

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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Headlines

- Al-Shabaab Suffers Personnel and Territorial Losses
- Human Rights Watch Releases Damaging Report on the Situation of Internally Displaced Persons
- Jubaland Conference Restarts Amid Tension
- Somalia Launches Judicial Reform Conference

[Al-Shabaab Suffers Personnel and Territorial Losses](#)

Hudur Recaptured From Al-Shabaab

Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, March 25, 2013 (Foreign Government Media)

<http://www.mfa.gov.et/news/more.php?newsid=1784>

- On March 24, after the withdrawal of Government and Ethiopian forces from the Town of Hudur and the subsequent Al-Shabaab takeover, Somalia troops had recaptured the Bakool regional capital

- Government and Ethiopian forces have been moving out of Garbagarey, in the neighboring Gedo region to attack strategic al Shabaab-held positions around the town

Somali Provincial Leaders Fear Wider Ethiopian Pull Out

Sabahi Online, March 26, 2013 (Foreign Media)

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/03/26/feature-01

- Ethiopia's withdrawal from the Hudur region is causing fears that Al-Shabaab could make territorial gains in other areas
- Ethiopian troops began supporting AMISOM in 2006, withdrawing in 2009 and returning in 2011 on a short-term basis
- According to Osman Libah, a parliamentarian representing the Bay and Bakool regions, the Somali government lacks weapons, technical ability and adequate supplies to compensate for a premature Ethiopian departure
- Director General in the Ministry of Interior and National Security Hussein Abdi Adam said a joint military effort is still the best way to ensure security, since the Somali government was until recently unable to arm itself due to the United Nations arms embargo, which was partially lifted this month
- AMISOM is confident that there are sufficient troop levels in the Bay and Bakool area but noted that AMISOM cannot cover all of Somalia
- The only long-term solution, Mogadishu University Professor Abdulkarim Daud says is "the government building up its forces so that there is no longer a need to depend on foreign troops"

AMISOM Kills Top Al-Shabaab Commander

Shabelle Media Network, April 1, 2013 (Independent Media)

Accessed from: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201304011351.html>

- Marka Major Henry Obba told Shabelle radio that Mohamed Abu was killed during a raid at the lower Shabelle region yesterday
- Abu's role was commanding the Al-Shabaab militia groups in the Bay and Bakool region
- Mr. Obba also noted that the commander was killed 70 km away from Mogadishu and that the security situation at the lower Shabelle region was improving

Human Rights Watch Releases Damaging Report on the Situation of Internally Displaced Persons

Somalia: Protect Displaced People At Risk

Human Rights Watch, March 27, 2013 (Independent Organization)

http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/somalia0313_ForUpload.pdf (Full Report)

- HRW released an 80-page report titled “Hostages of the Gatekeepers: Abuses Against Internally Displaced in Mogadishu, Somalia” detailing serious human rights violations including physical and sexual attacks, restrictions on movement, food and shelter and clan-based discrimination against the displaced in Mogadishu
- Over 75,000 IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) arrived in Mogadishu in 2011 after a famine caused by unrelenting drought, ongoing insecurity and the blocking of civilian access to humanitarian assistance by al-Shabaab
- The most serious abuses were committed by various militias and security forces, often affiliated with the government. These militia groups were linked or controlled by managers, or *gatekeepers* as they are known in the IDP camps
- These gatekeepers determine the location of settlements, the access of IDPs to these settlements and, often, their ability to access humanitarian assistance
- Several women interviewed described being raped, but with little access to or trust in the judicial process, they often do not report these crimes
- Particularly troubling, is the fact that these violations were aided (rather than inhibited) by the withdrawal of al-Shabaab from Mogadishu, creating a vacuum that the then-Transitional Federal Government was unable to fill. This vacuum allowed clan and freelance militias to resurge
- A UN official described the authorities’ denial that rape was occurring as the biggest obstacle to tackling the abuse
- Key recommendations include: ensuring police are competent and trained, appropriately disciplining/prosecuting perpetrators of these crimes, collaborating with UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in a profiling exercise of the displaced population and supporting an enlargement of the UN Office of High Commission for Human Rights

President Hassan Reiterated Again, His Commitment to the Cause of Human Rights

Raxanreeb, March 28, 2013 (Independent Media)

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2013/03/somalia-president-hassan-reiterates-again-his-commitment-to-the-cause-of-human-rights/>

- “I and The Federal Government of Somalia welcome the Human Rights Watch for their detailed and comprehensive report into the situation faced by IDP’s in Mogadishu in 2011/12. The personal testimonies are heartbreaking and deplorable and totally unacceptable to the values of the Somali people” the President said
- “The decision to establish the Independent Task Force on Human Rights, which was launched on 5 February, was taken to address concerns about the human rights abuses and to investigate violence against women. We fully comprehend the collective responsibility to prevent human rights abuses”

Jubaland Conference Restarts Amid Tension

Prime Shirdon: The Kismayu Meeting in Unconstitutional

Shabelle, March 30, 2013 (Independent Media)

<http://shabelle.net/prime-shirddon-the-kismayu-meeting-is-unconstitutional/>

- The Prime Minister noted that the meeting in Kismayu is violating the Federal constitution, that no regional governments can be formed until the government releases a report of the existing ones, and that many functions were missing at the meeting including that the Government and the people of the Juba region were divided over the matter
- He added that if the people of Kismayu need a government that can reconcile the Juba clans, they should put their trust in the Somali government and after this, the government will form a trusted and fair local government for the people of Juba and Gedo

Political Disconnect Breeding Discontent in Somalia (Editorial)

Garowe, March 30, 2013 (pro-Puntland Media)

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Editorial_29/Political_disconnect_breeding_discontent_in_Somalia_Editorial.shtml

- This editorial lambasts the SFG for incompetence: being overtly obsessive about Kismayo, even as criminal and inhumane acts of rape, hostage taking and other human rights abuses take place in Mogadishu’s IDP camps (citing the recent HRW report)

- Since 2011, local communities in Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo have been self-organizing, signing agreements and establishing an interim charter
- The process has been inclusive, with over 400 delegates from a wide range of local clans invited for the Jubaland convention
- The editorial closes by stating that Somalia's constitution, which mandates a national structure of federalism, is the only thing uniting the country and that it is the political actors who swore to protect the constitution, that are the ones trampling all over it

Jubaland Conference Continued with Provisional Constitution

Garowe, April 2, 2013 (pro-Puntland Media)

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

- The draft constitution was presented to the 400 plus delegates and honorable guests who attended the convening of the Jubaland conference
- The delegates were given some time to review the constitution and will return to raise the concerns.
- Although the SFG disagreed with the Jubaland state process, the state building convention has continued to resume in the port city of Kismayo.

Somalia Launches Judicial Reform Conference

Somali President to Open Justice Reform Conference

Sabahi, March 31, 2013 (Foreign Media)

http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/03/31/newsbrief-07

- The conference will run from Monday to Friday, with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary, parliament, the Office of the Attorney General, the court martial division of the Somali armed forces, the police, the National Security Agency and the prison system.
- The conference aspires to set a comprehensive agenda for re-establishing the rule of law in Somalia, improving public education about the constitution, harmonising the legal system with the new constitutional framework and the clear articulation of a framework for future improvements.
- Representatives will also select a new head of the Supreme Court

Puntland Says It Will Abide By The Judicial Reforms Outcome

Shabelle, April 2, 2013 (Independent Media)

<http://shabelle.net/punt-land-says-it-will-abide-by-the-judicial-reforms-out-come/>

- General Yusuf Ahmed Khyeir, the Justice Minister of Puntland state, said that that his administration will act and implement whatever the judicial reforms meeting decides on
- Mr. Yusuf added that the idea of judicial reforms is what the whole Somalia at large needed and that it comes at the right time