

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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Headlines:

- The war will be shifting to Kenya: al Shabaab
- Lower Shabelle admin. confirms soldiers withdrawing from the region
- Al Shabaab claims attack on Kenya army convoy
- Ministry of Defence carpses soldiers as becoming more 'clan-centered' after transfers to other regions

The War will be Shifting to Kenya: Al-Shabaab

[May 22, 2014 Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- “The war will be shifting to Kenya, if they kill a Somali girl we kill a Kenyan girl,” Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, one of the Shabaab’s most senior commanders, said in a radio broadcast.
- His words follow a suspected grenade blast near a mosque that wounded 11 people in the eastern Kenyan town of Garissa on Tuesday, close to the border with Somalia, police and disaster officials said.
- The attack happened a day after suspected Somalia al Shabaab militants killed at least 12 people in northern Kenya’s Mandera County in an ambush.

- Kenyan warplanes have been targeting al Shabaab positions in Somalia over the past days, as the country pursues the militants who have carried out a series of gun, bomb and grenade attacks on its territory. It sent in troops in 2011.
- Police spokesman Masoud Mwinyi said one of the 11 wounded was in a serious condition but the rest were out of danger. A second grenade failed to detonate, he said.
- The government-run National Disaster Operations Centre said on its Twitter feed the blast occurred near a mosque and that three suspects had been arrested.
- On Sunday, Kenya said its warplanes had hit an explosives-making compound, some 300 km southwest of the Somalia capital Mogadishu, two days after explosions at a market in Nairobi left at least 12 people dead.
- On Tuesday, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) said on its Twitter feed that another air strike in the same region had killed more than 50 al Shabaab fighters.
- Al Shabaab's spokesman for military operations, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, told Reuters the attacks wounded six.

Lower Shabelle admin. confirms soldiers withdrawing from the region

[May 22, 2014 Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- The deputy governor for social affairs of the Lower Shabelle regional administration confirmed that military troops in the region have unexpectedly fled some of their bases where they were stationed.
- Omar Arabey said that the matter is correct and that due to increasing battles, soldiers have begun to flee towns under the Qoryoley district in Lower Shabelle region.
- Mr. Arabey said that the second phase of the military operations against Al-Shabaab will resume very soon and that towns of Lower Shabelle will soon be under the control of the regional administration.
- Lower Shabelle is among the regions in which military offensives against the Al-Qaeda linked terrorist group Al-Shabaab are being eliminated by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali National Army.

Senior Al-Shabaab Official Killed in Gunfight

[May 19, 2014 Shabelle News \(Independent Domestic Media\)](#)

- African Union peacekeepers of AMISOM and the Somali National Army fought against Al-Shabaab terrorist insurgents in Qoryoley district of Lower Shabelle region this afternoon.
- The battle took place at a small town name 'Xero-2-aad' and is approximately 3km from Qoryoley. The terrorist insurgents attacked the government troops and peacekeepers. Witnesses reported that the fight went on for at least a few hours.

- The government soldiers seized the town after the lengthy confrontation near Qoryoley.
- Ganey Abdi Barre, a government official in Lower Shabelle region said to Shabelle that during today's battle, a senior official of Al-Shabaab named Sheikh Abdirashid Baka was killed.

Ministry of Defence carpses soldiers as becoming more 'clan-centered' after transfers to other regions

May 21, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- The Minister of Defence of the Somali Federal Government was summoned yesterday by legislators to the National Assembly in Mogadishu. Mohamed Sheikh Hassan (Hamud), the Minister, was asked several questions regarding the consistent complaints made by soldiers of the Somali National Army.
- Mr. Hamud affirmed that many soldiers have indeed come forward to the parliamentary defence committee and criticized the Ministry of Defence for 'unfairly' firing hundreds of senior military officials and personnel earlier this year in February.
- He noted that the Ministry had then decided to cut back on soldiers, starting with the ones they felt were 'incompetent', 'inept' and 'unprofessional'.
- Furthermore, Mr. Hamud said that a majority of the Somali National Army's personnel are becoming more 'clan-centered' and start taking commands from their seniors of certain tribes when they return to Mogadishu after receiving intensive-training exercises in distant regions.
- "The ones that return from Bakool, Dhuusamareeb and even Marka begin to take instructions from military commanders that they are loyal to, because of spending quite a lot of time in their areas." He claimed.
- The Defence Minister informed the legislators that officials from the Ministry and senior commanders of the Somali National Army have the ability to transfer soldiers to other stations, e.g. From Baidoa to Kismayo and that their work-ethics are not supposed to 'change'.
- Mr. Hamud also declared that district commissioner or a regional governor has the authority to appoint certain troops that will be loyal to him, and guard him for personal security reasons.
- In the last few months, lower-ranking soldiers from the army have constantly disparaged the Ministry of Defence for not paying their salaries at the rightful times designated in their military contract.