

Kenya Domestic Media, May 9th 2011 (Covering May 3rd – May 9th)

By Fatima Arkin, MIGS Reporter for Kenya

Private Media

NTV, Nairobi, in English 1800 gmt 9 May 2011

“Kenyan police arrest five terror suspects headed for Somalia”

Anti-terror police arrested five people, three of them minors, en route to the coastal town of Lamu. Those arrested include secondary school students Bilal Omar, Ismail Ali Rashid and Juma Mir Khan. Others are Yemeni Aziz Abdul Razu and Syrian Abdul Ali Mohamed. The suspects were found with equipment and substances used to make explosives. They confessed to having undergone training with the Al-Shabab. They were flown to Nairobi for further interrogation.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 9 May 2011

“Forces form elite anti-terror units” by Abdulkadir Khalifl and Patrick Mayoyo

Al-Shabab vowed to avenge their "role model and hero" Osama Bin-Ladin. In Kenya, elite units were formed within various security agencies as part of efforts to intensify the war against terrorism. According to a US counter terrorism report, the US helped the Kenyan army to train and equip two infantry battalions and one ranger strike force company that will provide border security. The US State Department's Anti-terrorism Assistance (ATA) programme helped establish, equip and train the Maritime Police Unit as well as personnel from KWS. The US Department of Justice, through the offices of the Resident Legal Advisor and Senior Law Enforcement Advisor, conducted a number of training sessions for the police and prosecutors.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 8 May 2011

“Four Kenyan children die in bomb explosion”

Four children were killed and one seriously injured after a bomb they were playing with exploded at a village north of Ngong town. Another group of children found a similar bomb two kilometres from the scene of the explosion. Ballistic and bomb disposal experts dispatched a group to collect it.

Sunday Standard, Nairobi, in English 8 May 2011

“Government plays politics at the expense of territorial affairs” by Juma Kwayera

After the slaughter of nearly 50 people in north-western Kenya, President Kibaki has come under severe criticism for allegedly playing politics at the expense of the territorial integrity of the country. Department of Defence says the President's hands are tied because the attacks are not carried out by conventional forces. The different perspectives raise questions about whether border security should be addressed as a police or defence mandate in the absence of policy guidelines.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 7 May 2011

“DC says no Al-Shabab link to grenade find” by James Wakahiu

Thika Officer Commanding Police Division (OCPD) Paul Leting said there's no evidence to prove that the grenade found in Thika East came from Al-Shabab. Police allayed fears that it might have come from the terrorist group. Residents feared that it might've been intended to wage attacks on some vital installations.

“Muslims fear being victimized over Usamah” by Brian Otieno

Islamic leaders asked the government not to victimize the Muslim community following reports that there's going to be reprisal attacks to avenge Bin-Ladin's death. Leaders said Bin-Ladin didn't act or speak on behalf of Muslims. Al-Shabab is not a jihad group.

“MRC has links with Al-Shabab, says coast PC” by Maureen Mudi and Brian Otieno

Coast Provincial Commissioner (PC) Ernest Munyi said the outlawed Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) and Al-Shabab are similar in that both recruit youths for non-existent jobs in Somalia. Munyi also accused MRC of plotting to cause chaos in 2012 in order to chase away non-coastal communities from the region. MRC Likoni Chairman Rashid Kivasyo denied having any ties with Al-Shabab. Kivasyo presented Munyi with a memorandum demanding that the government give land to coast squatters before thinking of settling IDPs.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 6 May 2011

“Stop abusing our rights, Muslims say” by Athman Amran

Muslim Human Rights Forum (MHRF) Acting Executive Coordinator Farouk Machanje and Nominated MP Shaykh Muhammad Dor protested what they claim is harassment of Muslims whenever the government issues terror alerts. The two said the government excuse is that those being detained are members of Al-Qa'idah or Al-Shabab. Machanje and Dor gave the example of Omar Awadh who they claimed was tortured and kept under solitary confinement. They also demanded an explanation as to why Ismail Abubakar was rearrested and sent back to Uganda after the Ugandan authorities released him last year.

“Police impound ivory worth over 100m shillings at JKIA” by Cyrus Ombati

Police at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport intercepted over a ton of ivory valued at more than 100 million shillings. Police said the documents found on the cargo claimed it had been dispatched by Brunei embassy in Nairobi. However, Brunei does not have an embassy in Nairobi. Airport CID boss Joseph Ngisa said they are conducting investigations into the exact origin of the ivory. It was disguised as cargo and was destined for Lagos, Nigeria.

“11 more killed by Ethiopia raiders” by Lucas Ngasike and Cyrus Ombati

Another 11 people are feared dead after Ethiopian fighters raided Kokuro, Turkana North District. Turkana North MP John Munyes claimed 50 more people were still missing and are suspected to have been abducted or killed. Speaking at the Office of the President, it was announced that a post will be opened at the main border and will be manned by the General Service Unit (GSU). In Todonyang, three more bodies were found from the attack on Monday.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 6 May 2011

“Uganda's Besigye leaves hospital”

Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye left the Nairobi Hospital this afternoon. Sources confirmed that he will be staying in Nairobi for a while with his wife Winnie Byanyima. Nairobi doctors found out that Dr Besigye suffered rib cage damage while he was hauled unconscious into the back of a police pick-up. The Nairobi Hospital did not release an official statement on his condition.

“2,000 Somalis flee into Kenya amid fighting”

Heavy fighting in neighbouring Somalia led to an influx of over 2 000 refugees into Kenya in the last two weeks. Screening intensified following the death of Bin-Ladin. Northeastern deputy PC Wenslas Ongawyo said some of the refugees were taken to Dadaab and Ifo refugee camps while others acquired papers to travel overseas in search of jobs. Security along Mandera town was beefed up.

“Choppers used to avert terror threat” by Patrick Mayoyo and Anthony Kitimo

Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK) South Coast Branch Chairman Sheikh Amir Banda said Muslims in the area are living in fear as a result of the helicopters. He said the government needs to inform residents in the area about the helicopters' mission so as to instil confidence in them. Muslim leaders in Kwale claimed the helicopters hovered close to mosques, interfering with prayers.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 5 May 2011

“NCIC monitoring SMS, web chatter for hate speech” by Walter Menya

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) has been in partnership with local telephone providers and government security agencies for almost a year. Both Kenyans in the country and the Diaspora are monitored for signs of hate speech and incitement. Commissioner Halakhe Waqo said partnership with the unit of Criminal Investigations Department (CID) that handles cyberspace crime and the telephone and telecommunication system providers has been on for about a year. Waqo also said they've been emphasizing partnership and very close collaboration with the media in delivering the mandate of the NCIC.

“ODM MPs pull out of House team” by Lucas Barasa

ODM withdrew its membership from the parliamentary committee on justice and legal affairs. ODM Secretary-General Anyang Nyong'o said the move is meant to help find a political solution to the crisis dogging the committee. Efforts to solve disputes have been futile. The ODM statement came just minutes before a scheduled meeting of the committee, which Nyong'o said could not go on without ODM members. PNU official Jeremiah Kioni said ODM has no legal grounds to withdraw any member from any committee.

“Kenya protests Turkana killings”

Kenya sent a protest note to Ethiopia following border attacks that left 20 members of the Turkana community dead. Internal Security Assistant Minister Orwa Ojode said relief food was sent to the area to "deter the Turkana from moving to the Ethiopian side in search of food". He also said that a Joint Border Commissioners meeting will be held early next week to put in place strategies to ensure the two communities live in peace.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 5 May 2011

“Nairobi Declaration: Media experts quest to boost media coverage and freedom” by James Ratemo

A UNESCO sponsored conference led to the creation of the Nairobi Declaration, which comprises of seven key recommendations to boost media convergence and enhance freedom of the press. Calls were made for laws to educate the public and mitigate risks associated with the internet. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said the UN is dedicated to ensuring that the internet becomes a truly global public resource, to which all have access and where all voices are heard.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 4 May 2011

“Party faults proposal to lock up candidates”

Esther Murugi's proposal to lock up anyone opposed to Deputy PM Kenyatta's presidential bid has been dismissed as ridiculous. Narc-Kenya described such views as outrageous, saying the party was targeted because its leader recently launched her bid for the top office.

NTV, Nairobi, in Swahili 1600 gmt 3 May 2011

“At least 18 feared dead after Ethiopian ‘invaders’ attack Kenyan fishermen”

At least 18 people were killed in Turkana County by suspected Ethiopian Merrile invaders. The victims were reportedly taking a break after a fishing expedition. Two Turkana tribesmen were said to have escaped the attack although they are nursing heavy injuries. The main motive is not yet known.

Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 3 May 2011

“Kenya to censure newly-registered ‘pornography’ domain”

Information and Communications Permanent Secretary Bitange Ndemo said Kenya won't certify the newly-registered domain through which Internet users can access pornographic content. He added that the government will soon put in place measures that will force service providers to share fibre optic cables as well as telecommunication masts.

Kiss FM, Nairobi, in English 1000 gmt 3 May 2011

“Kenya on high alert, citizens urged to be vigilant after killing of Bin-Ladin”

Security has been beefed up across the country following the killing of Bin-Ladin. All buildings and institutions are on high alert. The public was advised to take extra precautions and report any suspicious people to the police. Government Spokesman Alfred Mutua said more officers were deployed along the Kenya-Somali border and in all major towns.

Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 3 May 2011

“Back Uhuru for top seat, urges Murugi”

Special Programmes Minister Esther Murugi rallied central Kenya voters for Deputy PM Kenyatta. She criticized those planning to oppose him in the 2012 presidential election. Murugi and Mathira MP Ephraim Maina met head teachers and councillors from the county to seek their support.

“Full compensation of bomb victims difficult, says US envoy” by Aggrey Mutambo

US Ambassador to Kenya Michael Renneberger admitted that his country could never adequately compensate victims of the 1998 bombing. He said that Bin-Ladin's death will “render justice” to all who suffered in attacks. British High Commissioner Mr Macaire said Bin-Ladin's death should be a success to be reckoned.

The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 3 May 2011

“Murder at the border: 42 feared dead” by Lucas Ng'asike and Oside Obare

At least 42 people are feared dead due to heavy fighting between Turkana tribesmen and Ethiopian militiamen along the Kenya-Ethiopia border. This includes 37 Turkana villagers according to Rift Valley Provincial Commissioner (PC) Osman Warfa. The deceased came from Todonyang in Turkana North where Father Stephen Ochieng said angry residents killed five Merrile militia. One lady survived by pretending to be dead while another hid in the house of a Merrile friend. Other Merriles managed to escape by taking refuge at a local General Service Unit (GSU) camp. Ethiopian police and local elders tried to rescue some Turkana who sought refuge in Merrile villages. 45 Turkana residents, who hid in Toltale, Gabite, Koro, were rescued. On Tuesday, plans were under way to collect the bodies from Ethiopia. Turkana North DC Jack Obuo condemned the incident. Obuo said he contacted Ethiopia to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Obuo and Deputy Officer Commanding Police Division (OCPD) Paul Mbuthia were on the ground yesterday to monitor events. Security was beefed up at the border.

The Star, Nairobi, in English 3 May 2011

“Islamic leaders condemn killing” by Brian Otieno

Led by Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya Secretary-General Sheikh Mohamed Dor, Islamic leaders said Bin-Ladin’s ideology will continue forever. Bin-Ladin’s death won’t bring peace to the world as thought.