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1 – 7 January 2013**



1. Al-Shabab & internal violence
2. Democratization in Puntland
3. Humanitarian concerns
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### 1. Al-Shabab & internal violence

#### Foreign media

**Government of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), dated 2 January 2013**

**“Reports of Al-Shabab leaders withdrawing from Badhere”**

-Al Shabaab has reportedly withdrawn from the last of its strongholds in the Gedo region, in advance of approaching government troops

**The New Vision (Uganda), dated 6 January 2013**

**“Amisom captures key Al-Shabaab base” by Baddeo Bwambale**

-Somali military captured the Al-Shabaab military base in Balidoogle, northeast of Mogadishu

#### Privately-owned media

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 2 January 2013**

**“Roadside bomb hits Amisom patrol in Merka town”**

-AMISOM forces were hit by a roadside bomb outside of Merka town, in southern Somalia

-Three civilians were killed, and there are unreported casualties for the AMISOM troops

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 6 January 2013**

**“Mogadishu and Govt controlled areas are reliably safe, says Amisom spokesman”**

-In an interview with Shabelle Media, Somali Colonel Ali Hamud of the AMISOM forces stated the capital of Mogadishu is now considered a safe space, despite the ongoing violence that continues there

### **Pro-Puntland media**

**Garowe Online, dated 5 January 2013**

**“Heavy fighting in Gedo region between Govt forces and Al Shabaab”**

-Al Shabaab ambushed a convoy of government and Ethiopian military in the Gedo region, killing two and wounding seven.

**Garowe Online, dated 6 January 2013**

**“Al Shabaab threatens to ‘destroy Puntland,’ says ‘no security progress in Mogadishu”**

-In an audio recording released on the internet, an Al-Shabaab spokesman called civilians to arms to fight the ‘colonizers’ of neighbouring African countries, and the governments who do not abide by Sharia law

-Specifically, the recording targeted the government of Puntland, which is the region Al Shabaab has been steadily retreating to after it has been repeatedly defeated by the Somali military throughout the country and pushed from its traditional strongholds

-The spokesman vowed that Al Shabaab would continue to fight authorities

## **2. Democratization in Puntland**

### **Diaspora media**

**Horseed Media, dated 1 January 2013**

**“Puntland government obstructs humanitarian services for the poor” by Khaalid Yusuf**

-This article reports that President Farole of Puntland has imposed a tax of 5-15% on all humanitarian aid into the semi-autonomous region, including from UN and other major international donors such as Save the Children and World Vision

-There is no indication of what will be done with the money levied from the taxes

-There are elections impending in Puntland, and the term of President Farole officially comes to an end on 8 January 2013

**Horseed Media, dated 4 January 2013**

**“Puntland on the edge” by Daud Omar**

-This colourful and biased article calls for President Farole of Puntland to resign for his contempt of democracy in the region

### **Pro-Puntland media**

**Garowe Online, dated 2 January 2013**

#### **"6 political associations registered in Puntland: election commission"**

-The registration period for political associations wishing to run for office in the upcoming Puntland elections has closed, with 6 associations recognized of 9 that applied

-The elections are at an unspecified date in mid-2013, with the three associations receiving the most electoral votes forming as Puntland's official political parties

**Garowe Online, dated 3 January 2013**

#### **"Puntland minister warns against Al Shabaab and 'political spoilers'"**

-In Puntland's fight against the Al Shabaab insurgency, the security minister announced that village elders would be encouraged to detain any suspected Al-Shabaab agents and hold them until their innocence is proven

-Further, in what the government claims is being undertaken as a pre-emptive measure to ensure successful democratic transition, only the six political associations approved and registered by the government are able to engage in political meetings – any group that meets or travels for political purposes that is not one of the six approved associations will be deemed illegal

*\*\*Note from monitor: both of these announcements are alarming and can be deemed a severe threat on the future of successful democracy in Puntland*

**Garowe Online, dated 4 January 2013**

#### **"No taxes on humanitarian services' says Puntland finance minister"**

-After a Horseed Media article that asserted the finance minister of Puntland planned to implement a 5-15% tax on incoming humanitarian aid, the minister denied the accusations, saying the entire report was fault and there would not be any taxes put on incoming humanitarian aid

-Garowe Online suggests that, with other "independent Somali media analysts" that Horseed media is organized and operated by members of the Somali diaspora seeking to publish outrageous and tabloid-appropriate stories

### **Privately-owned media**

**Shabelle Media Network, dated 5 January 2013**

#### **"Farole presidency has three days to go, say politicians in Puntland"**

-President Farole of Puntland has been told he has three days to leave office to make way for democratic reform, ahead of approaching elections

-Other news sources have referred to his term expiring on 8 January, but he is attempting to extend his term despite the elections – though it is unclear exactly how he plans to do this

### 3. Humanitarian concerns

#### Foreign media

**The Daily Trust (Nigeria), dated 2 January 2013**

**“Somali journalists still on edge” by Misbahu Bashir**

-This interview is an inside account of the experience of Somali journalists, conducted by a Nigerian newspaper with Mohammed Gawani, a Somali journalist now living in Kenya

-Most importantly, he notes that little is being done to protect journalists in the country, as the government is as great a danger to them as Al-Shabaab

**National Union of Somali Journalists, dated 1 January 2013**

**“2012 is the deadliest year yet for Somali media, says Nusoj”**

-Mogadishu was deemed to be the most dangerous city in Somalia for journalists – for whom 2012 has been the most dangerous year in their history

-The National Union of Somali Journalists asserts that in the latter half of 2012, journalists were deliberately hunted and killed for political purposes

-Somalia is the most dangerous country in the world for journalists, after Syria

**Aljazeera, dated 6 January 2013**

**“Rape flourishes in Mogadishu’s IDP camps” by Laila Ali**

-Despite the recent statements from AMISOM defending the safety and security of Mogadishu, this article identifies the at-risk and dangerous environment of the IDP camps in the city

-There are widespread instances of rape, which is rarely taken seriously by authorities

-Rape stigma continues to be a huge problem for women in the camps and throughout Somalia

### 4. Governance

#### Pro-Puntland media

**Garowe Online, dated 7 January 2013**

**“Galmudug and Ahlu Sunna to form ‘joint administration’ in central Somalia”**

-Vying political factions in central Somalia have apparently decided to work together to manage the area in a joint administration

-The clan-based factions of Galmudug and Ahlu Sunna will cooperate to establish order in the area

**Garowe Online, dated 7 January 2013**

**“Federal govt will change constitution’ says President Hassan”**

- After the 2013 budget was approved by Parliament, it was dissolved with the next session opening in March
- The President hopes to work on the current Provisional Constitution with members of Parliament to properly establish a federalist system in the state upon Parliament's recommencement
- Garowe Online purports that this wish to 'change' the constitution will be done in an attempt to disrupt the formation of the state of Jubaland