

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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**July 23 – 29, 2013****Headlines**

- Sensitivities over Somaliland Semantics Results in TV Station Being Banned
- Al-Shabaab Attacks Turkish Embassy in Mogadishu

Sensitivities over Somaliland Semantics Results in TV Station Being Banned**Private Television Network Banned in Somaliland**National Union of Somali Journalists (Independent Organization), July 23, 2013

- Authorities in Somaliland officially banned on Monday, 22 July, the operations of recently established television Network, Kalsan TV, in Somaliland. Kalsan TV is based in London but has offices across the country.
- The officially stated motive of the ban is "lack of license" to operate in Somaliland. But the management of Kalsan TV and journalists in Somaliland believe that the ban was prompted by a TV debate which was recently broadcasted by Kalsan TV.

- According to media reports, Somaliland officials repeatedly expressed their irritation concerning words used by Kalsan TV presenters who call Somaliland as "Somaliland Administration" instead of calling it "Somaliland government".

Al-Shabaab Attacks Turkish Embassy in Mogadishu

Mogadishu Explosion Targets Turkish Staff Building

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), July 27, 2013

- A car laden with explosives targeted a building housing the staff of Turkish embassy in Mogadishu on Saturday
- The car bomb attack on the Turkish residency in Mogadishu took place after a suicide car bomb rammed into the gates of the building killing three persons including a nearby Somali university student.
- The Turkish government stepped up its involvement in Somalia in 2011, dispatching its diplomatic mission led by Turkish Ambassador to Somalia Kani Torun to Mogadishu, constructing and rehabilitating public hospitals and schools in Mogadishu.

Al-Shabaab Boasts About Ramadan Rampage

Sabahi (Foreign Media), July 26, 2013

- In a series of recent Twitter messages, al-Shabaab boasted about how its fighters carried out over 100 attacks during the first half of Ramadan, and vowed to increase the violence in coming weeks
- "Of the 108 military operations carried out by HSM [al-Shabaab], 57 were explosions and grenade attacks, 41 were direct confrontations and ambushes," the militant group said July 24th
- Deemed the "Ramadan offensive", al-Shabaab's campaign of violence has been "concentrated in the capital, with nearly half of all HSM operations taking place in Mogadishu".
- Their rationale: "Ramadan is a month of Jihad and sacrifice. It's time for observing the most righteous deeds & offering gratitude to Allah for His blessings," it said. "And what better way to observe Ramadan and offer gratitude to Allah than striking the necks of the invaders and destroying their might!"
- Local media coverage of terrorist attacks during Ramadan validates far fewer than half of the attacks al-Shabaab claims, and it is unclear if all of them were indeed carried out by the group.
- "The actions al-Shabaab is carrying out during the blessed month of Ramadan are outside the bounds of Islam," said Ahlu Sunna wal Jamaa cleric Sheikh Abdirahman Ahmed. "Islamic law does not allow the killing of an innocent Muslims at all, and the month of Ramadan is further restricted. The ones who are setting up bombs and killing Muslim people who are fasting should know that they will never escape the punishment of God."

Somalis Shocked By Al-Shabaab Attack On Turkish 'Muslim Brothers'

Sabahi (Foreign Media), July 29, 2013

- In an attempt to justify the attack, al-Shabaab posted a message on Twitter calling Turkey "anything but Islamic".
- "Many Turks have come to Somalia to help our recovery," Somali President Hassan Mohamud said. "We have new schools and hospitals because of their extraordinary work."
- "Al-Shabaab would tell its sympathisers that it was waging a holy war against the infidels but in reality it was targeting innocent Muslims during the blessed month of Ramadan as it clearly demonstrated, once again, its disregard of human life by targeting innocent civilians from a Muslim country," Omar Fodaadi, a political analyst in Mogadishu said