

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring



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Headlines

- Conflicts with Al-Shabaab Are A Status-Quo; Are A New Strategy or Laws Needed?
- Somalia's Federalist Afflictions
- Repairing Relations with Puntland While Reconciliation with Somaliland Remains Elusive

[Conflicts with Al-Shabaab Are A Status-Quo; Are A New Strategy or Laws Needed?](#)

Somali Government Troops Battle Al-Shabaab Near Hudur

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), April 23, 2013

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

- At least 6 people were confirmed dead and many others injured in heavy clashes between Al Shabaab and Somali government forces on Sunday at a village near Hudur which was vacated by Ethiopian and Somali troops last month

- Independent reports cannot justify if the Somali government forces have captured the district due to the very poor security situation in the region
- Authorities in Bakool region have assured residents that they will fight Al Shabaab until the region is free of Al Shabaab but analysts believe the fight will be an uphill battle for the Somali government troops.

AMISOM Dismantles Al-Shabaab Ambush Point in Hoosingo

Sabahi (Foreign Media), April 25, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/04/25/newsbrief-05

- An AMISOM convoy bringing supplies from Doblely to Hoosingo was attacked by al-Shabaab fighters on Saturday, prompting a 30-minute exchange of fire that left six militants dead and one AMISOM soldier wounded.
- "These operations have contributed significantly to the relative calm that has been experienced in the southern regions of Somalia since the liberation of the major port city of Kismayo in October last year," said Force Commander Lieutenant General Andrew Gutti

General Galal Urges Change in Strategy to Fight Al-Shabaab

Shabelle (Independent Media), April 26, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/general-galal-urges-change-in-strategy-to-fight-alshabab/>

- General Mohamed Nur Galal says that Al-Shabaab has adopted a new way of fighting referred to as guerilla warfare.
- He added it will be hard to eliminate Al-Shabaab from the country if this strategy is not changed.
- He requested the federal government to make changes in strategy and adopt a new style of fighting
- He did not elaborate specifically on what this new strategy ought to entail

Al-Shabaab in Crosshairs of Somalia's Anti-Terrorism Law

Sabahi (Foreign Media), April 26, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/26/feature-01

- In the coming days Somalia's parliament will debate a proposed anti-terrorism law that targets al-Shabaab and aims to restructure the country's national security and intelligence services in the fight against terrorism.
- The proposed law includes provisions specifically designed to fight terrorism as a phenomenon and to punish those terrorists
- Deputy Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications Ibrahim Isaaq Yaroow cited absolute necessity as the rationale behind the introduction of this new law, referring to the April 14th attacks that killed 29 civilians

Somalia's Federalist Afflictions

Formation of New Local Administrations Tests Somali Government

Sabahi (Foreign Media), April 23, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/22/feature-01

- Efforts by the Somali federal government to form interim administrations in parts of the country recently liberated from al-Shabaab are running into resistance from some local tribal elders.
- The government has appointed interim local governments in the freed regions of Bay, Hiran and Gedo. But tribal elders in those areas sometimes oppose such moves, saying the government has replaced regional administrations without popular consent or input from community leaders.
- The government denies the claims that they have not consulted with the communities
- Political analysts Ismail Yusuf says that the continued unilateral moves by the government will widen the gap between the federal government and the local communities
- Continued turmoil during this time when the Somali government is transitioning from a centralized one to a federal system will wither away the people's confidence and eventually these local administrations will lose their legitimacy
- At the same time, analysts point to the necessity of forming interim local administrations in the liberated regions in order to consolidate and reinforce the security gains made and as a precursor to building the federal regional states

Another Delegation Withdraws Form Kismayu Meeting

Shabelle (Independent Media), April 24, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/another-delegation-withdraws-from-the-kismayu-meeting/>

- Istin Hassan Baas, who is among the delegates attending the Kismayu meeting has withdrawn from the meeting because the local leaders were not allowed to voice their opinions and instructions had come from unknown sources within the delegation
- The number of delegates abandoning the meeting is increasing as days go by and the situation of the meeting is still in a stalemate condition.

Repairing Relations with Puntland While Reconciliation with Somaliland Remains Elusive

President Hassan Receives Warm Welcome in First Visit to Puntland

Garowe, (Pro-Puntland Media), April 29, 2013

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

- "The Federal Government and Puntland State have agreed to establish a Joint Technical Committee consisting of military commanders from both sides to participate in rebuilding Somali National Forces and to plan how Puntland forces would eventually be properly integrated into the Somali National Forces," said Puntland President Farole
- The Somali president promised to review the Provisional Federal Constitution (PFC), as signed by Roadmap signatories last year, which is currently subject to dispute by Puntland
- President Hassan and President Farole disagreed on the formation of Jubbaland and the program for the London Conference, to be co-hosted by Somali and UK governments on May 7, 2013, in London.
- On Jubbaland formation, the two parties "agreed in principle" to advance federalism in Somalia by supporting the establishment of state governments in regions of south-central Somalia, but the two parties could not reach a unified decision to support the formation of Jubbaland state, currently underway at a conference in Kismayu
- On the London Conference, Mr. Libahjore, a Presidential spokesperson, cited the "violation of constitutional articles" as a primary reason for Puntland's decision to withdraw its participation

Controversy Over Dismissal of Motion On Somalia-Somaliland Agreement

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), April 27, 2013

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Controversy_over_parliament_leaderships_dismissal_of_motion_on_Somalia-Somaliland_agreement_printer.shtml

- Somalia's parliament leadership has dismissed a motion forwarded by a group of lawmakers to discuss the agreement signed between the Somali Federal Government and leaders of Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland
- Mahad Abdalle Awad, Deputy Speaker of Parliament who chaired the session, declared that the motion forwarded by the MPs is "illegal", "could not be discussed in Parliament" and that "the Constitution does not allow us [Parliament] to interfere in the Government's agreements"