

*Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report*  
*April 26 – May 2, 2010*  
*Stacy Topouzova*

*May 2, 2010*

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 2 May 2010)*

- The Governorate of the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin in Banaadir Region has said that “they will try and prevent any more explosions that might target areas that are heavily populated with civilians.”
- Shaykh Ali Muhammad Husayn, the head of the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin in Banaadir Region, held a news conference for the media in Mogadishu and spoke on the explosions in a mosque in Mogadishu's Bakaaraha market which resulted in heavy losses.
- The Commander of the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin Governorate in Banaadir Region also called on “residents of Banaadir Region and armed groups that are fighting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] to a renewed uprising against the government”.

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 1 May 2010)*

- Reports from Kismaayo indicate that “there has been heavy explosion at a Mosque in the neighbourhood of Guulwade after the evening prayers”
- The explosion is said to have been caused by a hand grenade. So far one person has been confirmed dead whereas seven others who were at the mosque where the explosion took place were wounded.
- Details of the explosion attack which occurred after the evening prayers in one of the mosques in Kismaayo are not yet clear. Senior officials of the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin who spoke to Shabeelle have confirmed that the explosion did take place but that none of their senior officials were at the mosque at the time. They said the explosion targeted civilians who were preparing for evening prayers resulting in the loss ranging from loss of life and injury.

*(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 1 May 2010)*

- “Officials of Islamic governorate in Kismaayo town, the provincial town of Lower Jubba Region ordered hundreds students in the region to join the Jihad, reporter Abdirazzaq Hasan said”
- [Hasan]: “The officials of Al-Shabab Islamic Movement in Kismaayo town have today held meeting with hundreds of students, teachers and principles from Jubba, Fanole and Ahmad Hambal schools, and discussed how the students could be able to join the Jihad. The head of Islamic law of Lower Jubba region Shaykh Hasan Ya'qub has said that students must take part the Jihad. He strongly accused Kenyan government for training pro-government militia at Mombassa and Isiolo adding that Kenya wants back up militia who are tying to attack us and capture Jubba regions.”
- Shaykh Hasan Yaqub has further stated that “it is time for students and teachers to be recruited as Mujahidin” adding that “they have to protect the region from the enemy of the Islam.”

- He also accused the “US government of arming Somali robbers and culprits in Kenya to attack areas controlled by the group.”

*May 1, 2010*

*(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 0000 GMT, 1 May 2010)*

- Somalia's Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement accused "foreigners of being behind the two simultaneous" blasts in Mogadishu in which a senior movement official was injured.
- The group's spokesman Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage, said "what happened today is what we have been warning of," adding that "foreign companies were behind the blast", privately-owned Somali Radio Simba website reported on 1 May.
- Rage said the blasts were "aimed at wiping out the Muslims" and added that Al-Shabab would undertake measures to prevent such attacks.
- The leader of Hisb al-Islam, which is also waging war against the Somali government, Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys, condemned the attack, describing it as "act carried out by the enemy, who wants the people to flee mosques," the website added.

*April 30, 2010*

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 30 April 2010)*

- The World Food Programme [WFP] has said it is unable to start its operations until the situation in southern Somalia Regions changes.
- The WFP spokesman, Peter Smarden, in an interview with Shabelle while in Nairobi spoke on the humanitarian situation in Somalia. The spokesman said that they are “unable to resume the distribution of food aid which they have been giving to 1.5 million displaced people who are camping in the area between Mogadishu and Afgooye, Lower Shabelle [southern Somalia].”
- The Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin's banned the WFP from operating in parts of the country under its control on the 2nd of March.

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 30 April 2010)*

- Professor Abdi Ismail Samatar, who is among prominent Somali scholars in USA. spoke to Shabelle last night about the conflict between the Speaker and members of the Federal Somali Parliament, who are opposed to him and have been claiming that his term in office has now expired.
- The Professor commentd that “the solution is now for the top Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] officials”: “President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, Prime Minister Umar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke and the Speaker to all resign from their positions.”
- He added that “the bickering among TFG officials at a time when Somali civilians are facing many hardships is quite disappointing.”
- “All sides involved in the Somali conflict, the TFG, Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin and the African Union troops all share the disregard for the plight of the civilians and actively take part in their massacre.”

*(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 30 April 2010)*

*As Reported:*

- “Former warlords in Mogadishu who were ousted when the Union of Islamic Courts was first formed in the country, have in the last three days been seen in parts of Mogadishu that are controlled by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG].”
- “The former warlords have been seen with their private militias, who were seemingly providing security. Allpuntland has earlier on reported that some of the foreign countries meddling in Somalia's internal affairs are now planning to re-arm the former warlords and clans in Somalia, so that they can engage Al-Shabab Movement and Hisb al-Islam, which are in control of most parts of southern Somalia.”
- Reports have now emerged that “Bashir Rage Shirar, Muhammad Qanyare Afrah, Muse Sudi Yalahow and Muhammad Umar Habeeb, all of who were members of the same group [Anti-Terrorism Alliance] that was defeated and ousted by the Islamic Courts in 2006, have once again begun mobilizing their militias.”
- Sources also indicate that “these militias have been named Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a and were the ones that recently attacked parts of Mogadishu controlled by Al-Shabab Movement, although they were later pushed back”.

*April 29, 2010*

*(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 0000 GMT, 29 April 2010)*

- Heavy fighting in which artilleries and different types of weapons were exchanged erupted in Mogadishu's Warshadaha road, causing casualties among the civilians.
- The fighting erupted after forces loyal to Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement have attacked [AU base in ] Jaalle Siyad college.
- The civilians who were wounded in the fighting were on board a mini bus in Warshadaha road when stray bullets hit the bus.

*(Source: Radio Hargeysa in Somali 1700 GMT, 29 April 2010)*

- [Presenter] The minister of internal affairs, Abdullahi Ismail Ali aka Iro, concluded a meeting at Ambassador Hotel in Hargeysa today aimed at restructuring the Somaliland police.
- Reports from Somaliland News Agency [SOLNA] add that the minister, who spoke at the closing ceremony of the meeting, alleged that “some people who like saying negative things, claimed that the running of the Somaliland police would be handed over to UNDP [United Nations Development Programme].”
- The minister described the statement as “baseless”, adding that “the country's police is [words indistinct], therefore cannot be handed over easily”.

*(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 29 April 2010)*

- Senior police officials in Mudug Region [central Somalia] have once again reiterated that “there are individuals from southern Somalia regions have been repeatedly trying to destabilize Puntland Region” and called upon them to “respect the stability of the region.”

- The commander of the police in Mudug Region, Muse Ahmad Abdirahman, spoke to the media in Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region, today and claimed that “a lot has been sacrificed to ensure the security of Mudug Region”
- "A lot of money has been spent in the security of Puntland, a lot of thoughts and time have been put into it and we will not therefore allow a small group of people whom we are providing safety for to easily come and destroy it. The security of Puntland Region has been compromised and we are calling upon these individuals to stop what they are doing or else risk arrest from the security forces and severe punishment," said Muse Hasasi
- "We have welcomed displaced people and provided them with security. It is therefore not right to torch peaceful areas you have sought asylum in when you have fled from your own house because it was on fire. We are aware that not all displaced people are contributing to these problems and that it is a minority among them. We are telling those that our patience has now run out," said the commander of the police in Mudug Region.

*April 28, 2010*

*(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 28 April 2010)*

- [Presenter] Hundreds of Ethiopian troops entered Toobta locality [Unable to receive the exact pronunciation of locality name] between the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya and arrested several Somali people who are accused of being linked to Al-Shabab Islamic Movement. Reporter Sahara Ali has sent this report from Balad Xaawo.
- “The troops have launched searching operations and arrested several Somali people who are being accused of having links to Al-Shabab Islamic Movement. The exact number of those arrested are not clear, but source say that nearly fifteen people have been arrested by the troops.”

*(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 28 April 2010)*

- The African Union's Peace and Security Council, based in Addis Ababa, has held a meeting to discuss the situation in Somalia and strongly condemned the recent fighting in the country.
- African Union officials said they were “quite disappointed with the latest fighting in Mogadishu and called upon senior officials of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] to take decisive action on the situation in the country”.
- African Union officials have said “the fighting in Somalia is meant to bring down the entire TFG and is being carried out by groups opposed to the attainment of peace in the country.”

*(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 28 April 2010)*

- The spokesman for the Movement for Al-Shabab Mujahidin, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Raage alias Shaykh Ali Dheere while speaking to the media in Mogadishu said they “have not instilled security in the Regions under their control through repression.”
- Shaykh Ali Dheere was responding to an earlier report released by the Human Rights Watch around mid this month in which it was said “the Al-Shabab Movement have been able to ensure security in parts of the country that are under the control but through repression.”

- "It is surprising that Human Rights Watch has learnt that areas under the control of the Al-Shabab Movement are secure. We are telling them that security has not been achieved through repression but by the acceptance of God's commands," said Shaykh Ali Dheere.
- The spokesman said residents of areas under the control of the Al-Shabab Movement are "quite satisfied with their activities and as a group they are determined to implement God's laws which he said serves the interests of Somali Muslims."

*April 27, 2010*

*(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 27 April 2010)*

- The leader of Hisb al-Islam, Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys, today confirmed that Shaykh Ahmad Madobe who is a member of his group has "entered into an agreement with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] and Kenya."
- Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys expressed concerns over "campaigns which he said is being undertaken by the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi in various locations."
- He called upon these countries to "stop meddling in Somalia's affairs."
- The Hisb al-Islam leader threatened that "if these countries do not stopping meddling in Somalia, the current fire in the country would be extended to areas outside its borders."

*April 26, 2010*

*(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 26 April 2010)*

- [Presenter] Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a accused Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and African peacekeepers of "being responsible for the deadly shelling in Mogadishu's Bakaaraha market yesterday."
- The head of information of the group, Shaykh Abdullahi Shaykh Abdirahman Abu Yusuf, strongly condemned the shelling against civilian populated areas and said the act was against the Somali people.
- He said that "the responsibility for the attack was upon the Somali government which usually gave orders to African peacekeepers to respond to any attack from opposition groups."