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11-19 September 2012



Report Content

- 1. Presidential inauguration**
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1. Presidential inauguration

Nationally-owned/state-funded media

Somali National TV, Mogadishu, 10 September 2012, 1830 gmt, in Somali
“Newly-elected Somali president lauds nation on “turning new page”

-Hasan Shaykh Mahmud was the unexpected winner of the presidential race, and was sworn in as the new president of Somalia on 10 September 2012

Privately-owned media

Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, dated 12 September 2012, in Somali
“Six killed in Mogadishu explosions”

-There was a reported suicide bombing targeting the new Somali president Hasan Shaykh Mahmud at the hotel where he is currently based for meetings following his inauguration

- No dignitaries were affected, however four soldiers were killed
- A related explosion went off shortly after in a nearby vehicle where another suicide bomber was also found

Other media

Midnimo.com website, dated 12 September 2012, in Somali
“Somalia’s Al-Shabab claims responsibility for twin blasts in capital”

- Al-Shabab’s spokesperson later claimed responsibility for the two suicide bombs at the hotel aimed at the new president

2. Al-Shabaab activity

Foreign media

Kenya – The Star, privately-owned English language newspaper, dated 11 September 2012
“100 Al-Shabaab killed in Miido battlefield” by Dominic Wabala

- Up to 100 Al-Shabaab militants were killed after a failed attack on African Union and Kenyan troops near the city of Kismaayo, where heavy fighting has continued
- The Al-Shabaab fighters have been attempting to regain lost territory in the ongoing battle for the port city
- *Also reported by privately-owned Kenyan English-language newspaper Daily Nation on 11 September under the title “Kenyan forces in Somalia kill over 50 suspected militants

Other media

Somali Midnimo.com website, dated 11 September 2012
“Al-Shabab fighters flee as Kenyan troops advance stronghold in southern Somalia”

- Advancing Somali government, African Union, and Kenyan troops are pushing Al-Shabab rebels from the locality of Janaa Abdalla, 60 km outside of Kismaayo

Somali Midnimo.com website, dated 12 September 2012
“Government, AU forces capture southern Somali village from Al-Shabab”

- The day after the presidential inauguration more casualties were reported after African Union troops captured another town (Xarboole) in the Lower Jubba Region of southern Somalia from Al-Shabab forces.

Radio Gaalkacyo, aired on 13 September 2012, 1015 gmt, in Somali

“Somalia’s Al-Shabab vows to step up attacks against new government”

-Al-Shabab stated it will continue to fight the Somali government and supporters of the government in continued coordinated violent attacks including suicide bombings

Jowhar website/Garoweonline.com, dated 15 September 2012, Somali language

“Somali government forces capture southern town” and “Ten killed in southern Somalia fierce fighting”

-both news sources reported more heavy fighting outside of Kismaayo after the nearby town of Bibi was captured by government and AU forces

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network website, dated 13 September, Somali

“Unidentified warplanes attack Al-Shabab bases in southern Somalia”

-Unknown casualties after planes continue to heavily shell areas on the outskirts of Kismaayo, where fighting has continued for weeks against Al-Shabaab militants

Jowhar news portal, Mogadishu, dated 19 September 2012, Somali

“Somali Islamists deploy large number of fighters to defend stronghold”

-Despite separate reports saying Al-Shabab completely withdrew from the city of Kismaayo, Jowhar reported there were still some fighters based in the city ready to defend it against the final push of government and AU forces

-International media around the area believe the fall of the city is imminent

UN-supported/funded media

Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi-based radio station, 1321 gmt, in Somali

“Al-Shabab imposes dusk to dawn curfew on central Somali town”

-After AU mobilization against a small central Somali town administered by Al-Shabab officials, a curfew has been imposed from 6pm to 7am on residents of the town for the indefinite future.

Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi-based radio station, aired 16 September, 1553 gmt, in Somali

“Thirty killed in southern Somalia fighting”

-Fighting continues around the port city of Kismaayo, as thirty more fighters across both sides were killed in action

Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi-based radio station, aired 19 September 2012, in Somali

“Southern Somali port city ‘calm’ as more residents flee”

- Civilians continue to leave Kismaayo after the withdrawal of Al-Shabab
- Government and AU forces have yet to reach and occupy the city

[Pro-Puntland government media](#)

Garoweonline.com, in Somali

“Officials, fighters of Somalia’s Al-Shabab withdraw from port city of Kismaayo”

- After facing a final offensive from government and AU troops, Al-Shabab officials and militants withdrew from their stronghold of Kismaayo
- It is suspected that withdrawing forces headed further south
- No statement was released by Al-Shabab regarding the withdrawal

3. Internal conflict and security

[Other media](#)

Somali Midnimo.com website, dated 12 September 2012

“Islamists detain “hundreds celebrating” election of new Somali president”

- Demonstrations of support by civilians in Galguduud Region celebrating the election of the new president were brought to an end after Al-Shabab fighters detained ‘hundreds.’ No further information on how or where the civilians were detained

[Privately-owned media](#)

Shabelle Media Network, dated 14 September 2012, Somali language

“Landmine blasts target government convoy in Somalia’s Afgooye”

- A government convoy carrying troops outside Mogadishu was hit with two remote controlled landmine blasts.
- 17 passers-by were arrested at the site on suspicion, but no group has yet claimed responsibility

Shabelle Media Network website, 15 September 2012

“Somali security forces arrest 100 suspected Al-Shabab members”

- Government forces arrested 100 suspects following two remote-controlled landmine blasts targeting a government troop convoy a day after the incident

-Despite reports that the situation is currently “calm” there has been some tension as not all of the detainees have yet been released

**Radio Gaalkacyo, dated 15 September 2012, 1015 gmt, in Somali
“Protests against anti-Islam film take place in central Somalia, capital”**

-Anti American demonstrations were held and sponsored by Al-Shabab against an American film negatively depicting the prophet Muhammad
-Protesters have vowed violence against those responsible for the film

**Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, dated 18 September 2012,
Somali
“Somaliland authorities ‘ready’ for talks with new Somali government”**

-The semi-autonomous region of Somaliland announced it was willing to engage in talks with the new Somali government
-It has enjoyed its semiautonomous status since 1991, but previous efforts to unite it with Somalia have failed in the past

4. Humanitarian concerns

Privately-owned media

Radio Shabelle news, dated 13 September 2012, 0500 gmt

-Reports of malnutrition in internally displaced populations in northeastern Somali town Boosaaso
-No further information regarding numbers of malnutrition cases or who is reporting

UN-supported/funded media

**Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi, dated 15 September 2012, 1600 gmt, in Somali
“Al-Shabab kill aid distributor in southwestern Somalia”**

-A civilian engaging in humanitarian work distributing diaspora aid to Somalis in the southwestern part of the country was killed by Al-Shabab militants in his house as witnessed by his family
-There is no further information regarding the motivation for the killing