

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

14 – 20 FEBRUARY 2011

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(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 20 February 2011)

- AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops embarked on a military operation in Mogadishu hours after their spokesman, Barigye Ba-huko, announced that they plan to launch new military operations in the capital.
- "Our plan is to build new military bases in parts of the capital and I am not going to tell you exactly when we are planning to launch these operations, however, we will start moving into new areas," said Ba-huko.
- A few hours after making this statement, AMISOM troops in Mogadishu launched the attacks on opposition groups.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 20 February 2011)

- The Mujahidin Movement of Al-Shabab paraded the remains of what they claimed to be AMISOM soldiers said to have been killed in yesterday's fighting between the group and AU forces in Mogadishu. The group also displayed arms that are said to be seized from the AU troops.
- The spokesman for Al-Shabab, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage aka Ali Dheere addressed the media at Maslah base and said that the group was able to kill the AU soldiers and seize modern weapons that belonged to AMISOM forces.
- Sheikh Ali Dheere urged the Somali people to prepare for the fighting against the government soldiers and AMISOM.

18 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 18 February 2011)

- Thousands of refugees are for the second day staging demonstrations outside the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, offices in Cairo, Egypt.
- The refugees complain that the United Nations refugee agency has failed to provide any form of assistance, including resettlement, to refugees in that country, despite the turmoil in Egypt which is in a transition period.
- Majority of the refugees demonstrating outside the UNHCR offices were Somalis who were asking the organization to address their plight during this difficult time in Egypt.
- Egyptian riot police fired shots in the air to disperse the demonstrators who gathered outside the UN refugee agency offices for the second day.
- Abdi Gelle who is among the Somali youth that attended the demonstrations said five people have sustained light injuries in the chaos that followed after the Egyptian riot police fired shots.
- There are thousands of Somali refugees currently living in Egypt awaiting resettlement from a number of countries including the United States of America, Canada and Australia among others.

17 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 17 February 2011)

- [Presenter]: Local Journalists in Mogadishu complain about harassment by AU peacekeepers.
- The journalists are reported to face problems at a time they go to reports from areas that Amisom are based in especially the Aden international airport and the port.
- Farah Warsame, one of the journalists in Mogadishu, described harassment of AU peacekeepers against journalists has increased adding that recently the troops confiscated their working

equipment. He further stated that the AU troops threw their equipment into a kennel where dogs were kept.

16 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Somaaljecel website in Somali 16 February 2011)

- Abdi Nure Siyad, also known as Abdi Wal, a former Mogadishu faction leader tasked to head the Mogadishu-based Radio Shabeelle stepped back into a political role.
- In a press statement he aired on Radio Shabeelle that he controls, Abdi Wal declared that there is currently no government in Somalia. He leveled harsh criticism at the interim Somali government leaders, whom he said had failed to serve the Somali people. The politician said that he and the former Mogadishu faction leaders he did not name were working on plans to once again become active in the political arena.
- "Given that there is no government in Somalia, we have decided to start a robust push towards addressing the lack of government," Abdi Wal said, calling on Mogadishu residents to stage demonstrations against the government of Shaykh Sharif.