

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

23 – 29 MAY 2011

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29 MAY 2011

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 29 May 2011)

- The spokesman of Somalia's Al-Shabab militant group, Shaykh Ali Muhammad Raage aka Ali Dheere, confirmed that his group "has killed 400 soldiers" from the Transitional Federal Government [TFG] of Somalia and Amisom [African Union's Mission in Somalia peacekeepers] since February in Mogadishu fighting.
- Speaking to an Islamist Radio in Mogadishu, Shaykh Ali Dheere, further "admitted that the government forces have seized areas" in Mogadishu's Hodan, Hawl-wadaag, Wardhiigley neighbourhoods and other districts.
- Shaykh Ali Dheere, "pledged that his fighters will launch coordinated attacks" against government forces and called on his fighters "not to be disappointed" and to be ready to continue the holy jihad.

28 MAY 2011

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 28 May 2011)

- The top most senior commander for the Somali armed forces, Gen Abdikarim Yusuf Dhagabadan, said they have asked their AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] colleagues not to shell areas that are densely populated. The commander said Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] forces are also determined not to shell civilian areas.
- Genl Dhagabadan said government forces have been targeting Al-Shabab defenses and not residential areas that are densely populated in Mogadishu. The general said they have also discussed the issue with their AMISOM colleagues who are backing them up in the fighting with the Al-Shabab movement.
- We have asked AMISOM troops not to shell civilian's areas such as markets or residential areas where civilians still reside said Gen Dhagabadan while talking to the media.

27 MAY 2011

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

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] has spoken about a conference on Somalia held in Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.
- The TFG's foreign minister, Muhammad Abdullahi Umar, told the press after the end conference, that the AU officials and the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon had agreed to support the TFG in its war against Al-Shabab.
- He also said the conference called for the finalization of the reconciliation process and the drafting of the Somali constitution.

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

- Al-Shabab militants have taken control of Buusaar town 40km east of Ceel Waaq District in southwestern Somalia after government forces pulled out", Shabeelle website reported on 27 May.
- Although the reason behind the withdrawal of troops from the town remains unclear, reports say "it was due to conflict among the army commanders".
- A local resident told Radio Shabeelle that "the troops went to Ceel Waaq town where they had initially launched the attack in which they captured the town".
- Al-Shabab commanders later "addressed hundreds of local resident and urged them not to panic".

- Shabeelle website says "this is not the first time that government forces had withdrawn from Busaar locality".

25 MAY 2011

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 gmt 25 May 2011)

- "At least 30 children who were fighting alongside the Somali militant group, Al-Shabab, have died in recent fighting between Amisom backed by the Transitional Federal Government forces and Al-Shabab Islamic Movement in parts of Mogadishu", privately-owned Radio Gaalkacyo reported on 25 May.
- The children, of whom there were 40 in total, were "forcibly conscripted" from the Middle Shabeelle Region, southern Somalia, by Al-Shabab, particularly in Jowhar and Bal'ad towns a few weeks ago before they "joined" the clashes in the Somali capital, added the source.

23 MAY 2011

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 23 May 2011)

- A special force for the Puntland presidency has arrested one of the senior judges recently dismissed by the president of the Puntland administration. The former judge expressed his anger over the way in which they were dismissed and said it was illegal citing a number of articles in the constitution.
- Muhammad Mahmud Hirsi alias Muhammad Dhuke, who was assistant judge at the Appeal Court in Nugaal Region and was recently dismissed by the Puntland leader, was arrested by the security forces in Boosaaso while taking part in a debate about the state of judiciary and what could be done to improve it. A large number of soldiers travelling in a battle wagon arrested the former judge and said they had been given orders to arrest him.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 23 May 2011)

- UNHCR [the United Nations agency for refugees] expressed concern over the influx of Somali refugees into camps in Kenya.
- The UN refugee agency said over 1,000 Somali refugees fleeing from the conflict in the country arrive in Kenyan camps. Emmanuel Nyabera, the spokesman for UNHCR while talking to the media in Nairobi said the camps of Ifo, Dadaab and Dhagahley have been filled beyond their capacity by Somali refugees who are fleeing from the conflict in their country.
- The number of refugees in Kenyan camps and particularly Dadaab are three times the number originally planned for.