

**SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**  
**JANUARY 17 – 23, 2011**  
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**23 JANUARY 2011**

*(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 23 January 2011)*

- Reports from Beled Weyne town, central Somalia, say that the Al-Shabab Islamic Movement looted the premises of WHO and the Mother and Child Hospital in Beled Weyne town.
- Heavily armed Al-Shabab militia have reportedly entered the premises of WHO and looted equipment belonging to the aid agency along with items belonging to Mother and Child Hospital in Beled Weyne town.
- The Islamist group had previously entered the premises of other aid agencies including UNDP and UNICEF in southern and central Somalia

*(Source: Garoweonline.com in English 23 January 2011)*

- A political dispute between Somalia's weak Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the state government of Puntland in northern Somalia escalated after Puntland banned TFG officials from visiting the peaceful state, Radio Garowe reports.
- Puntland's deputy interior minister, Mr Ali "Gaab" Yusuf, told reporters in the Puntland capital of Garowe that the Council of ministers has voted in favor of banning TFG officials from Puntland.
- "We have informed all government departments including airports that TFG officials cannot set foot inside Puntland," Minister Ali Gaab said.
- Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Farmajo said during an interview that the people of Puntland "do not share" the Puntland government's views on the TFG.
- Prime Minister Farmajo's comments sparked protests across Puntland's major towns, including Boosaaso, Qardo, Garowe and Gaalkacyo. Protesters condemned the TFG Prime Minister's comments and supported the Puntland government's position.

**21 JANUARY 2011**

*(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1130 GMT, 21 January 2011)*

- *[Presenter]: Fishermen in Mogadishu port issued harassment allegations against Amisom troops.] Fishermen at Mogadishu port said that the Amisom soldiers harassed them and denied them permission to fish along the coast of Mogadishu.*
- *The fishermen said that the AU peacekeepers issued orders that fishing cannot be carried out along the coast of Mogadishu, thus hindering our work.*

**20 JANUARY 2011**

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

- Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a religious scholars in Banaadir Region have said the Al-Shabab has embarked on a nation wide crackdown of religious scholars who are not members of their group and live in areas under their control.
- The spokesman for Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a in Banaadir Region, Shaykh Mahmud Ahmad Shuriye, contacted Shabeelle and said Al-Shabab has now begun to crack down religious

scholars in various parts of the country who are not members of their group. The spokesman said Al-Shabab has transgressed against many of the religious scholars in Ceelasha Biyaha and Lafoole in the outskirts of Mogadishu.

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

- A number of children are said to have died of starvation in villages near the town of Cadale, Middle Shabeelle [southern Somalia] as many of the inhabitants in these villages have now begun leaving their homes.
- Reports from the town of Cadale indicate that some of the villages near the town have been badly hit by the severe drought in the country badly affecting both humans and animals alike.
- Reports of civilians dying of starvation have been coming from many Regions in the country. These civilians who live in extreme hardships are yet to get any form of assistance from international aid agencies.

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

- Al-Shabab forces have allegedly mounted a new road block to extort money from public transport vehicle and lorries in the areas between Banaadir Region and Lower Shabelle [southern Somalia]
- Reports from the checkpoints dividing Banaadir Region and Lower Shabelle indicate that large number of Al-Shabab forces were this morning seen extorting cash from vehicles passing there.
- Al-Shabab forces were seen charging each of the vehicles passing through the check point some 10,000 Somali shillings [Equivalent of 6 US dollars] and giving them a ticket.

## **19 JANUARY 2011**

*(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 19 January 2011)*

- The former governor of Banaadir Region, also the mayor of Mogadishu, accused the Al-Shabab Movement of blocking humanitarian aid agencies from providing assistance to civilians in areas worst hit by the severe drought in the country. The former governor also accused Al-Shabab of burning food aid meant for the civilians.
- The former governor, Muhammad Dheere, in his news conference said severe drought has affected all parts of the country and many of the nomadic communities have lost all of their animals and now are on the verge of dying of starvation.
- "The Al-Shabab movement has said the food [aid] belongs to the unbelievers, however that is not true. Without doubt, it is the uniform they are wearing that belongs to the unbelievers, and the food they eat and the combat equipment they use. If they continue with their insistence to block the delivery of aid to the civilians, forces will be resorted to and quickly too," said Muhammad Dheere.

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 19 January 2011)*

- Demonstrations in opposition to the Al-Shabab movement are ongoing in the district of Ceel Carfid in the outskirts of Mogadishu which is under the group's control.

- The protests have continued into the night and Al-Shabab forces in the town are said to have arrested up to 50 people among them women and children. Some of these protestors are said to have been living in very harsh conditions and by taking to the streets were venting their anger on Al-Shabab apparent favouritism. Among those arrested by Al-Shabab forces was a business woman who had some 10 sacks of food burned by Al-Shabab forces in the district claiming that they were part of food aid

### **18 JANUARY 2011**

*(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 18 January 2011)*

- The deputy information minister of Puntland regional administration, Abdullahi Warsame Aswad, confirmed that a new law will be enacted on the operation of media and telecommunication corporations the region.
- The deputy minister said the new law is aimed to stop the licensing of the new media and telecommunication companies in the region. He said the move will ensure control the quality and professionalism of the existing media.
- The deputy minister further said although the region has several media outlets, they are not operating professionally and they need to be reviewed. He also said that the government will follow up the operations of the existing media houses in the region.

### **17 JANUARY 2011**

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

- The Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin has refused to lift the ban on aid agencies in order to enable them deliver humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the harsh drought in parts of the country that are under their control.
- Shaykh Suldan Muhammad who is a senior armed forces commander told the media that they will not allow aid agencies to operate in parts of the country that are under their control and accused them of spreading Christianity in the country.
- Shaykh Suldan said these organizations were in the country to cause divisions among Muslims and had launched a psychological warfare among members of the public.
- Shaykh Suldan also accused the aid agencies of being involved in the sale of narcotics in parts of the country and added that they create enmity among members of the public by trying to undermine the country's economy.