

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

FARAZ ALIDINA, MIGS DESK OFFICER FOR SOMALIA



April 30 – May 6, 2013

Headlines

- Despite Massive Road Closures, al-Shabaab Strikes Core of Mogadishu
- UN Admits Faults in Somalia's Famine, Creates New Assistance Mission
- Security Concerns in Kismayu
- Journalists and Their Profession Face Continued Risks
- Gauging Expectations for the London Conference

Despite Massive Road Closures, al-Shabaab Strikes Core of Mogadishu

Security Revamped in Mogadishu After Al Shabaab Attack Scare

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), May 1, 2013

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

- Major streets were closed for vehicles on Wednesday
- Local sources said that government institutions particularly the Federal Parliament building and Villa Somalia – presidential palace – located on the heavily guarded Maka Al Makuramah street.
- in the capital of Banadir region, Mogadishu, as heavy security comprising of AMISOM, Defense Forces and police authorities could be seen in every major street and patrolled the streets.
- Banadir Region Deputy Governor Ali Ahmed Guure told press that there were some concerns that Al Shabaab was planning an attack in Mogadishu

- Security sources say that intelligence agencies in Mogadishu caught wind that Al Shabaab insurgents were trying to carry out an attack marking the 5 anniversary of the U.S. drone strike that killed former Al Shabaab leader Adan Hassan Ayrow while he was in the district of Dhusomareb in central Somalia.

Roads in Mogadishu Re-Opened

Shabelle (Independent Media), May 4, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/roads-in-mogadishu-re-opened/>

- Roads in Mogadishu reopened on the 4th after the government troops conducted a four day operation.
- All of the roads leading to the heart of the capital were closed
- The closure of the roads had halted business activities but business and busyness resumed as usual immediately after their re-opening

Mogadishu Hit By Deadly Explosion (and Developments)

Shabelle (Independent Media), May 5, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/mogadishu-hit-by-deadly-explosion/>

<http://shabelle.net/more-developments-on-the-mogadishu-blasts/>

- A large explosion targeting a Qatari delegation occurred at Km-4 junction in Mogadishu
 - The Junction is a three-way intersection whose roads lead to the airport, the Presidential palace and the market
- 8 have died and there were 20 injuries, mainly civilians
- Minutes after the explosion, government troops secured the area and dispersed the crowd that had formed.
- The road where the blast occurred was (as the two previous articles mention) part of the 4 day road closure meant for security purposes

UN Political Office Reiterates Support for Government After Deadly Attack

United Nations Media (Official Press Office), May 5, 2013

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44828#.UYr_aLWkp3E

- “These cowardly and senseless acts of violence will not undermine the remarkable progress Somalia has made in the past months,” the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Augustine P. Mahiga, said

- "Attacks against civilians are never justifiable. I call on all parties to renounce violence and contribute positively to peace and stability," he added.

UN Admits Faults in Somalia's Famine, Creates New Assistance Mission

Somali Famine Killed 258,000, Half of Them Young Children

Sabahi (Foreign Media), May 2, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/02/newsbrief-03

- About 258,000 people died of hunger during the 2010-2012 famine in Somalia, including 133,000 children under the age of five, a report released Thursday (May 2nd) reveals
- The death toll from the October 2010-February 2012 famine was much higher than initially feared and also exceeds the 220,000 who starved to death during the 1992 famine.
- UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Somalia Philippe Lazzarini said the international community "should have done more" to prevent the famine.
- "Warnings that began as far back as the drought in 2010 did not trigger sufficient early action," he said
- Famines are not natural phenomena, they are catastrophic political failures," Oxfam's Somalia director Senait Gebregziabher said in a statement. "The world was too slow to respond to stark warnings of drought, exacerbated by conflict in Somalia, and people paid with their lives."

UN Creates New Mission To Assist Somalia

Sabahi (Foreign Media), May 3, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/03/newsbrief-01

- The UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), will provide a range of strategic policy advice in support of the Somali federal government's peace and reconciliation process.
- It be launched on June 3, replacing the UN Political Office for Somalia
- The new mission's other functions will include assisting Somali government and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces, co-ordinating international donor support and helping on-going efforts to improve human rights.
- UNSOM will also help build the federal government's capacity to promote women's empowerment, promote child protection, prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthen justice institutions

Security Concerns in Kismayu

General Abas: The Security Situation in Kismayu is Deteriorating

Shabelle (Independent Media), May 1, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/general-abas-the-security-situation-in-kismayu-is-deterioration/>

- General Abas said that there was rising insecurity in the city and the residents face constant killings and robberies
- Mr. Abas added that gun fire is heard day and night, terrorizing the public and causing fear among the residents who live in the city.
- The general concluded by requesting the Raskamboni brigade to cooperate with the government troops in restoring back security.

Residents of Kismayu Cry Over Insecurity

Shabelle (Independent Media), May 4, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/residents-of-kismayu-cry-over-insecurity/>

- The port city of Kismayu is administrated by the Raskamboni militia however government troops also are based in the city
- The Raskamboni militia group is conducting serious crimes against the residents of Kismayu and causing insecurity in the city.
- Mohamed Ismail, an elder from the region, said that the region was facing a difficult period and a militia group was causing instability in the city.

Journalists and Their Profession Face Continued Risks

Journalist in Critical Condition After Assassination Attempt in Beledweyne

Sabahi (Foreign Media), May 2, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/02/newsbrief-04

- The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) on Wednesday (May 1st) condemned the closure of a radio station in Beledweyne
- The station, owned by Mustaqbal Media Inc., was reportedly shut down after it aired reports on Tuesday night about an attack on Eel Ga'al by al-Shabaab militants, director of Mustaqbal Radio in Mogadishu Aweys Haji Nur said
- "The radio station in question was shut by the regional administration, not by AMISOM," AMISOM posted on its official Twitter account. "We strive to maintain open & good relationships with all media outlets in our areas of operation."

Journalist in Critical Condition After Assassination Attempt in Beledweyne

Sabahi (Foreign Media), May 1, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/01/newsbrief-04

- Somali journalist Abdullahi Salad of UN-funded Radio Ergo, based in Nairobi, remained in critical condition Tuesday (April 30th) after surviving an assassination attempt in Beledweyne Monday afternoon
- His attacker was arrested and is being held at the Beledweyne central police station for interrogation
- A specific motive was not specified

Gauging Expectations for the London Conference

Placing Human Rights at the Center of Reform

Human Rights Watch (Official Brief), May 6, 2013

http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/HRW%20Brief%20London%20Conference%20on%20Somalia%20May%206%202013.pdf

- The conference offers the government and international supporters the chance to identify and commit to concrete measures that will help to enhance human rights protection and accountability,
- Accountability must be central to security sector reform. Clear command and control structures should be put in place and both the army and the police should be appropriately vetted, trained, and held to account for abuses
- Establishing a justice system in Somalia capable of delivering justice in accordance with international standards both to victims of abuse and to criminal suspects is a top priority. It will require extensive and ongoing attention and support
- Any justice sector reform needs to effectively address and respond to sexual violence and take into consideration the barriers that women and girls face in accessing justice, including stigma and victimization
- The establishment of strong and independent oversight mechanisms, both international and national, that are capable of systematically monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Somalia is crucial to improving the human rights situation.

Somaliland Leader Returns to Hargeisa After U.K., U.S. Visits

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

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

- The Somaliland leader said: “The world has not recognized Somaliland as an independent country, however, the world deals with us [Somaliland], invites us, visits us, invests in

Somaliland. We took the opportunity to explain Somaliland's struggle for independence, our accomplishments in security and development, and our people's aspirations."

- In London, President Silanyo met with British Prime Minister David Cameron, but Silanyo declined to attend the London Conference II for Somalia
- Puntland has also declined to attend the London Conference II for Somalia. Both Puntland and Somaliland attended the London Conference I for Somalia, held in London on February 23, 2012.

London Conference II Marginalizes Somalia Stakeholders [Editorial]

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), May 2, 2013

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Editorial_29/London_Conference_II_marginalizes_Somalia_stakeholders_Editorial.shtml

- The editorial criticizes President Hassan, calling his trips to the West "publicity stunts" and his policies an "extension of the 1990s clan wars that ruined Somalia"
- Somalia stands at a new crossroads with a new federal constitution, and a new elected parliament and president.
- The Conferences signals that the British government is putting its weight behind the leadership of President Hassan, a policy that hinges on the viability and inclusiveness of the new federal government
- Somaliland has been administering its own region in northwestern Somalia since 1992, whilst Puntland has been a regional autonomy since 1998. Both regions are major stakeholders in Somalia's future, however, neither will be present