

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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Headlines

- Al-Shabaab Weakening, but Concerns Remain
- Strong Rhetoric on Justice Reform Creating High Expectations
- Puntland Closes Three Radio Stations
- Turkey Offers to Help Reconciliation Between Somalia and Somaliland
- Provisional Constitution for Jubbaland Adopted

Al-Shabaab Weakening, but Concerns Remain

Al-Shabaab Commander Killed in Lower Shabelle

Sabahi, April 2, 2013 (Foreign Media)

Accessed from: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201304030218.html>

- High-ranking al-Shabaab commander Mohammed Abdu Saidi was killed last week in an ambush by Ugandan troops
- Saidi commanded a group of about 30-50 fighters in the Bay region; the group had been successfully contained by AMISOM after they liberated the surrounding Jannale, Awdhigle and Barire areas

AMISOM Commander – Al-Shabaab Wiped Out Along Mogadishu and Baidoa

Shabelle Media Network, April 7, 2013 (Independent Media)

<http://shabelle.net/amisom-commander-alshabab-wiped-out-along-mogadishu-and-baidoa/>

- AMISOM is reassuring the public that Al-Shabaab has been wiped out along the highway that connected Mogadishu to Baidoa city (approx. 241 km)
- General Andrew Gutu said that Al-Shabaab has weakened, but there are still small groups who are hiding along the highway, robbing motorists
- The Commander said that they are conducting a man-hunt for the gang(s) and will that motorists will be able to travel along the highway without fear

Tensions over Jubaland Process in Somalia Could Embolden Al-Shabaab

Institute for Security Studies, April 9, 2013 (Research Institute)

http://www.issafrica.org/iss_today.php?ID=1622

- There are numerous sources of tension in the Jubaland Process this article highlights:
- First, there are procedural issues over who is leading this process: is it led by the SFG or is it a unilateral power-grab by region's elites?
- Secondly, the creation of Jubaland has long been on Kenya's agenda for it to act as a buffer zone on its border to prevent Al-Shabaab incursions
- Thirdly, Ethiopia is also interested in a similar arrangement to secure its borders and has been keeping a close watch on the process, hoping the local administration will not be sympathetic to the Ogaden National Liberation Front
- Fourthly, independent businesses and local leaders have a clear stake – becoming governor of the region is a sure route to re-establishing the relevance certain elites lost when the Islamic Courts Union was ousted in 2006
- Given these multiple local and regional interests, the formation of Jubaland is perceived in certain Somali contexts to be locally-fronted but regionally driven. This creates discomfort for the leadership in Mogadishu, who see the regional dimensions as an affront to the sovereignty of Somalia.
- After Ethiopian troops' recent unexpected withdrawal from Huddur, the capital of the Bakool region, Al-Shabaab fighters quickly took over the town. This demonstrates that the Islamist group is closely monitoring events in liberated areas and is capable of acting swiftly when it spots weaknesses.
- The inability of the SFG to exercise its authority over the Kismayo process is undermining its influence in the remaining regions of Somalia and the emerging arrangements towards federalism.

Strong Rhetoric on Justice Reform Creating High Expectations

Somalia National Conference In Mogadishu Calls for Justice Reforms

Garowe Online, April 5, 2013 (Pro-Puntland Media)

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_national_conferences_in_Mogadishu_calls_for_justice_reforms.shtml

- A Somali national conference concluded in Mogadishu on Friday and called for immediate justice reforms as part of the war-torn country's recovery efforts,
- The conference communiqué issued a set of 19 recommendations, with projected implementation period ranging between three to five months, with particular focus on reforming the country's courts.
- The committee called for the urgent establishment of the Federal Judiciary Services Commission, the Federal Constitutional Court, the country's Federal Courts, and the Independent Human Rights Commission
- The conference communiqué recommended legislation "to protect the rights of women, children and disabled persons", while calling for the establishment of a "special court" to deal with human rights violations.
- The communiqué also underscored the need for police and custodial corps reforms, "to include specialized training on human rights protections, proper conduct and Islamic principles".
- Finally, it urged civil society participation, public awareness on the reforms and for justice services be made available

EU Donors Welcome the Federal Government Steps on Justice Reform

Shabelle Media Network, April 6, 2013 (Independent Media)

<http://shabelle.net/somalia-eu-donors-welcome-the-federal-government-steps-on-justice-reform/>

- "This conference is a visible testimony to the priority that government attaches to the justice sector and to listening to its people. Recent challenges have shown how difficult it is to dispense justice fairly and transparently and how difficult the road to reform is. We have a firm belief that Somalia will overcome current and future challenges" said the EU Special Envoy
- The May 7 Somalia Conference in London will be an occasion to align international support with the Somali reform plan

Puntland Closes Three Radio Stations

Journalists Shocked By The Ban of Three Radio Stations in Puntland

Raxanreeb, April 3, 2013 (Independent Media)

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2013/04/somalia-journalists-shocked-by-the-ban-of-three-radio-stations-in-puntland/>

- The attack is the latest in a string of violence against the media in Puntland ahead of the elections of the local governments in the areas controlled by the Puntland Administration, banning 6 radio stations in less than two months.
- Puntland Ministry of Information and its police chief ordered the shutdown of Radio Daljir, One Nation and Codka Nabada (Voice of Peace)

- The three radio stations are independent and privately owned radio stations
- "The three radio stations violated the Puntland constitution and the Puntland Media law and therefore, the ministry closes the offices of the Radio Daljir, One Nation and Codka Nabadda Radio." According to a decree signed by the Puntland Minister of Information, Mr, Mohamoud Aideed Dirir
- Dirir said Radio Daljir, One Nation and Codka Nabadda re-broadcasted programmes from three other radio stations banned by the administration in February for allegedly violating media laws.
- The administration recently introduced a six page draft draconian media law which the ministry plans to dominate the media freedoms and the freedom of expression in contrary to the Puntland constitution which guarantees the freedom of the press and the freedom of expression.

Somali Journalists Shocked By the Decision of Puntland Authorities to Ban Three More Radio Stations

National Union of Somali Journalists, April 3, 2013 (Civil Society Organization)

Accessed from: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201304041050.html>

- The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) called for the Puntland Authorities to allow the radio stations to resume operations and called to respect the freedom of expression and the freedom of Press as enshrined both in the Puntland constitution and the provisional federal constitution.
- "The Radio stations were registered under the ministry of information and have the right to go into partnership agreements with other media organizations as they had partnership agreements with the banned radio stations and there is no law prohibiting them to do so." Mr. Burhan Ahmed Dahir, NUSOJ president said

Turkey Offers to Host Renewed Somalia and Somaliland Talks

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia, April 2, 2013 (Government Media)

<http://www.mfa.gov.et/news/more.php?newsid=1806>

- The Somaliland government has accepted an invitation from the Government of Turkey to host talks between Somali and Somaliland in mid-April
- Somali federal government has not yet confirmed the initiative. The talks began in June last year but were then halted following the change in administration in Mogadishu and to allow the new leadership to settle in.
- The framework for the talks was originally agreed at a UK-hosted meeting in London in February last year and ratified at a meeting of the two Presidents in Dubai in June.

Provisional Constitution for Jubbaland Adopted

Delegates Endorse Kismayo Charter

Sabahi, April 4, 2013 (Foreign Media)

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/04/04/newsbrief-09

- Delegates to the Jubbaland state formation conference in Kismayo voted unanimously on Tuesday (April 2nd) to ratify the transitional charter for the new regional administration,
- Over 870 members voted, allowing subsequent endorsement of the state charter and elections of the Jubbaland political head.

Making Jubbaland Constitution is “A Historic Step Forward” –Ex-Somalia PM

Garowe Online, April 4, 2013 (Pro-Puntland Media)

[http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Ex-](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Ex-Somalia_PM_Making_Jubbland_constitution_is_A_historic_step_forward.shtml)

[Somalia PM Making Jubbland constitution is A historic step forward.shtml](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Ex-Somalia_PM_Making_Jubbland_constitution_is_A_historic_step_forward.shtml)

- Former Somalia Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmake pointed the said "I'm here in Kismayo, with a mission to give my support to the ongoing Jubbaland conference, attending representatives from across the Jubbaland and Gedo as well. I'm optimistic that the state building process would end in success,"
- He called upon the Somalia's federal government to fully respect the interest and legal rights of people in Jubbaland as they decided to form a semi-autonomous state, with constitution through the federal system of the country.