

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

21 - 27 MARCH 2011

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(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 0000 GMT, 27 March 2011)

- Puntland Administration has sentenced four people accused of being members of Al-Shabab Movement to various jail terms after they were tried in a court.
- The court sentenced three of the men to ten years each; while the fourth was given 15 years jail term. The four were accused of being members of the groups that are fighting the government in mountainous region of Galgala. They are said to have taken part in the fighting between Puntland and armed groups in Galmudug region.
- The head of the criminal court, Bashir Abdi Muhammad, said that there were more people who were facing similar charges and who will be taken to court.

26 MARCH 2011

(Source: Somaaljecel website in Somali 26 March 2011)

- Members of Somali parliament have said that the UN and the US government have increased more political pressure on Somalia. The parliamentarians said they were asking the UN and the US government to stop meddling in the internal affairs of the country.
- The lawmakers particularly pointed the finger at Ambassador Augustine Phillip Mahiga, the UN Special Representative for Somalia, whom, they claimed, the US Government and UN appointed to cause trouble in Somalia.
- Legislator Awad Ahmad Ashara, the chairman of the parliamentary information committee, one of the parliamentarians who spoke about the issue, said the US government and the UN should not add fuel to the situation in Somalia. Lawmaker Ashara specifically accused Augustine Mahiga of engaging in a scheme aimed at holding meetings abroad to pick new Somali [government] and parliament leaders. He described the move as wrong and unnecessary.

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 26 March 2011)

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] Ministry of Information has directed the Criminal Investigation's Department [CID] to summon Shabelle Media's chief news editor to answer questions on a news item recently aired by the station.
- According to a letter sent by the TFG CID, the Ministry of Information has summoned the chief news editor for Shabelle Media, Abdi Muhammad Ismail alias Abdi Ud, to the CID offices on Saturday [26 March]. The letter stated that the chief news editor was to be questioned on a news items in which the president is said to have been unable to visit areas recently captured from the Al-Shabab Movement by government forces.
- Before the summoning letter was received, the TFG Ministry of Information summoned Shabelle director and other senior managers of the media group to answer queries on the news item and they said the reports was confirmed to Shabelle by reliable sources and they stood by it. Shabelle managers also told security forces that the story was similarly carried by a number of other international news organizations.

- A letter summoning the chief news editor to avail himself for question at the CID headquarters on the 26 March at 0800 [local time] has since been sent to the station. The letter from the CID which was signed by the commander in Banaadir Region, Khalif Ahmad Ereg, follows an earlier one from the Ministry of Information dated 24 March and referenced as WWB & XAG/099/11.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 26 March 2011)

- The district commissioner of Mogadishu's Waberi District, Ahmad Meyre Makarana aka Faal, said that there are some Islamic teachers misleading children.
- The district commissioner, who was addressing the press in Mogadishu, said his administration is pursuing teachers who are teaching wrong ideologies to children. He said they would censure Koranic schools in Waberi District, adding that they would involve parents in investigating those behind propagation of wrong ideologies to children.
- The district commissioner said the government would take action against any one found indoctrinating children with wrong ideologies.
- The statement made by the district commissioner comes at a time when nine child soldiers, who were all recruited from Waberi District, defected from the Al-Shabab Islamic movement.

24 MARCH 2011

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 24 March 2011)

- Liban Abdullahi Farah of Radio Hoby Radio based in northern Gaalkacyo [Puntland, northeastern Somalia], who was arrested by the Puntland regional administration police, is still in prison, according to the director of the station.
- The director said the arrest of the journalist occurred four days ago while he was reporting about an attack, which took place in the northern neighbourhoods of Gaalkacyo town.
- The police have not confirmed the reasons behind the arrest, added the director.
- He said they were still trying to secure the release of Liban Abdullahi Farah, who is a reporter with Radio Hoby.

23 MARCH 2011

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 23 March 2011)

- Residents of Doblai District in Lower Jubba [southern Somalia] are fleeing from their homes fearing eruption of fresh fighting between Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] forces, backed by the Rass Kaambooni group led by Shaykh Ahmad Madobe and the Al-Shabab.
- Majority of the residents of Doblai have fled to the Kenyan border while the rest left for Kismaayo, Qooqani and Afmadow.
- Meanwhile, Al-Shabab continues to deploy large number of fighters to Doblai as a first line of the defence of Jubba Region [which is currently under their control].

22 MARCH 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 22 March 2011)

- Reports of renewed hostilities in the locality of Kalshaale near Buuhoodle, [in disputed] Ceyn Region as Puntland Administration between the Somaliland forces in the region and those of the SSC [Sool, Sanaag and Ceyn] rebel group, fought in the area.
- Hostilities between the two sides started after Somaliland forces set out from Laas Caanood, the headquarters of Sool Region and headed to Kalshaale where a large number of heavily armed SSC rebels were also deployed.
- Puntland Administration has meanwhile said it will no longer sit back and watch attacks on residents of Kalshaale by the Somaliland forces. Puntland's Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Muhammad Farah, in an interview with Shabeelle said his administration would seek to protect the people of Kalshaale and Buuhoodle towns. Somaliland has so far not spoken on the renewed hostilities in these Regions.