

## Somalia Domestic Media Monitoring

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## Headlines:

- Somalia Lays Out Ambitious Plans for Political Future
- Aid Agencies Call On Barclays Bank to Keep Somali Lifeline Open

## Somalia Lays Out Ambitious Plan for Political Future

[September 11, 2013 Sabahi \(Foreign Media\)](#)

- Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud convened the "Vision 2016 Conference" last week at the Hotel Jazeera in Mogadishu with more than 200 delegates in attendance.
- The delegates addressed five main themes for Somalia's political future: constitutional development, review, oversight and implementation; models of federalism; good governance and reform; the electoral process and party politics; and political outreach, public engagement, reconciliation and justice.
- The five-day conference which concluded Friday (September 6th) was held as a precursor to the New Deal conference in Brussels on September 16th.
- United Nations Special Representative to Somalia Nicholas Kay, who addressed the conference September 2nd, told Sabahi that for Somalia to review the constitution and then hold a referendum and elections by 2016 is "a mighty hill to climb".
- "The government has huge tasks ahead of it and no shortage of challenges," he said. "The federal government is tasked to move Somalia towards a genuine transition to democracy in the

space of just three years. This is a daunting responsibility. The United Nations will spare no effort to support it."

## **Aid Agencies Call On Barclays Bank to Keep Somali Lifeline Open**

[September 9, 2013 Alertnet \(Foreign Online Media\)](#)

- Oxfam, CARE and seven other aid agencies on Monday called on Barclays Bank to scrap plans to close several money transfer accounts that provide a lifeline to millions of Somalis who depend on remittances to survive.
- Barclays had planned to close a number of accounts used by Somali transfer firms in the U.K. on Tuesday because of fears the funds might end up in the hands of groups branded as terrorists, such as the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab.
- The bank said on Monday afternoon it would postpone the closure of the accounts until September 30, a delay Oxfam said amounted to no more than "a short stay of execution."
- Diaspora remittances are the biggest foreign currency earner for Somalia, which is slowly emerging from two decades of civil conflict and recurrent drought. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 Somalis living abroad send home about \$1.3 billion a year to their relatives.
- Somalis are finding it increasingly difficult to make these transfers because banks worry they will be held responsible if the money falls into the hands of militants. Virtually all major US banks have stopped offering remittance services to Somalia and Barclays is the only U.K. bank still doing so.
- Last month, a senior United Nations official spoke out against Barclays' plans, saying it would have a direct humanitarian impact on Somalia, where several regions of the country have barely emerged from famine.

## **European Commission Offers Extra Aid to Somalia**

[10 September, 2013 Government of Ethiopia \(Foreign Government Media\)](#)

- The European Commission said on Monday (September 9) that it would be providing another 124 million Euros for the African Union's AMISOM forces in Somalia.
- The Commission said the new funding was intended to ensure that AMISOM was capable of accomplishing its UN mandate "to carry out active peace support operations across Somalia."
- She noted in a statement that the international conference on Somalia starting on September 16 in Brussels will approve a New Deal Compact to help Somalia "continue on the path to rebuilding a fragile state and healing a divided nation."

## **Explosions and Confrontations Occur in Marka and Kismayu Respectively**

[12 September, 2013 Shabelle Media Network Mogadishu \(Domestic Private Media\)](#)

- Heavy confrontations between the Raskmaboni militia and armed men believed to be Alshabab fighters occurred in the Kismayu airport last night.

- Deafening Sounds made by the Heavy bombardments were heard from the airport which acts as a military base for the Kenya troops who are part of the AMISOM contingent in the lower Juba region of Somalia.
- No group has come out to claim the responsibility of last night's attacks in the two different incidents.