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4 – 10 December 2012



1. Al-Shabab & internal violence
2. Democratization & governance
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1. Al-Shabab & internal violence

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 4 December 2012

“PM calls to end deadly clan fighting in central Somalia”

-Fighting between clans in Galgaduud, central Somalia, has left at least 30 people dead in recent days

-There is no specific reason the fighting broke out, but fighting between clans is not uncommon, and often results in death – days earlier fighting over wells in Dhusamareb city resulted in at least 30 others killed

Shabelle Media Network, dated 4 December 2012

“Amisom troops bombard Somali town”

-For unknown reasons, AMISOM fired rockets at Afgoye town, just northwest of Mogadishu, causing residents to flee

-AMISOM forces suspect a number of Al Shabab agents to be hiding in the district, but have not commented on the attacks or the displacement of residents it caused

Shabelle Media Network, dated 4 December 2012

“Heavy fighting erupts in a town outside Mogadishu, Somali capital”

- Al Shabab and Somali forces engaged in battle outside Mogadishu after an early morning attack by Al Shabab that killed 4 people
- Area residents said the battle was short, and regular activities in the town soon resumed

Shabelle Media Network, dated 5 December 2012

“Bomb attack on Puntland forces kills 12, injures 15”

- Puntland has become a regular target for Al Shabab, which set off a roadside bomb in the region on Wednesday killing 12 soldiers, though the number could double due to the wounded. Operations to find the perpetrators are underway

Shabelle Media Network, dated 6 December 2012

“Fierce fighting kills at least four in southern Somalia”

- Al Shabab attacked a cattle community in southern Somalia after local residents denied the group an endowment
- This article is unclear exactly what the endowment is or was, but notes there is often conflict between Al Shabab and residents in the region

Shabelle Media Network, dated 6 December 2012

“Ras Kamboni fighters block port activities in Kismayo”

- Ras Kamboni militia are increasing their visibility in Kismayo, where they are allied with AMISOM and government forces
- On Thursday they forced activities in the port to come to a halt, in an attempt to prevent further charcoal exports ahead of the arrival of an international delegation (unclear on purpose of delegation)

Shabelle Media Network, dated 9 December 2012

“Govt wrestles key town from militants”

- Somali government forces and AMISOM captured the southern Somali town of Jowhar from Al Shabab, after rebels abandoned the city
- Jowhar was a final stronghold of Al Shabab, which has now lost all of its major bases in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa

Shabelle Media Network, dated 9 December 2012

“Illegal checkpoints re-erected in Dharkeenley”

- The battle over illegal checkpoints throughout Mogadishu continues as Al Shabab reconstruct them after local police pull them down
- The checkpoints are often manned by Al Shabab fighters who harass residents and drivers, demanding tolls

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 5 December 2012

“Puntland forces kill seven Al Shabaab, near Galgala”

- Puntland continues to fight Al Shabab agents throughout the region, as many militants take cover in the mountainous areas of the region
- This is a different approach to Somaliland, which stated it would extend amnesty to Al Shabab fighters who originate from Somaliland (widely criticized as apparently top Al Shabab commanders in fact originate from Somaliland)

***Monitor notes: it is unclear how these increases in fighting between Puntland military and Al Shabab will effect the upcoming elections*

Garowe Online, dated 5 December 2012**“Civilian injuries in Mogadishu shelling – police remove roadblocks”**

- There is fighting in the city of Mogadishu, as Al Shabab agents fired shells at homes and the presidential home
- This comes after Mogadishu police have increased their removal of illegal roadblocks from the streets
- Last week while removing one such roadblock, the police chief was shot after an argument with a “bandit” at the checkpoint

Garowe Online, dated 9 December 2012**“Puntland Commandos raid Al Shabaab operations base in Golis Mountains”**

- Puntland military commanders raided the Golis mountains where a number of Al Shabab bases were expected to be entrenched
- An undisclosed but expected high number of Al Shabab members were killed, and large caches of weapons and munitions were captured
- The raid was a direct response to Al Shabab attacks on Puntland forces in Galgala 3 days earlier

2. Democratization & governance

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 4 December 2012**“Third Puntland political association announced in Bossaso”**

- As Puntland opens up for multiparty, democratic elections, a third political association has been announced
- There is no comment on the nature of the association, but it is called “UGUB” and will be led by former governor of Sanaag region Mohamed Saeed Nuur Dabeyl

Garowe Online, dated 8 December 2012**“After deadly protests, Somaliland electoral commission reviews results”**

- Violent demonstrations in Somaliland after municipal elections concluded resulted in the recount of votes in Hargeisa district
- It is unclear how many ballot boxes will be recounted, or how the allegations of corruption will be taken after the count

Garowe Online, dated 8 December 2012

“Puntland electoral commission extends registration deadline”

- The deadline to announce political associations for the upcoming Puntland elections was extended from December 10 to the end of the month
- There are expectations that in addition to the 3 political associations already formed, at least two more will formally submit themselves, including representatives from civil society groups

Garowe Online, dated 10 December 2012

“Ballot fraud in Somaliland district elections’ says opposition leader”

- Disagreements over allegations of corruption in Somaliland elections are disrupting the recount process
- The elections, which apparently international observers stated were “transparent” and “peaceful” have been contested, particularly in Hargeisa district
- Some areas allege they did not receive ballot boxes, or they were removed early
- The recount in Hargeisa is still underway

Garowe Online, dated 10 December 2012

“Puntland fourth political association responds to allegations”

- A fourth political association in Puntland was announced, named “Hor’ad”
- Its founder is Omar Ismail Waberi
- There is no report on the nature or mission of the party

Horseed Media, dated 6 December, 2012

“New Democracy in Puntland, not so ‘democratic’ after all?” by Khalid Yusuf

- Demonstrations broke out in Puntland after the current president planned to postpone the elections set for 9 January 2013
- Presidential forces fired on protestors, wounding many, who were unarmed
- The violence increased, as protestors responded by setting fire to tires in Gardo city

**Monitor note: Horseed media appears to be a new media source created by the new Horseed political association recently formed in Puntland, ahead of next year’s elections*

Foreign media

Political Analysis (South Africa blog), dated 7 December 2012

“Somalia’s clans and its power vacuum” by Fabian Scherer

- This analysis on clan politics outlines the nature of deadly conflicts that erupt with some regularity, particularly throughout rural Somalia
- Recently, conflicts are over access to potable water, which is at a constant shortage
- The author argues that conflicts arise when clans monopolize the political structures of municipal areas

Somaliland media

Somaliland Sun, dated 8 December 2012

“Not so wise lifting the arms embargo” by Moaghe Gulled

-This author suggests that it would be a mistake to lift the arms embargo the Security Council imposed on Somalia in 1992, despite requests from the current new government that it be done away with

-The government believes the Somali army, which as been perpetually underequipped, needs to be refitted

-The author fears that because the Somali army is made up of a number of clan militias, the re-arming of the military could result in massive internal political problems as clans fight for power

-Further, as this article being in the *Somaliland Sun*, it fears the re-arming of the Somali army could increase insecurity fears in Somaliland, which is semi-autonomous but unrecognized by the international community

3. Humanitarian concerns & human rights

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 6 December 2012

“Tika destroys security equipment for Shabelle radio station”

-In another worrying incident of security and freedom of the press, “TIKA” organization (unsure exactly who this is) arrived at Shabelle media’s radio station in Mogadishu with armed mercenaries and destroyed security barriers meant to protect the station with bulldozers

-There is a serious concern this could preface a violent attack on the station

Foreign media

UN News Service, dated 4 December 2012

“UN launches US \$1.3 billion appeal for humanitarian needs in Somalia”

-A three-year, 369-project appeal totaling \$1.3 billion in humanitarian assistance was announced by the UN OCHA.

-Priorities are food security, and addressing the “recurring crises brought on my drought and conflict”

-There are 1.1 million internally displaced people in Somalia

4. International relations

Foreign media

Capital FM (Nairobi), dated 10 December 2012

“Time to send Somali refugees back home – Raila” by Olive Burrows

- Kenya is determined to return Somali refugees from Dadaab refugee camp to Somalia
- Prime Minister Raila Odinga believes Somali refugees in the camp are directly responsible for recent terror attacks in Eastleigh, Nairobi
- Hundreds of thousands of refugees have lived in Dadaab for years, it is unclear where they would return to if deported to Somalia
- The camp regularly faces humanitarian disasters and insecurity