

Media Monitoring Report, Somalia**Laura Metcalfe****26 August-1 September 2014**

- 1) Clashes between Somaliland and Khatuma state forces in the Sool region**
- 2) AMISOM and Somali troops launch new offensive against al Shabab stronghold**
- 3) Father of Al Shabab Fighter Sentenced to 6 Months in Prison**
- 4) Cabinet Passes New Media Law**

1) Clashes between Somaliland and Khatuma state forces in the Sool region**Garowe Online, independent media, 28 August 2014, in English****Somalia: Somaliland Forces take control of Saah Dheer**

- Somaliland forces have seized the Sool town of Saah Dheer after heavy fighting. The battle broke out after Somaliland forces launched a raid against the town that coincided with the state's presidential inauguration
- Khaatumo seeks substantial autonomy without Puntland or Somaliland influence. It has long called for the removal of Somaliland troops from Lasanod, where they have been stationed since 2007. Ever since, locals have been battling the separatist administration's army via guerilla warfare

RBC Radio, independent media, 28 August 2014, in English

[Somalia: Somaliland forces attack Saah Dheer Town, confrontation starts between Khatumo and Somaliland Forces](#)

- Clashes broke out in Saah-dhere, a village where the newly elected president of Khatuma state was to be inaugurated.
- Initial reports from Hargeysa stated that Somaliland troops had captured the village, but an official from the Khatumo administration rejected the claim, stating that the area was remained under Khatumo control.
- The forces met with resistance from Khatuma armed forces. Reporters state that the two sides were using heavy weaponry, including rocket propelled grenades and tanks.
- The fighting came amid growing tensions between the breakaway region of Somaliland in Somalia's Northwest, and the Khatumo administration, which seeks to form a federal member state of Somalia

RBC Radio, independent media, 29 August 2014, in English

[Somalia: Somali Federal Government Deplores Somaliland's Deadly Attack on Saax-dheer.](#)

- The Somali federal government has condemned Somaliland's attack on Saax-dheer village in the Sool region of the Khatuma state of Somalia. The attack left dozens dead, among them many civilians. The foreign minister issued a statement deploring the attack, the loss of life and property, and calling on all armed forces to show restraint in order to avoid escalating the conflict.
- The Khatuma administration was announced 3 years ago with the intention of creating an administration for the Sool and Sanaag regions of Somalia, which were under the control of Somaliland and Puntland. The administration has been ousted from the region after Somaliland forces seized their last station of Saax-dheer. The leaders are now in Ethiopia.





Mareeg Media, independent media, 31 August 2014, in English

[Khaatumo: Two Regional States' Birth Meet Federalism Obstacles in the North of Somalia](#)

- Recent clashes between the two militias of Somaliland and Khaatumo states are indications that a renewal of civil war in Northwestern Somalia could be a serious threat to the peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.
- The people of Khaatumo state of Somalia have faced persecution and injustices from traditional rival clan in Northern portion of Somalia. The fractured Isaaq clans seek to exercise clan-hegemony over Khaatumo and Awdalland states.
- On August 28th, a militia from Somaliland's SNM raided Saahdheer to disturb the inauguration of the elected president. The latter told the media that the will of the Khaatumo people cannot be stopped, and they will continue to work towards freedom.
- Khaatumo is extremely rich in resources including oil. International oil companies initially interested in extraction operations, withdrew amid security concerns.
- Khaatumo and Awdal states faced obstacles because of Somaliland's "grasping ways"

Social Media





 Harun Maruf @harunmaruf · Aug 28
Verifying reports that #Somaliland forces captured as many as 40 people including national and regional level officials.
[#Somalia](#)


  14  5 





 Harun Maruf @harunmaruf · Aug 28
Sources: President of #Khaatumo State Dr Ali Khalif Gallyaydh reportedly safe and have "escaped" into #Ethiopia.

  15  7 

 Harun Maruf @harunmaruf · Aug 28
Reports: #Somaliland forces attacked, seized the border town of #Sahdher, temporary seat of #Khaatumo State, casualties reported.
[#Somalia](#)


  10  1 

 Horn of Africa @SomaliaNewsroom · Aug 28
I'm sure many people have hardcore & unchangeable opinions about what should happen to Sanaag/Sool in #Somalia's federalism process. Scary.


  5  

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 Horn of Africa @SomaliaNewsroom · Aug 28
Battles between #Somaliland and #Khaatumo re-emphasize how difficult the #federalism process will be moving north.
[#Puntland](#) [#Somalia](#)

  12  2 

[View conversation](#)

 Live From Mogadishu @Daudoo · Aug 28
#Khaatumo officials say the attack on Sahdher was a joint effort by #Somaliland & #Puntland to destroy existence of Khaatumo state.
[#Somalia](#)

  8  4 

2) AMISOM and Somali forces launch new offensive against al Shabab

Jowhar, independent media, 31 August 2014, in English

[Somali national army and AMISOM Forces liberate Bulo Marer in Lower Shabelle](#)

- Forces fighting al Shabab liberated the strategic town of Bulo Marer , as well as two smaller towns nearby. The latest attack, dubbed “Operation Indian Ocean”, is aimed at liberating more towns from the Islamist militants.
- Bulo Marer it is a gateway to the port city of Baraawe and was used by AS as a recruitment center and tax base
- Baraawe remains on of the last sources of illicit revenue for Al Shabab.

RBC Radio, independent media, 30 August 2014, in English

[Bulo Marer Town Falls for Somali Government Forces and AMISOM](#)

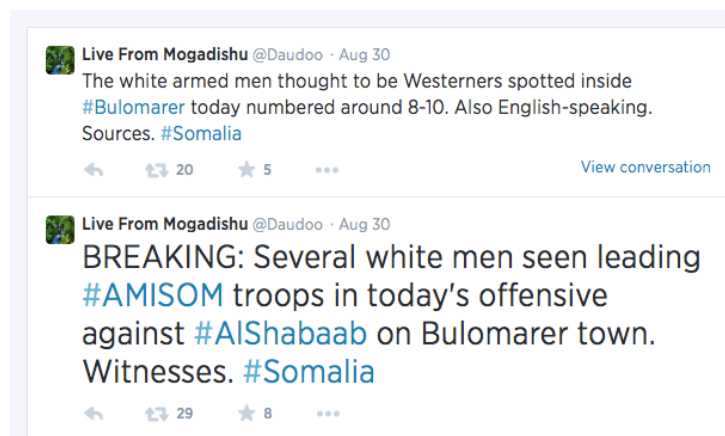
- AMISOM troops and the Somali army have taken control of Bulo Marer.
- Bulo Marer had been the second largest base for AS fighters. According to Lower Shabelle’s governor, the region had been a safe have for the group’s explosives experts (including foreigners), and was used as a base to plan attacks.
- The numbers of casualties is unclear, but locals confirmed that at least 9 AS fighters and 5 AU troops were killed.
- An AS managed website reported that their fighters had resisted an attempted invasion.

Kismaayo, independent media, 30 August 2014, in English

[Somali, AU Forces Capture Key Town from Al Shabab](#)

- Allied AU and Somali fighters overpowered Al Shabab to retake the SW town of Bulo Marer.
- Lower Shabelle’s governor dubbed the operation a success, stating that 11 fighters were killed and two soldiers were wounded during the raid. There were no initial reports of civilian casualties, but witnesses said that many fled the area.
- Officials say that allied forces are headed to the strategic port town of Barawe.
- The military offensive is being conducted as humanitarian organizations and aid workers warn of a possible famine. It is expected that a serious political battle awaits Somali officials with regard to how they determine the security and stability of newly liberated towns.

Social Media





Harun Maruf @harunmaruf · 5h

More #Shabab fighters arriving frontlines near #Kurtunwarey and Rays Barwaqo possibly to defend #Haawaay, #Sablale, road to #Dinsor, reports

← 7 1 ...

[View conversation](#)



Harun Maruf @harunmaruf · 5h

Reports: Significant outflow of al-#Shabab militants from #Barawe last night, some moving towards #Dinsor others to the frontlines.

← 9 ...



Followed by Dr Abdirahman Beileh



M.Mubarak @somalianalyst · Aug 30

8 towns supposedly liberated in March are surrounded by **Al-Shabab** and supplied by air. Don't see how this will have different result.

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M.Mubarak @somalianalyst · Aug 30

People are reportedly fleeing from **Al-Shabab's** De Facto capital of Barawe in #Somalia's Lower Shabelle region as allied troops advance.

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3) Father of al Shabab member sentenced to six months in prison.

Sabah Online, sabahionline.com, independent media, 27 August 2014, in English **[Father of Al Shabab Member Sentenced to Six Months in Prison](#)**

- The Somali military court has sentenced the father of a convicted al Shabab member to 6 months in prison for failing to report on his son. The son was sentenced to death for the killing of a traffic police officer in Mogadishu.
- The military court alleged that the father had withheld information from the authorities and hid his son.
- RBC radio later reported that the court had withdrawn the sentence, but no Somali government officials have confirmed the reversal of the decision

RBC Radio, independent media, 26 August 2014, in English

[Somalia: Military tribunal withdraws judgment against parent of Shabab member](#)

- Somalia's military court has withdrawn a verdict against the parent of an Al Shabab member who was alleged to have taken part in killings in Mogadishu.
- The tribunal had sentenced the father to six months in prison and the son to death. The father was accused of hiding his son, who the court termed criminal and a danger to the security of the capital and the people of Somalia.
- The tribunal's chief had previously warned that any person who hides criminals is a criminal. He also warned the parents of Shabab members that he intended to prosecute them.

Harar24 News, independent media, 26 August 2014, in English

[Somalia Military Court Sentences Man To Jail for Being Father of Alleged Al-Shabab Fighter](#)

- In the first verdict of its kind, a military court in Mogadishu has sentenced the father of an alleged al Shabab member to six months in jail, while the son was sentenced to death by firing squad.
- The sentencing comes weeks after Col. Abdurahman Tuyare publicly declared that parents of al Shabab members would be arrested and sentenced, accusing them of “failing in parenthood”
- This declaration received criticism from human rights activists and civil society workers, who called the move a form of collective punishment, and unconstitutional. Further, al Shabab’s secrecy makes it unlikely that parents would be aware of their children’s involvement.

4) Cabinet Passes New Media Law

Shabelle Media Network (via allafrika.com), independent, 29 August 2014

[NUSOJ laments resubmission of draft media law as a threat to media freedom](#)

- The National Union of Somali Journalists has protested a resubmission of draft media law to the Council of Ministers for their endorsement without the agreed upon inclusive consultation with media stakeholders. NUSOJ is concerned with a breach of the process of consultation that took place in early July.
- Media stakeholders who attended the three-day meeting had sought assurances that their contribution would be included in the final draft of the bill. The five representatives of the NUSOJ who were selected to work with the Ministry of Information to ensure that the bill recognized the concerns of media stakeholders say that they were marginalized during the process.
- The draft law is vague, poorly prepared, and leaves too much room for abuse by the authorities against media freedom and freedom of expression.
- The bill gives the Ministry of Information excessive powers over all the media, and undermines the independence and credibility of the proposed National Media Council
- NUSOJ calls for the redrafting of the bill in such a way as to ensure that journalists can do their job without fear of legal recrimination. They see the bill as another step in an ongoing process of media repression and intimidation.

RBC Radio, independent media, 1 September 2014, in English

[Somalia: Cabinet passes new Draft Media Bill after two weeks of discussion](#)

- Somalia’s cabinet passed the new draft media bill that has been in discussion over the past two weeks.
- The Minister of Information said the cabinet fully endorsed the new draft of the bill, and that it will now be put to parliament for approval.
- The new bill proposes the establishment of an Independent Media Council that deals with the complaints made against the media outlets in the country

- The National Union of Somali Journalists and the local media welcome the new bill, calling on the government to make sure that its institutions adhere to this law after parliament's approval
- Two decades of lawlessness and anarchy and the lack of a functioning rule of law has helped hundreds of independent media houses to be established in the country. Many journalists are young and unskilled, causing the industry to lose some of its professionalism.
- The new bill is intended to help journalists exercise their rights and prevent the defamation of other citizens.

Jowhar, independent media, 1 September 2014, in English **Minister of Information Welcomes Approval of Draft Media Law**

- The minister of information welcomed the announcement that cabinet had approved a new media law, saying that it will help Somalia with its urgent need to reform, develop, and regulate its journalism sector. He went on to state that the law was in line with the Provisional Constitution, and is intended to help with the development of the Somali media in order to provide jobs to young people, protect the rights of media workers, and protect civilians from violations of their dignity in the media.
- The bill was drawn up after extensive consultation with media stakeholders and the public across Somalia
- It guarantees the existence of government-owned media outlets, private outlets, and public service broadcaster.

Social Media



The screenshot shows four tweets from Twitter. The first tweet is from Abdikarim Hussein (@Abdikarim_Abdi3) posted 10 hours ago, stating that the Ministerial Cabinet approved the long-overdue Final Media Law. The second tweet is from Anjan Sundaram (@anjansun) posted 3 hours ago, mentioning repression and the power to safeguard ethical journalism. The third tweet is from Abdi Guled (@Abdi_Guled) posted 4 hours ago, stating that the new draft media law requires journalists to reveal their anonymous sources. The fourth tweet is also from Abdi Guled (@Abdi_Guled) posted 4 hours ago, stating that the cabinet approved a media bill that critics argue could be used against Somali journalists and hamper the operation of a free press.

Abdikarim Hussein @Abdikarim_Abdi3 · 10h
Ministerial Cabinet today approved long-overdue Final **Media** Law which was brought forward by the Ministry of Information 2 wks ago! [#Somalia](#)
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Anjan Sundaram @anjansun · 3h
In other words, repression MT [@Abdi_Guled](#): According to new draft law in **Somalia**, govt shall have the power to safeguard ethical **journalism**
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Abdi Guled @Abdi_Guled · 4h
The new draft **media** law requires journalists to reveal their anonymous sources should a court requires it. [#Somalia](#)
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Abdi Guled @Abdi_Guled · 4h
[#Somalia](#)'s cabinet approve a **media** bill that critics argue could be used against Somali journalists and hamper the operation of a free press
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