

**Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring****May 28 – June 3, 2013**

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**Headlines**

- Somali Government and AMISOM Gaining Upper-hand in Military Encounters over Al-Shabaab
- War of Words Continues over Jubbaland Administration
- Journalist Killed in Kismayo
- Rape in Somaliland

**Somali Government and AMISOM Battle Al-Shabaab on Multiple Fronts****Somali government to exploit al-Shabaab's widening internal rift**

Sabahi Online (Independent Media), May 27, 2013

[http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/05/27/feature-01](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/05/27/feature-01)

- The Somali government is closely monitoring the widening rift within al-Shabaab's leadership, vowing to take advantage of this instability and intensify its ongoing military campaign against the militants.
- Many al-Shabaab members who have laid down their arms are returning to Mogadishu to live with their families and relatives after the group failed to secure the people's support
- The widening rift within al-Shabaab's leadership has been caused by a growing number of senior organisation leaders in the past two months openly dissenting with top commander Ahmed Abdi Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubayr.

- Senior al-Shabaab Leader Sheikh Aweys accused Godane of authoritarianism, hijacking the group to expand his powers and blindly disregarding other al-Shabaab leaders' opinions.
- Aweys urged al-Shabaab fighters to refrain from following orders given by emirs who call for the killing of innocent civilians, executing its own members or targeting other al-Shabaab leaders, which he said can lead to internal chaos.

#### **AU peacekeepers foil Al Shabaab attack**

Raxanreeb (Independent Media), May 31, 2013

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2013/05/somalia-au-peacekeepers-foil-al%E2%80%90shabaab-attack/>

- African Union troops morning thwarted an attack by insurgents on the main road between Ballidogle and Berweyn along the Mogadishu – Baidoa road.
- The ambush was targeted at disrupting the reconstruction and repairs of this main road by AMISOM. The reconstruction of this road is improving a key trade route benefitting the local economy as well as increasing the ease and safety in which Somali people can travel between these major towns.
- The linkage of Mogadishu to Baidoa has enabled free movement between these two key cities and opens up the interior for stabilization work to be conducted by the African Union Mission in Somalia in support of the government

#### **Heavy battles in the lower Shabelle region as efforts to wipe out Alshabab continues.**

Shabelle (Independent Media), June 1, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/heavy-battles-in-the-lower-shabelle-region-as-efforts-to-wipe-out-alshabab-continues/>

- Heavy fightings occurred at some towns in the lower Shabelle region.
- Almost 11 people have been confirmed dead, a similar numbers of injuries are reported and an AMISOM Vehicle has been burnt to ashes during the fighting.
- The conflict is believed to have erupted after a characteristic Alshabab attack on an AMISOM envoy heading to some towns in the lower Shabelle region

#### **War of Words Continues over Jubbaland Administration**

#### **Prime Minister Shirdon: We will not accept administrations that are not all inclusive and unbalanced.**

Shabelle (Independent Media), May 27, 2013

<http://shabelle.net/prime-minister-shirdon-we-will-not-accept-an-administration-that-are-not-all-inclusive-and-unbalanced/>

- Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has once again reiterated that his government will not accept unbalanced administrations in the region.
- He said that the federal government will not tolerate or by any means recognize an administration that does not represent all the people that hail from the Juba regions.

- Mr. Shiridon added that his government is ready to form an administration which will satisfy the members of public hailing from the Juba regions and will facilitate a neutral election throughout the three regions that form the Juba land state.

**Puntland President Praises Jubaland Election, Condemns ‘False’ Federal Constitution (Puntland Press Release)**

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), May 28, 2013

[http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\\_27/Somalia\\_Puntland\\_President\\_Praises\\_Jubaland\\_Election\\_Condemns\\_False\\_Federal\\_Constitution.shtml](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Puntland_President_Praises_Jubaland_Election_Condemns_False_Federal_Constitution.shtml)

- The Puntland President said that, in 1998 when Puntland State was formed, the Puntland people faced the question: “Should we secede from Somalia, like ‘Somaliland’, or be part of a Federal Republic of Somalia?”
- President Farole said that the Puntland people opted to be part of a federal Somalia and have made significant sacrifices in efforts to rebuild a new Somalia
- The Puntland President criticized the Somali Federal Government’s policy on Jubaland State: “Jubaland State formation process has been underway for the past four years, long before the current Federal Government leadership came to office.
- He also said “the Federal Government says that it plans to build what it calls ‘Federal Units’ – what is a ‘Federal Unit’? Certainly, it is not in the Constitution”
- President Farole warned the Somali Federal Government against “returning Somalia back to the civil war era. The Federal Government should adhere to the legitimate Provisional Federal Constitution and should avoid inciting clans against each other.

**Journalist Killed in Kismayu**

**Journalist Shot in Somalia – Officials**

Garowe Online (Pro-Puntland Media), May 30, 2013

[http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\\_27/Journalist\\_shot\\_in\\_Somalia\\_-\\_officials.shtml](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Journalist_shot_in_Somalia_-_officials.shtml)

- Gunmen shot and seriously wounded a Somali journalist in the volatile southern port city of Kismayo, officials and colleagues said on Thursday, the latest in a string of attacks against the media.
- Unidentified attackers shot Abdikadir Abdirasak Sofe - also known by his nickname “Jijile”, a reporter for London-based Royal TV - as he walked home after work late on Wednesday.
- Two men were later arrested for the assassination attempt, but it was not immediately clear what their motive had been, said Mohamed Saleban, a Somali military official in Kismayo.
- However, the attack on Sofe took place in the southern Somali port of Kismayo, under the control of a self-declared regional “president”, who is allied to Kenyan troops with the African Union force in the region.

### Rape in Somaliland

#### **Rape on the rise in Somaliland**

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

[http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\\_27/Somalia\\_Rape\\_on\\_the\\_rise\\_in\\_Somaliland.shtml](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Rape_on_the_rise_in_Somaliland.shtml)

- Rape in Somaliland has been on the upsurge according to a department in Somaliland's Ministry of Health that reported 299 rape cases in 2012 and 2013, Garowe Online reports.
- Asho Abdi the head of the department that broke the findings told media that there were 67 cases that were taken to court and that only 17 cases were presided over by Somaliland courts.
- Earlier this year the UAE and Britain pledged £2million to fight sexual violence in Somalia.

#### **Stiffer Penalties, Formal Justice To Curb Rape In Somaliland**

Somaliland Times (Pro-Somaliland Media), May 31, 2013

<http://www.somalilandtimes.net/sl/2013/591/30.shtml>

- "We estimate that about 5,000 rape cases may have taken place in Somaliland in 2012, compared to 4,000 cases in 2011," Abdi Abdillahi Hassan, the director of social affairs in Somaliland's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, told IRIN.
- While rape is punishable with a jail term of five to 15 years in Somaliland, cases are often settled outside the courts by traditional leaders, with perpetrators typically paying compensation or marrying the victim.
- In an April workshop, traditional leaders, the police and judges agreed to establish stiffer penalties for rape, stop traditional resolution mechanisms and increase public awareness about the effects of sexual violence
- Nimo Hussein Qawdhan, the deputy health minister added, "It is shameful that our hospitals receive a raped child daily."