

SOMALI DOMESTIC BROADCASTING MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT – MIGS

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HUMANITARIAN CRISIS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: UN Integrated Regional Information Network, Nairobi, Jan 31st, 2012)

- Recently, the Islamist Extremist group in Somalia, Al-Shabaab, banned all operations by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), prohibiting them from continuing any form of aid in all regions still under control by Al-Shabaab.
- The reasons behind the ban were that the ICRC has supposedly been repeatedly distributing expired food to those affected by drought and famine.
- The United Nations has expressed great concern over this ban, because without the humanitarian aid offered by the ICRC, millions of Somali citizens will be left without food, which could ultimately reverse any gains made after the recent drought, and push a great number of people back into a state famine.
- Since November of 2011, Al-Shabaab had either temporarily or permanently disrupted the operations of 16 aid organizations, including several different UN agencies, often accusing them of "illicit activities and misconduct."
- It has been suggested that a new approach needs to be taken when dealing with Al-Shabaab. At a time in which they are dealing with great pressure as they fight Kenyan, Ehtioipian and TFG troops, "they are seeing everything as an attempt to destroy or harm them. Maybe it is time to open channels of communication, preferably by the international community"

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 0000 GMT Jan 31st, 2012)

- Although security has been improving in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu, fighting between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and African Unions' Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops against those of Al-Shabaab, are still a common occurrence in the area.
- Lately, armed clashes between opposing forces have been more frequent, particularly at night.
- Residents in the outskirts of Mogadishu, in which most of these clashes occur, are beginning to express serious concerns as they grow more fearful for their lives and safety.
- Due to the reoccurring clashes, many civilians from areas such as Kaxda, and Abgaado,

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which are neighbourhoods surrounding Mogadishu, have been forced to leave their homes.

- Furthermore, there have been a lot of deaths and injuries, most of the victims being innocent residents, and already internally displaced persons.
- Traditional elders in the area, one of which is Shaykh Muhammad Ismaail, is pleading with both sides to stop the fighting in these populated areas, especially during the night.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Feb 4th, 2011)

- 6 months following the devastating drought that occurred in Somalia, the United Nations has officially declared the end of famine in the nation.
- In accordance with analyses made by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), "the situation in Somalia is beginning to normalize in most parts of the country following the long-awaited rains leading to substantial harvests and humanitarian assistance."
- The number of Somali citizens in need of assistance has now dropped to 2.3 million, compared to what was 4 million when the drought began.
- The crisis is not over yet, and there are many people that still need assistance. Humanitarian agencies are still determined in their efforts to reach those in need, despite the barriers created recently due to extremist terrorist group, Al-Shabaab.

INTERNAL SECURITY

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US- Registered Somali News website, Jan 31st, 2012)

- It was reported that a suicide attack took place in Gaalkacyo, the joint capital city of the semi-autonomous regions of Puntland and Galmudug.
- The attack was targeted a specific house, that of Abdi Hasan Awale Qeybdiid, a former warlord and Somali Transitional General Government (TFG) Minister of Mineral Resources and Water.
- The extent of damage is unknown, but it has been confirmed that at least 3 people were killed by the explosion, two of which were body guards. Qeybdiid himself was unharmed.
- During the civil war, Mr. Awale Qeybdiid served as an interior minister with the Somali National Alliance rebel group and in 2007 had joined the TFG as a police commissioner. He now has been actively involved recently in directing campaigns to eradicate pricey in Galmudug, and is known to be openly opposed to Al-Shabaab militants.
- No group has claimed responsibility for the attack as of yet.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 1st, 2012)

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- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and AMISOM forces have recently been able to take control of Hosingo, a town located in Lower Jubba (southern Somalia)
- The town was peacefully recaptured from Al-Shabaab by troops peacefully, following airstrikes by Kenyan troops.
- Many civilians have fled the town, and Al-Shabaab commanders that had previously controlled Hosingo, stated that the town was now deserted after the attacks.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 1st, 2012)

- In support of Somalia, and the efforts by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and AMISOM, the government of Djibouti plans to send additional troops into Somalia.
- The government has previously deployed 200 soldiers into Somalia, but will deploy an additional 100.
- They will also provide military equipment, and plan to arrive in Mogadishu as soon as possible.
- The forces deployed from Djibouti will enter with aims to ensure security in areas that have been captured by AMISOM and the TFG, and to take part in peacekeeping operations that are being organized and conducted within Somalia.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 3rd, 2012)

- The president of the Galmudug regional administration, Muhammad Ahmad Alin, has recently held talks with United Nations officials who are part of the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOF)
- The meeting was held in Galmudug's capital, Gaalkacyo, in order to discuss security issues in the region.
- The discussion was revolved mainly around ways to strengthen the security situation in the area, especially following the recent violent and deadly attacks that have been occurring in Galmudug.
- The president requested that as a solution, Galmudug forces receive military training. President Alin also requires that prisons be renovated in the region.
- UN officials agreed to these requests, and also added that there would be investigations regarding the recent bombings and attacks in Gaalkacyo.

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000GMT Feb 6th, 2012) IS

- President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, has announced that the first phase of operations conducted by the TFG and AMISOM have now come to a conclusion.
- The above mentioned phase refers to that of recapturing and securitizing the capital, Mogadishu.
- Shaykh Ahmad added that as operation in Mogadishu are being finalized, that government and AMISOM forces will begin to head out to other areas across Somalia which are presently in control by Al-Shabaab militants.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 2nd, 2012)

- As "wrangles" within the Somali Federal parliament continue, seemingly to no avail, the United Nations has stepped in and ensures that these unending issues between Somali parliamentarians should and will be solved.
- Speaking at a security conference held in Mogadishu, Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, the UN special representative to Somalia, addressed the situation.
- He stated that, "it is important for the rift in parliament to be solved. The political bickering in the legislative assembly may hinder the implementation of the Roadmap."
- He also added that it is important to train government forces in the country in order for there to be a successful solution.
- Lastly, Mahiga requested that, "the United Nations increase the number of African peacekeepers in Somalia, and added that the request was forwarded to the UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-Moon."