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22 – 28 January 2013



1. Al-Shabab & internal violence
2. Humanitarian concerns & freedom of the press
3. Governance: internal
4. Governance: Puntland & Somaliland
5. International relations

1. Al-Shabab & internal violence

Pro-American interests media

Sabahi, dated 22 January 2013

“Somali forces tighten security in Mogadishu” by Ali Adam

- From January 14-19, police in Mogadishu conducted mass arrests resulting in the temporary detention of over 3,000 people, 259 of whom remain in custody, being cited as “security threats”
- To justify the arrests, the author of this article interviews a number of Mogadishu residents who maintain that the regular “security” roundups help to maintain a sense of safety in the city

Sabahi (Washington DC), dated 25 January 2013

“Twitter suspends Al-Shabaab’s account”

- After Al-Shabaab published photos of murdered French hostage Denis Alex and threatened to execute Kenyan hostages on Twitter, its account was suspended

- Al-Shabaab denounced Twitter for censorship, despite Twitter user agreements forbidding expressions of violent threats

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 24 January 2013

“Govt forces raid village near Jowhar after Al Shabaab attack”

- Brief fighting broke out near Jowhar town after militants and government forces clashed while raiding a small village
- Up to six were killed in the attack, it is unclear whether they were military or civilian deaths

Independent media

Raxanreeb.com, dated 24 January 2013

“Al Shabab threatens to kill Kenyan hostages in Somalia”

- Al Shabab in Somalia used its Twitter account to threaten to kill two Kenyan civil servants, captured last year in a border town near Wajir unless Kenya released all of its prisoners who are Muslim and have been detained on terrorism charges
- Kenya has yet to comment on the situation

Raxanreeb.com, dated 27 January 2013

“Dharkaynlay district is ruled by armed thugs”

- Despite reports that Mogadishu is the safest it has been in decades, clans continue to rule parts of the city, particularly Dharkaynley district
- Using intimidation techniques and illegal roadblocks, there are still parts of the city that are incredibly dangerous to residents

Foreign media

The Star (Kenya), dated 26 January 2013

“Release hostages unconditionally, Al-Shabaab told” by Calvin Onsarigo

- Kenya demanded Al-Shabaab release its Kenyan hostages immediately, and unconditionally, shortly after Al-Shabaab threatened via its Twitter account that it would execute them unless Kenya released all of its Muslim prisoners who have been detained on terrorism charges

2. Humanitarian concerns & freedom of the press

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 23 January 2013

“Militia group gags journalists”

- Despite the reports from some news outlets (such as Garowe Online) that the Ras Kamboni militia is pro-government, there are reports that Ahmed Madobe summoned journalists to a meeting in which he forbid them from reporting anything about Kismayo without the consent of his militia
- Shabelle reports that seven particular journalists were singled out and told they had already been warned
- Ras Kamboni was previously affiliated with Al Shabab but defected in late 2012 to join the Somali government military

**Note from monitor: this is a particularly alarming report, and the situation in Kismayo and Jubaland should be watched carefully, should tensions arise between Ras Kamboni, AMISOM, and Somali government troops

Foreign media

Human Rights Watch (Washington DC), dated 22 January 2013

“Free journalist, others lawfully detained – police response to sexual violence chills media freedom”

- Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are alarmed that the journalist detained for over one week after interviewing a woman who reported being raped by security forces, as well as the woman and two acquaintances, are still being held by government officials
- Amnesty has described the journalist as a “prisoner of conscience”
- There is no indication that they will be released, but they have also yet to be charged
- The reports of sexual violence in IDP camps and by government or security forces happen with alarming regularity, and are not being taken seriously by the Somali government

*This report was also published by **Shabelle Media Network** on 23 January 2013

IRIN Humanitarian News and Analysis, dated 24 January 2013

“Death sentence and detentions raise profile of rape in Somalia”

- This reiterates the story of the imprisoned journalist, rape survivor, and her acquaintances
- Importantly, it notes that reports of sexual violence have been increasing in Somalia
- The punishment for rape is the death penalty in Somalia, something human rights organization have appealed the Somali government change

Committee to Protect Journalists (New York), dated 28 January 2013

“Somali should free jailed reporter, solve press murders”

- The Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists has personally and formally requested the President of Somalia free journalist

Abdiaziz Abdinuur who is being detained without charge for interviewing a woman who reported being raped by government security forces

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 24 January 2013

“President Hassan vows to fight ‘murder, rape and corruption’”

- In addressing the recent controversy regarding reports of sexual violence in Somalia, particularly by soldiers or security officials, President Hassan pledged to fight against the “three evils” of “murder, rape and corruption”
- Despite also “praising Somali women ‘the honor of Somalia’”, the journalist who was imprisoned for reporting rape at the hands of Somali security officials remains in custody

3. Governance: internal

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 26 January 2013

“Somalia and UN officials call for ‘rebuilding of national forces’”

- The Somali government appealed for more support in rebuilding its national forces, as the AMISOM mandate approaches its completion
- This news worries the administration of Puntland, which believes that increasing a military force before disparate clan and regional tensions are resolved across Somalia could lead to violent oppression by security forces across the country

Independent media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 27 January 2013

“Authorities in central Somalia to incorporate local militias to the Somali army”

- In an effort to increase the size of national forces, authorities in central Somalia plan to use the Djiboutian AMISOM contingent to train local militias into the national army

4. Governance: Puntland & Somaliland

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 22 January 2013

“Jubaland formation process underway – Kismayo leader”

- The head of the government-supported Ras Kamboni militia that has been effectively governing Kismayo, Ahmed Madobe, announced that delegates

will begin arriving in the city to formally establish the regional government of Jubaland

- Sheikh Madobe also stated a commitment to free and fair elections, and a move away from traditional clan-organized governments
- There is no report in this article about Ras Kamboni's censoring of journalists, but it rather emphasizes the ruling power of Ahmed Madobe

Garowe Online, dated 25 January 2013

"Garissa mayor and Jubaland committee chief visiting Puntland"

- In attempts to tighten the relationship between Puntland and Jubaland, official delegations from northern Kenya and the Jubaland organizing committee met in Galkayo to discuss the future of Jubaland
- Puntland has offered the most support in the creation of Jubaland, and it is likely that Jubaland plans to use the region as an administrative model for its own governance and organization

Pro-Somaliland media

Somaliland Sun, dated 23 January 2013

"US recognition of provisional Somali govt changes nothing" by Ahmed Kheyre

- This editorial states that Somaliland will continue to pursue its independence
- Somalia and Somaliland must exist as two separate countries
- Unless this is agreed diplomatically, "the matter will once again be settled with weapons instead of talking"

**This is incredibly strong language, and should be watched carefully

Independent media

Raxanreeb.com, dated 27 January 2013

"Puntland democracy - smoke and mirrors" by Ali Abdulle

- This article warns that the poor relationship between Puntland and Mogadishu is deteriorating on both sides
- It criticizes the Puntland plan for democratization that has been repeatedly postponed, particularly its ruling that only specifically recognized parties can partake in the upcoming elections, and that this will undermine the overall democracy project

Raxanreeb.com, dated 28 January 2013

"A newspaper's editorial seen as a 'threat'"

- Somaliland is furious that the United States chose to formally recognize the government of Somalia
- It highlights The Somaliland Times editorial threatening that America's lack of recognition could turn Somaliland into a "terrorist sanctuary"

- The official recognition of Somalia has effectively undermined the attempted reopening of diplomatic channels between Somalia and Somaliland

Foreign media

Washington Post, dated 27 January 2013

“Specific threat to Westerners in Somaliland region of Somalia; immediate evacuation urged”

- British citizens have been urged to immediately evacuate Somaliland as there is “growing turbulence” in the region
- The Foreign Office did not state a specific reason for the warning

5. International relations

Foreign media

Human Rights Watch, dated 21 January 2013

“Don’t force 55,000 refugees into camps – unlawful transfer plan to begin January 21, could provoke conflict”

- As of 21 January, Kenya intends to forcefully evict up to 55,000 unregistered urban refugees, the majority of whom are Somali, into detainment camps, citing them a threat to national security
- This transfer is illegal under international humanitarian law, as it violates free movement rights of refugees
- Kenya intends to return the majority of Somali refugees to Somalia as soon as possible, but in the interim they will be forced to remain in camps such as Dadaab, despite Doctors Without Borders describing conditions in the camps as “disastrous,” “dire,” and “precarious”