

**SOMALI DOMESTIC BROADCASTING
MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT – MIGS
June 12th – June 18th 2012
MARYAM MUSTAFA, MIGS REPORTER FOR SOMALIA**



- **HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

GOVERNMENT MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: Garoweonline.com, Somalia, June 17, 2012)

- It has been confirmed that the aid agency, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has now officially terminated operations and withdrawn out of some areas in the Galguduud region of central Somalia.
- These areas are under the control of Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jamaa'a, a moderate Islamic administration in Somalia.
- MSF has now shut down offices in both Dhuusa Mareeb and Harale, but remains to assist local hospitals, such as the Starling Hospital in Guri Ceel.
- The agency had steadily been cutting operations in the area, by suspending some of them in the past, but had been urged by locals and officials to continue.
- Continuing issues of insecurity were increasing, which is what lead to this unfortunate outcome.
- Ahlu Sunnah officials termed the withdrawal as "saddening."

- **INTERNAL SECURITY**

GOVERNMENT MEDIA REPORTS:

MIGS Somali Domestic Monitoring Report, 12 June – 18 June 2012

(Source: Puntlandpost website, Somalia, June 12, 2012)

- It has been reported that Al-Shabaab members have been taking extreme measures to eliminate those suspected of being opposed to the terrorist group in Somalia.
- Al-Shabaab members who have recently seized control of Ceel Buur, Galguduud Region, beheaded approximately 10 civilians in the town.
- They were accused off supporting Ethiopian presence in Somalia, and being pro-government. The victims were all innocent according to locals.

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-registered Somali news website, June 12, 20120)

- As the TFG and AMISOM troops continue to drive out the Al-Shabaab terrorist group from the region, a second major operation under "Operation Free Shabelle," has officially began.
- Troops have commenced a military assault on Balcad
- Tensions are high in the region, as Al-Shabaab troops are patrolling the town, and military vehicles make their way from Mogadishu into Balcad.
- There has been no opposition from Al-Shabaab as of yet, according to TFG commander, Samatar Warsame. He stated the following: "Our Somali soldiers, along with Amisom brothers, are in the process of freeing the people of Balcad from the brutal role of Al-Shabaab. We began a major troop movement yesterday afternoon along with two routes, one from Dayniille, and the other one from the Maslah military camp based out of Mogadishu. We have not clashed with the Al-Shabaab militia along the highway between the two towns. Last night our soldiers stopped at Gars Bintow and we want to free the people of Balcad from Al-Shabaab in a few hours."
- Locals fear that heavy fighting may ensue, and many are prepared to flee to different areas to avoid clashes that may arise between TFG and AMISOM and Al-Shabaab.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Radio Puntlandpost website, Somalia, June 12, 201)

- President Sharif Sheykh Ahmad, who visited and spent a night in the town of Afgooye, Somalia, called for the surrender of Al-Shabaab members and pleaded that they lay their arms to government forces.
- President Ahmad said that the Somali government forces are planning to receive any Al-Shabaab officials and members who are willing to surrender.
- He added that those who surrender and denounce the objectives of Al-Shabaab will be offered amnesty.
- The town of Afgooye has officially been seized by government and AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) forces.

MIGS Somali Domestic Monitoring Report, 12 June – 18 June 2012

(Source: Radio Shabelle, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0500 GMT, June 13, 2012)

- As part of a new military strategy, the Somali government has ordered that all Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a forces, along with Ethiopian forces, withdraw from areas in the Galguduud Region in central Somalia.
- Dr. Abdi Ali, who is Somalia's Interior and National Security Minister, told Radio Shabelle that, "the government plans to deploy government forces and AU (African Union) peacekeepers in the region to fight Al-Shabaab."
- This strategy was set in place after the recapture of several central Somali regions by Al-Shabaab.

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

- As the end of term for the TFG approaches, Somalia's prime Minister, Abdiweli Muhammad Ali Gas, urged that traditional clan elders meet in the capital, Mogadishu, in order to, "fast track the selection of the delegates who will approve the draft constitution."
- The new constitution is one of the landmarks of the road map to peace and stability for Somalia, and thus all goals must be met in a timely manner.

- **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: The Standard website, Nairobi, June 12, 2012)

- As the term of Somalia's TFG (Transitional Federal Government) draws to an end, increased pressure has been placed on those who may be opposed to, or try to undermine the transitional process.
- The United States government has been, and continues to back the government of Somalia, and AMISOM forces in the country, and as a show of their support, has threatened to do things such as issue travel bans and freeze assets for any people, in or outside government that oppose the ongoing peace and security operations.
- During a press briefing in Nairobi, Kenya, Johnnie Carson, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, stated that, "We will not hesitate to freeze assets for spoilers both within the government and outside. All leaders in Somalia must be committed to bring peace and form a stable government."
- The roadmap followed by the Somali government hopes to achieve four landmarks: Security, a new constitution, political outreach and reconciliation, and good governance.
- It was also highly stressed that the term of the TFG, which began in 2004, would not be extended any further, and thus the progress has to continue without being interrupted in order for this to be possible.
- Elections in Somalia are scheduled to take place in August 20, and the new constitution is to be adopted by July 1st, 2013.

- **OTHER**

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Midnimo.com website, Somalia, Jun 12, 2012)

- Two journalists working for Radio Dalsan and Radio Bar-Kulan have been arrested by the Ahlu Sunnah awl Jama'a administration, the moderate Islamic group in the Galguduud Region of central Somalia.
- The arrest has led other journalists in the region to flee due to fear of being targets by the administration.
- Officials from Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a did not speak out about the arrests, but it is suspected that they were not pleased with the reports, which reported the group's withdrawal from Ceel Buur after Al-Shabaab gained control of the town.

(Source: AllPuntland.com website, Somali pro-Puntland gov. website, June 13, 2012)

- The two journalists that were arrested for unknown reasons by the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a administration have been released.
- However, both journalists will be facing a trial, of which the charges are still unknown.

(Source: AllPuntland.com website, Somali pro-Puntland gov. website, June 14, 2012)

- The two journalists that were arrested and tried for unknown charges have been released, and are free to operate.
- They were sentenced to two months in jail, but were later released by top officials from the Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a administration.
- When officials were asked about the reasons for the arrest, and they stated that the two individuals were involved in crimes and that charges were not media-related.