

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
March 15 – 21, 2010
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March 21, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 22 March 2010)

- The Islamic governorate in Lower Jubba Region ordered a local journalist who was detained in the custody of Kismaayo town to “get out the region within 36 hours.”
- Local journalist Muhammad Salad Abdille who was working for Somaliweyn Radio in Mogadishu and SBC [Somali Broadcasting Corporation] has been in jail for the last five days after Al-Shabab Islamic Movement accused him of “reporting baseless news.” The group also accused the journalist of “sending reports that against the security of the region.”

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 21 March 2010)

- The justice minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Abdirahman Janaqow, alleged that “the opening of Radio Bar-Kulan is illegal.”
- The justice minister of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government has said that “the recently-launched, UN-backed Radio Bar-Kulan is operating illegally in the country.” The minister said “the radio has no legal permission from the government of Somalia, adding that the new station cannot contribute to Somalia's peace and security.”

March 20, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 20 March 2010)

- The former spokesman of Al-Shabab Islamic Movement, Shaykh Mukhtar Robow aka Abu Mansur, urged the residents of Mogadishu to “join what he termed as jihad against African Union peacekeepers and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG].”
- Addressing hundreds of people at Abu-Hureyra Mosque in Mogadishu during the Friday prayer, he “insisted that the fighting in the Somali capital is a typical holy war and dismissed statements from Somali Islamic body which stated that the continuing fighting in Somalia is not a holy war but a tribulation against the Somali people”.

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 20 March 2010)

- Leaflets warning employees of Puntland regional administration and international aid agencies have been dropped by unidentified group in Boosaaso, northeastern Somalia.
- The leaflets stated that “action will be taken against the employees of Puntland and those of local and international aid agencies operating in Boosaaso town.”
- The leaflets warned aid agencies and staff of Puntland administration in Boosaaso to “stop their involvement in the activities of the town's administration within seven days or otherwise face actions.”

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 20 March 2010)

- Reports from Mogadishu indicate that “the Al-Shabab movement has deployed additional forces who have concluded training on the outskirts of the Somali capital and others parts of the country.”
- These newly trained Al-Shabab forces that are heavily armed have been deployed in parts of Mogadishu such as the neighborhoods of Abdiaziz and Shibis where recent fighting broke out.

March 19, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 19 March 2010)

- Al-Shabab Islamic Movement replaced its frontline fighters in Mogadishu with hundreds of newly-trained fighters.
- Reports from Mogadishu indicate that the Islamic Movement of Al-Shabab has brought hundreds of newly-trained fighters from southern regions of Somalia to replace the frontline fighters.
- The fighters are reported to be armed with heavy weapons, armored vehicles and carrying out military movements at areas they control in Mogadishu.
- Meanwhile, mass displacement of people is said to have begun in Somali capital as the few remaining families have started to prepare their departure after seeing the preparation of impending battle between insurgents and Somali government.

March 18, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 18 March 2010)

- The Islamist group Al-Shabab yesterday shut down a radio station in Baardheere District of Gedo Region, southwestern Somalia, reports independent Radio Gaalkacyo.
- Markabley Radio was shut down and its director arrested after it aired a “program highlighting the suffering the Somali people were going through following the closure of the Kenyan border.”
- Al-Shabab had previously banned the radio station from airing news about the Transitional Federal Government, and asked the station officials to “seek their authority before airing any bulletin.”

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 18 March 2010)

- Officials of the Federal Somali Parliament have said that “the recent United Nations report on corruption is likely to affect the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] unless full investigations into the allegations are conducted.”
- “The deputy speaker said parliament will conduct investigations into the allegations made in the report and reach a decision if these accusations against the TFG officials are found to be true”.
- "All of this has an impact on Somalia. We have a responsibility to rise up to the occasion because the government stands accused, the opposition have also been accused, foreign governments supporting the opposition have not been left out, those giving humanitarian aid to Somalia have also been implicated, Somali contractors bringing in humanitarian food aid have also been implicated. Accusations have been made across the board," said Professor Dalha.

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali, 18 March 2010)

- The President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, has for the first time spoken on report tabled before the United Nations and said the accusations made in it are not the entire truth.
- "The report contains many positive statements, however, most of it was false as it contains stories mostly collected from places where idlers gather," said President Shaykh Sharif.
- "Some of the things that surprised us most include claims that government forces sell their weapons. Those claims have been made by individuals who are out of touch with the actual situation in the country," said President Sharif Shaykh Ahmad.
- "We have formed a committee to conduct investigations into the claims being made in this particular report and give an appropriate response," said President Sharif who admitted that claims in some sections of the report are true.

March 17, 2010

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 17 March 2010)

- Elders are said to be "furious about Al-Shabab's decision to suspend humanitarian aid operations in southern Somalia regions and accused the group of targeting one particular clan among the many that reside in southern Somalia."
- "The people being subjected to continued suffering are from our clan and Al-Shabab officials seem not to care about the plight of people in our regions. We cannot go on like this. We are now working on a plan to engage Al-Shabab in fighting," said one of the elders who attended the meeting and refrained from being named for security reasons.
- Meanwhile, the spokesman for traditional elders in Banaadir Region [Hawiye Cultural and Unity Council], Ahmad Diriye Ali, this morning told the media that "Al-Shabab should reconsider its decision banning World Food Programme from bringing in any food aid to areas under their control".

March 16, 2010

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 16 March 2010)

- Al-Shabab Islamic Movement arrested a local journalist in Kismaayo, the provincial capital of Lower Jubba Region, southern Somalia. The journalist, identified as Muhammad Salad Abdulle, is the reporter for Somaliweyn and SBC [Somali Broadcasting Corporation] radio stations.
- Local journalists in Kismaayo demanded the immediate release of their colleague. They also urged the Islamic administration in the region to "stop the pressure on media freedom."
- Al-Shabab has recently issued new decree ordering journalists not to air any report with out the consent of the group's media office. Dozens of local journalists were killed and wounded in under areas controlled by Al-Shabab for the past few years.

March 15, 2010

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 15 March 2010)

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the religious group. Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a were expected to sign a deal today in the Ethiopian capital. Addis Ababa.
- "If the deal is signed, Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a group will directly join the Transitional Government of Somalia and will be allocated ministerial posts and ambassadors."