

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

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**HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Jan 26, 2012)

- As the country continues to recover from effects of the extreme drought that plagued the country months ago, humanitarian aid efforts continue, however there are still complaints of corruption and a continuing shortage of foreign aid.
- There are still many citizens that are internally displaced and living in camps within Somalia.
- Displaced persons in one of the camps, located in the Sooni-Key neighbourhood of Mogadishu's Hodan district and holding approximately 2000 civilians, are vocalizing their growing concerns around these issues.
- They have complained of very harsh living conditions in the camps, and the corrupt handling of humanitarian aid in the camps.
- They have invited members of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG), and several members of the media to visit the camps, in order to witness and investigate these issues themselves.
- Although some of the humanitarian aid agencies that provide aid to this particular camp are in neighbouring areas, no effort to solve the problem has been made.

(Source: SomaliaReports.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Somalia, Jan 30th, 2012)

- IT has been confirmed that Al-Shabaab has permanently terminated the contract for the International Committee of the Red Cross relief operation in Somalia, banning them from continuing any and all humanitarian aid in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab.
- The reason for this ban according to Al-Shabaab is that approximately 70 % of the food distributed by agency was contaminated
- A statement reassessed by Al-Shabaab group stated the following: "Following the reaped distribution of expired food and false accusation...the Office for Supervising the Affairs of Foreign Agencies (OSFA) has decided to fully terminate the contract of the ICRC. Despite being offered unrivalled access to all the regions governed by the Mujahideen in south and central Somalia, the ICRC has repeatedly betrayed the trust conferred on it by the local population"
- the ICRC was only one of the very few humanitarian organizations operating in Somalia, and millions of Somali citizens are still dependant on humanitarian aid provided by such

organizations,

- ICRC officials have not commented on the issue as of yet.

INTERNAL SECURITY

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

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

- Al-Shabaab Islamist extremist group continue to use suicide attacks as a weapon to combat Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Ethiopian, and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces.
- Most recently, a powerful explosion occurred in Beled Weyne, central Somalia.
- It has been reported that a man blew himself up within an Ethiopian military base, and so far 11 people have been reported dead, and 15 others have been injured. There is a discrepancy in these numbers however, because a representative of Al-Shabaab, Shaykh Abdiaziz Abu Mus'ab, claimed that at least 33 people were killed, and approximately 72 others were injured due to the blast.
- It has not been confirmed yet as to which numbers are accurate.
- It was also reported that TFG officials, MP's, and a leader of the Shabelle Valley Administration were all within the premises at the time of the explosion.
- Shortly after the blast, helicopters carrying more Ethiopian troops landed in the town to aid in strengthening security operations in the area.

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

- After the explosion in Beled Wayne, security has been heightened in the town. There have been several arrests made of suspected Al-shabaab members, and several suspected A-Shabaab members have also been killed.
- However, it is suspected that some of the people killed by Ehtiopian troops were not affiliated with Al-Shabaab in any manner, and were innocent Somali civilians.
- The Shebelle Reporter in Beled Weyne has reported the Ethiopian troops were opening fire on civilians, killing innocent people, one of which was a business man.
- Commanders of the Ethiopian military have denied these accusations, and assure that those killed were all Al-Shabaab fighters.
- Increased security operations, such as a new curfew, are being enforced in the area following the suicide bombing.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Jan 25th, 2012)

- As more unified efforts and increased cooperation to oust Al-Shabaab from Somalia continue within the region, more administrations are beginning to plan and carry out more strategic, militarized and organized operations to remove Al-Shabaab presence from the country.

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- Both the government and the civilians of Somalia are becoming increasingly and equally frustrated with the many problems Al-Shabaab groups have caused in Somalia, and support for the mission to get rid of the terrorist groups is growing tremendously.
- A member of the Federal Somali Parliament, Muhammad Husayn Afarale, represents the Bay and Bakool Regions, located in South Western Somalia, was recently interviewed with Shabelle.
- In the interview, he confirmed that government forces located within these two regions were planning to attack Al-Shabaab forces in the area, and were in the final stages of the planning phase.
- The MP also urges other African countries, and the international community, and Somali citizens as well, to join in the efforts, and to support the fight against the group
- There has been heightened military activity in many areas all over Somalia in an effort to dispel the group.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Jan 25th, 2012)

- As conditions in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, improve, there has been sign of stability and continued improvement in the future.
- After a 17 year closure, the United Nations office was reopened in Mogadishu after operating from Nairobi, Kenya for many years.
- During a function that was held at the opening of the UN offices, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) addresses the crowd, and urged other countries to follow suit, and also re-open their embassies in Mogadishu.
- The president stated, "there was now an opportunity for peace and development in Somalia, and that countries around the world needed to share this time with the Somali people."
- He also thanked all those that have been involved in Somali's progress, and countries that have aided the country both militarily and politically, adding that, "it is through this support that security in Mogadishu was endured."

(Source: Jowhar website Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000 GMT Jan 26th, 2012) IS

- After the recent capture of Mogadishu University by TFG and AMISOM forces, which occurred on January 20th of this year, university officials have started to oppose the intrusion.
- They have issued a statement discussing the issue, and have stated that due to these forces taking over the university, there has been no access to offices, causing a massive disruption.
- They urge the forces to vacate the university immediately, and made it clear that educational institutions should not be made to take part in any conflict, and should remain neutral.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Jan 27th 2012)

- As the heads of three young men were found in the borders of Galguduud and Middle Shabelle regions in central Somalia, fear and concern grows as Al-Shabaab continue to terrorize Somali citizens.
 - parents of the youths accused Al-Shabaab of killing their sons solely because of suspicions by
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- Al-Shabaab members that the young boys were affiliated with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and may have been spies for the government,
- Many youths and families in the area are now very fearful that the same may happen to them if they are suspected for unknown reasons for being linked to the TFG.
 - Such incidents often occur in regions controlled by Al-Shabaab Islamist terrorist group within Somalia.

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000 GMT Jan 28th, 2012)

- As the incursion by Kenyan and Ehtiopian troops into Somali has now entered its 100th day, spokesman for Al-Shabaab Islmaist extremist group, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Raage Alias Ali Dheere, has made several statements regarding the situation and ongoing conflict.
- He speaks confidently about the position in which the group is in, and says that despite the forces against them, they will continue to fights, and do not plan to cooperate with the government and outside forces.
- He warns that the TFG and AMISOM began the mission unaware of how much of a guard Al-Shabaab had put up. He says, "We can say there is a big different on Kenyan troops between now and the day they first attacked. They have now come to the realization that they place they are headed to is not unguarded."
- In regards to the increasing presence of Ethiopian troops, Shayck Ali Dheere has said, that Ethiopians in the country have been defeated before, and that they will be defeated once again. "Somalis know the Ethiopians and have been defeating them since 1967, but we have gone o slumber in the recent days and they have seen that we have divided ourselves along clan lines, however, we have always defeated them."
- To fight these forces, AL-Shabaab has changed its tactics, and rather than engaging in direct conflict and fire, they are leaning more towards hit and run attacks, and suicide bombings.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000GMT Jan 25th, 2012)

- The town of Beled Weyne, central Somalia, has been faced with an ongoing controversy regarding control of the town.
- There is a division between the Shabelle Valley ADministration and that of Ahlu Sunnal Wal Jama'a, both of which are in the town, yet are not unified.
- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) is attempting to end the dispute, and form a joint administration in the region, but to no avail thus far.
- There have also been reports that the Shabelle Valley administration has been asked to disarm

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and give all weapons to the TFG, this being a more extreme effort to enable unification.

- The President of the Shabelle Valley Administration, Abdifatah Hasan Afrah, has denied that this was the case. He stated, "There is no such thing as handing over arms or any warlord like activities here. We are under the government and there is no part of the government which is being disarmed and another that is allowed to keep them."

- Mr. Afrah also added that if there was to be a joint administration, the residents of the region would need to be consulted, and that both administrations would need to consult with the TFG before making their positions clear on the issue.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Jan 25th, 2012)

- Somalia has recently been facing problems in regards to several regions which are under the semi-independent Somaliland Administration such as Sool, Sannag and Ceyn.

- Recently, there has been a formation of a separate administration, The Khatumo Administration, in these regions. This newly formed administration is under the Transitional Federal Government.

- The formation of this administration however, has affected the residents in these regions as they face constant clashes and attacks from Somaliland forces.

- Somali MP's that hail from the above mentioned regions, attended a meeting in the capital, Mogadishu, and asked senior TFG officials to intervene in the situation and help the residents in these areas that supported the TFG.

- MP, Haji Abdi Muhammad Ali, who is a member of the Federal Somali Parliament, urged residents in these regions to "continue with the demonstrations and opposition to the Somaliland administration and stick to their plan of forming their own independent regional administration under the TFG."

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Jan 28th, 2012)

- As the region of Puntland, Somalia's semi-autonomist region, began and has continued to drill oil in region in conjunction with Africa Oil's Horn Petroleum Corporation, opposition has intensified, particularly from former Puntland officials.

- A representative from a newly formed opposition group, The Somali Council for Rescue of Puntland (GSP), which was established to oppose Puntland's President Farole, was recently interviewed to explain the reasons against the drilling of oil in Puntland.

- Mr. Qabowsade is the leader of the GSP, and explains what the unified reason is for the growing opposition.

- He explains that the concerns are not in the oil drilling itself, because it is something that financial would be extremely rewarding for the region, but the issue lies within the timing.

- More specifically, He states that such a project should not begin at a time in which there is no security, no proper management, and no suitable policies to oversee such an endeavour. Without such vital actors firmly in place, the drilling will only lead to violence and clan conflict, which would most likely evolve into full blown clan warfare in the region.

- He adds that the current administration is acting as a dictatorship, without consent or

consultation, and that is where the opposition stems.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi, Kenya, In Somali 1600 GMT, Jan 24, 2012)

- United Nations special to Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, recently visited Radio Bar Kula studios, in Mogadishu, Somalia to discuss the reopening of UNPOS office in Somalia.
- He visits Somalia in order to oversee the opening of the offices, and aid in the implementation of Somalia's political roadmap.
- During the interview, Mr. Mahiga stated that African Union peacekeepers in Somalia, along with the forces of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia have successfully managed to improve security in Mogadishu.
- Through the UNPOS offices, and close collaboration with the government, aid organizations already in the country, and civil society groups, stability and security will be upheld and continue to improve.
- He also stated that due to the present forces in Somalia, "there was no need to send international peacekeepers to Somalia."

OTHER PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Reporters Sans Frontieres website, Paris, France, Jan 28th, 2012)

- Reports have confirmed through the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), that Hasan Usman Abdi, who is the Network director for Shabelle Media, "the most renowned privately owned radio station," was deliberately targeted, and gunned down outside his home.
- He is the first journalist to be killed this year, but is just one of many targeted killings of journalists that have occurred in the past in Somalia.
- Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) has ranked Mogadishu, Somalia one of the world's 10 most dangerous cities for reporters.
- On behalf of this tragic death, and the killings of journalists in Somalia in general, the press freedom organization made the following statement. "Violence against journalists in Somalia is sustained by impunity for those responsible. It is quite clear that Abdi was deliberately targeted. WE call for a serious and impartial investigation that leads to the identification of his murderers."

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000GMT Jan 30th 2012)

- President of the TFG, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, has condemned the killing of Shabelle Media Network director, and says that he is horrified by the loss, both for his family and the media in Somalia.
- He assured that he is working on a thorough investigation of this case, and condemns those who are against innng the country and attaining peace and security in Somalia.
- Since the deadly shooting, 4 men have been suspected in the shooting and have been arrested.
- The government suspects that Al-Shabaab is behind the murder.