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19-25 September 2012



1. Kismaayo siege
2. Other internal conflict
3. Protests and demonstrations
4. Humanitarian concerns
5. International conflict

### 1. Kismaayo siege

#### Foreign media

**Kenyan privately-owned newspaper *Daily Nation* website, in English, dated 20 September 2012**

#### **“Fall of Somali port city ‘imminent’ – Kenyan military official”**

-A military spokesman for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) offered amnesty to any Kenyans fighting for Al-Shabab in the port city of Kismaayo, currently under siege by Somali and African Union forces

-Also noted as reporting that the fall of Kismaayo is ‘imminent’

**Kenyan privately-owned newspaper *Daily Nation* website, in English, dated 21 September 2012**

#### **“Kenyan military denies targeting civilians in southern Somalia” by Felista Wangari**

-Against reports and suspected propaganda of KDF forces purposely attacking civilians, a spokesperson for the Forces asserted only Al-Shabab fighters are targeted

-The KDF has committed to safety corridors leaving Kismaayo for fleeing civilians towards camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Privately-owned media

**Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somali language, dated 20 September 2012**

**“Al-Shabab appeals for local support to defend stronghold in southern Somalia”**

-Al-Shabab called on residents of Kismaayo to take up arms against the attacking government and AU forces, saying the fighting is “mandatory for all Muslims and especially the youth”

-Al-Shabab has been sending more fighters into the besieged city to defend it

**Jowhar news portal website, Somali language, dated 20 September 2012**

**“Al-Shabab said receive reinforcement, vow to defend Somali port town”**

-There is fear that fresh fighting will break out within the besieged town of Kismaayo as more Al-Shabab reinforcements arrive in the city

-Defences including digging trenches and putting anti-aircraft missiles on the roofs of buildings are being completed in readiness for the final offensive

## 2. Other internal conflict

Privately-owned

**Shabelle Media Network, Mogadishu, Somali language, dated 20 September 2012**

**“One soldier killed as government forces clash in central Somalia”**

-Government forces participating in training exercises in Beled Weyne (central Somalia) clashed at night after mistaking each other for enemies

-Civilian residents in the area were reportedly fearful after one soldier was killed and several injured

**Midnimo.com website, Somali language, dated 22 September 2012**

**“Al-Shabab officials said flee central Somali town as government forces approach”**

-The centrally-strategic town of Jowhar was tense today as a number of Al-Shabab officials fled the area

-Somali and AU forces are approaching the town

-The withdrawal meant there were not any clashes between Al-Shabab and government forces

**Midnimo.com website, Somali language, dated 23 September 2012**

**“Somalia’s Al-Shabab says it was behind the killing of lawmaker in Mogadishu”**

-After MP Musdaf Haji Muhammad was killed in Mogadishu, Al-Shabab has claimed responsibility for the death

**Midnimo.com website, Somali language, dated 24 September 2012**

**“Somalia’s Hisb al-Islam splits from Al-Shabab”**

- After joining al-Shabab in December 2010, Somalia's Hisb al-Islam group today announced it has split away and is once again functioning independently
- The foreign affairs chief of the insurgent group asserted it would not remain working with Al-Shabab when Al-Shabab was allegedly still producing propaganda against it and allowing the deaths of Somali people

#### Foreign media

##### **UN-backed *Radio Bar-Kulan*, Nairobi-based, in English, dated 22 September 2012**

###### **"Seven Al-Shabab fighters killed in southern Somalia aerial attack"**

- In an aerial attack by KDF, Somali and AU forces on a base north of Kismaayo, at least 7 Al-Shabab troops were killed and several more injured
- The base is a storage space for Al-Shabab weapons and equipment, and a rallying point for Al-Shabab fighters

#### State-owned media

##### ***Radio Mogadishu*, 1600gmt, in Somali, dated 22 September 2012**

###### **"Some 200 Al-Shabab fighters defect to Somali, AU forces"**

- 255 Al-Shabab fighters surrendered to Somali and AU forces
- One of the defectors was quoted by state radio saying the reason for the surrender came after the defecting members believed Al-Shabab had led them astray in its teachings of the Koran

#### Independently-owned media

##### ***Radio Gaalkacyo*, in Somali, dated 24 September 2012**

###### **"Somali government parades ex-Al-Shabab fighters in capital"**

- After 260 Al-Shabab fighters surrendered to government forces, government officials 'paraded' them through Mogadishu, pledging rehabilitation for the ex-militants

#### Pro-Islamist media

##### ***Kismaayonews website*, in Somali, dated 25 September 2012**

###### **"Al-Shabab commander said surrender in southern Somalia town"**

- A day after 260 Al-Shabab fighters defected to the government, a senior Al-Shabab commander in lower Jubba also surrendered.

### **3. Protests and demonstrations**

#### Independently-owned media

##### ***Radio Gaalkacyo news*, in Somali, 1015 gmt, dated 20 September 2012**

- Protests were held in Mogadishu against the mayor of the city, reasons and size of protest not reported
- There have been security reports due to continued violence in the city, including overnight shelling that killed 3 city residents

#### 4. Humanitarian concerns

##### Independently-owned media

**Radio Gaalkacyo, in Somali, 1015 gmt, dated 21 September 2012**

**“Somali government ‘pledges’ to improve safety of journalists”**

- In an official statement, the director general of Somalia’s information ministry Abdirizak Ali Yusuf committed to ensuring the safety of journalists
- During the night prior, two suicide bombings killed a number of people including three Somali journalists

##### National media

**Somali National TV, Royal TV news, Mogadishu, in Somali, 1700 gmt, 21 September 2012**

- Report on 20 September 2012 suicide bombing and subsequent funerals
- Government officials have condemned the attack
- Victims of the blast included three journalists

##### Privately-owned media

**Jowhar news portal, Mogadishu, in Somali, 23 September 2012**

**“Gunmen loot radio station in central Somalia”**

- A new, popular radio station has been looted by gunmen and guards at the station
- As of yet, there is no report as to why the radio was looted, but it is off-air in the meantime

**Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, dated 24 September 2012**

**“Al-Shabab bar residents of southern Somali port town from fleeing”**

- Al-Shabab is reportedly ordering Kismaayo civilians to remain in the city during the fighting, and demanding those who have already fled to return
- Report is unclear as to whether Al-Shabab is physically preventing civilians from leaving Kismaayo
- Despite reports that Al-Shabab had withdrawn from the city, it appears fighters are returning to defend their stronghold

**Shabelle Media Network, Mogadishu, in Somali, 24 September 2012**

**“Army officials said begin inquiry on civilian killings in southern Somalia”**

- Representatives from Somalia and Kenya arrived in Janaay Abdallah district where Kenyan soldiers are accused of killing up to nine civilians
- There will be an inquiry into the civilian deaths, which is not the first time Kenyan soldiers in Somalia have been accused of violence against local residents.

Foreign media

**Kenyan newspaper the *Daily Nation*, in English, dated 24 September 2012  
“Thousands of Somali refugees flee to Kenya” by Patrick Mayoyo**

- The UNHCR estimates that 7,500 to 10,000 people have fled Kismaayo to Dadaab refugee camp in northern Kenya to escape conflict in the city and area
- Fleeing residents worry that remaining in the city will increase their risk of being used as human shields and in danger of suicide bombings, as well as aerial attacks
- There are some reports of attacks and looting against fleeing refugees, who have stated an intention to return to their homes after the fighting ceases

**5. International conflict**

Foreign media

**Privately-owned Kenyan daily newspaper *The Star*, in English, dated 22 September  
“Panic’ in northeastern Kenya town over Somalia offensive” by Stephen Astariko**

- Al-Shabab and pursuing KDF forces are moving towards the town of Gedo in southern Somalia, which borders the Kenyan city of Mandera where panic is gripping the residents
- There is fear that Al-Shabab will attack the town for revenge