

**Media Monitoring Report, Somalia****Laura Metcalfe****9-15 September 2014**

- 1) Reactions to Allegations of Rape by AMISOM Troops**
- 2) Somali Parliament Speaker Announces Reconciliation Conference**

**Reactions to Allegations of Rape by AMISOM Troops****Kismaayo (independent) , September 9<sup>th</sup>****[African Union Mission in Somalia Denies Troops Raped Somali Women](#)**

- AMISOM has accused HRW of publishing an “imbalanced” report on claims of sexual harassment by AMISOM troops
- A spokesman said that the human rights lobby was making conclusions based on a “few” interviews that are not representative of the picture on the ground
- He stated that AMISOM takes all accusations seriously, and maintains a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment but claimed the report lacked a holistic view
- He disputed the report’s allegation that the soldiers were immune to prosecution, saying that the agreement between AMISOM and the Somali government grants immunity only on civil, not criminal, allegations

### Mareeg Media (independent), September 15<sup>th</sup>

#### [Peacekeepers Turned Abusers? What AMISOM Must Do to Restore Credibility](#)

- AMISOM soldiers, deployed in 2007 at the height of fighting, are generally credited with pushing the Islamist insurgent group al Shabaab out of several towns in south-central Somalia and protecting the country's weak central government
- At the same time, AMISOM soldiers have taken advantage of the country's most vulnerable women and girls.
- AMISOM leadership and the AU have often brushed off such accusations as "isolated cases" or rejected them out of hand, as they did last week, despite mounting evidence that warrants investigation.
- Survivors feel powerless and feared reprisals from their attackers, government officials, their own families, and even al Shabab, who target perceived supporters of foreign forces

### Dalsan Radio (independent), September 10<sup>th</sup>

#### [Reaction to the HRW Report of Allegations of Rape Against AMISOM](#)

- Allegations of rape against AMISOM are not new; they are now being accused or bargaining sexual favors for food aid
- Somalis hear these allegations of troop misbehavior periodically.
- The latest reports of mass rape and coercion, especially from the contingents from Uganda and Burundi have created both local and international concern. Both social media and mainstream media have reported on the story widely
- The women who were abused come from the IDP camps in Mogadishu and are very young, and extremely vulnerable.



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**hassan farah** @hssnfrh · Sep 10

"@AliMohamoud: Ppl belif the report of HRW is being fabricated by #Alshabaab sympathizers who against #AU mission in #Somalia.  
@Somalia111



**Reporting Somalia** @Guuleyste · Sep 10

I have always my doubts about the informants used by @hrw & #UN monitoring groups as being Al #Shabaab sympathizers #Somalia  
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## Somali Parliament Speaker Announces Reconciliation Conference

### **RBC (independent), September 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### [Baidoa to Host Reconciliation Conference for Digil Mirifle Clans, Speaker of Parliament Says](#)

- Somalia's Federal Parliament Speaker has announced that the Baidoa town will host the first inter-clan reconciliation conference for Digil Mirifle Clans.
- The announcement came ahead of the to-be-declared new administrative zone in the South West. The government is trying to form a 3-region state in the southwest, rather than the locally supported 6-region administration
- The conference is aimed at bringing about consensus between the dominant clans in the region

### **Jowhar (independent), September 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### [Somali Parliament Speaker Announces Reconciliation Conference](#)

- Somali Parliament Speaker announced that a reconciliation conference would be held for Southwest communities amid deeply embedded political division
- The conference will host politicians, clan elders, and key representatives of the Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle regions

### **Dalsan Radio (independent), September 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### [Main Agenda of Baydabo Conference is Reconciliation](#)



- The prime minister of the federal government has traveled to Baydabo to attend the 45-day reconciliation conference for SW Somalia
- His delegation includes cabinet ministers and MPs.
- The main agendas are reconciliation and creating a unitary non partisan administration for SW Somalia
- Elders, youths, women's groups, and religious leaders are among the different dignitaries that converged for the important conference
- The Prime Minister confirmed that the Federal government would support the outcome, while the Speaker emphasized that the unity of the Somali people is very important, and this conference is an opportunity to bring the large southwestern population together.

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**Horn Analyst** @SomaliaNewsroom · Sep 12

Wow. One hopes the [#Baidoa](#) "reconciliation" conference is not just about Digil/Mirifle clans [raxanreeb.com/2014/09/somali](http://raxanreeb.com/2014/09/somali) ... [#Somalia](#) [#Federalism](#)


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One of the biggest flaws in SW state process. 95% of the effort is "reconciling" Digil/Mirifle than building consensus region wide. [#Somalia](#)

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