

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

3- 9 JANUARY 2011

STACY TOPOUZOVA

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(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 9 January 2011)

- An Al-Shabab court in the town of Ceel Buur, Galguduud Region [central Somalia] has sentenced traditional elders and business people that were arrested by its forces. Reports from Ceel Buur indicate that six people among them traditional elders and business people arrested yesterday in the town were today arraigned in an Al-Shabab court where some of them were sentenced while others were set free.
- So far, no one has spoken on the sentences handed by the Al-Shabab court in the town.

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(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 8 January 2011)

- Villagers in Gaalkacyo town, central Somalia, have formed community police units following increased insecurity and instability in the area.
- Some of the villages which have established these civil forces include Isra. The troops have direct relations with those from the Puntland region [northeastern Somalia].
- The chairman of the security department of the Gaalkayo town council, Abdullahi Faray, told Radio Gaalkacyo that similar units will be established in other villages. The council will also publish guidelines on community policing to help local people work with law enforcement bodies in the fight against insecurity.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 8 January 2011)

- According to traditional elders and intellectuals in the town of Ceel Dheer, Galguduud Region [central Somalia], the commander of the [hardline] Al-Shabab administration in the town, Shaykh Qadar, was jailed for embezzling public funds.
- The commander and two Al-Shabab soldiers were arrested from the village of Masagawa in Ceel Dheere and are said to have taken off with 300,000,000 Somali shillings [about 10,000 dollars] meant to assist drought victims in various parts of Galguduud Region.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 8 January 2011)

- The president of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, has accused Al-Shabab mujahidin movement of harassing women in areas they control. The president said Al-Shabab forces women to marry Al-Shabab fighters against their will.
- The president said Al-Shabab is causing problems to all the people, saying that it was upon the public to turn against them.

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(Source: Radio Banaadir, Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 7 January 2011)

- The Interior Ministry has said that it holds food aid donated by an NGO registered in the United Arab Emirates. At a press conference in Mogadishu, Ibrahim Isaq Yaro, assistant interior minister, stated that the transitional government was unable to distribute the food aid to the needy people living in areas controlled by Al-Shabab Islamic administration since the Islamist administration banned some of the relief organizations from operating in those areas.

- Yarow stated that it was vital to find best access to reach drought-stricken areas in order to assist destitute Somali living there.

(Source: Radio Banaadir, Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 7 January 2011)

- [Presenter] Al-Shabab has issued a decree banning opposite sex from walking together and shaking hands in Jowhar District of Middle Shabeelle Region, southern Somalia. Our reporter Bashir Ali Dahir sent this report.
- [Reporter Bashir]: Al-Shabab Islamic administration in Jowhar District has banned men and women, especially the youth from walking together and shaking hands.

(Source: Radio HornAfrik, Mogadishu, in Somali 0500 GMT, 7 January 2011)

- Radio HornAfrik, a leading FM station in the Somali capital remains off air since it was raided by the hardline Somali Islamist group, Al-Shabab, on 19 September 2010.
- The privately-owned Shabeelle website reported on 19 September 2010 that "Al-Shabab militants stormed the station and took away all the radio equipment".

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 7 January 2011)

- Some of the displaced families that have fled their homes due to the fighting in Mogadishu have been living on the outskirts of the capital and have now started returning, citing problems with Al-Shabab Movement as the reason for their return.
- Some of these families have returned to Mogadishu in the last few hours despite the fact that the ongoing fighting in the capital is still as fierce as it was when they fled their homes four years ago.
- These families said they decided to return to the capital because of problems they have had with Al-Shabab and added that they have not received any humanitarian assistance in the last two years after Al-Shabab barred aid agencies from operating in areas where displaced people reside.

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(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 5 January 2011)

- Displaced families in Mogadishu's Wadajir district today staged protests in which they accused officials of the local administration of diverting their food aid.
- The protests which were organized by some of the displaced people in Wadajir district took place at the former American base in Mogadishu and were attended by hundreds of civilians among them women and children and the elderly who were complaining of the extreme hardships they face in the camps they live in.
- Some of the protestors who spoke to Shabeelle said they were very upset with the Wadajir Administration which they accused of diverting the food aid which humanitarian aid agencies have entrusted them to deliver.

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(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 4 January 2011)

- Refugees from Zanzibar who fled from their country due to religious conflict and that have been living at the former ministry of water in Mogadishu reported hardships inflicted upon them by Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] forces and those of Al-Shabab.
- Muhammad Si'id Muhammad who is among the Zanzibari nationals in Mogadishu told Shabeelle there are up to 85 families some of whom earn their living through work while others beg in the streets of the capital.
- Muhammad said that they are "harassed by the warring sides in the country who at times arrest and even assault them on the streets".