

## Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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### Headlines: April 9 – 15, 2013

- Al-Shabaab Attacks in Mogadishu, Vindicating Britain
- Revealing Al-Shabaab's Internal Divisions
- Following Up on the Jubbaland Conference
- Mogadishu Appoints New Hiran Administration
- Somaliland/Somalia Hold Talks in Ankara

### [Al-Shabaab Attacks Mogadishu, Vindicating Britain](#)

#### **New Al-Shabaab Attacks Are War Crimes, Says HRW**

Raxanreeb (Independent Media), April 16, 2013

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2013/04/somalia-new-al-shabaab-attacks-are-war-crimes-says-hrw/>

- The attack on the court consisted of a suicide bombing followed by additional explosions, and several assailants stormed the court complex shooting live rounds.
- Shortly afterward a car bomb detonated hitting several cars carrying Turkish aid workers on the airport road several kilometers from the court complex

- At least four legal professionals were killed, including a judge and three lawyers
- The laws of war, which are applicable in Somalia, protect civilians and civilian objects from deliberate attack. Government buildings, such as courthouses, that are not being used for military purposes are protected civilian objects.
- International and Somalia media have been reporting approximately 30 deaths and dozens of injured
- “The current focus on judicial reform in Somalia is critical,” Leslie Lefkow, deputy Africa director at Human Rights Watch said. “Crucial to these reforms is ensuring that judges and lawyers have the protection they require to do their jobs.”

### **Senior UN official 'shocked and outraged' by today's deadly attacks**

UN News Centre (Independent Organization), April 14, 2013

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44650#.UW9nrxWkp3E>

- Mr. Mahiga, the United Nations envoy to Somalia was “shocked and outraged” by today's attacks, stressed that Somalia is making remarkable progress toward stabilization and reiterated that these great strides “will not be overshadowed by the desperate acts of these cowardly terrorists.
- The Secretary-General established UNPOS (UN Political Office for Somalia) on 15 April 1995 to help advance the cause of peace and reconciliation through contacts with Somali leaders, civic organisations and the states and organisations concerned.

### **This Attack is Nothing but a Sign of Desperation by the Terrorists.” President Hassan said**

Shabelle (Independent Media), April 14, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/this-attack-is-nothing-but-a-sign-of-desperation-by-the-terrorists-president-hassan-said/>

- “We are moving forward but the enemy of Somalia, the enemy of all mankind will attempt to set us back and try to prevent us from prospering. I want the terrorist to know that our country, Somalia, is moving and will keep moving forward and will not be prevented to achieve the ultimate noble goal, a peaceful and stable Somalia, by a few desperate terrorists.”
- “This attack is nothing but a sign of desperation by the terrorists, who’ve lost all their stronghold and are in complete decline right across Somalia.” President Hassan Sh. Mohamud stated

*Monitor’s Note: Since early April, Britain’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), have been advising against any travel to Somalia<sup>1</sup>, stating that they believed an attack on Mogadishu to be imminent. Their releases gave no further details about who Britain believed might commit the attacks and there has been no sign of co-operation or information-sharing between Britain and Somalia.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/05/us-britain-somalia-idUSBRE9340XW20130405>

## Revealing al-Shabaab's Internal Divisions

### **Open Letter to al-Zawahiri Rocks Foundations of al-Shabaab**

Sabahi (Foreign Media), April 12, 2013

[http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/12/feature-01](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/12/feature-01)

- The year-long internal crisis within al-Shabaab intensified this month after the group's second-in-command sent a stinging criticism of its leadership to al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri.
- Al-Afghani, whose real name is Ibrahim Haji Jama Meeaad and is also known as Abu Bakr al-Zaylai, is considered one of the founders of al-Shabaab and one of its only leaders trained in Afghan al-Qaeda camps in the 1990s. Until now, he avoided making public statements and preferred keeping a low-profile and working behind the scene
- He said al-Shabaab's current situation is "getting worse and nothing is visible on the horizon", calling on al-Zawahiri to intervene in order to find solutions to the rifts affecting the militants.
- Godane, the current al-Shabaab leader, has created an atmosphere devoid of new ideas, calling anyone who questions him a traitor, al-Afghani said. "Denying the repeated oppression of [Godane] against the Muslim people or about the rights of the mujahideen is understood by some as armed disobedience against the emir of the believers and straying away from the Muslim community," he said.
- "The tone of despair in al-Afghani's letter to al-Qaeda's leader is the equivalent of a death certificate for al-Shabaab," Dahir, security analyst and director of the Mogadishu-based Centre for Moderation and Dialogue said

*Monitor's Note: Finding an original copy of this letter has proven difficult and it is thus not available for reference within this week's monitoring report. However, those wishing to see a copy can e-mail [faraz.alidina@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:faraz.alidina@mail.mcgill.ca) who is working on obtaining an original from a reputable source*

## Following Up on the Jubbaland Conference

### **How the Presidential Meeting in Nairobi can Change the Jubbaland Situation**

Shabelle Media Network (Independent Media), April 10, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/somali-elite-how-the-presidential-meeting-in-nairobi-can-change-the-juba-land-situation/>

- The Raskamboni Militia have spearheaded the formation of an administration in the region but has rejected calls to form an interim administration, opting instead to create a permanent one
- The Kenyan Government has been accused of supporting the militia group who are going against the will of the federal constitution and derailing federalism in the country

- The president of Somalia is currently holding a meeting with the new presidential elect of the republic of Kenya, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta and is set to address the issue

## **Politicians - the Kismayu Meeting Does Not Represent All**

Shabelle Media Network (Independent Media), April 9, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/politicians-the-kismayu-meeting-does-not-represent-all/>

- Mr. Abdiwahid, a politician from the Juba region, said that the meeting did not represent all and added that the meeting is spearheaded by people who had a totally different (and unconstitutional) agenda from that of the government
- He urged the leader of the Raskamboni Militia, Mr. Ahmed Madobe to stop using malicious acts to operate in the region. He said Mr. Madobe should come to the table and discuss the issues with the leaders from the region and the federal government of Somalia.
- No further specifics were given by Shabelle or Mr. Abdiwahid

## **Mogadishu Appoints New Hiran Administration**

### **The New Hiran Administration Announce That They Are Going to Liberate the Remaining Parts in the Region**

Shabelle (Independent Media), April 9, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/the-new-hiran-administration-announce-that-they-are-going-to-liberate-the-remaining-parts-in-the-region/>

- Mr. Abdi fatah Farah Laganyo, the leader of the newly established Hiran state Administration has warned that they will take control of the remaining parts of the region that are not in their hands.
- The new leader also promised the members of the public in the Hiran region that they will ensure security improvements will be enhanced and that a lot of security checks will be conducted.
- The federal government of Somalia recently promised to appoint an administration that will bring changes in the central region of Somalia, Hiran and has for now done what it promised its citizens

### **Hiran Elders Oppose Govt-Appointed Administration**

Hiiraan Online (Often anti-SFG Media), April 11, 2013

[http://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2013/Apr/28856/hiran\\_elders\\_oppose\\_government\\_appointed\\_administration.aspx](http://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2013/Apr/28856/hiran_elders_oppose_government_appointed_administration.aspx)

- Elders from Somalia's Hiran region oppose the regional administration appointed by the Somali federal government because they say it does not reflect the will of the region's residents

- Local intellectual Jama Haji Ali called on the government to let Hiran residents vote for regional leaders rather than appoint them from Mogadishu.

## Somaliland/Somalia Hold Talks in Ankara

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official Statement**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Republic of Somaliland (Press Office), April 13, 2013

Accessed from: <http://www.somalilandsun.com/index.php/politics/government/2705-somaliland-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-official-statement-on-the-ankara-held-somalilandsomalia-ta>

- On 13 April, Presidents Ahmed Mohamed Silanyo and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud met in Ankara to resume the Somaliland/Somalia Dialogue that was initiated at the London Conference in February 2012 and endorsed in Dubai in June 2012.
- The Somali Government has agreed to encourage international aid and development for Somaliland.
- Cooperation on security was an important part of the discussion. Somaliland believes that sharing intelligence and training will help the security forces of both countries to fight the scourge of terrorism, jihadism and piracy
- In addition, the dialogue is mandated to clarify the relations between the two countries, in line with the Final Communiqué of the London Conference on Somalia. Somaliland's view is that the dialogue's initial phase should focus on issues of practical cooperation, and to build trust between the parties before addressing the more fundamental issue of the two countries' sovereign relations.
- Somaliland looks forward to the next round of talks, due to be held in Istanbul within 90 days

### **Debate over Somalia's unity continues with new round of talks in Ankara**

Sabahi Online (Independent Media), April 11, 2013

[http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/11/feature-01](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/04/11/feature-01)

- "The points to be agreed upon are clear and we can all guess what they are. Somalia wants a reunion and for all of us to be part of Somalia, [but] Somaliland wants its independence to be recognised and agreed to by the world," Somaliland President Silanyo said. "That is where the conflict lies, but we will not shut the door on the world. We will state our objectives, we will present and defend our case, and clearly state the position of our people."
- Somaliland unilaterally declared independence from Somalia in 1991, but is still regarded as part of Somalia by Mogadishu and the international community.
- Under Somalia's new federal system of government, Somaliland would be one of several semi-autonomous regions under the national government.

- There remains weighty issues, including the belated timing of the talks, the long-term conflict with al-Shabaab in Somalia and some Somalilanders' negative attitudes towards the Mogadishu-based government, University of Hargeisa Professor of Economics and Commerce Sharmarke Abdirahman Ibrahim said
- Others, including former parliamentarian Hassan Omer Hussein, have argued that the federal system is beneficial to Somaliland because there will not be the previous level of assimilation, and that aid will be equitably distributed under this system