

## **SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT 18 – 23 JULY 2011**

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*(Privately-Facilitated Media Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 22 July 2011)*

- Ethiopian troops released MP Barre Adan Shire whom they had detained for more than three months.
- Some commanders of the government forces and other government officials have welcomed the release of the legislator. The release of the MP follows talks between some Somali government officials and the Ethiopian government.

*(Privately-Facilitated Media Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 22 July 2011)*

- Al-Shabab fighters have arrested colleagues said to have been spying for the governments of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- Reports from Marka, the provincial capital of Lower Shabeelle Region, say a number of Al-Shabab fighters have been detained at a police station in Marka town. The fighters were arrested from the front lines in Mogadishu.
- The four fighters include an officer called Musamil Ahmad, who is a commander one of Al-Shabab's [military] units at the front lines in Mogadishu's Hodan District.
- Al-Shabab commanders told the Al-Shabab radio [presumably Radio Al-Andalus] that the four fighters would be executed if found guilty of espionage or planning to defect to the government side.

*(Privately-Facilitated Media Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 21 July 2011)*

- Bal'ad - According to MPs and local residents, Al-Shabab fighters on Thursday [21 July] seized Somali female minister.
- Asha Usman Aqil, the minister of women and family affairs, was captured by Al-Shabab fighters in Bala'd town in Middle Shabeelle region in southern Somalia after removing her from a bus heading towards the war-weary Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, some MPs told Shabeelle, a radio station based in Mogadishu.
- The seizure of the minister comes less than 24 hours after the prime minister announced the appointment of his new cabinet line-up. Aqil was among 18 ministers picked up and announced by the premier of Somalia on Wednesday evening.
- Al-Shabab has not comments about the capture of Aqil so far.

### **HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

*(Privately-Facilitated Media Source: Radio Shabeelle, Mogadishu in Somali 22 July 2011)*

- Al-Shabab Mujahidin movement said it would not allow some aid agencies into the areas under its control saying these organizations have political agendas.
- Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage aka Ali Dheere, the spokesman of Al-Shabab, who addressed the press, said aid agencies that had been previously banned in areas under the control of Al-Shabab would not be allowed to come back since their missions are espionage and political rather than humanitarian.

- He said that Al-Shabab only asked aid agencies that currently operate in the country to help people affected by drought in areas the group controls.
- The spokesman denied the statement made by the UN relief coordinator, Mark Bowden, who in a press conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, said there is starvation and severe droughts in southern regions of Somalia. The Al-Shabab spokesman admitted that prevalence of drought in the country but not to the extent claimed by the UN official, adding that Bowden's statement had political agenda.
- Al-Shabab made appeals to aid agencies to help those affected by drought after many people from southern regions started pouring to Mogadishu to seek humanitarian assistance.

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- A number of women and children have died of starvation in the displaced camps in the outskirts of Mogadishu.
- Some of these families fled from the capital due to the fighting and others displaced from various parts of the country due to the severe drought were said to be living in very harsh conditions in a camp in Lafoole in the outskirts of the Somali capital. A woman in the camp who contacted Shabelle said seven people among them women, children and the elderly have died of starvation in the camp in Lafole in the last few hours. Majority of these people were said to be families who have been newly displaced by the drought and were yet to receive any form of aid. Hundreds of families reside in the camp where these people died.
- There has been an outcry from displaced people in the camp in Lafoole who said they have been badly affected by the severe conditions they live in and appealed for humanitarian aid from both international organizations as well as the Somali public. The situation in the Lafoole camp is said to have been deteriorating for a while now as it is one of the few in the country that are yet to receive any form of humanitarian aid.

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- Displaced people in Mogadishu have asked the United States of America to continue with investigations on the embezzlement of public funds by senior Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] officials.
- Some of the displaced people in Mogadishu have spoken on recent report by the United States of America indicating that senior government officials have embezzled funds donated by the international community which were to be used in running of government operations. Some of these displaced people who spoke to Shabelle said they have not received any form of aid from the government and urged the United States of America to continue with its investigation on the embezzlement of these public funds by senior government officials.
- The United States of America has issued a major report in which it accused senior TFG officials and particularly President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad and ministers in the previous administrations of embezzling up to 75,600,000 US dollars.