

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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February 19th – February 25th, 2013



Headlines:

- Al-Shabaab Fails to Sway Somalis Against Ethiopian Troops
- Illegal Checkpoints in Mogadishu's Outskirts
- Explosion Targeted at Amisom in Mogadishu
- Ministry of Interior Official Killed in Mogadishu
- Violent Conflicts Result in Casualties
- Female Killing on the Rise in Mogadishu

Al-Shabaab Fails to Sway Somalis Against Ethiopian Troops

February 24, 2014 *Sabahi* (Foreign Media)

- Rather than take up arms and join al-Shabaab's fight against Ethiopian troops serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), residents of several towns in central Somalia are instead fleeing their homes in the dead of night.
- Al-Shabaab began increasing its efforts to recruit civilians living in areas it controls on February 10th, after Ethiopian troops announced they were closing in.

- Using loudspeakers mounted on vehicles, al-Shabaab told residents of Bulo Burde, El Bur, Galhareri and other towns under its control that it was obligatory for them to join the "war" against Ethiopian troops "invading" Somalia. They said the Ethiopian troops wanted to spread Christianity in Somalia and that it was the duty for every Somali to fight them.
- Almost immediately, residents began fleeing their homes to escape forced conscription into al-Shabaab's militia.
- "The thing that caused me to flee El Bur district is when nearly a hundred people who were praying the noon prayer at a mosque in El Bur were ordered to listen to a sermon about jihad and how the enemy of God had attacked our country," he told Sabahi. "They told us that it is our Islamic duty to take part in the war and anyone who does not participate will face harsh punishment."
- Abdi said he sees no reason to fight alongside al-Shabaab, which the international community recognises as a terrorist group that is against peace.
- "This forced me to flee the territories under their rule," he said. "Whenever they feel under siege, they want to convince the people that it is the people who are being attacked, but it seems that idea is not working for al-Shabaab at this time."

Illegal Checkpoints in Mogadishu's Outskirts

February 25, 2014 *Shabelle News* (Independent Domestic Media)

- Drivers of the public transportation vehicles operating from Mogadishu to Afgooye in Lower Shabelle have explained to us that illegal checkpoints have been dumped on the main roads and money is being collected from the drivers.
- The long road connecting Mogadishu to Afgooye which is very much used by public transportation vehicles is rumoured to have numerous checkpoints accumulating funds from people on board the vehicles and is said to cause the drives significant difficulties.
- One of the drivers who contacted Radio Shabelle in Mogadishu reported that in the past, checkpoints were deposited on roads at night and in the evenings, but now even during the day where the thieves would collect up to 400,000ShS (\$20) which the drivers cannot afford to pay. He also urged the Somali government to take action in removing the checkpoints immediately as it causes complications.
- The road that leads to Afgooye district used by the people leaving Mogadishu, has recently been cleared of checkpoints by the Officials of the Somali government even though they have been unsuccessful in removing the current checkpoints that still lay on the road.

Explosion Targeted at AMISOM in Mogadishu

February 26, 2014 *Shabelle News* (Independent Domestic Media)

- According to witnesses that reported to Shabelle, they described that a bomb was targeted at AMISOM soldiers in the Arafat neighbourhood in Yaaqshiid district.
- The explosion hit one of the AMISOM convoys although it is not known whether casualties were sustained.
- After the blast, AMISOM soldiers halted the movement of public transportation and people on the road.
- The explosion was among the latest acts of insecurity in the capital city in Mogadishu for whom responsibility was claimed by Al-Shabaab.

Ministry of Interior Official Killed in Mogadishu

February 26, 2014 *Shabelle News* (Independent Domestic Media)

- According to staff from the Ministry of Interior of the Somali government, they explained to us that an official from the Ministry of Interior was killed in Mogadishu.
- The official that was killed was named Mohamud Mohamed Sheikh Sadiiq Jarati and it was rumoured that the person behind his death was his wife according to reliable sources.
- Jarati is being laid to rest today at Kahda district in Banaadir region with his funeral being attended by officials and heads of the Somali government.
- It is not known why the spouse of the deceased Jarati ordered his death but sources could not add further information regarding his murder.

Mogadishu: Violent Conflict Results in Casualties

February 26, 2014 *Shabelle News* (Independent Domestic Media)

- There were reports of physical conflict last night between Wadajir district's military forces opposing armed militias at Bar Kontarol in the district and it caused casualties.
- According to witnesses, they said that the fighting came after troops from the Somali government attacked Bad Kontarol where they suspected Al-Shabaab hiding there.
- It was reported that from the governments soldiers, only one was killed and led to the militia acquiring two automatic weapons.

- Wadajir district administration in Banaadir whom we contacted, refused to comment on the fighting in the district.
- The military troops that attacked the militia themselves did not comment but rather kept it to themselves.

Female Killings on the Rise in Mogadishu

February 25, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- It was reported that a female vaccinator was killed today Labadhagax neighbourhood in Wardhiigleey district.
- The woman that was killed was named Shariifo and the armed people that killed her fled the scene almost immediately.
- Shariifo was rumoured to be the Department Head even though there have been no statement from the Wardhiigleey district administration.
- Furthermore, another girl was killed in S/Xoolaha in Mogadishu; the girl was said to sell tea in the neighbourhood.
- Armed groups with pistols were suspected of killing the females despite the fact the reason for their killing is not known yet.