

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

Brett Collins, Country Desk Officer for Somalia

January 7th – January 15th, 2013



Headlines:

- Al-Shabaab takes Strategic Town in Southern Somalia
- Al-Shabaab Kidnaps Doctors in Bakol Region
- Al-Shabaab Suspects Arrested in Bakool Region
- Al Qaeda Militia Chiefs Killed in KDF Attack
- Lower Shabelle Region Vows to Eliminate Illegal Roadblocks

Al-Shabaab Takes Strategic Town in Southern Somalia

January 15, 2014 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Officials say At least 10 Govt Soldier were killed and more others were seriously wounded in when a heavy fighting broke out between Somali Govt troops and Al Shabaab militants in middle Shabelle region on Tuesday
- The fighting erupted after Al Qaeda linked Al Shabaab militants launched an ambush attack on Govt bases in Mahaday and Buurane towns, killing ten Somali troops, capturing 2 military convoy, according to Somali officials.

- "They [Al Shabaab militants] armed with launchers propelled grenades and machine guns attacked army bases in Mahaday and Buurane town located middle Shabelle region, they killed 10 Somali troops and wounded more others" said a local resident, adding that Al Shabaab took control Mahaday and Buurane for several hours.
- Confirming the incident, to Shabelle Media, Yusuf Abdi Abdulle a deputy governor of middle Shabelle region for Somali gov't said that Al Shabaab ambushed on army bases in the region that has at least killed 10 soldiers and seizing 2 Govt vehicles during the attack.
- Al Shabaab has been carrying out military-style ambushes, suicide bombing and planned assassinations in the southern towns of the war-ravaged country where security situation remains volatile.

Al-Shabaab Kidnaps Doctors in Bakol Region

January 16, 2014 Sabahi (Foreign Media Network)

- Al-Shabaab reportedly abducted a Somali doctor working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) from his home in Wajid district in Bakol region, Somalia's Hiraan Online reported Wednesday (January 15th).
- Mohiyadin Taruri is the second doctor to be abducted by al-Shabaab after the militant group recently kidnapped Abukar Hashami, the WHO representative in the region.
- The doctors are believed to be held in the al-Shabaab controlled town of Dinsor, according to local residents.
- Al-Shabaab frequently targets international aid organisations and has recently issued threats against Somalis working with international organisations.
- The WHO, Somali government and al-Shabaab have not yet commented on the incident.

Lower Shabelle Region Vows to Eliminate Illegal Roadblocks

January 16th, 2014 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- The commissioner of Marka town in lower Shabelle province Mohamed Osman Ali Yarisow who spoke with Radio Shabelle in Mogadishu says that his Administration is committed ensuring security of different villages in Marka as well as he vowed to remove all illegal roadblocks in the region
- Mr. Osman the commissioner of coastal city of Marka reaffirmed that they (Somali forces) will fight the roadblocks until it cleaned all in the region.
- Uncountable illegal roadblocks are located in lower Shabelle region which are taken illegal large amounts of taxes on public transports.
- Illegal road blocks have become a common phenomenal in lower Shabelle region.

Al-Shabaab Suspects Arrested in Lower Bakool Region

January 15th, 2014 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Somali security forces have beefed up security measure in a bid to thwart Al Shabaab fighter's attempts in Bokool region, Shabelle reports on Tuesday.
- The operation has been conducted in Baradele town in Bakool region, with Somali security forces arrested dozens of Al Qaeda linked Al Shabaab militants in the city, according to Gov't officials.
- Speaking to Shabelle Media Station in Mogadishu, Col Abdirahman Mohamed Osmaan, a police force said that the sweep was intended to eliminate Al Shabaab remnants in town, adding that the numbers of Al Shabaab were detained during the searches.
- This operation comes after Al Shabaab carries ambushes and grenade attacks against on Bases manned by Somali Gov't official's forces and African Union peacekeeping troops in town.

Al Qaeda Militia Chiefs Killed in KDF Attack

January 17, 2014 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Six senior foreign al Shabaab leaders are among 57 members of the al Qaeda linked militia who were killed in the Kenya Defence Forces air strike on Gedo region last Thursday.
- Intelligence sources in Somalia yesterday confirmed that key foreign al Shabaab commanders Imran Abu Jilali from Pakistan, Sh. Abdalla Al Manzur from Egypt, Alakim Nurala from Sudan, Abdul Hakim Mohamud an al Qaeda leader from Yemen and Shukri Bin Khalifa also from Yemen were killed in the Kenya Defence Forces F-5 jet air strike on Birta Dheere, in Garabarhey within Gedo area.
- According to the intelligence sources, Al Amud Bin Ibrahim, a senior al Shabaab commander respected by the terror group's leader Ahmed Godana, the outgoing al Shabaab Gedo region commander and Fara Dheere, the incoming commander were also killed in the attack. The KDF attack targeted Godane, who left thirty minutes before the bombs were dropped. The KDF conducted three air strikes on the target.
- "Ahmed Godane was the target but he narrowly escaped the strike by sheer luck. He left a few minutes before the air strike. The al Shabaab leaders were holding a regional command change over meeting at Garabarhey. Gamadhere Mohammed, a Kenyan from Garissa might have died or sustained injuries during the attack. He is responsible for terrorist attacks in Kenya," said a source who sought anonymity for fear of retribution.