

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
21 – 27 FEBRUARY 2011
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27 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 27 February 2011)

- Hard-line Islamist group of Al-Shabab urged Somalis living in Kenya to “prepare for war with Kenya”,
- Shabelle.net website quoted the spokesman for Al-Shabab, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage as having said that “the Kenyan government was part of the fighting that is taking place in some regions in Somalia”
- The spokesman warned that “the Kenyan government should bear the responsibility of what will happen in the country”.

26 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Radio Banaadir, Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 26 February 2011)

- The Al-Shabab Islamic governorate in Middle Shabeelle Region [south-central Somalia] declared that it has launched program to “[c]onvince residents in the region to join the fight against the transitional government forces, moderate Islamists, Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama and AU peacekeepers”.
- Shaykh Bukhari Aden Abdi, Al-Shabab governor in Middle Shabeelle Region, south-central Somalia, urged residents in the region to join the fight against the transitional government forces and AU peacekeepers in Mogadishu, this is coming as fighting continues between AU-backed government forces and moderate Islamists of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama on one side, and Al-Shabab Islamic fighters on the other, in many regions in country including the capital.

25 FEBRUARY 2011

External Source: (Source: Capital FM radio, Nairobi, in English 1000 GMT, 25 February 2011)

- Thousands of families are fleeing Mandera town [in northeastern Kenya] following intensive fighting that has been going on at the Kenya-Somalia border since Wednesday night.
- Reports from Mandera indicate that schools, government offices and hospitals have been closed because of the fighting.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 25 February 2011)

- Puntland forces are said to have arrested three clerics accused of supporting the Al-Shabab Movement. Reports reaching from Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region [central Somalia] indicate that three clerics were arrested near the old Salahudin mosque in the Garsoor neighbourhood of Gaalkacyo.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 25 February 2011)

- “Ethiopian forces are heavily bombarding Beled Xaawo town, in southwestern Somalia, which is controlled by Islamists Al-Shabab”. The few who remained in the town told Shabeelle this morning that “the Ethiopian troops based on the Ethiopian border town of Suuftu, are bombarding the town with mortars, mostly PM”, reports privately-owned Shabeelle website.
- “Casualty figure is not yet clear”. However, “most of the people had fled the town before the fighting broke out” three days ago, adds the source.

24 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 24 February 2011)

- Residents in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, held demonstrations to support the Somali government attacks against Al-Shabab Islamic Movement.

- Small number of demonstrators gathered at Banaadir and KM 4 junctions as Somali government forces captured several Al-Shabab military bases in the capital.
- The demonstrators chanted anti Al-Shabab slogans, while supporting the Somali government. The demonstrators have later on gathered at Zope junction, where the organizers spoke to them.

External Source: (Source: Daily Nation website, Nairobi, in English 24 February 2011)

Text of report by Fred Mukinda and Hassan Huka headlined "Blast at Mandera hospital as border clashes rage" published by Kenyan privately-owned newspaper Daily Nation website on 24 February

- A bomb exploded at the Mandera District Hospital [northeastern Kenya] as heavy fighting continued on Kenya's border with Somalia and Ethiopia Thursday [24 February]. The explosion did not cause casualties, said North Eastern Provincial Commissioner [PC] James ole Serian, but four Kenyans were treated for bullet wounds.
- He described the shots as "stray bullets fired by fighting factions across the border in Somalia territory".
- "We are not sure who is fighting who because there are so many factions in Somalia. We have not established where the bomb came from."
- He allayed fears of insecurity saying a contingent of Kenya army battalion have been put on standby around Mandera town to protect residents.
- "Our military is on standby along the border with Somalia from border Point One all the way to Kilima Fisi to prevent the fighting to escalate into Kenya and the other centres along the border have been secured up to Hulugo crossing point near Lamu," said Mr ole Serian.
- According to UNHCR, Kenyan authorities at Border Point One camp at Mandera ordered more than 8,000 Somali refugees to cross back into Somalia last year, endangering their safety.

23 FEBRUARY 2011

External Source: (Source: Daily Monitor website, Kampala, in English 23 February 2011)

Text of report by Tabu Butagira headlined "Terrorists sneak into country, say police" published by leading privately-owned Ugandan newspaper The Daily Monitor website on 23 February

- Uganda raised its security alert to the highest level following reports that suspected Al-Shabab militants have infiltrated the country and could carry out an attack anytime, highly-placed security sources said yesterday.
- The group crossed here in four foreign-registered vehicles but detectives detailed to track them were by last evening yet to make any headway, officials said. There is, however, no information on the possible number of the extremists aboard the four cars.
- Mr Abas Byakugaba, the director for counter-intelligence in the police force, confirmed that they received notification about possible entry of terrorist elements into the country but they are yet to establish its veracity.
- "The threat is there and high," he said. "We urge everybody to be on the alert, be conscious and do neighbourhood watch for suspicious characters."

21 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 21 February 2011)

- Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] alleged that Al-Qa'idah was responsible for the suicide attack targeting government forces
- TFG officials have strongly condemned the suicide attack on Somali government's force base in Hamar Jajab District in Banaadir Region in which heavy losses were sustained.