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21-28 August 2012
Report Content



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1. Post-election activity

Privately-owned media

Radio Shabelle news 0500 gmt, Mogadishu: Somali language
21 August 2012

- On the first day of the newly-elected Parliament, committees were selected to elect the Speaker and President

Jowhar news portal, Somali language

“Somali academic says women not getting constitutionally mandated number of MPs” by Dr. Cawo M Abdi, Assistant Professor Sociology at the University of Minnesota, Research Fellow at the University of Pretoria
25 August 2012

- Somali women are promised 30 per cent of the parliamentary seats as put forth in the constitution, but were only granted 15 per cent in this election

- The author argues that clan leaders are responsible for the decision-making processes in which individuals are chosen to have a seat in parliament. Because most clan members are men, women are unable to pursue their constitutional right to participate in the democracy

**Radio Shabelle news 0500 gmt, Somali language
27 August 2012**

- A number of references to the nomination process of new members of Parliament as they are selected by clan chiefs and leaders – reports of some interference by transitional government roadmap to peace officials throughout the process
- The UN is concerned with delays in the transitional period. The UN also accuses China of supplying “warring factions” in Somalia with arms, thereby fuelling conflict

Pro-Islamist media

Halgan.net, Somali language

**“Analyst calls for deployment of UN forces in post transition Somalia” by
Professor Liban Egal
25 August 2012**

- Accusations of corruption or incompetence among new members of Parliament, who Egal writes were “handpicked” by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)
- Calls for a UN intervention to eliminate corruption, monitor elections, and develop a roadmap for peace
- The report mentions poverty and violent conflict within the national capital of Mogadishu and states that war across the country was and has spurred regional and tribal difference supported of various warlords

2. Internal corruption allegations

Privately-owned media

**Radio Shabelle news 0500 gmt, Mogadishu: Somali language
21 August 2012**

- Newly-elected MPs were accused of incompetence by deputy chairman of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama’a Shaykh Ahmad Abduallahi Ilka’ase

Foreign media

Radio Bar-Kulan website 0000 gmt, Nairobi, Somali language

“Somali regional authorities denounce president’s refer of rejected MP to court”

26 August 2012

- A number of nominees for the new Parliament were summarily rejected by the selection committee via the high court of the Transitional Federal Government based on allegations of their involvement in the civil war
- Semi-autonomous Puntland, former president of regional Galmudug administration and an official of pro-Somali government militia group Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama’a says the refusal was unconstitutional

3. Al-Shabaab activity

Privately-owned media

Radio Shabelle news 0500 gmt Mogadishu: Somali language

21 August 2012

- Government police forces report of Al-Shabab militants are moving throughout central Somalia. They also accuse Al-Shabab of limiting the movement of families returning to Ceelasha Biyaha.

Shabelle Media Network website, Somali language

“Al-Shabab bases in southern Somalia region targeted with airstrikes”

24 August 2012

- Somali Transitional Federal Government forces with allied forces conducted air strikes in the Gedo Region of southern Somalia, killing 18 Al-Shabab fighters; a later Shabelle report on the same day confirmed Kenyan forces were involved in the mission
- Government spokesman Ahmad Abdullahi Hersi said up to 61 other fighters have defected to the government’s side

Jowhar news portal, Somali language

“Somalia’s Al-Shabab, government forces clash in southern Somali town”

26 August 2012

- The final attempt by Somali and allied African Union troops to capture the Al-Shabab base and port city of Kismaayo began in the morning of August 26, after Al-Shabab forces attacked allied troops on the road outside of Hosingow District

Foreign media

Radio Bar-Kulan, 1600 gmt Nairobi, in Somali (UN-supported)

**“Al-Shabab official said surrenders to Somali forces in southwestern town”
21 August 2012**

- Hasan Muhammad Ibrahim, also known as “Al Wajid” turned himself in to transitional federal government (TFG) forces in Baaydhabo town in southwestern Somalia
- Al Wajid was Al-Shabab’s religious leader in the southwestern region of Somalia, responsible for giving sermons on Al-Shabaab’s ideology and Islam
- He turned himself in after distancing himself from the group, which he said has become lost in its ideology of Islam. It has become too militant in its assassination attempts, land acquisitions, and forced confessions

BBC Monitoring Observation

**“Al-Shabab Twitter account calls on Muslims in Ethiopia to ‘rise and revolt”
21 August 2012**

- The reported Twitter account for Al-Shabaab (@HSMPress) released a TwitLonger English statement on 21 August titled “Press-Release – Meles Zenawi: Turning a New Page”
- The news release celebrated the death of Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who, they state, conducted a “brutal dictatorship” that limited the rights of Muslims in east Africa
- The press release calls for Ethiopian Muslims to fight for the introduction of Shari’a law with the new administration

**Radio Bar-Kulan, 1600 gmt Nairobi, in Somali (UN-supported)
22 August 2012**

- Allegedly in Berdaale locality, Bay Region, southwestern Somalia, Al-Shabab beheaded two individuals (unspecified)

Radio Bar-Kulan, 1600 gmt Nairobi, in Somali (UN-supported)

**“Al-Shabab beheads two civilians in southwestern Somalia”
22 August 2012**

- Two civilians accused of having connections with the transitional federal government were captured and beheaded by Al-Shabaab forces, in the Bay Region of southwestern Somalia

Radio Bar-Kulan, 1600 gmt, Nairobi, in Somali (UN-supported)**“Somalia’s Al-Shabab ‘recruiting students’ in southern port city”****26 August 2012**

- With the constant attacks by Somali and Kenyan forces upon the port city of Kismaayo, Al-Shabab has now started recruiting students for its cause within the town
- There is reference to past allegations of the use of child combatants in Al-Shabab activity, specifically in the south and central regions

BBC Monitoring Observation**“Al-Shabab accuses Kenya of “viciously hunting down” outspoken Muslims”****27 August 2012**

- In another press release published via Al-Shabab’s Twitter account (@HMSPress), the murder of a Kenyan cleric was denounced
- Al-Shabab calls on Kenyan Muslims to boycott upcoming elections and “take matters into their own hands”

4. Internal violence/conflict & Humanitarian concernsForeign media**Radio Bar-Kulan, 1600 gmt Nairobi, in Somali (UN-supported)****22 August 2012**

- Four persons carrying illegal explosives, weapons, and drugs were captured and arrested by Puntland security service in central Somalia

Later reported by privately-owned Shabeelle Media Network website (in Somali) that all four individuals were affiliated with Al-Shabaab on 23 August 2012, with headline “Suspected Al-Shabab members arrested, explosives seized in central Somalia town”

Privately-owned media**Shabelle Media Network website, Somali language****“AU troops to ensure security of road linking Somali capital with captured areas”****23 August 2012**

- The African Union's Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has taken control of the road between Mogadishu and Afgooye, with the intention of increasing security

Shabelle Media Network website, Somali language

"Somaliland gives people from southern Somalia '20 days to leave' disputed town"

26 August 2012

- The semi-autonomous, self-proclaimed republic of Somaliland demand that southern Somalis leave the town of Laas Caanood within 20 days, after accusing many residents of having links to Al-Qaida and Al-Shabaab
- Residents of the area have lived there for nearly 20 years to escape the violence of the civil war
- Somaliland government officials threatened to use military force if residents do not leave within the allocated time.

Jowhar news portal, Somali language, 0000 gmt

"Allied forces said not facing resistance in advance to Somali port city"

27 August 2012

- Allied forces continue to advance on the port city of Kismaayo from three directions. Residents are concerned that fighting may erupt within the city itself, endangering civilians. Government and allied forces expect to capture the city in coming days

[Pro-Puntland government media](#)

AllPuntland.com website, Somali language

"Human Rights Watch urge warring sides to protect civilians in Somali port town"

27 August 2012

- *Human Rights Watch* has requested the protection of civilians in the ongoing attack on the Al-Shabaab held port city of Kismaayo, as Somali and allied forces (including African Union and Kenyan) continue the offensive