

Kenya Domestic Media Monitor Report
November 1-7, 2011
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Content Report:

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*Unless otherwise stated,
all articles were written in English*

1. Attacks in Kenya

“Al-Shabaab trying hard to hit back at Kenya”

The Daily Nation

November 5, 2011

The Daily Nation reports that Al Shabaab has attempted to commit multiple retaliatory attacks in towns along the Kenyan border, but most have been unsuccessful. One was a time bomb planted in Hagardera patrol base in the Dadaab refugee camp that exploded on Saturday, which did not injure anyone. 30 Al Shabaab gunmen also attacked a police

camp at Hulugho at the Hagardera camp, which resulted in a 30 minute gunfight but no casualties.



Colonel Cyrus Oguna (right) from Department Of Defence, Operations, and Military Spokesman Major Emmanuel Chirchir during a media briefing on ‘Operation Linda Nchi’ on November 5, 2011. Photo/JARED NYATAYA, The Daily Nation

“NCIC: Branding Kenya Somalis as Shabaab could fuel xenophobia”

The Daily Nation

November 5, 2011

Kenya’s National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) warned on Saturday that continued branding of ethnic Somalis in Kenya as sympathizers of Al-Shabaab could fuel xenophobic attacks on them. The NCIC chairman said that hate speech was being propagated through social media, radio broadcasts and SMS text messages. The NCIC also criticized an attack on presidential candidate Raphael Tuju on a campaign tour in Kisumu, calling it the "apex in the country’s pyramid of intolerance".

“Grenades kill 3 as key battles loom”

The Standard

November 7, 2011

The Standard reports on another Al-Shabaab grenade attack inside Kenya, killing two people including an eight-year-old boy in a church in the northeastern town of Garissa. Elsewhere, in Damasa centre, Lafey, a Kenya police reservist was killed when gunmen attacked the local administration police post. The article claims that Kenya is entering a more dangerous and difficult phase of its operation in Somalia, one that might see an escalation in both military and civilian casualties. It also claims that there is a growing concern of insecurity in the North Eastern province in Kenya as attacks continue.

2. Kenya's War on Al-Shabaab

“Kenya Seeks Kismayu Blockade”

The Star

November 1, 2011

The Star reports that the Kenyan government intends on blockading the Somali port town of Kismayu in order to starve the Islamist rebel group Al-Shabaab of “financial muscle”. In a joint communique released by Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga and his Somali counterpart Abdiweli Mohammed Ali, the governments affirmed their commitment to in getting rid of Al Shabaab, and called on the international community to “provide necessary logistical and financial support for the blockade of the port of Kismayu until Al Shabaab is removed”. The communique also noted that

“Eritrea Arming Al Shabaab”

The Star

November 2, 2011

The Kenyan military has confirmed that two airplanes carrying weapons landed in Al-Shabaab-controlled in Baidoa, central Somalia, and a Somali politician has blamed Eritrea as the culprit. Somalia MP Mahamud Abdullah Wehliye said “Eritrea officers have imported...many modern weapons, including heavy artillery, bombs, light weapons and heavy ones. We got this information from Al Shabab officers in Baidoa”. Eritrean officials have denied the charge.

“Kenya says Kismayu assault on course”

The Standard

November 6, 2011

The Standard reports that the Kenyan military incursion into Somalia continues, as the Navy sank a suspected Al-Shabaab vessel near Ras Kamboni on the Kenya-Somalia border. The article also claims that Kenyan security forces foiled a retaliatory attack by Al-Shabaab in northern Kenya, near the Dadaab refugee camp. According to Kenyan military officials, the military operation has gone slower than expected due to the troops engaging in humanitarian activities in towns liberated from Al Shabaab.



“Rights activists now demand probe into fishermen deaths”

The Daily Nation

November 6, 2011

Human rights activists have called on the Kenyan government to investigate the deaths of fishermen whose boat was sunk by the Kenyan Navy near the Somali border on Friday. According to government sources, the fishermen were shot after defying orders to stop. However, Muslims for Human Rights Organisation (MUHURI) dismissed that claim, calling it an “unacceptable excuse”. Nine fishermen who survived the attack were flown to Mombasa for further questioning.

3. Politics & the 2012 Election

“Parties ignore land reforms, say activists”

The Daily Nation

November 2, 2011

The Daily Nation reports of accusations against all major political parties for ignoring land reforms for fear of losing votes in the next general election. According to representatives from the Land Development and Governance Institute, the politicians were doing little to enact crucial reforms even after the new constitution. Land was identified as a key problem requiring a long-term solution by the National Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission that ended two months of the 2007/2008 post-election violence. The article says that politicians are either using land issues for political gain, or actively opposing land reforms.



Evictees from South Western Mau Forest in this file photo. Photo/Joseph Kiheri

“Kenyans urged to discard tribalism”

KBC

November 6, 2011

The Kenyan Broadcasting Company reports that Kenyan Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka urged Kenyans to discard tribalism and embrace national unity in order to propel the country into peace and security. Speaking at Karatina Town north of Nairobi On Saturday, the VP described tribalism as one of the biggest impediments to national unity and development, and told Kenyans to support the new constitution, in part because it “allows the impeachment of a president who fails to live up to the call of his office, and thus eliminates dictatorship and bad governance”.

“Raila calls for political tolerance ahead of poll”

The Daily Nation

November 7, 2011

The Daily Nation reports that Kenyan Prime Minister called for political tolerance as the country heads to the next general elections. His remarks come after an attack in Kisumu last weekend where former Cabinet Minister Raphael Tuju's convoy was stoned by youths who accused him of undermining the PM. Mr. Tuju, who had recently announced his intention to run for the presidency, was on a campaign trail when he was attacked. The attack has attracted wide condemnation from a cross section of politicians, including assistant minister Mwangi Kiunjuri who called on police to investigate the attack.

4. Miscellaneous

“Fishing declines on Lake Turkana as traders flee fresh ethnic clashes”

The Daily Nation

November 2, 2011

The Daily Nation reports that ethnic clashes near Lake Turkana in northern Kenya are ruining fishing on the lake, the main source of income in the region. Violence has erupted between two ethnic groups on different sides of the Kenyan-Ethiopian border, with the Turkana on the Kenyan side and the Merriles from the Ethiopian side. Last year seven people, including an Administration Police officer and a Kenya Police reservist, were killed at Lake Turkana by suspected Merrile raiders while fishing. There are around 12,000 fishermen who are at risk of losing their livelihood on the lake.



“ICC records improved public confidence”

The Standard

November 4, 2011

The Standard reports that public perception of the International Criminal Court has become more favourable in the past several months. The study shows that currently, 59 percent of Kenyans support the ICC process, up from 56 percent in July. There were notable improvements from Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and Eldoret North MP William Ruto’s home regions. However, public confidence in the ICC is still lower than what it was last October, before the Ocampo Six were accused.

5. Analysis

Kenya’s military invasion of Somalia continues, amid reports of Eritrea sending planes of weapons to Al-Shabaab. This development is troubling as it raises the possibility of a wider regional conflict breaking out, although the likelihood of direct military confrontation between Kenya and Eritrea is small. Al-Shabaab threats of retaliatory attacks against Kenyan civilians continue to be followed through, as grenade attacks hit the northern town of Garissa and the Dadaab refugee camp. Further small-scale attacks are likely to continue as long as Kenya’s military remains in Somalia, and large-scale bombs are a distinct possibility. Furthermore, the Kenyan military will have to ensure they limit the amount of civilian deaths in Somalia, as that could seriously undermine its Kenyan and international support for the mission. Domestically, reports of ethnic clashes near the border of Ethiopia are a reminder of how far the country has yet to go to break down the barriers of ethnic groups. However, the improved public perception of the ICC process and reports of politicians calling for tolerance are positive signs for the road ahead.

