

**SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**  
**27 DECEMBER 2010 – 2 JANUARY 2011**  
**STACY TOPOUZOVA**

**2 JANUARY 2011**

*(Source: Radio Banaadir, Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 2 January 2011)*

- Al-Shabab Islamic fighters arrested youngsters over alleged use of different kind of illegal drugs and failing to perform prayers in Jowhar District of Middle Shabeelle Region, southcentral Somalia.
- Al-Shabab's spokesman in Jowhar District [southcentral Somalia] has confirmed that they would continue operations to arrest youngsters who commit acts that go against Islamic teachings in district.

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 2 January 2011)*

- Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a officials in Banaadir Region asked the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin forces to surrender.
- The commander for Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a forces in Banaadir Region, Yonis Ali Jaban, while speaking to the media urged Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin forces to surrender to their group. Yonis said Somali youth are being misguided by foreign criminals who have committed serious crimes in the own countries.
- Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a commander also asked Mogadishu residents to support their forces in their fighting in order to defeat Al-Shabab.

**1 JANUARY 2011**

*(Source: Radio Shabeelle, Mogadishu in Somali 0500 GMT, 1 January 2011)*

- "15 people are known to have been killed and 25 others wounded" following fighting between government forces backed by AU peacekeepers and Islamist Al-Shabab fighters in Mogadishu's Hodan and Howlwadaag districts, reports privately-owned Radio Shabeelle.
- The sound of "heavy weapons used by both sides could be heard in all parts of Mogadishu" and those killed "are all civilians". A mortar landed in Wardhiigley neighbourhood and instantly "killed five members of the same family", adds the source.
- Al-Shabab controls much of the Somali capital Mogadishu, and southern and central Somalia.

**31 DECEMBER 2010**

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 31 December 2010)*

- Ministers of health in successive Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] have been accused of paying the salary of ministry employees in the form of medicine which they were then expected to sell to private clinics in Mogadishu. The medicine given to these ministry of health employees as their salary is said to have been donated by foreign countries and was meant to assist poor people.
- It is not yet known whether the current ministry will try and address the accusations leveled against successive ministers.
- These revelations are part of wider accusations of corruption and embezzlement of public funds leveled against the TFG agencies.

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 31 December 2010)*

- The leader of the Al-Shabab Movement, Shaykh Muqtar Abdirahman Abu Zubeyr has for the first time spoken on the move in which Hisb al-Islam joined Al-Shabab and said it was a major victory for fighters in Somalia.

- Shaykh Muqtar Abdirahman Abu Zubeyr in an audio recording sent to Mogadishu- based radio stations first of all asked Al-Shabab forces and their Hisb al-Islam colleagues that recently joined them to redouble their fighting against Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] forces and those of the AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops.
- "We need to safeguard this victory that we have attained. If it is not safeguarded it will go to waste. We should tighten our grip on it otherwise it will go down with the sun. It will either bring honour or shame. In order to be worthy of this victory, we need to be in the right path for our ideology which is the Jihad and the path laid by the Prophet, peace be upon him," said the Al-Shabab leader.

### **30 DECEMBER 2010**

#### **EXTERNAL SOURCE**

*(Source: The Star, Nairobi, in English 30 December 2010)*

*Text of commentary by Guled Mohamed entitled "Al Shabab admit to public cruelty and abuse of power" published by privately-owned Kenyan daily newspaper The Star on 30 December*

- The notorious Al-Shabab militants have finally admitted to mistreating the public, blaming their barbarism to recent crushing defeats in the hands of the poorly-funded Somali government and their backers - African Union peacekeepers from Uganda and Burundi.
- In a rare public appearance in the agricultural rich district of Afgooye, 30km west of the capital Mogadishu, Fu'ad Muhammad Khalaf aka Shongole, a senior Al-Shabab commander, warned his accomplices of a severe blow to their fading rule should they continue mistreating the public.
- "The reason the Mujahedeens have failed to emerge victorious against the infidels is largely due to the bad relationship between the public and Al-Shabab. If we are stronger than the public we should remember that Allah is also stronger than us...we need to fairly treat the people if we are to succeed," Shongole was quoted on local radio on Saturday [25 December] while addressing residents of Afgooye town, which they recently took over together with Hisb al-Islam, their former copy-cat Islamist gang, who were in charge of the sleepy town along the shores of River Shabeelle.
- Just 15km from Afgooye where Shongole was speaking, Al-Shabab militias were reportedly robbing
- "If these ridiculous crimes are anything to go by, Shongole and his accomplices have a right to be really worried because Al-Shabab is slowly fading away. Since it is an ideological belief, it is very hard to fight it head on. Their inhuman treatment of the same public who supported them yesterday will deprive them of recruits and the economic muscle they badly need. They stand no chance and the likes of Shongole cannot redeem their already bloodied hand with any public relations gimmick," a Somali analyst said declining to give his name for his own safety.

### **28 DECEMBER 2010**

*(Source: Radio Shabeelle, Mogadishu in Somali 0500 GMT, 28 December 2010)*

- A member of the Somali parliament has accused the leading media house in Mogadishu, Shabeelle Media Network of "having links with foreign churches", reports privately-owned Radio Shabeelle.
- MP Salad Ali Jelle said "Shabeelle receives funding from foreign Churches" and therefore "works for the interest of foreigners". He said the management of Shabeelle wants the current government "to be toppled and then join politics". He further said that the transitional government will "not muzzle the media" but he "will personally take steps against the media house in accordance with the law".
- Jelle is one of the MPs recently "exposed" by Shabeelle as "one of those embezzling revenues received from Mogadishu main port".
- In June 2010, Shabeelle Media Network relocated its outlets to the government-controlled area in Mogadishu following plans and threats of seizure by the hardline Al-Shabab Islamist group.
- Shabeelle Media Network runs an FM radio station and TV in Mogadishu and a vibrant website.

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 28 December 2010)*

- The management of the Mogadishu port threatened Shabelle media and its employees over reports of corruption involving the revenue collected from the port which the station aired last night.
- The Deputy Director of Mogadishu port, Ahmad Abdi Kaariye, today held a news conference at the port and said the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] was going to take stern action against the management of Shabelle media and its employees over false accusations which they said were made against port's management and senior TFG officials.

## **26 DECEMBER 2010**

*(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 26 December 2010)*

- Reports from Galguduud Region of central Somalia confirmed that moderate Islamists of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a held a meeting with UNICEF delegation that arrived in Dhuuso Mareeb District, yesterday.
- The two sides focused on the best ways to assist drought-stricken people in many areas in the region. Shaykh Mursal also indicated that the delegation would visit many parts in Galguduud Region to evaluate the needs existing in those areas in order to provide the required assistance.