

Domestic Media Monitoring, Somalia

Laura Metcalfe



16-22 September 2014

- 1) Riot in Mogadishu after AMISOM kills 9 year old boy
- 2) Police open fire on protestors in Gabiley
- 3) Somaliland: Time for another referendum?
- 4) Looking at the future of the Somali National Army.

1) Riot in Mogadishu after AMISOM kills 9-year-old boy

[Riot in Mogadishu as AMISOM truck hit and run 9-year-old boy](#)

Mareeg Media (independent), dated September 19th

- Hundreds took to the streets after a nine year old boy was run over by an AMISOM truck
- A Dalsan Radio reporter on the scene said riots cut off roads using stones and burning tires.
- Government officials called on protestors to call off the riots, pledging that their needs will be addressed and the AMISOM driver responsible will be brought to justice.

- This is not the first time AMISOM drivers have harmed Mogadishu residents.

[AMISOM confirms its convoy killed a child in Mogadishu](#)

RBC Radio (independent), dated September 19th

- AMISOM released a statement confirming that an AMISOM vehicle killed a child.
- The statement extended condolences to the family of the child and promised an inquiry would take place
- The Federal government is reportedly looking into compensating the child's family
- The statement mentioned that defeating al Shabaab is the only way to restore normality for the people of Somalia
- Locals gathered to protest the death and urge officials to launch an investigation into the incident
- The child's father also called on the government to prevent AMISOM from using public roads where children walk to school

[Warta Nabadda District Commissioner says his district is a no go zone for AMISOM](#)

Dalsan Radio (independent), dated September 18th

- After Warta Nabadda residents demonstrated against the death of a 9 year old boy who was run over by an AMISOM vehicle, the district commissioner said he will no longer accept AMISOM vehicles in his district
- He added that the vehicle was speeding, and did not stop even after running over the child
- Guards at the Villa Somali fired bullets into the air to disperse hundreds of angry rioters who demonstrated against the incident.

2) Police Open Fire on Protestors in Gabiley

[Somaliland Police Open Fire on Peaceful Protestors in Gabiley Wounding Four Civilians.](#)

RBC Radio (independent), dated September 19th

- Four have been wounded after Somaliland police forces fired on peaceful protestors in Gabiley district
- The protest happened after two soldiers were killed by another Somaliland soldier (who immediately escaped).
- Somaliland is a self-declared independent government, though the world recognizes it as a Somali semiautonomous state. It is in the middle of preparations for a democratic election and is experiencing tension between the current administration and their rivals.

[RRU Police Fire Live Bullets to Quell Protestors After a Boy, 10, Dies](#)

Somaliland Informer (independent), dated September 19th

- The UK-funded Rapid Response Unit (RRU) used live bullets to quell violent protests in Gelibey.
- A 10 year old boy died while his mother is in critical condition; at least 5 are reportedly injured
- The angry protests erupted after a lone soldier in the national army killed two army officers. The protestors were furious with the lack of action from the government.
- Protests intensified once the RRU tried to intervene to disperse demonstrators.

3) Somaliland: Time for another referendum?

Somaliland and its failure of international recognition

RBC Radio (independent), dated September 17th

- Somaliland has been awaiting international recognition for more than 20 years. This overlooks the reality on the ground. The idea that Somalia is a failed state has been used to try to lend legitimacy to Somaliland's desire for recognition.
- Somaliland's leaders have failed to recognize that Somaliland's search for recognition is already a relic of the past. Somaliland's aid money and development comes in the name of Somalia—if you aspire to have nothing to do with Somali statehood, why take aid money obtained in the name of Somalia?
- Many living in Northern Somalia/Somaliland don't support succession from the rest of Somalia—if Somalia became peaceful under a legitimate and representative people, Somaliland independence would crumble.
- The Isaq clan in Somaliland is the are the largest and strongest supporters of succession.

Somaliland: Isn't time ripe for another referendum?

Somaliland Sun (independent), dated September 20th

- The Scottish referendum offers Somaliland an opportunity to take a step forward in the search for internationally recognized statehood.
- In 2001, 97% of Somaliland citizens voted in favor of a constitution that cited Somaliland as an independent sovereignty country.
- While the international community still refuses to recognize Somaliland sovereignty, the actions of the Somali government has resulted in a deteriorating relationship and limited talks between the two parties.
- If Scotland's independence referendum was supported by the world, what is stopping Somaliland from getting the same support?
- A referendum is as important, if not more important, than Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

Somaliland's Comparison to Scotland, Gabilay

RB Radio (independent), dated September 20th

- Somaliland secession fanatics followed the Scottish referendum with enthusiasm and unreasonableness, which failed to persuade the Somali public to empathize with the idea of separation
- After the voters rejected independence, Somaliland secessionists descended into despair.
- Later, news broke that the sub clan of Habarjeclo (of the incumbent president Siilaanyo) slaughtered two officers in the Somaliland militias belonging to the Habar Awal sub clan.
- The incident happened in the Gabilay town inhabited by Habar Awal. The two sub clans belong to the Isaq clan, a major supporter of secessionism.
- Tensions are running high, with hostility directed at the Siilaanyo administration.
- Some protesters alleged the two officers were assassinated in a conspiracy from the presidential palace.

4) Discussions over the future of the Somali National Army

Prime Minister opens international meeting on support to Somali National Army

RBC Radio (independent), dated September 18th

- Senior Somali officials met with delegates from the UK, UNSOM, AMISOM, the EU, IGAD, and other nations.
- The meetings focused on ensuring there is a Somali solution to a Somali problem and the need to optimize donor support to the SNA
- The PM opened the meeting by reminding representatives of the unique opportunity provided by the death of Godane in the fight against al Shabaab
- The PM also spoke on the need for continued political reconciliation to ensure long-term peace and stability.

Prime Minister welcomes donor commitments to support the SNA

Mareeg Media (independent), September 20th

- A wide range of delegates met in London to attend a meeting focused on providing support to the SNA.
- The Federal Government of Somalia outlined its vision for the future development of the SNA to ensure a professional and adequate security sector.
- Attendees agreed that current donor support should be focused on the SNA's capacity during the offensive against al shabaab.
- Existing pledges were reconfirmed and additional supports were agreed on

Why Somalia needs genuine federalization, genuine army

RBC Radio (independent), September 16th

- The SFG's plan of federalization is flawed and could spark conflict in communities and between the established states and future ones.
- It is politically and strategically designed to weaken some states and empower others

- Some SFG critics argue that the plan is not genuinely aimed at implementing the federalization process, but is instead meant to create confusion, tension, and conflict so that the SFG has an excuse to abandon it.
- The process should be bottom up, rather than top down
- To get Somalia out of its current anarchy, genuine national/local reconciliation and a credible and professional security service are essential.
- The SNA is neither national, nor an army. It is mostly former warlord and Islamist militias, overwhelmingly drawn from particular regions and clans.
- In many regions, they have massacred, displaced, killed, raped, and looted almost every place they have been deployed to. When outside their own regions, they are regarded as occupiers and behave as such.
- If western experts cannot help transform the SNA, the SFG should request help from Hezbollah, experts in transforming militias into disciplined forces.
- If the international community empowers unbalanced forces, they will affect the balance of power, potentially encouraging a new civil war and insecurity.
- If particular communities feel victimized they will turn to al Shabaab for protection
- q