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1. Internal conflict

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 7 November 2012

“Govt soldier gun down a civilian driver in Mogadishu”

- In a scene that is becoming more common in Mogadishu, a civilian driving a vehicle with passengers was shot and killed
- The shooter was unidentified, but wearing an army uniform
- Witnesses at the scene claimed the violence was related to illegal money payments

Shabelle Media Network, dated 7 November 2012

“Car bomb kills a soldier, injures three in Somali capital”

- A car full of explosives was set off next to the Somali parliament in Mogadishu, killing at least one security guard. No group has yet claimed responsibility

Shabelle media network, dated 8 November 2012

“Large rally in Mogadishu in support of the new cabinet”

- After ten members of the federal cabinet were selected, including the first female foreign minister, large demonstrations of support occurred across Mogadishu

Shabelle Media Network, 9 November 2012

“Two people gunned down in Somali capital”

- More gun violence broke out in Mogadishu, as a soldier and a civilian were shot and killed by unidentified assailants
- No group has yet claimed responsibility for the murders, raising the question of whether these increasing incidents of gun violence are related to insurgent rebels as implied or rather an indicator of the deteriorating socio-economic fabric in Mogadishu

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 7 November 2012

“Kismayo authorities deport unannounced Mogadishu delegation”

- A delegation of government and military authorities assigned by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud arrived in Kismayo to investigate the resurging illegal charcoal trade, but was detained and deported by authorities there
- The unexpected delegation included an AMISOM spokesman and a former Jubba Valley Alliance militia leader who allegedly is under investigation for war crimes from an earlier posting in Kismayo
- Local leaders in Kismayo were dismayed at the inclusion of militia leaders who are accused of war crimes
- This article argues that the delegation was a façade for the interference of the President on the possible formation of an autonomous state of Jubbaland
- A delegation of journalists accompanying the officials remained stranded in Kismayo when they failed to acquire a flight back to Mogadishu

Garowe Online, dated 8 November 2012

“30 MPs reject confidence vote for ‘incomplete cabinet’”

- Thirty Somali MPs submitted a letter rejecting the incomplete cabinet appointments, arguing that taking a confidence vote on an incomplete cabinet is a violation of the constitution. The letter will delay the ratification of cabinet posts

2. AMISOM mission

Foreign media

Security Council SC/10806, United Nations, Security Council 6854th Meeting (AM), dated 7 November 2012

“Somalia: Security Council, adopting resolution, extends by four months African Union Mission in Somalia, adds civilian personnel”

- This press release from the United Nations states the AMISOM mission in Somalia will continue its work until 7 March 2013 – a four-month extension that seeks to secure the state for “legitimate governance, reconciliation and the provision of humanitarian assistance”
- The request to lift the arms embargo against Somalia was not addressed in the proceedings

The Star (Kenya), dated 8 November 2012

“Amisom denies charcoal smuggling”

- Amisom released a statement to deny it was engaging in illegal charcoal smuggling activities in Kismayo
- Reports of ships leaving Kismayo loaded with charcoal for undisclosed Arab countries despite the UN ban on charcoal from the city have been increasing
- This is the latest negative report regarding Amisom – lately there have been increasing reports of violence and clashes between Amisom forces and civilians

Privately-owned media

Shabelle media network, dated 12 November 2012

“MP accuses Kenyan army and Ras Kamboni fighters of harassing people in Kismayo”

- MP Abdullahi Husein Ali accused Kenyan forces under AMISOM working in Kismayo of crimes against humanity and causing insecurity in the city
- This is due in part to ongoing instances of robbery, harassment and heightened insecurity throughout the city
- This is not the first time Kenyan troops occupying the city have been accused of poor conduct, but the first time that allegations of “crimes against humanity” have been introduced

3. Humanitarian and human rights concerns

Somalilandpress.com, dated 10 November 2012

“Somalis underpin Fozia Yusuf Haji Adan, the Deputy Premier and the Foreign minister” by Abdirahman M. Dirye

- The appointment of a woman as foreign minister and deputy premier has caused some conflict and sexist comments throughout Somali media
- The majority of articles however support and defend her credentials as an excellent candidate for her post
- The appointment is a huge step forward for women’s rights in Somalia

Foreign media

IRIN, Humanitarian News and Analysis, dated 7 November 2012

“Somalia: A snapshot of humanitarian challenges”

- IRIN uses local experts and ‘other sources’ to locate the main humanitarian problem areas in Somalia that require support
- These are: health infrastructure, malnutrition, child mortality, potable water, refugees and IDPs, press freedom, women and politics, agriculture, livestock, fishing and tourism, and youth
- These should be the new government’s areas of focus if it wishes to successfully overcome humanitarian challenges

IRIN, Humanitarian news and analysis, dated 9 November 2012

“Thousands at risk of polio in Somalia’s port city of Kismayo”

- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that thousands of children born since the Al-Shabab ban on polio vaccinations are now at risk of contracting the disease
- Aid organizations are currently planning a massive vaccination campaign for southern Somalia

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, dated 11 November 2012

“Somali government resumes evicting Mogadishu squatters”

- Thousands of internally displaced persons who fled regional conflict and drought have been squatting in government buildings in Mogadishu
- Government officials forcibly removed the people from the area, though it is unclear where they can go
- There is no report of the whereabouts of their relocation

Independent media

Raxanreeb.com, dated 10 November 2012

“Journalists welcome Somali President’s pledge to end impunity”

- The president of Somalia has committed to better protect Somali media from violence, in a meeting held between government and media representatives
- The recognition of the abhorrent assassinations of Somali journalists is important to better support and protect freedom of the press throughout the country

4. Democratic reform: Jubaland, Somaliland, Puntland

Somalilandpress.com, dated 11 November 2012

“Time to end transitional rule in North Somalia” by Abdisamad Mooge “Kayse”

- This article recognizes the danger of the continued “semi-autonomous” nature of Somaliland, and how this will affect other states seeking autonomous designation

- Further, the state structure is complicated by the tribal and clan-based nature of the regions
- This article is a valuable overview of the nature of greater Somalia, with regards to its internationally-unrecognized semi-autonomous zones, as it also implicitly raises the questions that will emerge should Jubaland's claims be better articulated
- The nature of Somalia's relationships with its African neighbours also affects its interior and civil problems, and these must be addressed before it can hope to have any real stability
- There seems to be little incentive to address the issue of semi-autonomy, which is perpetuated by ongoing violence within the state proper against Al-Shabab

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 6 November 2012

"Puntland minister accuses ex-Somalia PM of 'inciting instability'"

- Puntland information minister Mohamud Aideed Dirir accused ex-Prime Minister and current Somali MP Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas of 'inciting instability' after he made comments criticizing the democratic process and reforms in Puntland
- Gaas asserts his comments were made based on interactions with Puntland residents
- This article insinuates it is in Gaas' interests to create feelings of uncertainty in the region and criticize the government as he may be interested in running for office in the approaching Puntland elections
- The approaching election will be the first time a multiparty system is allowed to exist in Puntland
- Gaas has so far denied these speculations

Garowe online, dated 8 November 2012

"Puntland police chief rejects media reports on arrest of politicians"

- Puntland Police Commissioner Gen. Mohamed Said Jaqanaf denied allegations he is actively targeting politicians in his arrests that intend to protect Puntland security
- Gen. Jaqanaf did state that, "anyone who contributes to insecurity will be arrested". It is unclear what the general considers "insecurity"

Garowe Online, dated 9 November 2012

"Jubaland protests against 'divisive policies' of Somalia president"

- There is more political upheaval regarding the formation of the state of Jubaland in southern Somalia
- Hundreds gathered to demonstrate their support for the creation of the autonomous state, which was complicated by the apparent "interference" of

Mogadishu-based politicians, who arrived unexpectedly in Kismayo under the pretense they were investigating illegal charcoal exports

Garowe online, dated 10 November, 2012

“Jubaland committee arrives in Kismayo, others ‘stranded in Mogadishu’”

- Representatives and a technical committee from ICAD arrived in Kismayo supposedly to oversee the formation of the state of Jubaland
- Somali members of the committee were reprimanded by the central state of Somalia, which believes any sort of Jubaland administration should be appointed by the constitutional state, and not by local community supporters

Garowe online, dated 11 November 2012

“Puntland communities urge Somali President to ‘stop interfering in Jubaland’”

- Jubaland’s attempts to become an autonomous region is due to a constitutional allowance that states that “two or more of the pre-1991 18 administrative regions can form a Federal State”
- Supporters of Jubaland are frustrated with the continued interference of the Somali president, who would prefer to keep a united state
- Supporters of Jubaland believe the autonomy of the region would lead to stability across the country

5. Al-Shabab activity

Privately-owned media

Shabelle media network (Mogadishu), dated 6 November 2012

“Govt. forces carry out massive crackdown in Mogadishu”

- Dozens of suspected Al Shabab agents were arrested in Mogadishu in a massive police sweep of the city
- This is not the first time since the new government has been elected that mass arrests of suspected members of Al Shabab has taken place
- No further reports on whether any were released or charges were laid

Shabelle Media Network, dated 10 November 2012

“Two killed in a heavy fighting in Gedo, southwestern Somalia”

- Fighting broke out between Al-Shabaab and the Somali National Army in the southwestern region of Gedo province after an ambush against government troops
- The closest municipal area is currently held by Somali government forces

Shabelle Media Network, dated 11 November 2012

“Heavy fighting erupts in Bay Region, South Somalia”

- The road to Baidoa continues to be a central location of current conflict, particularly between Ethiopian troops and Al Shabab

- Amisom and Ethiopian forces are attempting to maintain the security of the Baidoa road
- A follow-up report the following day by Shabelle media network reports indiscriminate firing by the Ethiopian troops resulted in an alarming number of civilian deaths

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 6 November 2012

“Puntland forces kill Al Shabaab fighter, civilian dead in gunfire exchange”

- A high-profile Al Shabaab agent was killed in a firefight that erupted in a public space in Puntland after security forces came under fire on their way to arrest him
- Hassan Ismail Sardheye was killed in the shoot-out, as was a civilian, in the attempt to drive Al Shabab out of Puntland

Foreign media

Reuters, reprinted in Horseed Media, dated 10 November 2012

“Somalia’s Al shabaab, squeezed in south, move to Puntland”

- As fighting continues between the government of Somalia with AMISOM troops and Al-Shabab, rebel forces that have long operated in Somalia are being pushed north into Puntland, which until now has largely avoided being implicated in the civil unrest
- Parts of Puntland have mountainous regions, ideal for Al-Shabab to find cover in
- Reports of shipments of weapons from Yemen arriving on the coast are also increasing