

## Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

Brett Collins, Country Desk Officer for Somalia

May 8<sup>th</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014



### Headlines:

- “Corruption is unacceptable,” says legislator of parliamentary finance committee
- Somali Prime Minister orders plane to Baidoa to ‘fetch’ severely wounded
- Ahmed Madobe’s militia invade Baladxawo and battle with gov’t troops
- Ethiopian troops under AMISOM flee from Baladxawo

“Corruption is unacceptable,” says legislator of parliamentary finance committee

### May 14, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- A serious allegation was made by Member of Parliament Abdi Barre Yusuf after he accused the State Minister of Finance for being corrupt after he ordered Mogadishu seaport’s custom office to compensate of hundreds of thousands of dollars to a Somali company.
- The legislator reported to Shabelle in an interview that the government belongings need to be monitored and that withdrawal of a considerable sum of money is unacceptable.
- “The parliamentary finance committee is committed to protect the money of the government and not for it to be misused. We treat that as corruption, and we will not accept that.” Said Mr Yusuf

- The corruption scandal angered politicians when leaked documents proved that the State Minister of Finance handwrote a letter instructing the overseer of the port's customs office to pay compensation of \$300,000 USD to Nuur Abraar Gen Trd Company after the owner of the business complained that thousands of kilos of sugar spilled in the containers during the unloading process at Mogadishu seaport.

## Somali Prime Minister Orders plane to Baidoa to 'fetch' severely wounded

### May 13, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- The spokesperson for the Somali Federal Government held a press briefing today in Mogadishu declaring that the government has allocated a plane that will transport the wounded personnel from Baidoa that were injured in yesterday's terror attack.
- Ridwan Haji Abdiweli, the spokesperson condemned the attack that claimed the lives of tens of people when a car laden with explosives rammed into a popular restaurant in Baidoa, adjacent to a Dahabshil branch in the city.
- Mr. Abdiweli went on to explain that Al-Shabaab attacks are only causing harm to civilians, but that terrorist attacks will not prevail the progress of Somalia's development in all aspects.
- The spokesperson mentioned that the government has approved plans to send a plane to the city in Bay region after locals in Baidoa have complained of the lack of medical supplies and sanitary facilities at the local hospital to accommodate the numerous numbers of wounded.

## Ahmed Madobe's militia invade Baladxawo and battle with gov't troops

### May 13, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)

- According to news reports from Baladxawo, a town in Gedo region indicates that an intense confrontation occurred between military soldiers from the Somali National Army backed by Ahlusunna Waljamaaca forces and troops from the Interim Jubba Administration, unclear whether it's Ras Kamboni.
- The battle erupted at around noon near a checkpoint in the northern neighborhood of Baladxawo. The town under the control of the Somali Federal Government and Ahlusunna Waljamaaca, was invaded by a fleet of fighters that take direct orders from the Interim Jubba Administration leader Ahmed Madobe.
- At least 10 fighters were killed in the clashes and another 20 rumored to have sustained severe injuries. Witnesses described they heard extreme exchange of gunfire rumored to have been fired from automatic assault rifles of AK-47s.
- Most of the neighborhoods in Baladxawo have been seized by the remainder of the Interim Jubba Administration troops after allegedly receiving specific commands from Ahmed Madobe.
- The Governor of Gedo regional administration Mohamed Abdi Kalil reported to Shabelle that the attack was sudden with no indications of Interim Jubba Administration wanting to have a military presence, but that they instead attacked with full force on co-allied Ahlusunna Waljamaaca forces and government soldiers in the town.
- Mohamed Hussein Al-Qaadi, a senior Ahlusunna Waljamaaca official claimed that the instructions for Ahmed Madobe's forces to invade Baladxawo were given from the Prime Minister of the Somali Federal Republic's office, Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed.
- Nonetheless, Mr. Kalil publicized that the Somali government troop will eradicate Madobe's armed militia from all areas in the Gedo region, including Baladxawo.

## Ethiopian troops under AMISOM flee from Baladxawo

**May 14, 2014 Shabelle News (Independent Domestic Media)**

- A fleet of Ethiopian peacekeepers under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) withdrew their presence from Baladxawo in Gedo region after intense clashes broke out yesterday. Almost as many as an entire contingent was reported to have fled the town early this morning.
- Witnesses described to Shabelle that several battlewagons of arrived in the town and the Ethiopian troops boarded the vehicles before fleeing. Motives for the sudden withdrawal are unknown, and many residents are questioning whether another battle will break out soon in Baladxawo.
- Yesterday, Interim Jubba Administration militia that have been reported to take direct orders from Ahmed Madobe entered the town by force and engaged in a lengthy combat with Ahlusunna Waljamaaca forces and soldiers of the Somali National Army.
- Senior Ethiopian commanders were unavailable for comment nor have they released a statement explaining the pulling out of their peacekeepers from Baladxawo.