

**Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring****Brett Collins, Country Desk Officer for Somalia****October 2<sup>nd</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013****Headlines:**

- **Somaliland Arrests Two Journalists**
- **Mogadishu Roads Get Much Needed Upgrade**

**Somaliland Arrests Two Journalists****October 3, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)**

- Two journalists working in Las Anod for UK-based television stations were arrested for allegedly reporting false information.
- Somaliland regional authorities accused Mohamed Shaquelle Ashur of Somsat TV and Adan Mohamed Karama of Universal TV of improperly covering a clean-up operation to close down unlicensed market stalls and eateries in a busy commercial area.
- Meanwhile, journalist Yasiin Mohamed Ali, former director of Somsat TV, said he survived an assassination attempt last week after he was attacked on his way home in Mogadishu's Wadjir neighbourhood, Somalia's Radio Dalsan reported Wednesday.

- An increased number of journalists have been targeted this month.

## **UN Urges More Military Force to Confront Al-Shabaab**

### **October 7, 2013 Voice of America (Foreign Private Media)**

- The top U.N. official for Somalia said more military force is needed to push Islamist militant group al-Shabab out of its remaining strongholds. Such strongholds include the town of Barawe -- the scene of a U.S. Special Forces strike over the weekend.
- U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nick Kay said al-Shabab "poses a real and present threat" to peace-building efforts in Somalia.
- The African Union-led peacekeeping force, AMISOM, was instrumental in loosening al-Shabab's hold on major cities in 2011 and 2012. But as allied Ethiopian forces start to pull out of Somalia, peacekeepers are finding they are stretched too thin to continue offensive operations.
- The Somali National Army is also lacking capacity to take over security in towns freed from militants.

## **Mogadishu Roads Get Much Needed Upgrade**

### **October 3, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)**

- Construction on a 23-kilometre paved road linking Mogadishu to Aden Adde International Airport is under way and drivers are starting to notice the improvements. The project is in its second month and is expected to be complete by November.
- More than 380 people are working on building the road that joins the airport to Fiat Circle, and both Somali and Turkish engineers are supervising the project.
- Drivers in Mogadishu said they are excited about the efforts to improve the city's roads. "It is the first time that I have driven a vehicle on a modern road in the capital," said bus driver Farah Abdi, 45, after testing blocks of the road near the airport that have been completed and opened. "I am hopeful that the continuation of this project will eliminate the damage that vehicles sustain on the roads."
- Modern road reconstruction in Mogadishu is a good sign of development, fellow taxi driver Mohamed Ahmed said. "This modern renovation of roads in Mogadishu gives much hope to many people," Ahmed, 32, said. "We are seeing an increase in the number of cars in the city and that is because of the improving security [situation] and the rehabilitation of roads with modern tarmac. We are hoping this road construction project will be expanded country-wide."

## October 7, 2013 U.N. World Food Programme (Foreign Media)

- In Somalia, the World Food Programme is shifting its focus from providing emergency responses to enabling vulnerable Somalis to improve their ability to deal with shocks. WFP helps people create communal assets, such as roads, and also provides training so that Somalis are better able to withstand future droughts and floods.
- The Vouchers for Assets project is changing the face of WFP's food assistance in Somalia. It was introduced in the southern town of Dolow in August as part of WFP's innovative three-year strategy, which aims to strengthen the livelihoods of agro-pastoralists by linking them to markets, wherever possible. WFP also wants to increase resilience to droughts and floods, which are common in this region.
- Members of the local community work on assigned projects and are then paid with vouchers. They can use the vouchers to buy food from selected traders in the town.
- WFP Somalia Country Representative Stefano Porretti said Vouchers for Assets aimed to empower Somalis and give them a sense of ownership over their environment so that they would be better placed to withstand future environmental shocks that could easily push them into crisis.
- "In areas where markets are established and food is available locally, it makes good sense for WFP to issue vouchers instead of transporting food from outside the country, a process that is costly and challenging, especially in a country like Somalia where insecurity, bad roads and crumbling infrastructure make food transfers very difficult," he said.

## Somali Ex-Pirate Kingpin Now Leads Anti-Piracy Fight

### 8 October, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)

- Former Somali pirate Mohamed Abdi Hassan, who goes by the nickname "Afweyne", was once one of the most feared pirate leaders operating from the country's central coast.
- According to the United Nations Monitoring Group on Somalia's 2012 report, Afweyne and his son Abdiqaadir were implicated in the hijackings of seven vessels between April 2009 and October 2012.
- After announcing in January that he was quitting his life of "gang activity" on the high seas, Afweyne has been engaged in efforts in the Mudug and Galgadud regions to reform more than 1,000 youths who have followed his lead and renounced piracy.