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13-19 November 2012



- 1. Democratization & governance**
- 2. Internal conflict**
- 3. Humanitarian concerns**

1. Democratization & governance

Foreign media

UN News Service, dated 13 November 2012

“UN envoy welcomes Somali parliament’s endorsement of new cabinet as ‘important milestone’”

This story emerged across a variety of news outlets, as people expressed relief that the Somali parliament voted to endorse the new cabinet

-This decision particularly pleases UN and international bodies as it legitimizes the actions taken by the government from hereon in.

-There is widespread hope that this is the first step toward broader transparency and democratic practices of governance in Somalia

Voice of America, dated 16 November 2012

“In Somalia, political battle over newly liberated regions” by Mohammed Yusuf

***Note from monitor: This is the first article regarding the formation of Jubaland read that was not published by Garowe Online*

-Article focuses on the difficulties of creating a new state when it results in a perceived loss of power by the central government.

-It is believed the formation of the state of Jubaland would follow the template of the states of Somaliland and Puntland, both of which are semi-autonomous. The central Mogadishu government does not have effective control over these regions.

-The other main concern with Jubaland is that, due to its neighbouring border with Kenya, it would be influenced and affected by the decisions of the Kenyan government

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 14 November 20, 2012

“President Hassan has first major speech since election”

-The President’s first speech since the election focused on fighting corruption that plagued the last government

-The president referred to the role of the central government in the formation of Jubaland, which is contested, saying the process needs to be cooperative, on the part of both Mogadishu and regional councils

-Lastly, the Somali parliament voted to approve the newly elected cabinet, which will allow the government to move forward in its work

Garowe Online, dated 14 November 2012

“Puntland president announces political association”

-In Puntland’s transition to a democratic system of government, the current political leader in power officially declared its association as a political party

-There is expected to be more than one political party running for office in the upcoming elections

Garowe Online, dated 15 November 2012

“President Farole assures ‘democratization process will move forward’”

-More information here on Puntland’s commitment to democratization in order to establish a representative government, for which there is widespread support

-President Farole has officially named his political party Horseed

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 15 November 2012

“Somali president promises to fight against corruption”

- President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud intends to establish a supervisory council whose responsibility will be to account for international donations

Independent media

Raxanreeb.com, dated 14 November 2012

“Puntland president announces his political party”

- The president announced the creation of a multi-party system to ensure the democratic process in Puntland and also announced his own political party

-This article gives more information on the party. President Farole invited members of the parliament, the speaker, and the cabinets to join. 209 of decided to do so

Indepth Africa, dated 18 November 2012

“Somalia: the victory of politics over principle” by Ahmed M. I. Egal

-This is an in-depth analysis of the current issues facing the Somaliland government

-The first is the political issues continue to be divided along clan and tribal lines, which affects the decision-making processes

-The emergence of a multi-party system, this author argues, has led to an “orgy” of political campaigning, without any effective work actually being undertaken by government

-The journalist believes Somalia’s central government is constantly trying to delegitimize Somaliland’s autonomy, by reopening the 1991 talks, which led to the formation of Somaliland as a semi-autonomous region

2. Internal conflict

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 16 November 2012

“Heavy fighting renews in southern Somalia”

-Baidoa is still a scene of intense fighting between Somali government forces and Al Shabab fighters

-Civilians report that both sides are seeing heavy reinforcement, which means that fighting is likely to continue in coming days

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 18 November 2012

“Puntland nab Al Shabab agents and a cache of explosives”

-Puntland security forces captured two Al Shabab agents as well as the explosives they were carrying through Galkayo

-Puntland has seen a resurgence of Al-Shabab activity after central Somali government forces have moved the rebel fighters out off their strongholds in the past year

3. Humanitarian concerns

Foreign media

International Federation of Journalists, dated 16 November 2012

“IFJ and NUSOJ conducted safety training for journalists in Mogadishu”

-For the first time ever, a safety training workshop was conducted for Somali journalists by the cooperating forces of the National Union of Somali Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists

-The training is meant to protect the lives of hundreds of young journalists, in the face of continuing violence and danger,. The training includes skills needed to deal with instances of kidnap, attacks, and harassment