

**Kenya Domestic Media Monitor Report**  
**October 18-24, 2011**  
**Eric Jospe, MIGS Media Monitoring Reporter**



**Content Report:**

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

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## **1. Kenya's War on Al-Shabaab**

**“Kenya, Somalia seal pact to hit Shabaab”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

The Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper reports that the governments of Kenya and Somalia have agreed on a joint strategy to wipe out Al-Shabaab. The announcement came at a meeting in Mogadishu attended by Kenyan Foreign minister

Moses Wetang'ula, Defence minister Yusuf Haji and Somalia President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed and Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed. A Kenyan army spokesman said that their efforts will concentrate around the Somali region of Afmadow, 120 km into Somalia. As the meeting took place, a car bomb exploded only kilometres away, outside the former Foreign Affairs building in the Somali capital, killing four.

### **“Kenyan forces kill 75 Somali militants”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper reported on Wednesday that Kenyan forces and the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) have killed 75 Al-Shabaab terrorists since the Operation Linda Nchi began last week. The Kenyans have now secured the towns of Qoqani, Tabda and Afmadow in Somalia, and their next objective is the port of Kismayu on Somalia's coastline, a key target because the control of the port gives al-Shabaab revenue from piracy.

### **“US planes join Kenyan battle”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

The Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper reported on Saturday that Al-Shabaab faced bombardment on multiple fronts from Kenyan forces, US drones, African Union peacekeepers and Somali Transitional Federal Government soldiers. The Kenyan troops were reportedly advancing towards four towns controlled by Al-Shabaab before moving on the port city of Kismayo and Afmadow in central Jubaland. There was progress on the diplomatic front, too, when the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad) member states endorsed the military offensive against the militants during a special conference held in Addis Abba Ethiopia on Friday. The Igad Council of Ministers urged the United Nations Security Council to impose a blockade on Kismayu, a move which will effectively cut off billions of shillings collected by the militants to fund their insurgency.

### **“Al Shabaab loses most of Jubaland”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Sunday, October 23, 2011**

The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper reported on Sunday that Kenyan and Somali forces have taken over most of Jubaland region which has a total area of 87,000 square km, from Al-Shabaab militants. The forces were planning to seize remaining

towns in upper and lower Jubaland and Gedo in the coming three days before hitting Kismayu, an Al Shabaab stronghold key to dislodging the militia from the war-scarred country. The article reported that Somali residents of Doblely were “happy with the support of Kenyan troops, saying they had been liberated from the militants’ cruel rule”. A Somali TFG spokesman said that Al Shabaab is severely weakened, and did not expect fierce resistance.



Somalia's TFG soldiers patrol Doblely on Saturday. Picture: Maxwell Agwanda, The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper

## **“Refugees abandoned to their fate as NGOs shut down operations” The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper Monday, October 24, 2011**

The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper reported on Monday that innocent people are taking a heavy toll as Kenya’s military invasion of Somalia continues. Thousands of refugees fleeing the conflict are pouring into Dadaab refugee camp in northern Kenya, which holds half a million refugees. Following the kidnappings of aid workers by Al-Shabaab this month, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) pulled out of the camp, leaving thousands of refugees without medical care.

## **2. Attacks in Nairobi, Al-Shabaab in Kenya**

### **“Kenya to flush out Al-Shabab, sympathizers from estate in capital”**



**KBC, government-owned broadcasting company**  
**Friday, October 21, 2011**

State-owned broadcasting company KBC reported on its website on Friday that the government promised to “flush out” out Al-Shabab militants and their sympathizers who are suspected to have infiltrated Nairobi. The capital’s Eastleigh neighbourhood is home to a large Somali community. Internal Security Assistant Minister Orwa Ojodeh told parliament that the war against the rebel militant group is like fighting 'a big animal with its main network in Kenya and only a fraction of it extending into Somalia'. Ojode said that a major contributor to the insecurity in the country was the large influx of refugees from Somalia, and added that the government will soon start crackdowns in parts of Nairobi.

**“A weakening al Shabaab escalates its propaganda”**  
**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

The Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper reports that as Al-Shabaab is facing growing pressure from the military invasion by Kenya, it is stepping up its war rhetoric, warning that Kenya will pay dearly for its campaign. On Thursday, Al-Shabaab put 70 bodies on display, claiming them to be African Union soldiers that they had killed in Mogadishu, saying “this is a message to Kenya that has invaded our country”. The African Union dismissed the claim, saying that only 16 of its soldiers had died.

The article argues that that local support for Al-Shabaab among the Somali population has been decreasing in recent years. While the group was initially welcomed, its hard-line interpretation of Islam, terrorizing of the population, and banning TV, music and bras “in their quest to turn Somalia into a 10th-century-style Islamic state” caused it to lose the backing of most Somalis. Since the invasion of the Kenyan military, it is reportedly determined to portray the war as an affair between Christians and Muslims to shore up support for its fledgling cause. As Kenyan troops crossed into Somalia last week, Rage warned Kenya that “your skyscrapers will be destroyed, your tourism will disappear. We will inflict on you the same damage you inflict on us”.

**“13 injured in Nairobi grenade attack”**  
**KBC, government-owned broadcasting company**  
**Monday, October 24, 2011**

A grenade exploded at a Nairobi club in the early hours of Monday morning, injuring 13 people, some seriously. The attack comes after Al-Shabaab threatened reprisals on

Kenya after the military's invasion of Somalia to destroy the Islamist militant group. The US embassy in Nairobi warned of an "imminent threat" on Saturday, and police have put security on a high alert in key towns in Kenya following the Al shabaab threats.

## **"One dead, 13 injured in second city blast"**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Monday, October 24, 2011**

One person was killed and thirteen others wounded as a second grenade explosion rocked Nairobi on Monday only hours after the first one exploded in a night club. The 8pm explosion was believed to have been a grenade hurled at a moving matatu (bus) near a crowded terminus in Nairobi. According to witnesses, the grenade was thrown at a crowded bus but bounced off the window and into a crowd of people waiting to board buses. A major crackdown on illegal Somali immigrants was also under way in the country on Monday.

### **3. Politics & the 2012 Election**

## **"Raila blames Kibaki for poll violence"**

**The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Thursday, October 20, 2011**



RESPONSIBLE: Raila in court yesterday. Photo/Philip Kamakya, The Star



The Nairobi Star reports that Prime Minister Raila Odinga said that President Kibaki should take personal responsibility for the 2007-08 post-election violence. Odinga absolved himself and his ODM party of any responsibility, saying that any members who committed acts of violence did so individually. President Kibaki rejected the claim, releasing a statement that read "'Kenyans by now know how the violence started and how it ended. As a nation, we need to focus on the many things that unite us as Kenyans in order to overcome the few issues that divide us."

### **“Cabinet sticks to December 2012 date”**

**The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper  
Saturday, October 22, 2011**

The Nairobi Star reports that Cabinet has decided to stick with the original date of December 2012 for the upcoming elections, in what has become a hotly contested issue. A secret briefing document said that the December 2012 date originally proposed by Cabinet was "possible but is still faced with numerous challenges owing to strict constitutional and statutory timelines". The issue of the election date has led to a yet unresolved confrontation between the Parliament and the Supreme Court.

### **“Don’t elect tribalists, says Tuju”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper  
Sunday, October 23, 2011**

Presidential aspirant Raphael Tuju on Sunday took his campaign to Kiambu County where he urged Kenyans to elect leaders based on performance and not tribalism. Mr Tuju, who was a presidential adviser before quitting to join the race, castigated tribal leaders who he said were responsible for the 2008 post-election violence. Speaking at St Peter’s ACK Church in Ndumberi, he promised to address issues of youth unemployment, improve agriculture and encourage the setting up of industries.

## **4. Violence in Isiolo**

### **“Three more killed as violence rages in Isiolo”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper  
Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

The Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper reports that three more people were killed in pastoralist clashes in Isiolo, the central-Kenyan town that has been rocked by

violent clashes for the past two weeks. According to a herder injured in one of the clashes, 300 armed cattle raiders and bandits attacked Garbatula herders in Igembe North District, resulting in a 7-hour-long gun battle. The violence, which has left 12 people dead since last Thursday, began when migrating herders from Garbatula and Merti districts were attacked by rival communities over control of grazing land.

### **“Six killed in new wave of violence in Isiolo”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

The Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper reports that six more people have died and several houses torched in clashes in Isiolo. Hundreds of residents of the county have fled town for fear of their safety. The Isiolo-Marsabit highway was blockaded by angry residents for half an hour before an assistant police commissioner calmed the tension by promising investigation. Meanwhile, about 33 civic leaders in Isiolo county council and a local politician were summoned to the Isiolo Criminal Investigations. The article reports that the cause of the violence is still unknown.

### **“Hundreds flee Isiolo following renewed clashes”**

**KBC, government-owned broadcasting company**

**Sunday, October 23, 2011**

State-owned broadcasting company KBC reported that a renewed wave of tribal clashes in Isiolo resulted in one aid worker killed and his house torched. The Action Aid employee was killed in what was claimed to be a revenge attack for the killings of a police reservist. According to witnesses, the fighting took place between the Borana and Somali ethnic communities against the Turkana on the outskirts of Isiolo. The fighting has forced hundreds of families to flee the villages and grazing areas around Isiolo, home to four military camps Kenya is using in its cross-border military operations against Somalia.

## **5. Economy**

### **“KCB raises its interest rate on loans to 19 per cent”**

**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**



In an effort to shore up the weakening shilling, Kenya Commercial Bank has increased its interest rates from 15 to 19 percent, becoming the latest lender to raise the cost of borrowing. This follows last month's decision by the Central Bank of Kenya to raise the rate at which it lends to commercial banks by 4 percent. In response to rising interest rates, a bill is being tabled in Parliament that prohibit banks and other financial institutions from charging interest at more than four per cent above the rate set by the Monetary Policy Committee.

### **“MPs blame CBK governor for inflation, falling shilling”**

**The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

The Standard, privately-owned daily newspaper reports that several Kenya MPs have struck out at Central Bank of Kenya governor Njuguna Ndungu over his perceived inability to handle the financial crisis. MP Bonny Khalwale referred to Ndung'u as an "evidently incompetent" person unfit to hold public office, and said that he should be sacked. Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta countered the criticism, saying the governor's security of tenure ensures that he will not be sacked, and that the inflation had been largely caused by external factors, including the European debt crisis.

### **“Raila should step aside over missing billions – Ruto”**

**The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper**

**Monday, October 24, 2011**

The Nairobi Star reports that Eldoret North MP William Ruto has called for Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga to step down over a World Bank audit of a youth project that found millions of shillings missing. The Sh 4.3 billion Kazi Kwa Vijana project was supposed to employ 190,000 young Kenyans, but larger sums of money have reportedly ended up in the pockets of a few individuals in the PM's office. The World Bank has since cancelled the government support programme. Ruto, a leading critical voice against the Prime Minister said that it's "cash intended to benefit a few individuals". "From the beginning, I have been against the project. It is now time for the PM to face the heat," said the Ruto.







Eldoret North MP William Ruto. Photo Credit: The Star, privately-owned daily newspaper online, Monday, October 24, 2011

## 7. Miscellaneous

**“Mt Elgon groups sign peace deal to end hostilities”**  
**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**Friday, October 21, 2011**

The Daily Nation reports that three ethnic groups resident in Mt Elgon on the Kenya-Uganda border signed a peace agreement after year-long negotiations. The agreement, which ended violence stemming from the post-election crisis in 2007, resulted from talks initiated by the provincial administration and religious organisations. Kenyan President Kalonzo Musyoka, who attended the conference, said it was time Kenyans consigned the post-poll violence crisis to history and forged a united and peaceful country.

**“Six people, not tribes are on trial, ICC tells Kenyans”**  
**Daily Nation, privately-owned daily newspaper**  
**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

The International Criminal Court will soon come out with a public information campaign aimed at easing tensions ahead of the judges’ decision. Court registrar Silvana Arbia explained: “As international criminal processes are sometimes complex, there is a need to continuously reinforce messages and clarify misperceptions arising from the process”. As there have been concerns that failure to fully understand the ICC process and conspiracy theories about the cases could be a trigger for renewed ethnic violence,

the Court hopes to engage with local authorities, civil society and communities most affected by the post-election violence.

## **Analysis**

The Kenyan military gained significant ground against Somalia's Al-Shabaab rebels this week, reflecting that group's inherent weakness resulting from the famine. However, the invasion also raises the threat of terrorism in Kenya itself as Al-Shabaab retaliates. Within 24 hours, the group committed two separate grenade bombings in Nairobi, resulting in one death and multiple injuries. The government of Kenya's crackdown on Somalis in the capital could potentially backfire and push more people into the arms of Al-Shabaab.

The military has yet to face their opponent in open battle, and thus has not yet been truly tested. Even if they are able to capture the strategic port town of Kismayo from Al Shabaab, it is uncertain how long they will be able to hold their ground. The long-term challenge of restoring peace and stability to a country ravaged by warlordism and clan-conflict will be great, as well as a huge drain on Kenya's financial resources.

Finally, the military invasion has already affected the delivery of humanitarian goods to needy populations and the mobility of refugees in those areas. An already bad situation in famine-stricken south-central Somalia will likely deteriorate, causing more Somalis to take refuge in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp, which is suffering itself from the departure of NGOs following the recent kidnappings of aid workers.

