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30 October – 5 November 2012



1. Internal conflict
2. Economic situation
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1. Internal conflict

Privately-owned media

Shabelle media network (Mogadishu), dated 30 October 2012

"Commissioner says he survived assassination attempt"

- Deynile district commissioner Dahir Hassan Hussein claims he survived an attempted assassination by agents of the government
- He believes he was the actual target in the murder of a senior Somali army official

Shabelle Media Network (Mogadishu) dated 30 October 2012

"Forces launch sweep in port city"

- During a general sweep of Kismayo, Somali and AU forces captured landmines set by a road and explosives. Movement is being monitored in and out of the city

Shabelle Media Network (Mogadishu), dated 31 October 2012

"Deadly blast in Kismayo leaves four dead"

- A grenade explosion in a teashop in Kismayo left four civilians dead and dozens seriously wounded

-No group has yet claimed responsibility, but attacks of this nature have been increasing since the town was captured by Amisom and Somali government forces

Shabelle Media Network (Mogadishu), dated 31 October 2012

“Three killed as Somali forces, Al Shabab clash near Baidoa City”

-Al-Shabaab engaged with Somali government forces near Baidoa, resulting in the deaths of three combatants.

-Residents are concerned that fighting in the area is increasing

Shabelle Media Network, dated 1 November 2012

“Somali forces sweep the port city of Marko”

-After Somali General Farah (Gordon) was killed in an ambush outside of Marko city (100km NE of Mogadishu), government forces swept through the city

-They captured a number of people allegedly connected to the ambush

-There is no further comment on the investigation at this time.

Shabelle Media Network, dated 3 November 2012

“Two suicide explosions kill 4 in Mogadishu”

-Two explosions at a popular Mogadishu restaurant set off by suicide bombers resulted in the deaths of at least 4 people

-The restaurant was frequented by government officials and area residents

-No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack

Shabelle Media Network (Mogadishu), dated 5 November 2012

“Al Shabab attacks with mortars on Kismayo port”

-Ships arriving in Kismayo port with weapons for AMISOM troops in the city were attacked by Al Shabab insurgents who fired mortars at them

-The number of dead has not yet been reported

Shabelle Media Network, dated 5 November 2012

“Roadside blast kills four soldiers in Somalia’s port city of Kismayo”

-A roadside bomb set off near Kismayo’s airport killed at least four soldiers traveling in an AMISOM convoy. No group has yet claimed responsibility

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe online, dated 31 October 2012

“Allied forces confiscate explosives prior to grenade attack”

-Before a grenade attack that targeted Somali government forces, allied troops captured a cache of explosives and uncovered landmines hidden in the streets of Kismayo.

-Up to 50 Al Shabaab suspects were also detained during this sweep.

-There are further reports of the capture of an attempted female suicide bomber, though allegations have yet to be verified.

Garowe Online, dated 1 November 2012

“300 Al Shabaab suspects detained in security sweep”

- Somali government forces and government-backed militias closed off Kismayo communications systems before arresting and detaining over 300 militants allegedly connected to Al Shabab
- Government forces stated they would investigate each individual and release those with no affiliation to the rebel group
- Garowe online also states that creating a secure, stable environment is integral to the success of the possible impending Jubaland state

Foreign media

African Arguments, dated 2 November 2012

“The Kismayo Conundrum(s)”

- The most important part of this article is the author’s iteration of the concern by the Ethiopian government that any independence or autonomy gained in Jubaland will spur the ethnic Somali rebel group in Ethiopia – the Ogaden National Liberation front – to also take part in an independence struggle

This is something to watch for as reports of Jubaland progress

Independent media

Raxanreeb.com, dated 1 November 2012

“Several held in connection of a Somali military commander’s killing in Shabelle region”

- After General Mohamed Ibrahim Farah Gardon was killed in an Al-Shabab ambush near Marka town, at least three people were detained. None have yet been charged

Raxanreeb.com, dated 5 November 2012

“Radical Change Needed” by Sh.Xasan Jaamici

- This opinion piece asserts that Somalia must abandon its clan system in order to move forward towards peace and prosperity
- The writer suggests there is a need to ensure all clans are represented in the new cabinet, and only then can the government move on to overcome the clan-based system of governance that has been a major feature of Somali society and politics since its inception as a state

2. Economic situation and arms embargo

Foreign media

Sudan Tribute, dated 1 November 2012

“AU seeks a lift to arms embargo, charcoal ban in Somalia” by Tesfa-Alem Tekle

- The AU requested the UN overturn its 1992 arms embargo on Somalia, asserting government forces require weapons to defeat Al Shabaab
- AMISOM's mandate has been extended by a week as the possibility of a year-long extension of the mission is discussed
- Further, AMISOM suggested the UN also abandon their ban on charcoal exports from Kismayo, as the city will need a viable source of income. However charcoal exports were the primary trade of Al-Shabaab when they had control of the city

Associated Press, dated 31 October 2012

"As Peace expands in Somalia, gov't wants weapons" by Jason Straziuso

- Somalia's request that the UN Security Council overturn its arms embargo on the country is still in discussion
- Somalia insists that it requires the import of weapons to train its forces, in order to stop relying on AMISOM troops as a security force. Somali troops already carry small arms, but the government insists the ability to import must be reinstated
- Critics worry that without a viable way of tracking imported weapons, they could fall back in to the hands of rebel forces

3. AMISOM mission

Foreign media

African Union, dated 30 October 2012

"AU calls on the UN Security Council to strengthen its support to the AU mission in Somalia"

- The Commission of the African Union has requested more support from the UN in to AMISOM. Requests include additional civilian support, a review of the arms embargo, and a lift on the charcoal ban in Kismayo

The New Times (Rwanda), dated 2 November 2012

"Ugandan troops to quit Somalia" by Edwin Musoni

- Uganda's contribution to the AMISOM force in Somalia will soon be significantly less, following a Ugandan scandal in which peacekeepers were accused of supporting Congolese M23 rebels. The scandal has forced the Ugandan government to severely withdraw most of its military support in the region

Guardian UK: Guardian Africa Network, dated 5 November 2012

"Uganda holds Somalia hostage in high-stakes diplomacy" by Simon Allison

- This is the only article to study the implications of Uganda's possible withdrawal from its commitment to AMISOM, in the wake of a scandal that implicated Ugandan troops supporting Congolese rebels
- The abrupt Ugandan withdrawal from Somalia when the state is still fragile and fighting Al-Shabab could be a severe setback for AMISOM. With so few other countries willing to participate in AMISOM activities, Uganda was an integral force in supporting Somali government activities

-However there is the need for a full inquiry into the accusations of Ugandan peacekeeping operations in Congo, which will leave Somalia hanging in the interim

Independent media

Raxanreeb.com, dated 31 October 2012

“Africa proves Somalia is Mission Possible” by Boubacar G. Diarra

-This article, written by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in Somalia seeks to reassure readers that Somalia’s efforts to destroy Al-Shabab and support the AMISOM mission show that peace and stability are not far away

4. Attacks against journalists

Pro-Puntland media

Garowe Online, dated 30 October 2012

“Poet and Al Shabaab defector killed in Mogadishu”

-Further reports regarding the death of Abwan Warsame Shire Awale, a national poet who was assassinated by masked gunmen after receiving numerous death threats over the course of the year.

-The same night, Luul Ali Sabriye who defected from Al Shabaab earlier this year, was also shot and killed by a gunman.

Foreign media

Daily Trust (Nigeria), dated 4 November 2012

“Anti-media campaign claims 18 journalists” by Ismail Adebayo

-There is growing concern for the increasingly incidents of journalist murders in Somalia. Of the 18 journalists killed this year, not a single suspect has been arrested in association with any of the murders

-Statistics show that the majority of the murders concerned journalists who were conducting investigations into the war or political affairs

5. Humanitarian concerns

Foreign media

IRIN Humanitarian news and analysis, dated 1 November 2012

“Mogadishu IDPs suffer extortion, eviction”

-With IDP camps getting ever larger in Mogadishu, there are reports of returning landowners and ‘gatekeepers’ who attempt to evict or extort the people in the camps.

-This is not a new occurrence, as local partner organization of international NGOs have a history of taking part in this since Al Shabab lost Mogadishu in 2011

- The current standard of living in many of the camps is poor, with little to no access to healthcare, shelter, and clean water
- The continued lack of accountable coordination between various on the ground organizations means international NGOs who attempt to work in the area suffer from a lack of transparency
- The deputy humanitarian coordinator for the UN in Somalia, Kilian Kleinschmidt has asked for better monitoring processes in order to keep track of humanitarian aid, and ensure it is not being used in extortion activities
- Increasing events of flooding throughout the country indicate the IDP situation in Mogadishu will only get worse

Pambazuka News (Africa, social justice), dated 1 November 2012

“Africom preparing for another ‘humanitarian’ military intervention?” by Abdi Ali Diriye

- The writer suggests that American interests in AFRICOM’s mission in Somalia is a façade for its real motive, which is access to recently discovered oil reserves in Puntland

6. Women’s rights

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network (Mogadishu), dated 30 October 2012

“The launch of a policy brief on women’s rights within the Somali provisional constitution”

- In an important human rights announcement, a policy brief detailing the challenges faced by women in Somalia was released by a coordinated effort of a number of human rights and constitutional reform organizations
- With the implementation of the provisional constitution, women still face barriers that challenge their ability to actualize their rights

Shabelle Media Network, dated 4 November 2012

“Prime Minister unveils his new cabinet”

- Cabinet ministers were finally appointed by Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon, and they include a woman who will be the first female foreign minister in Somalia

Shabelle Media Network, dated 5 November 2012

“Big rally in Mogadishu in support of new cabinet”

- With the announcement of the new cabinet chosen by Prime Minister Shirdon, hundreds of demonstrators mobilized in Mogadishu to show their support
- A number of women and children took part in the demonstration