

Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring



# Brett Collins, Country Desk Officer for Somalia

September 24<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

# **Headlines:**

- Puntland Military Attacks Al-Shabaab Bases in Golis Mountains
- Somali Parliament Calls for Greater Co-operation Between Neighbouring Countries

### Somali Parliament Calls for Greater Co-operation Between Neighbouring Countries

### 30 September, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)

- The Somali federal parliament issued a statement Monday (September 30th) calling for greater co-operation and intelligence sharing between Somalia and its neighbours to confront the threat of terrorism.
- The government called for the establishment of "common communication facilities and common mechanism for management of refugees" and joint border security between neighbouring countries.



## Puntland Military Attacks Al-Shabaab Bases in Golis Mountains

30 September, 2013 Sabahi (Foreign Media)

- Puntland security forces raided al-Shabaab bases in Sugure village near the Golis Mountains on Saturday (September 28th), killing one militant and wounding three others
- "Our forces moved into Harar-hawle and Adayle vicinities to clean up and secure the areas from the threats of al-Shabaab remnants," said Colonel Jama Said Warsame, commander of the Puntland defence forces stationed in the Galgala area. The militants fled to the outskirts of Galgala after the raid and were then targeted by Puntland forces with mortar rounds and artillery.
- Puntland forces have recently scaled up their operations in the mountainous area, where the al-Shabaab-affiliated Golis Mountain Militia launches its attacks.

## Early Security Operations Conducted in Suburbs of Mogadishu

## October 1, 2013 Shabelle Media Network Mogadishu (Domestic Private Media)

- Government troops conducted security operations in the suburbs of Mogadishu. The security operations were mainly conducted at Shibis, Karaan, and Heliwa districts of Banadir region.
- Abdi Mohamed Ayale who is the top military commander of the troops based in Heliwa district informed Shabelle radio that the operations were conducted following yesterday's landmine attack which targeted government troops while they were operating in one of the local markets.
- Operations continue to seek out additional Al-Shabaab members.

### FAJ Readmits Journalists Unions and Will Send Mission to Somalia

### 30 September, 2013 International Federation of Journalists (Foreign Media)

- The Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) Steering Committee held its first official meeting under the new executive elected during the last March Congress in Casablanca (Morocco).
- The Steering Committee decided to send a mission to Somalia with a mandate to talk to the two union executives to seek a process of reconciliation and unity that will lead to

MIGS Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

new hope by bringing domestic support to journalists, who have been consistently killed with impunity, brutalized, battered, bruised and forced into exile in relation to their work.

- The Steering Committee re-echoed its stance on the Safety and security of journalists as its major priority. Members of the Steering Committee expressed acute concern on the continued killing of journalists with impunity and the continued deterioration of press freedom in the continent, in addition to the poor working conditions of journalists.
- The Steering Committee expressed that it will vigorously intensify its campaign on the Safety and Security by engaging African Heads of State, the African Union Commission and all other development partners involved in media work for the adoption of the Resolution on the Safety and Security of Journalists in Africa.

### Somali Militants Mixing Business and Pleasure

### 1 October, 2013 Shabelle Media Network (Domestic Private Media)

- Illicit ivory, kidnappings, piracy ransoms, smuggled charcoal, extorted payments from aid organizations and even fake charity drives pretending to collect money for the poor – Al-Shabaab militant group has shifted from one illegal business to another, drawing money from East Africa's underworld to finance attacks like the recent deadly siege at a Nairobi shopping mall.
- Despite comprehensive multiagency efforts to shut down its sources of money, the group still controls lucrative smuggling routes in southern Somalia, extracts protection money from Somali businesses and has raised hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars abroad, part of it from the United States.
- Somali elders say the Shabab employ a team of accountants -- essentially white-collar militants -- who have devised elaborate taxation schemes in Somalia, for instance \$500 per farm per year or \$2 for every sack of rice that passes through their checkpoints.
- In addition to its illicit financing activities, the group has proved adept at stealing from Islamic charities, like mosque-building projects and schools, according to several Somali elders.