

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

FARAZ ALIDINA, MIGS DESK OFFICER FOR SOMALIA

June 25 – July 1, 2013

**Headlines**

- Factioned and Weakened Al-Shabaab Becoming Desperate
- Fighting Continues in Kismayu

Factioned and Weakened Al-Shabaab Becoming Desperate**Al-Shabaab abducting children from central Somalia**

Sabahi (Foreign Media), June 25, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/06/25/feature-02

- Al-Shabaab in recent weeks has kidnapped hundreds of children from the militant-controlled town of El Bur in Galgadud, residents say, expressing fear that the al-Qaeda-affiliated group is forcibly recruiting them as child soldiers.
- Since early May, more than 350 children under the age of 16 have been taken from Qur'an schools or while playing in the streets of El Bur and surrounding areas
- According to a May 15th report to the United Nations Security Council from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, al-Shabaab perpetrated 1,789 cases of child recruitment in 2012, while the Somali National Army was responsible for 179 similar cases.

Al Shabaab chief flees Barawe after infighting

Garowe (Pro-Puntland Media), June 25, 2013

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Al_Shabaab_chief_flees_Barawe_after_infighting_printer.shtml

- Hassan Dahir Aweys a high ranking Al Shabaab official has reportedly fled southern Somalia seeking refuge in central Somalia after an Al Shabaab feud has intensified
- Sources speculate, that Aweys fled the assassination squad sent by Godane, and is currently regrouping in Mudug region.

Al-Shabaab factions in standoff after unprecedented battle in Barawe

Sabahi (Foreign Media), June 25, 2013

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/06/25/feature-01

- After rival al-Shabaab forces squared off in a deadly battle last week in the Lower Shabelle town of Barawe, residents of militant-controlled areas say al-Shabaab's feuding factions are preparing for more open warfare
- Forces loyal to top al-Shabaab commander Ahmed Abdi Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubayr, and second-in-command Ibrahim al-Afghani faced off beginning late night on June 19th, Barawe
- Barawe residents long expected clashes between al-Shabaab fighters because law and order in the town had deteriorated to the point where militants from rival factions would argue and point their AK-47s at one another regularly

Top Al Shabaab official caught days after fleeing infighting

Garowe (Pro-Puntland Media), June 26, 2013

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Top_Al_Shabaab_official_caught_days_after_fleeing_infighting.shtml

- Al Shabaab official Hassan Dahir Aweys – on the US most wanted terrorist list – has been reportedly captured in the town of Adaado on Wednesday after fleeing Al Shabaab infighting in southern Somalia
- A group of armed pirates captured the Al Shabaab leader in the Himan and Heeb area in Galgudud region. The former Hizbul Islam Chief, Hassan Dahir Aweys was making his way reportedly to the pirate strongholds of Hobyo and Harardheere
- The pirates in the area handed the wanted terrorist over to the Himan and Heeb administration in the area.
- Ethiopia and the U.S. are also requesting his handover as they are concerned about a judicial hearing of such a high ranking Al Shabaab official.

- The United States Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) added him to the Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) on November 7, 2001. The UN also designated Aweys as a terrorist calling him "an individual associated with Al Qaeda".

Al Shabaab official Aweys capture 'big test' for Somalia govt anti-terrorism policy

Garowe (Pro-Puntland Media), June 28, 2013

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Aweys_capture_big_test_for_Somalia_govt_anti-terrorism_policy.shtml

- The method that Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's administration deals with the capture of Aweys will be indicative of the president's anti-terrorism policy.
- The Somali Federal Government is "leaning towards accommodating Aweys" and empowering him to fight Al Shabaab in the central regions of Galgadud and Hiran, while Somali Federal Government plans to "deploy troops in Middle Jubba region bypassing Al Shabaab-held areas like Barawe in new efforts to destabilize Jubaland administration in Kismayo,"
- Jubaland leaders have previously accused the Somali government of "cooperating with Al Shabaab" to foment violence in Kismayo.

Al Shabaab admits killing its own senior officials

Garowe (Pro-Puntland Media), June 30, 2013

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Al_Shabaab_admits_killing_its_own_senior_officials.shtml

- Al Shabaab militant group in Somalia has publicly admitted killing two senior officials, underscoring the growing violent dispute within the militant group
- This development marks the growing violent dispute within Al Shabaab ranks, as Al Shabaab chief Ahmed Abdi Godane is fighting former comrades for domination of Al Shabaab group. Ibrahim Afghani was Godane's deputy and was wanted by the U.S. government with a US\$7million bounty.

Fighting Continues in Kismayu

Civilians Killed in Kismayo Clashes - Shelling, Gunfire Strikes Homes, Market, and Medical Clinic

Human Rights Watch (Independent Organization), June 25, 2013

Accessed from: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260325.html>

- Rival clan militias fighting in Kismayo, Somalia, earlier this month caused an unknown number of civilian casualties in apparently indiscriminate attacks on civilian buildings
- "The militias fighting over Kismayo showed little apparent regard for the safety of civilians around them, including at a market and a medical clinic," said Leslie Lefkow, Africa deputy director. "All warring parties should take precautions to spare the civilian population. The laws of war apply to all armed groups."

- International humanitarian law, or the laws of war, obliges all parties to a conflict, including state armed forces and non-state armed groups, to take every feasible precaution to minimize harm to the civilian population. Attacks that target civilians or civilian objects are prohibited, as are attacks that do not discriminate between civilians and military objectives, or are expected to cause civilian harm greater than the anticipated military gain.

Clannish clashes erupt in Kismayu again

Shabelle (Independent Media), June 26, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/clannish-clashes-erupt-in-kismayu-again/>

- Heavy fighting breaks up in the coastal city Kismayu when the Raskamboni militia killed four civilians
- Heavy fighting's has spread in the entire city as the Raskamboni militia fights the dominant local community which lives in different districts of Kismayu.

SRSB calls for immediate ceasefire in Kismayo

Shabelle (Independent Media), June 29, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/srsg-calls-for-immediate-ceasefire-in-kismayo/>

- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, today urgently called for an immediate cessation of hostilities as armed clashes flared up again in Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo among groups claiming leadership over the "Jubbaland" regional administration
- "At the same time as this new fighting has broken out, contacts are underway to put together an inclusive process to defuse tensions. The details are being worked out. This is not the time to engage in violence which will entrench positions and make it all the harder to achieve a settlement and begin reconciliation. I call on all parties to refrain from any action which could be seen as a provocation, and call for an immediate cessation of hostilities", SRSG Kay said in a press release.

Raskamboni militia backed by Kenyan troops take control of Kismayu

Shabelle (Independent Media), June 30, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/raskamboni-militia-backed-by-kenyan-troops-take-control-of-kismayu/>

- The Raskamboni militia of Ahmed Madobe and the Kenyan peacekeeping forces took full control of Kismayu after they jointly fought militias loyal to colonel Bare Hirale who hails from a majority clan in the Juba regions.
- An eye witness in Kismayu said that the militia group are now searching houses and at the same time looting valuables belonging to the residents
- Gedo a region which is among the three regions which constitutes Jubaland has criticized Kenya and AMISOM for supporting a clan militia against another clan militia.

- The Kenyan troops who are part of the AMISOM peacekeeping forces have been accused of atrocities and oppression by locals previously and it believed that the federal government is palnning to forward it anger against the Kenyan forces in the Juba regions.