

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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Headlines:

- AFEX condemns imprisonment of Somali journalist in Ethiopia as a “travesty of justice”
- Battle breaks out last night in Mogadishu
- Buulobarde district liberated by co-allied troops
- Sheikh Ali Dheere: “Our attack yesterday resulted in the death of foreigners”
- AMISOM, Somali National Army capture the sixth town from Al-Shabaab

AFEX condemns imprisonment of Somali Journalist in Ethiopia as a “travesty of justice”**March 14, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)**

- The African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX), a continental body of African free expression organisations, condemns in the strongest terms the 27-year sentence imposed on veteran Somali journalist, Mohamed Aweys Mudey, aged 48, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Ethiopian prosecutors accused Mudey of having information about Al-Shabaab operations in Ethiopia and charged him with participating in terror activities. Mudey, who was persecuted under Ethiopia’s anti-terror law, was arrested in Addis Ababa in November 2013. In February this year, when the 4-month period

prescribed by anti-terror law to investigate a suspect elapsed, he was found guilty of the charges and given this harsh sentence.

- At least three people detained with Mudey at Ethiopia's Crimes Investigations Sector (CIS) witnessed him being tortured and having difficulty walking. Demands were repeatedly made of him to provide information he does not know. He did not have a lawyer or family member with him during his trial and was later moved to a secret place dedicated for people accused of "terrorism" to serve his jail term.
- AFEX calls the harsh sentence against Mohamed Aweys Mudey a travesty of justice, and notes with worry how the Ethiopian media environment has recently been characterized by arrests and prosecution of journalists. Mudey's conviction is clearly a mockery of justice and an evidence of Ethiopia's move towards complete disregard for fundamental human rights.
- Ethiopia currently detains Reyot Alemu of Fitih newspaper; Woubeshet Taye of Awramba Times; Shiferraw Insermu of Ethiopian Television (ETV); Saleh Idris Gama and Tesfalidet Kidane Tesfazghi of Eritrean TV; and Eskinder Nega, a freelance journalist.

Battle breaks out Last Night in Mogadishu

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- A heaving fight causing casualties broke out last night in Yaaqshiid and Heliwaa districts of Benadir region's Mogadishu.
- These intense clashes erupted after Al-Shabaab fighters ambushed a military base belonging to AMISOM in both of the districts.
- Some of the places where the fighting took place include ex-Perfume Factory in Heliwaa districts although number of casualties have not been specified yet.
- On the other hand, bombs were thrown last night in the 'Khat Garden' of the Hodan district where Somali Government soldiers were stationed and it was confirmed that 5 officers were injured in the attack.

Buulobarde District Liberated by Co-Allied Troops

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- The atmosphere in Buulobarde district in the Hiiraan region was reported to be serene this morning after it was seized from Al-Shabaab by AMISOM and the Somali National Army.
- According to news reports from Buulobarde add that within the district yesterday, many bombs were detonated including at the Police Station although casualties are unknown.
- This morning, the community spirit was said to be thriving in the Buulobarde district of the Hiiraan region.
- The Buulobarde district was a strategic key district for Al-Shabaab's leaders and is now among the many territories liberated from Al-Shabaab.

Sheikh Ali Dheere: "Our attack yesterday resulted in the death of foreigners"

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- The spokesman for the Al-Shabaab movement Sheikh Mohamud Raage (Ali Dheere) said that they were behind the attack yesterday on an AMISOM convoy in-between Mogadishu and Afgooye.
- Furthermore, Sheikh Ali Dheere said that Al-Shabaab were also behind the killing of a Puntland State Official that was murdered in Boosaaso, provincial capital city of Bari and was named Jaamac Afgaduud.
- “Yesterday’s attack on an AMISOM convoy resulted in our killing of AMISOM and American officials,” Said Sheikh Ali Dheere, the spokesman for Al-Shabaab.
- Al-Shabaab carried out the attack by filling a car with explosives and drove the vehicle near the Calamada territory targeting an AMISOM convoy.

AMISOM, Somali National Army capture the sixth town from Al-Shabaab

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- The Somali National Army (SNA) backed by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops this evening captured an Al-Shabaab stronghold, Buula Burde town in Hiraan region, bringing to six the number of towns liberated from Al- Qaeda –linked terrorists in the past two weeks, a top African Union official has said.
- The African Union Special Representative for Somalia and Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif, said the capture of Buula Burde town was a major victory for the SNA and AMISOM forces and a boost for the peace restoration process in Somalia.
- The joint operations between the Somali National Army and AMISOM which began this month have so far liberated the top 5 cities in the Bay and Bakool regions in Sector 3, namely Hudur, Rabdhure, Ted, Weel dheyn and Burdhubow.
- “Buule Burde in Hiraan region in Sector 4 was a strategic town for the Al-Shabaab. It was their supply nerve centre and home to hundreds of the Al-Qaeda linked terrorists. The capture of this town by our heroic forces provides a major boost to our efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia,” Ambassador Annadif said.