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3 – 9 October 2012



1. Kismaayo takeover
2. Al-Shabab activity
3. Humanitarian concerns
4. Internal security
5. Gender equality

1. Kismaayo takeover

Foreign media

Kenyan-owned *Daily Nation* website, in English, dated 3 October 2012

“Locals in southern Somalia town said afraid of Al-Shabab remnants”

- With the defeat of Al-Shabab in Kismaayo, African Union forces and Somali National Army have taken over control of the city
- However residents of the city remain afraid of possible Al-Shabab remnants who may have quietly assimilated into the general population. Residents remain wary of the occupying AU and SNA forces

Kenyan-owned newspaper *The East African*, published online, in English, dated 8 October 2012

“Real test now lies in picking Kismaayo leader” by Nyambega Gisesa

- With Amisom and Somali government forces now in control of Kismaayo, the task of determining who will lead the town is now in question
- The process will be informed by a number of factors, including democratic measures, clan involvement, and principles of “inclusion”

-Kismaayo has been under various, unstable leaderships since 1991, and Amisom and the Somali government hope this time they can ensure some longevity to the position

Privately-owned media

Radio Gaalkacyo, in Somali, dated 5 October 2012, 1015gmt

“Government, Amisom troops “accused” of killing five civilians in Kismaayo”

-Elders in Kismaayo have accused victorious government and Amisom troops of killing civilians during the takeover of the town. The week before, five civilians were killed by unidentified gunmen in the city

Radio Gaalkacyo, in Somali, dated 9 October 2012, 1015 gmt

-Somali and AU forces imposed a curfew in Kismaayo; no further details given

2. Al-Shabab activity

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, in Somali, dated 3 October 2012

“Government forces kill Al-Shabab fighters in southern Somalia”

-An undisclosed number of Al-Shabab fighters were killed by government forces while they were attempting to set landmines in southern Somalia

-Government forces claimed the militants were arrested, but then shot when they attempted to escape

Shabelle Media Network, in English, dated 5 October 2012

“Amisom offers Somalia’s Al-Shabab amnesty if they surrender”

-At a press conference in Mogadishu, Col. Ali Adan Mahmud, the spokesman for the AMISOM mission, assured that surrendering Al-Shabab fighters would be given safety

Midnimo.com website, in Somali, 7 October 2012

“Somali Islamists vow to fight newly appointed premier”

-Despite Al-Shabab’s defeat at Kismaayo, the group continues to release statements condemning the newly elected government, and vows to continue to fight against them.

3. Humanitarian/Human Rights Concerns

Foreign media

UN-backed, Kenya-based Radio Bar-Kulan news, in Somali, dated 2 October 2012, 1600gmt

-A number of reports of heavy rains and flooding throughout central and southwestern Somalia raise humanitarian concerns across the region, as they

indicate increased levels of internal displacement and possible cases of malnutrition, etc.

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network, in Somali, dated 8 October 2012

“Somalia’s food crisis remains critical – Oxfam”

- An Oxfam study conducted in July and August 2012 across Somalia determined that at least 40 regions of the country are facing severe food shortages
- Poor harvests and water shortages combined with new flooding concerns mean that a substantial proportion of the population is forced to rely on humanitarian aid
- Major issues of malnutrition are emerging in many areas, as well as outbreaks of preventable and water-borne diseases
- Oxfam is concerned with the mortality rate of young pregnant women

4. Internal security

Foreign media

UN-backed, Kenya-based *Radio Bar-Kulan*, in Somali, dated 3 October 2012, 1600gmt

- In attempts to increase levels of security in the Xumin and Xeeb administrative areas, government representatives have introduced a seven day curfew.

Privately-owned media

Midnimo.com, in Somali, dated 4 October 2012

“Somalia arrests ‘foreigners for planning to assassinate President’”

- Five individuals including foreigners of undisclosed nationality were arrested in suspicion of planning to assassinate the President. They are currently being interrogated, and reportedly will be tried in court

Radio Shabelle, in Somali, dated 4 October 2012, 0500gmt

“Somali MPs accuse Kenya of ‘trying to form administration’ for southern regions”

- Since the successful capture of the Kismayo, and African Union forces (primarily Kenyan) occupation of the area, Somali members of Parliament have raised concerns that Kenya is attempting to control the regions for its own national interests

Radio Gaalkacyo, in Somali, dated 4 October 2012, 1015 gmt

“Somali police arrest 10 suspects over blasts, killings in southwestern town”

- More reports of police detaining and interrogating suspects in relation to “a series of killings and explosions.” The identity of the suspects was not released