

Media Monitoring Report, Somalia



1-8 September

Headlines:

- 1) HRW report alleges rape, sexual abuse of Somali women by AU peacekeepers
- 2) Al Shabab leader killed in US drone strike
- 3) More media crackdowns

1) HRW report alleges AU peacekeepers raped and abused Somali women

Kismaayo (independent), September 8th, 2014

"Peacekeepers in Somalia Use Aid to Rape Women and Buy Sex for \$5"

- AU peacekeepers in Somalia rape women seeking medical help on their bases and routinely pay teenage girls for sex, according to a new Human Rights Watch Report
- 10 incidents of rape and sexual assault were documented, including the rape of a 12 year old girl, in 2013 and 2014
- Most cases took place on AMISOM bases in Mogadishu where women come for medical care and to beg for food.

- HRW also interviewed 14 displaced women and girls selling sex to AMISOM soldiers for \$5/day
- Sexual exploitation is a violation of their code of conduct, but the sex trade on AMISOM bases appears “routine and organized”
- AMISOM’s 22,000 troops come from Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Djibouti. They are immune from prosecution by the Somali government.
- Only two out of the 21 women interviewed filed a complaint, fearing reprisals or stigmatization

Mareeg Media (Independent). Also published on RBC radio, and Johwar (both independent), September 8th, 2014

[“African Union Soldiers Raped Vulnerable Somali Girls-HRW”](#)

RBC (Independent), September 8

[“Sexual abuse by AU soldiers in Somalia, HRW calls for donors to promote justice for victims”](#)


- AU soldiers have sexually abused and exploited vulnerable Somali women and girls on their bases; troop-contributing countries, the AU, and donors to AMISOM should urgently address these abuses and strengthen procedures inside Somalia to seek justice.
- The report documents the exploitation and abuse of Somali women and girls on two AMISOM bases in Mogadishu since 2013.
- The AU soldiers, relying on Somali intermediaries, have used a range of tactics, including humanitarian aid to coerce women into sexual activity.
- The study focused on incidents in Mogadishu, where Ugandan and Burundian soldiers are present and does not preclude the possibility that similar abuses have happened elsewhere.

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Hassan Isilow @hisilow · Sep 8

The conduct of some [#AMISOM](#) soldiers who rape women in [#Somalia](#) will undermine credibility of the mission

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Hassan Isilow @hisilow · Sep 8

[#AISHabaab](#) militants will get more sympathizers if [#AMISOM](#) doesn't prosecute soldiers who rape women in [#Somalia](#)

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Abdiwahab Tarey @Tarey_A · Sep 8

Yes #AMISOM forces #RAPE our women #consciousness, but they following the footsteps of the #WARLORDS. WE? @mohamadani @Guuleyste @Sunnisom

← ↻ 1 ★ ⋮

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Abdirizak Mohamed @AbdirizakOm · Sep 8

We should strengthen z SNA¬ rely on foreign forces with dismal peacekeeping records,aid 4 sexual exploitation is not permissible #Somalia

← ↻ 4 ★ 1 ⋮



Reporting Somalia @Guuleyste · Sep 8

Although I strongly condemn any violations of #Somali #women & #girls this, it seems, is propaganda gen 4 AI #Shabaab & their sympathizers

← ↻ ★ ⋮

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Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 8

Unsurprisingly, Human Rights Watch's depressing new report on allegations of sexual abuse by AMISOM is all over pro-Shabaab sites. #Somalia

← ↻ 13 ★ 1 ⋮



Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 8

AMISOM is raping Somalis. Shabaab is blowing up Somalis. This is the news about Somalia today.

← ↻ 15 ★ 4 ⋮

2) Al Shabab Leader Killed in US Drone Strike

Mareeg media (independent), September 2nd

[“More details on US drone attack on Somali terror group al Shabaab”](#)

- According to the Pentagon, the US bombarded al Shabaab inside Somalia.
- Witnesses said drones hit the Haawaay area. A convoy of al Shabaab carrying AS leadership was targeted by at least four rockets.
- Lower Shabelle Region Commissioner Abdulkadir Siidii told the media that the main target was Ahmed Godane, and the other leaders with him at the time, including foreigners and Somalis
- After the attack, AS killed civilians who they accused of directing the bombardment.

RBC Radio (independent), September 6th

[“Al Shabaab confirms Godane’s fate, selects a new leader”](#)

- Following the death of Al Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane via a US drone strike in southern Somalia, the militants have reportedly appointed Abu Ubeid Ahmed Omar their new leader
- Despite the US and Somali governments’ confirmation of Godane’s death, many wondered whether al Shabaab would disclose the fate of their leader
- Although the people and government of Somalia rejoiced at the death of Godane, and hoped it would contribute to their defeat, the group has called for continued operations in the country.

RBC Radio (independent), September 5th, 2014

[“President says Godane is dead, now is the chance for members of al-Shabaab to embrace peace”](#)

- Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia, spoke today to confirm the death of al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Godane in a US drone strike
- The strike was conducted with the knowledge and consent of the Federal Government of Somalia as part of an international battle against terrorism
- He stated that this is a chance for the majority of al-Shabaab to change course and reject Godane’s decision to make them pawns of an international terrorist campaign
- The FGS recognizes that many AS members joined for money, to support their families, or were tricked
- For the next 45 days, the government has offered amnesty to AS members who reject violence and renounce their ties to AS and Al Qaeda

jowhar.com (independent), September 6th, 2014

[“Slain al Shabaab chief: militant, ideologue, poet”](#)

- The demise of al Shabaab’s reclusive leader was hailed by the White House as a major symbolic and operational loss for the group
- Godane was born in the NW Somali city of Hargeisa in 1977. In the early 1990s, he attended several of the radical Islamist schools that flourished after the collapse of Siad Barre’s regime. He may also have dabbled in the coal trade, and some other reports suggest he once ran a small supermarket and worked in accounting.

- He was described by one expert as being quietly charismatic and unsmiling, spending most of his time alone writing poetry
- After receiving a scholarship to study in Pakistan, Godane left his studies, probably to go to Afghanistan
- Returning to Somalia, Godane worked his way up the ranks, taking over some time between 2007 and 2008, overseeing the group's "golden age" (2008-10)
- In 2009, Godane led the group into a formal alliance with al Qaeda. At its peak, the group controlled much of Somalia, including Mogadishu. It imposed its own version of Islamic law in the areas it controlled.
- Godane's vision of a Somalia united by hardline Islam instead of clan rivalries is likely what contributed to the group's surge in power
- Godane remained leader for so long because of his ability to neutralize threats to his leadership within the group. Two high-ranking members were killed after they attempted to oppose him
- Ironically, this may put the group into crisis, since the most qualified candidates have been eliminated

"Somali government: al Shabaab is collapsing"

Kismaayo (independent), September 8th, 2014

- The Somali president has said that Al Shabaab is collapsing following the killing of leader Ahmed Godane.
- President Mohamud has once again urged AS fighters to accept an amnesty deal before it's too late.
- The slain commander had previously rejected negotiations with Somalia's international backed governments
- Somalia's national security minister has stated that the group may launch revenge attacks, but that security forces are ready to counter any such attacks.
- Experts say Godane's death is a crippling setback to AS



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Mohamed Hersi @MO_Bulhan · Sep 3

Our hope is getting bright day by day, Alshabaab are on the verge to be eliminated completely, #Somalia.



MIGS

Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies



Harun Maruf @HarunMaruf · Sep 3

Analysts: Al-#Shabab's silence on Monday's US strikes may be due to either:

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Harun Maruf @HarunMaruf · Sep 3

1. Extreme confidence, i.e. all key leaders are safe, hence feel they have nothing to prove. #Shabab #Somalia

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Harun Maruf @HarunMaruf · Sep 3

2. Something went wrong, therefore they want to make sure orderly transition, approval from AQ, announce. #Shabab #Somalia

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Harun Maruf @HarunMaruf · Sep 3

3. Possible retaliatory attacks being planned, hence making noises may be a distraction to operational tactics. #Shabab #Somalia

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Issason @issa_Jnr · Sep 4

A happy day if Godane's death (the leader of alshabaab) is true. my he rot in hell. #somalia #somaliland

← ↻ 3 ★ 3 ...



Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 3

Messiness of amnesty in Somalia is under-appreciated. No clear laws/process+clan politics (think: Aweys.) "New" amnesty offer is PR. #Shabab

← ↻ 2 ★ ...

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Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 3

Any rational person would see this in short & long-term as 100x more important than the death of Godane. [twitter.com/evolvingprimat...](https://twitter.com/evolvingprimate...) #Shabaab

Adam A. Omar @evolvingprimate

As Somalia's government nears it's twilight, it's increasingly becoming characterized by dysfunction & confusion.

← ↻ 4 ★ 4 ...

3) Further Media Crackdowns

Mareeg Media (Independent), September 7th

“Somali Government Closes Down Another Two Radio Stations”

- Somali national intelligence and security agency has shut down Kulmiye and Simba FM radio stations in Mogadishu
- The staff were detained and taken to the intelligence agency headquarters for further investigation
- Reports say that the stations aired the voice of Al Shabaab spokesman Ali Dere on the death of Ali Godane and the announcement of his successor Ahmed Omar Abu-Ubeyda
- Last week, the agency warned the independent against broadcasting or publishing Al Shabaab related news stories unless briefed by security agencies
- The chairman of Somali Independent Media Houses Association Hassan Ali Gesey was also detained last week after an interview with Voice of America Somali Services on the ongoing government crackdown on independent media

RBC Radio (independent), September 7th

“Somali government forces raid two media houses and arrest staff”

- Somali government peacekeeping forces have shut down local radio stations operating in Mogadishu
- Somali peacekeeping security agency raided the stations and detained some staff
- The motive behind this operation is yet to be established, but early reports indicate that it came after the stations aired programs last night that discussed the appointment of a new Al Shabaab leader after the former leader was murdered in a US drones airstrike.

RBC radio (independent), September 3rd

“Two radio journalists arrested in Mogadishu”

- The National Security and Intelligence Agency (NISA) arrested Hassan Ali Gesey, director of Radio Dalsan, and Abukar Muhyadin, a news reporter for the station.
- The arrests came a day after the NISA imposed strict orders against independent media in the Somali capital
- The reason behind the arrest of the two journalists remains unclear as there were no charges filed, but journalists in Mogadishu say the arrest came a day after NISA commander Colonel Koofi ordered media houses not to cover news stories about Al Shabaab.
- Geesey gave an interview to VOA Somali Service the night before his arrest. In it, he denounced the orders. Journalists say this was the reason for his arrest.

Garowe Online (independent), September 4th

“Three Journalists Appear Before Mogadishu Court”

- Three journalists working for Shabelle and Sky FM stations have appeared before Banadir court on charges of defamation and state-threatening moves.
- Prosecutors say the men are in breach of national unity, presidential dignity, and journalistic integrity principles.
- Judges adjourned the trial for an unspecified number of days
- The three men, who had been held in the Godka Jilicow intelligence base, were transferred to Mogadishu central prison
- Human rights watchdogs have called for the unconditional release of the three journalists

Kismaayo (independent), September 5th

[“Somali Government Regulates Reporting on Al Shabaab”](#)

- The Somali government is putting pressure on local media as to how they can report the offense against al Shabaab dubbed “Operation Indian Ocean”, warning against broadcasting anything from the terror group
- Somali security officials convened all Somali media directors and owners and issued directives on how they will be required to do their journalistic work.
- They specifically warned against interviewing and broadcasting any news related to the group, and demanded that broadcasters contact only the internal security spokesman on matters related to the security operations in the country
- The National Union of Somali Journalists said that government directives are unclear and are causing confusion; when the NUSOJ Secretary-General pressed security services for an explanation for the directives, they cited concerns about hidden messages in al-Shabab communications
- The international watchdog the Committee to Protect Journalists ranked Somalia the second-most dangerous place to be a journalist



Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 3

Basically, there's a really dishonest debate about how media actually works in Somalia and how to improve it. @MaatMHI

← ↻ 1 ★ 1 ...

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Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 3

Somali govt arrests of journos=unconscionable. But ask ppl what Somali sites they read, ppl like "0, theyre unreliable rumor mills" @MaatMHI

← ↻ 2 ★ 1 ...

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Horn Analyst @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 3

Judicial authorities in #Mogadishu aren't acting within a so called checks and balances system w/#Somalia govt, so no #FreePress. @MaatMHI

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 **M. Ibrahim** @MaatMHI · Sep 3

As much as I hate the current system, we do very poorly when we have to start from scratch, don't look back, go forward #Somalia


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 **M. Ibrahim** @MaatMHI · Sep 3

I hope opposition to the media bill doesn't cascade into protest of the entire system so far #Somalia

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 **Harun Maruf** @HarunMaruf · Sep 7

BREAKING: Kulmiye radio, an affiliate of @VOA_Somali in Mogadishu is back on air after security forces shut down earlier. Simba still of air.

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 **Harun Maruf** @HarunMaruf · Sep 7

Somali Govt shuts down 2 private radio stations 4 airing al-#Shabab materials. Simba and Kulmiye closed down by sec forces, journos confirm.

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 Retweeted by Live From Mogadishu



M.Mubarak @somalianalyst · Sep 3

#Somali security forces busy rounding up journalists as if stopping reporting of security incidents means improved security. #Censorship


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 Retweeted by Live From Mogadishu



M.Mubarak @somalianalyst · Sep 3


Journalist arrested with @HAlGesey said that the reason for arrest was publicising the ban on security reporting. #Somalia #Censorship

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Reporting Somalia @Guuleyste · Sep 6

#Somalia govt has every right to gag the #media on security grounds just like z #British govt did during its fight with z #terror IRA group

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