

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

April 9th – April 15th, 2014

Brett Collins, Country Desk Officer for Somalia



Headlines:

- **AU peacekeepers wounded in Kismayo explosion**
- **Passengers on board a bus killed after attack near Galkacyo**
- **Al-Shabaab suffers loss in their fighters after clash in Bakool**
- **Kismayo businesses are closed ahead of Prime Minister's arrival**
- **Strong battle between Islamists and government troops**
- **Al-Shabaab and AMISOM forces physical encounter in Gedo halts**

AU peacekeepers wounded in Kismayo explosion

[April 9, 2014 Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- Several African Union (AU) peacekeepers and civilians were killed and many others injured when a roadside bomb exploded outside an AU military base in the southern port town of Kismayo in the lower Juba region, according to news reports coming from the city.
- Witnesses report to Shabelle that the blast wrecked the convoy driven by Burundian peacekeepers as they passed by the Shaqaalaha neighborhood in Kismayo.
- Almost immediately after the explosion, gunfire was opened by the AU troops aiming recklessly at civilians nearby.

Passengers on board a bus killed after attack near Galkacyo

April 14, 2014 [Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- Armed groups attacked a bus with dozens of civilians on board near the territory called Afbarwaaqo in the Mudug region as it was making way to Galkacyo.
- A minimum of two passengers were killed in the encounter and at least several more were injured before the attackers made their escape.
- The individuals that sustained wounds were rushed to the Galkacyo General Hospital to receive dire medical treatment.
- Eyewitnesses suspect that thieves were responsible for the assault that 'went wrong' after they possibly attempted to steal personal possessions from the passengers.
- There has been no statement or comment from government officials regarding the incident this morning in the Mudug region.



(Copyright: Reuters)

Al-Shabaab suffers loss in their fighters after clash in Bakool

April 13, 2014 [Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- In their latest clash, soldiers of the Somali National Army backed by Ethiopian troops serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) fought with armed Al-Shabaab assailants today in Burduhul, a town in-between Yeed and Wajid after an AMISOM convoy was attacked by the insurgents.
- Several of the Al-Shabaab fighters were killed in the battle whereby dozens of others were wounded. Somali government officials have confirmed that the co-allied Ethiopian and Somali National Army troops were successful in triumphing over the fight.
- The atmosphere now is reported to be serene although civilians in Burduhul have voiced their concerns of possible brawls in the near future.

- Somali government officials believe that the Al-Qaeda affiliated Al-Shabaab terrorist group are determined to retaliate against AMISOM and government troops after the liberations of towns in the Bakool region they used to control, as reported to Shabelle.

Kismayo businesses are closed ahead of Prime Minister's arrival

April 12, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) soldiers have halted the movement of the business community in Kismayo after the Prime Minister of the Somali Federal Republic, Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed Is expected to arrive there later on in the day.
- The security situation in Somalia's port city has been tightened to make sure that no terrorist attacks are staged targeting the Prime Minister of Somalia. AMISOM and forces from the Interim Jubba Administration have deployed themselves on the main roads and neighborhoods to monitor the security.
- Although the primary reason of the Prime Minister's travels is unknown, he is most likely to meet with the senior leaders of the Interim Jubba Administration, including their president Ahmed Madobe.

Strong battle between Islamists and government troops

April 10, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- A battle was reported to have erupted in the Eel Bur and Wabho towns of the Galgaduud region between the co-allied Somali National Army and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops against Al-Shabaab.
- The Ethiopian troops of the AMISOM force along with the Somali soldiers were en route to Eel Bur when they were attacked by the Al-Qaeda affiliated Al-Shabaab Islamists.
- Around 6 of the Al-Shabaab insurgents were killed in the clashes after extreme gunfire was exchanged by the opposing forces. The dead bodies are being reported to still lay at the towns.
- According to witnesses, Ethiopian troops flung BM mortar shells at Dac and Daba Qurun, towns also in the Galgaduud region.



AMISOM (Copyright: Stuart Price/AFP/Getty Images)

Al-Shabaab and AMISOM forces physical encounter in Gedo halts

April 14, 2014 [Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- This morning, the environment towns of in the Gedo region including Fahfahdhuun were reported to be serene after an overnight skirmish between troops of the Kenyan contingent in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Al-Shabaab militants.
- A military base belonging to the Kenyan soldiers in Fahfahdhuun was attacked yesterday by Al-Shabaab assailants although the precise numbers of losses and casualties sustained are still unclear.
- According to witnesses that live in the town, the battle went on for at least a few hours with extreme exchange of gunfire.
- Fahfahdhuun is among the main towns in the Gedo region where fighting and battles are very frequent between co-allied AMISOM and government against the Al-Qaeda affiliated Al-Shabaab Islamist militants.