

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
28 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2011
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3 APRIL 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 3 April 2011)

- Somali government forces have taken control of Dhoblai city (bordering Kenya)
- Kenyan-trained Somali forces had been fighting with Al-Shabab at the areas bordering Kenya.
- The website, Shabelle.net, reported that "heavily armed government forces were seen patrolling the streets of the city." The website added that the government forces used helicopters and tanks in the fighting to drive away the Al-Qa'idah inspired group from the town.

1 APRIL 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 1 April 2011)

- The Al-Shabab mujahidin movement has confirmed that they "were planning to take over the whole of Galguduud Region in central Somalia", claiming that the Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a [moderate Islamists] administration in the region has collapsed.
- The spokesman of Al-Shabab fighters, Shaykh Abdiaziz Abu Mus'ab, who spoke to the press, said plans were under way to attack Ahlu Sunnah in Galguduud Region, adding that the administration has disintegrated in two groups.

31 MARCH 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 31 March 2011)

- Major demonstrations against the continued detention of Shabeelle director and news editor took place in Mogadishu.
- The demonstration was attended by large numbers of people was organized by youth and members of civil society group and was in protest of the continued detention of the Shabelle director and reporter by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG].

(Source: The People, Nairobi, in English 31 March 2011)

Excerpt from report by Anthony Mwangi headlined "Terror group plot to hit key installations" published by Kenyan privately-owned daily newspaper The People on 31 March

- Kenya is on a 24-hour terror watch after it emerged that terrorists with links to Al-Shabab have laid out elaborate plans targeting key installations in the country. Internal Security Minister Prof George Saitoti made this revelation before a hushed parliament yesterday.
- The minister did not specify which key installations the terrorists, who are believed to be the same ones whose allies struck in downtown Nairobi last December, were targeting. Such installations could include airports, important and highly-populated buildings, power and water supply plants, oil refineries and communication networks.
- The importance of these facilities appear to lend weight to the minister's concern and seem to justify the sort of national security mobilisation, vigilance and preparedness he alluded to.

- The minister said surveillance and patrols have been improved along the Somali border in the wake of intelligence reports. The minister, while calling for more funding to help the security forces fight the terror threat in the country, however, said he did not want to scare Kenyans by naming the targeted installations.

30 MARCH 2011

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 30 March 2011)

- A number of artillery rounds hit Bakaaraha market in Mogadishu. Some of the shells hit the premises of Xog-ogaal newspaper located in the market and caused destructions.

28 MARCH 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 28 March 2011)

- The Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin has said they have readied plans to launch attacks on areas under Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a forces in central Somalia regions.
- Shaykh Yusuf Shaykh Ise alias Kabakutukade, who is the commander for Al-Shabab forces in Galguduud Region [central Somalia] said their forces are planning to launch attacks on areas where Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a forces are based.
- The statement by the Al-Shabab commander in Galguduud Region comes at time when their forces and those of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a have been fighting in recent weeks.

27 MARCH 2011

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1015 GMT, 27 March 2011)

- Director of Shabelle Radio Abdirashid Umar Qasse and Head of Programs Abdi Ud were arrested after they were summoned by the intelligence department of Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in Mogadishu.
- The two officials were summoned for interrogation about a news item that was recently aired by Shabelle Radio.
- Shabelle director who spoke to the media after his arrest said that they were arrested as soon as they arrived at the centre of the government intelligence while he was expected that he will be interrogated by the Ministry of Information.
- Somalia's information ministry has issued a decree ordering intelligence officers to summon officials from Shabelle about news aired at the Radio on 22 March.