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26 September – 2 October 2012



1. Kismaayo takeover
2. Al-Shabab activity
3. Internal political conflict
4. Internal humanitarian concerns
5. Freedom of the press

1. Kismaayo takeover

Privately owned

Midnimo.com, in Somali, dated 28 September 2012

“AU, Somali forces said enter Islamist stronghold in south”

-Allied (Somali) forces began to enter the Al-Shabab stronghold of Kismaayo, after a lengthy siege.

-Residents who have previously been fleeing are no longer able to escape the town as fighting has broken out within the city limits

-Other news portals following developments in Kismaayo include privately-owned *Jowhar news portal*, which noted that Al-Shabab is still broadcasting on local radio, urging its fighters to continue to defend the city

Jowhar news portal, Mogadishu, in Somali, dated 2 October 2012

“Somali leader says “civilian” administration to be formed for captured city”

-The president of Somalia spoke out after AU and Somali government troops captured the town of Kismaayo from Al-Shabab forces, stating that in coming days

administration officials will seek to introduce an inclusive and civilian government in the town.

Foreign media

UN-backed Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi-based, in Somali, dated 29 September 2012

“Al-Shabab reportedly pulls out of southern Somali city, frees 500 prisoners”

- Al-Shabab militants withdrew from Kismaayo overnight, as government and AU mission forces moved into parts of the city
- Al-Shabab freed 500 city prisoners as they retreated, leading to a night of looting and violence
- Residents are concerned that there will be military confrontations in the streets in coming days

Media observation by BBC monitoring, dated 2 October 2012

“Somali Islamists’ broadcaster off air since 27 September”

- Radio Andalus, a Kismaayo radio station owned by Al-Shabab, has been off-air since 28 September
- AU and Somali government officials are taking control of the town

Independently-owned media

Radio Gaalkacyo, in Somali, dated 30 September 2012 1015 gmt

“Somali minister warns AU forces against shelling civilian areas in Kismayo”

- After the UN repeatedly called for the protection of civilians during the siege of Kismaayo, Somalia’s outgoing justice minister requested that Kenyan and AU troops ensure minimal violence towards civilians as they take over Kismaayo. Civilian casualties must be kept to a minimum if the country wants to find stability

2. Al-Shabab activity

Privately-owned media

Midnimo.com, Somali language, dated 26 September 2012

“Somali Islamists call for public support in war against AU, allied forces”

- Al-Shabab spokesman Shaykh Abdiaziz Abu Mus’ab put out a call for more Somali Muslims to join the organization to support its ongoing fight against the government
- The organization has been actively fighting against the government for 4 years

Shabeelle Media Network, Mogadishu, in Somali, dated 27 September 2012

“Somali military court jails ‘suspected’ Al-Shabab members”

- Seven Al-Shabab members who were arrested were found guilty of ‘criminal acts’
- There is no detail on the nature of these charges or of the sentencing

Pro-Puntland media

Garoweonline.com website, in Somali, 28 September 2012

- Government officials in Somaliland have offered amnesty to members of Al-Shabab who committed terrorist attacks, a cabinet minister stated today
- Specifically the appeal is towards youth who are to be forgiven for 'making mistakes'

Garoweonline.com website, in Somali, dated 29 September 2012

"Al-Shabab said plan to infiltrate Somali security services"

- Article suggests Al Shabab will infiltrate Somali security forces using Islamic pressures
- Also discusses at length some possible splintering within Al-Shabab, and its association with Al-Islah, the Somali branch of the Muslim Brotherhood
- Number of suggestions arise on various international associations of Al-Shabab and its infiltration of other governments, which sounds vaguely conspiratorial

3. Internal Political Conflict

Horn Cable TV news, in Somali, 1900 gmt dated 26 September 2012

- Internal tensions between Somalia and Somaliland after the Interior minister of Somaliland was accused of talking to media regarding presidential elections
- Somaliland opposition party Udub is protesting its exclusion in local town elections

Privately-owned media

Shabelle Media Network website, in Somali, dated 26 September 2012

"Elders accuse Kenya of 'creating civil war in parts of Somalia"

- Somali elders at a Mogadishu press conference accused Kenya of supporting regional administrations that are not necessarily conducive to the mandate of the Somali government
- They have stated that this support is "creating civil war" throughout Somalia

Shabelle Media Network, Mogadishu, in Somali, dated 27 September 2012

"Somali MPs condemn Kenyan soldiers over civilian casualty in southern regions"

- Members of Parliament from the southern Jubba regions of Somalia accused Kenyan soldiers of killing civilians indiscriminately while under orders to liberate Al-Shabab held towns.
- Reports that the Kenyan army is 'deliberately' attacking civilians in the Jubba regions

Foreign media

Kenyan privately-owned newspaper *Daily Nation* website, Nairobi, in English, 27 September

“Kenyan president urges UN to protect progress achieved in Somalia”

-A mini-summit on Somali hosted by the UN, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the United Kingdom, and Turkey was called in New York to determine the future of the Amisom (African Union troops) in its turnover of power to the official new government.

-Among suggestions for Somalia’s future, the mini-summit discussed internal security, economic progress, sustainable development, and reconciliation within Somalia

Pro-Puntland media

Puntlandpost website, in Somali, dated 27 September 2012

“Somali president reportedly ask Kenya to halt operations in southern regions”

-Kenyan troops that have been occupying the southern Jubba regions of Somalia in ‘liberation’ missions as mandated by the African Union mission; they have been asked to cease and leave.

-There is no mention of whether there are further reports of civilian casualties in the region

4. Internal Humanitarian Concerns

Foreign media

UN-backed Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi, in Somali, dated 27 September 2012, 1600 gmt

-A bomb went off in Mogadishu, killing three people

-Local journalists from Seylac District were arrested in Somaliland, charges unknown

5. Freedom of the Press

Privately-owned media

Radio Shabelle, in English, dated 27 September 2012

“Somali journalist killed in Mogadishu”

-For the fifth time this month in Mogadishu, a journalist was found murdered.

-Abdirahman Muhammad Ali who wrote for a Somali owned news website was found beheaded and left in the capital

-No one has taken responsibility for the killing

Foreign media

Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, dated 28 September 2012**“Two Somali journalists killed in Mogadishu”**

-Abdirahman Mohamed, 26, was found beheaded near a restaurant in Mogadishu after being abducted while visiting relatives. No group has yet taken responsibility, and the motive is unclear

-Yemeni journalist Ahmed Abdulahi was shot in the head when an argument broke out between the driver of the bus he was on and militia at a local check point

-Somalia is the most dangerous country in Africa for journalists