabaab declared official allegiance to Al-Qa'idah.
- The minister of information for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG), Abdikadir Husayn Muhammad, made the following statement regarding this news after it was announced: "The unity between Al-Qa'idah and Al-Shabaab is not news to us. We

knew the two groups worked together before. Al-Qa'idah is a foreign terror organization, represented by Al-Shabaab here, and it is against Islamic law, killing innocent Somalis. When Ayman Al-Zawahiri described the merger between Al-Shabaab and Al-Qa'idah as 'good news,' it is also 'good news' for us, and the time when Al-Shabaab terror group used to disguise itself as a Somali Islamic organization has come to an end."

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 11th, 2012)

- As attacks by Al-Shabaab terrorist group continue to occur in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia also continue to be scrutinized.
- Most recently, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Security, Husayn Caral Cadan, spoke to Shabelle and expressed his rising concern, specifically about the increasing "incidences of insecurity in the country and particularly attacks on civilians."
- Cadan blames the government and government troops for contributing to the insecurity because they often clash in armed combat against Al-Shabaab in areas in which there are many civilians that often become casualties.
- This according to him is a great indication of the government's inability to protect its own peoples and guarantee security.
- As organized attacks and killings now begin to escalate once again in Mogadishu, he fears that the government will not be able to do much.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Feb 13th, 2012)

- As the TFG and AMISOM mission to oust Al-Shabaab continues, it has been declared that troops are now ready to attack the Afgooye District, located in Lower Shabelle; an area of Somalia in which Al-Shabaab presence is heavy and is currently operating.
- This region has become a key objective for the allies, because seizing and securing Lower Shabelle will allow easy access into Mogadishu for residents in those areas.
- However, before the planned attack, TFG Commander Gen Abdikarin Yusug Aden, released a press release which urged residents of the area to vacate as soon as possible. "On behalf of the TFG, I am sending regards to the Afgooye residents and we request they shift from Afgooye District as soon as possible due to the TFG's indexed military operations. WE want all residents to remain safe and avoid any harm to them."
- Mr. Audace Nduwumunsi, who is the deputy commander of AMISOM, added that if they get the cooperation of the residents, the mission would be easy for them to fulfill, Afgooye easier to capture, and would be beneficial to both residents and the government.
- He states, "We are only doing this for the safety of the residents since troops are more focused on war and they may not get time to differentiate between fighters and civilian residents. Residents might be injured, and that is what we are against."

- Locals in the region are hesitant to leave their homes and move from the city because the idea of uprooting and leaving homes, and family is difficult. Locals doubt that the request to vacate will be followed

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000GMT, Feb 13th, 2012)

- As Ethiopian troops continue to enter Somalia as part of the mission to oust Al-Shabaab from the region, their involvement is stirring up more controversy and is being challenged even more due to the most recent reporting that claim that Ethiopian commanders are arming controversial administrations in Somalia.

- Umar Adan Hasan, who is a Somali MP from the Hiiraan Region of central Somalia, has accused the commander of Ethiopian troops in that region from arming the Shabelle Valley Administration.

- Hasan states that "the so called Shabelle Valley Administration whose appointment is questionable continue to carry out massacres and robberies in the town."

- He argues that residents in the region are not in agreement with the administration, and that the Ethiopian commander was supplying warlords with arms.

- Ethiopian troops have also been accused of conducting criminal and corrupt acts in the region. One of them being extorting money from passing vehicles in roadblocks mounted by troops.

- No comments have been made from Ethiopian troops or commanders in regards to these accusations.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 8th, 2012)

- In Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, talks between members of parliament are expected to meet and hold talks with Jerry Rawlings, who is the African union special representative to Somalia in regards to the current problems that have been occurring within parliament.

- The meeting will discuss the issue and create plans for a lasting solution as well.

- "The meeting is part of the international community's effort to resolve wrangles in parliament. The Somali government, international organizations and other countries that have interests in Somalia threatened to "punish" members of parliament who created the political crisis following the International Contact Group on Somalia conference in Djibouti."

(Source: Radio Bar-Kulan, UN backed radio, Nairobi, Kenya, Feb 8th, 2012)

- The Semi-autonomous region of Puntland, which has been run by clan-based politics, is soon to adopt a new constitution that will create a shift into more democratic politics.
- The president of Puntland, Abdirahman Muhammad Farole confirmed this recently, and stated that the new constitution will be, "based on democracy and gives individuals the right to elect leaders of their choice."
- He encourages the change, and wants to make sure that the people of Puntland are aware and informed on the importance of a new constitution.
- There will be a referendum taking place in order to decide whether or not to adopt a new constitution firstly.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 7th, 2012)

- Abdiweli Muhammad Ali, the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) recently returned from a trip to Italy and Djibouti.
- Upon his arrival to Somalia, he addressed the media on the meetings he attended abroad and spoke particularly about a certain issue that was causing worry in the country.
- There have been rumours that Italy was suspected of and was planning the re-colonization of Somalia. The PM, along with the Italian government denied all allegations, and Mr. Ali stressed that all these accusations were indeed false.
- The Italian government will continue to carry out development projects within Somalia as encouraged by the government, and protect Somali refugees that had fled to Italy.
- In regards to the Contact Group conference that took place in Djibouti, he said that the meeting went well, and that plans to implement the Road map and resolves issues that were going on within parliament were progressing well.