

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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November 7th – November 12th, 2013



Headlines:

- Ethiopian Troops to Join AMISOM
- Somali President Resolute After Car Bombing
- Al-Shabaab Bans TV in Southern Town of Barawe
- U.S. Overreached in Somali Piracy Case
- Somaliland, Somalia Talks Postponed

Ethiopian Troops to Join AMISOM

November 9, 2013 Shabelle News Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Ethiopian troops will join the AU mission in Somalia as a renewed effort to combat Al-Shabaab terrorism in the region.
- Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has said Ethiopian troops will join Kenya and Ugandan troops that are part of AMISOM fighting Al Shabaab insurgents inside Somalia.

- The deputy president has also claimed that part of the campaign to eliminate the threat of terrorism would be through repatriating over 1 million Somali refugees in Kenya with assistance of the Somali government, UNHCR, and Kenyan authorities.
- The two leaders also discussed Ethiopia and Kenyan border security and its role in the security of both countries.
- They agreed there is a strong need to engage in communities living along the border through economic initiatives in order to minimize the risk of constant border conflicts.
- The Ethiopian prime minister has claimed that this is one of the reasons behind opening of the Moyale economic zone under the Lamu port and South Sudan Ethiopian Transport Corridor Project.

Somali President Resolute After Al-Shabaab Bombing

November 9, 2013 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Independent Media)

- Somalia's president vowed he would not halt efforts to restore peace and security to the country in the wake of new bombings in the capital of Mogadishu and elsewhere.
- A huge blast on Friday outside a large hotel in Somalia's capital killed at least 4 people, including a government official, and wounded at least 15 others.
- Officials said one of the country's top diplomats — Abdulkadir Ali Dhuub, a former acting ambassador to London — was killed when the car bomb exploded outside the hotel, which is popular with officials and businessmen.
- The government has claimed another bomb blast was averted by apprehending a suspect inside the hotel who was attempting to detonate explosives.

Al-Shabaab Bans TV in Southern Town of Barawe

November 8, 2013 Reporters Fans Frontieres (Foreign Independent Media)

- Reporters without borders has condemned the banning of television from the coastal town of Barawe in the lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia.
- It is an attempt to ban media that shows both progress in areas where Al-Shabaab has been expelled and additionally reports on crimes Al-Shabaab has committed.
- Al-Shabaab announced the ban on 28 October, giving the inhabitants of Barawe five days to hand in their TV sets and satellite dishes at the Barawe municipal office for collection by Al-Shabaab representatives.
- Residents have voiced outrage at the ban claiming that they only watch Somali TV stations to have updates on global news.
- Last month, Al-Shabaab imposed a similar ban on the nearby town of Bulomarer.

U.S. Overreached in Somali Piracy Case

November 10, 2013 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Media)

- A federal judge has ruled that the US Justice Department has gone too far in charging Ali Mohamed Ali with piracy which carries a life sentence.
- Defence lawyers say Somali tribal leaders sought Ali's help because he spoke fluent English, a by-product of living 26 years in the United States. After the ransom was parachuted to the pirates, the cargo ship, the CEC Future, and its 13 mostly Russian crew members were released unharmed in January 2009.
- US authorities lured him in 2011 to American soil by inviting him to an education conference.
- He was detained for 30 months that the judge stated "raises serious due process concerns".
- Over the last five years, a coalition of more than 60 countries and organisations has increased naval patrols in the Indian Ocean, conducted airstrikes against pirate dens on land and jailed more than 1100 suspected hijackers. While the number of attacks has dropped, pirates still netted \$32 million in ransoms last year, according to Oceans Beyond Piracy, an advocacy group based in Colorado.
- Ali was brought aboard the CEC Future 3 days after it was hijacked in November 2008. Prosecutors claimed he demanded \$7 million in ransom for the crew's release but then negotiated down to \$1.7 million, yet still secured \$75,000 for himself.

Somaliland, Somalia Talks Postponed

November 11, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)

- Talks between the Somali federal government and the Somaliland regional administration have been postponed until a later date.
- The Somali federal government had requested the postponement to resolve ongoing political and security issues.
- Somaliland has readily ceded to the federal government's request to Turkey and expressed willingness to participate in future talks.
- Both parties participated in a series of talks earlier this year, wherein they agreed to form a joint committee to control air traffic and revenue sharing.