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**11 – 17 December 2012**



1. Al-Shabab & internal violence
2. Democratization & governance
3. Humanitarian concerns & human rights

**1. Al-Shabab & internal violence**

**Privately-owned media**

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 11 December 2012**

**“Somali government conducts security operations in Jowhar”**

-Somali government forces are solidifying their presence in Jowhar, after capturing it from Al-Shabab last week.

-“Security operations” are underway but the report is unclear as to what exactly is happening in the town

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 11 December 2012**

**“Puntland prepares to rout militants out of Galgala mountains”**

-There are further raids planned by Puntland military in the Galgala Mountains to rout the Al-Shabab militants expected to be hiding there

-Puntland forces have pushed deeper into the Galgala mountains recently, prompting conflict with the rebels

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 16 December 2012**

**“Residents in Mogadishu call on government to create jobs for the militias in the city”**

-Since illegal checkpoints were dismantled in Mogadishu recently, mercenary “unruly militias” have been disrupting the city, leading some residents to demand they be given jobs or incorporated into the army

*\*\*Note from monitor: It is unclear whether incorporation of militia members into the government military would bring some discipline to the mercenaries, or serve to further divide the members of the standing army.*

### **Pro-Puntland media**

**Garowe Online, dated 14 December 2012**

**“One dead, seven injured after suicide car bomb in Mogadishu busy avenue”**

-A suicide bomber set off an explosion in a vehicle in downtown Mogadishu, injuring seven and killing himself

-The government has accused Al Shabab of the attack, though no group has yet claimed responsibility

**Garowe Online, dated 15 December 2012**

**“Ras Kamboni spokesman denies reports of clashes in Kismayo”**

-Rumours of heavy fighting in Kismayo between Somali forces and Al Shabab insurgents were denied by the Ras Kamboni spokesman in the city

-Some critics suspect the rumours were an attempt to disrupt the Jubaland discussions, which are well underway

**Garowe Online, dated 16 December 2012**

**“Puntland forces seize truck full of goods headed to terrorists”**

-A truck headed to the Golis Mountains in Puntland was apprehended, and discovered to contain medical supplies and food

-Authorities purport the supplies were intended to be delivered to Al Shabab militants who have taken cover in the hills

**Garowe Online, dated 17 December 2012**

**“Gunmen kill security officer in Mogadishu”**

-Gunmen killed a Somali security forces lieutenant on a busy street in Mogadishu and then fled the scene

-No group has yet claimed responsibility for the murder

### **Foreign media**

**The New Times, dated 17 December 2012**

**“EAJA official survives bomb attack in Somalia” by Jean de la Croix Tabaro**

-A suicide bomber targeting an AU Burundian delegation in Mogadishu unintentionally narrowly missed a prominent journalist from the East African Journalists Association

-Secretary General Omar Faruk Osman was about 50 feet from the vehicle that exploded, killing two

## 2. Democratization & governance

### Pro-Puntland media

**Garowe Online, dated 11 December 2012**

**“Ruling party killed democracy in Somaliland’ says opposition leader”**

-November’s municipal district elections in Somaliland continue to be contested, as more allegations of corruption have emerged

-The leader of UMMADA party, Dr Mohamed Abdi Gabose formally criticized the electoral process, attesting that they were never intended to be transparent

-Only the district of Hargeisa’s election is currently under investigation by government

-The continuing allegations of corruption have sparked protests throughout Hargeisa

**Garowe Online, dated 11 December 2012**

**“Fifth Puntland political association formed in Bossaso”**

-A fifth political association called ‘Midnimo’ has been officially formed ahead of Puntland’s January elections

**Garowe Online, dated 13 December 2012**

**“EU announces new education program in Puntland”**

-An EU education program is set to begin in 2013 in Puntland, after the elections are completed in the new year

-The program is intended to last 3 years at a cost of 7.5 million euros

*\*\*Note from monitor: with election of new government, the adherence to this program should be monitored closely*

**Garowe Online, dated 14 December 2012**

**“Deputy minister resigns one day after being appointed by prime minister”**

-One day after Abukar Hasan Ali was appointed deputy finance minister he resigned, citing that after discussions with clan elders, they agreed they were “not satisfied” with his position in cabinet

-The official reason for his resignation was that due to the small number of ministers appointed, overlapping ministry functions would impede progress on important issues

### Privately-owned media

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 17 December 2012**

**“Somali defense minister issues a stern warning to the undisciplined soldiers”**

-In response to allegations of violence and a lack of discipline in the military, the Somali defense minister warned that violence against civilians would result in court martials.

### **Foreign media**

**Think Africa Press, dated 11 December 2012**

**“Breaking away from intellectuals’ legacy of corruption, clan and kleptocracy”  
by Abukar Arman**

-This analysis purports that loyalty to clans and the legacy of colonialism has eroded the integrity of democracy in Somalia

-It encourages young Somalis to move away from the clan culture and promises of power to reverse the effects of corruption in Somali politics

### **3. Humanitarian concerns & human rights**

#### **Privately-owned media**

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 11 December 2012**

**“Outbreak of diarrhea kills seven in lower Shabelle region”**

-Extremely warm weather caused an outbreak of diarrhea in a lower Shabelle region that has little access to medical assistance, resulting the deaths of several residents

-Children are at high risk in the outbreak

-There has not yet been government response or assistance