

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
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12 – 17 JULY 2011

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS

(Source: The Citizen, Juba, in English 16 July 2011)

- JUBA - South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, declared a blanket amnesty to all armed groups fighting his government. Kiir made the declaration in a speech after taking oath as the first president of the Republic of South Sudan (RoSS) on Saturday.
- "I would like again to declare a public amnesty to all those who may have taken up arms for one reason or another, to lay down those arms and come to join your brothers and sisters to build this new nation," Kiir said.
- He noted that many "detractors" had written off South Sudan even before its independence, fearing the country would slip into a civil war as soon as its flag was raised because South Sudanese could not resolve their problems through dialogue. Kiir said it was incumbent upon the population to prove the skeptics wrong and urged citizens to share the responsibility of sustaining a new sovereign nation.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 17 July 2011)

- A meeting to discuss the security of [the disputed regions of] Sool, Sanaag and Ceyn attended by senior officials of the Puntland Administration has started in Garowe. The meeting is mainly aimed at examining ways the Puntland Administration could tighten its grip on these regions. Those attending this two day meeting are said to be planning to mobilize new forces and academics.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 14 July 2011)

- The Ministry of Interior of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] urged the international community and neighboring countries to help the TFG in ousting Al-Shabab and Al-Qai'dah from the country.
- The deputy minister of interior and national security, Ibrahim Isaq Yarow, asked the international community and the neighboring countries to help his country in what he described as the war against terrorists.
- He noted that the primary objective of Al-Shabab and Al-Qai'dah's is to create chaos and insecurity in Somalia, its neighbors as well as the other parts of the world. He, therefore, appealed for a joint operation to get rid of Al-Shabab and those who had invaded the country, [Al-Qai'dah], as he put it.

INTERNAL SECURITY

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 14 July 2011)

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] alleged that the formation of the regional administration in the country is illegal and a threat to the country's security.
- The TFG Acting Minister for Internal Affairs and National Security, Ibrahim Isaq Yarisow, held a news conference in Mogadishu in which he spoke of the formation of regional administration both inside the country and abroad. The minister noted that some of the regional administrations being named in various parts of the country are not in line with the rules

pertaining to the formation of such administrations. He alleged that the random formation of these regional administrations will result in insecurity and renewed chaos in the country.

- The minister called upon Somali communities' forming these regional administrations to base them on the country's constitution and to also consult the TFG ministry of internal affairs which is charged with the responsibility. There has been an increase in the number of regional administrations being formed in the country by Somali communities both in the country and abroad.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 13 July 2011)

- Traditional elders in Puntland have accused the administration's leader, Abdirahman Farole, of failing to address the security situation in the region. These traditional elders said President Abdirahman Farole needs to be held accountable for the failure to address the worsening security situation in Puntland.
- Suldan Ali Si'id Cowl, a prominent traditional elder from one of the most powerful clans in the region spoke to Shabelle while in Dubai and alleged that Farole failed to address the worsening security situation in the region. The elder said that up to 41 individuals have been targeted with organized killings carried out in Puntland towns among them traditional elders, religious scholars, politicians and prominent businessmen in the period that Abdirahman Shaykh Mahmud Farole was in office. Ali Si'id Cowl accused President Farole's administration of failing to prosecute those responsible for the organized killings in the region and said he needs to be held to account.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

(Source: The Standard website, Nairobi, in English 15 July 2011)

Text of report by John Oywa entitled "Looming crisis as refugee camps burst at the seams" published by Kenyan privately-owned daily newspaper The Standard website on 15 July, subheading as published

- International aid organizations are racing against time to help address a worsening humanitarian crisis in northern Kenya, where thousands of Somali refugees have pitched camp to escape war and drought in their lawless country.
- Humanitarian workers at Dadaab, currently the world's biggest refugee complex, described the situation as "hell on earth" and warned that hundreds of malnourished children could die in the coming weeks. Aid workers said about 21 children have died of malnutrition and other diseases at the camp since June this year. On Sunday, a Somali refugee who had just given birth died together with her baby as workers from the Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) prepared to rush her to Nairobi for specialized treatment after she developed post-natal complication.
- Officials at the MSF-run hospital said they were overwhelmed by the high number of children suffering from severe malnutrition and other diseases. The NGO runs health outposts in Daadab and one main referral hospital, complete with a theatre.
- On Monday, the hospital was teeming with children and adults as more refugees who had walked for several weeks through the bandit-infested Somali hinterland queued for admission into the camps.
- Many told spine-chilling tales of children and relatives collapsing and dying on the way as they braved scorching sun and hunger to reach Dadaab, some 150km from Garrisa town, which has hosted Somali refugees for the past 20 years.
- The MSF Research Coordinator, Caroline Abu-Sada, described the situation in the Dagahaley camp as pathetic. She added: "Between 30 to 35 per cent of the 122,000 refugees already

registered at the Dagahaley camp are children and many of them are suffering severe malnutrition.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 13 July 2011)

- The Governor for Banaadir Region who is also the mayor of Mogadishu returned to the country having been abroad. He spoke on the plight of civilians displaced by drought that continue to enter into Mogadishu as well as into refugee camps in Kenya.
- Muhammad Ahmad Nur Tarsan, the governor for Banaadir Region expressed his dissatisfaction with aid agencies. He said these aid agencies were responsible for the displacement of Somali civilians affected by conflict and drought. The governor condemned drought victims seeking refuge in Kenyan camps and said once they arrive in these camps; the aid agencies give them expired food. He alleged that those fleeing from their home countries in search for aid in foreign country lack patriotism.
- Although the Governor for Banaadir Region has equally condemned the humanitarian aid agencies and Somali civilians displaced seeking help in Kenyan camps, some of the drought victims that arrived in Banaadir Region which he governs have since died of thirst and hunger.

(Source: Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 12 July 2011)

Text of report by Aggrey Mutambo entitled "Kenya told to open up new refugee camp" published by Kenyan privately-owned newspaper Daily Nation website on 12 July, subheading as published

- A UN agency wants Kenya to open up a new settlement to accommodate refugees who have flocked the Daadab [refugee] camp [northeastern Kenya].
- The head of the UN refugee agency, Antonio Guterres, was taken aback by the pathetic state of affairs at the camp, one of the world's largest, when he visited at the weekend. "I have visited refugee camps around the world, but I must admit I have never seen people living under such conditions," he said.
- According to UNHCR, the camp initially set up to cater for only 90,000 refugees, has now exceeded the number by nearly five times.
- Mr Guterres described the refugees flocking to Daadab as "the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable of the vulnerable."
- The UN refugee agency is still pressing the Kenyan government to accept the completion of Ifo II camp to admit another group of at least 35,000 people. The other camps are Dagahaley, Ifo and Hagadera.
- International aid firm Oxfam expressed support for the UNHCR appeal, saying that opening up of Ifo II would enable relief agencies to reach the refugees.
- "It is tragic that vulnerable families are trapped in limbo, forced to endure appalling conditions while there are fully functioning services right next door. Their basic needs are being ignored," said Joost van de Lest, head of Oxfam in Kenya.
- The number of refugees at the camp continues to increase every day even as it emerges that it is not just the war in Somalia that is pushing them into Kenya - many are escaping the hunger and famine back home.

(Source: Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 12 July 2011)

- A US agency, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (Fewsnet), said other countries of particular concern were Ethiopia and Somalia.
- In statement it said large-scale emergency assistance was urgently needed in the region "to save lives and treat acute malnutrition".

- It also stressed that the current humanitarian response was "inadequate".
- Fewsnet said the region "has experienced two consecutive seasons of significantly below-average rainfall, resulting in one of the driest years since 1995".
- It said that crops had failed and local cereal prices remained very high. "This is the most severe food security emergency in the world today," the statement said.
- Somalia has been cited as the hardest hit of the three countries: Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit says 2.85 million people—a third of the population, are now in a humanitarian crisis and in need of urgent assistance, an increase of over 42.5 per cent over the figure in December 2010.
- At the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, the largest in the world, about 1,300 Somalis are arriving every day, nearly two-thirds of them children.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SOMALIA:

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has provided extensive coverage of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia. In most recent reports, CBC journalists note that the UN is ready to declare Somalia a famine zone:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2011/07/18/un-famine-east-africa.html>

UNICEF Canada has launched a fundraising campaign to support fleeing refugees and particularly children affected by the ongoing crisis:

<http://www.unicef.ca/portal/SmartDefault.aspx?at=2730>

The UN News Centre provides up to date information on the current aid envoy to Somalia:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39061&Cr=Somali&Cr1>