

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
April 5 – 11, 2010
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April 11, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 11 April 2010)

- A prominent traditional elder in Somalia said that he was “behind the closure of BBC and VOA offices in Southern Somalia” and called for the “closure of private Radio stations in Somalia.”
- The elder stated that “both VOA and BBC were involved in airing non-Islamic programs and were serving for the interests of the western countries”. He mentioned that “number of traditional elders encourages Islamist groups to ban these two media outlets from Somalia after these elders seriously observed how BBC and VOA operated in Somalia”.
- Muhammad Weli said that he is “much pleased to have heard the closure of those media stations adding that Somali people will not feel envy about its suspension”.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 11 April 2010)

- A function in which the former administration in Afgooye handed over office to the new administration took place at the Hisb Al-Islam Administration's HQ in the town.
- The former Chairman of the Hisb Al-Islam administration in Afgooye, Shaykh Muhammad Abdirahman Muhammad, addressed the gathering and said that “he was quite pleased about his replacement and was welcoming the newly appointed chairman”.
- The leader of Hisb al-Islam, Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys, addressed the function towards the end and said that “these newly appointed officials were expected to perform their duties and urged them to abide by God's book and practices of the prophet by ruling the residents of Afgooye according to the Islamic Shari'ah.”

April 10, 2010

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 0000 GMT, 10 April 2010)

- The head of information in the [moderate Islamist] Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, Abdirahman Abu Yusuf, condemned the decision by [hardline] Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement to ban the rebroadcasting of the BBC [Somali Service] by local FM stations in areas under its control in Somalia.
- He described the order by the Al-Shabab as “aimed at destroying independent media in the country.”
- The official said that “Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a welcomed the BBC to operate in areas under its control and urged the broadcaster to establish working relations with the Somali government.”

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 10 April 2010)

- [Presenter] “Galmudug regional administration accused local radio stations in Puntland-controlled part of Gaalkacyo town for airing programs against security in the region.”

- Officials of Galmudug regional administration accused local radio stations in Puntland-controlled part of Gaalkacyo town of “airing programs against security in the region”.
- The spokesman of Galmudug administration Ahmad Sharif Basto has said that “Radio stations in Puntland region for taking interviews of people who are against Galmudug”. The spokesman has said that “these radio stations in Puntland part disseminate news and programs that can bring insecurity between the people of the region”.
- He called these radio stations to “stop airing these programs and work on ways to contribute peace and security in the region”.
- He mentioned that “local radio stations are required not to create tension in Gaalkacyo town and avoid any thing that can bring hostilities and hatred between the two administrations and their people.”

April 9, 2010

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 9 April 2010)

- Somaliland Ministry of Planning has asked UNDP to “channel any development funds meant for the region through its ministry of planning and separate their funding from that of the rest of Somalia”, a request rejected by officials of the United Nations agency.
- Somaliland representatives in the talks were “angered by the response they got from official of the UNDP who tabled Somaliland's development agenda as part of the wider program for Somalia”.
- UNDP officials claimed that “there isn't a central government in Somalia to take charge, it was not going to issue separate development agendas for each of the regions”.
- President Dahir Riyale Kahin's Administration has as of now rejected the funding from the UNDP as part of wider Somalia program and threatened to “block the agency from operation in north west Somalia regions unless it complies with its demands.”

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 9 April 2010)

- The administration of Hisb al Islam faction in Mogadishu has said that “it will shut down any radio station that fails to comply with the recent ban of airing music and songs from Mogadishu-based radios”, Somalia's Shabeelle website reported.
- "The regional administration of Hisb al-Islam in Mogadishu will shut down any radio station that is not ready to implement the ban of airing music and songs within ten days period" said Moalim Hashi Muhammad Farah, the governor of Hisb al-Islam faction in Mogadishu.

April 8, 2010

(Source: Garoweonline.com in English 8 April 2010)

- Fighters loyal to Somalia's radical insurgent group Al-Shabab have forcibly seized a compound housing United Nations operations in southern Somali town of Waajid, in Bakool Region.

- Reports say the fighters also seized the control of local airstrip that is used by the UN agencies to distribute humanitarian aid in the southern regions.
- Heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters entered the compound, disarmed the security guards and ordered the staffs to move out," said one of the local workers, who requested not to be named.

April 7, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 7 April 2010)

- [Presenter] Ahlu Sunnah wal jama'a group [moderate Islamists] imposed a night curfew in Dhuusa Mareeb town in central Somalia as Al-Shabab fighters advance towards the town.
- The head of information of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a, Shaykh Abdullahi Abdirahman, is reported to have said that "the curfew is aimed at improving security in the region".
- An eyewitness told the media that he saw hundreds of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a fighters armed with heavy weapons and armored vehicles patrolling the streets of Dhuusa Mareeb town.
- "On the other hand, Al-Shabab fighters have captured Marer-gur locality, which is close to Dhuusa Mareeb town and killed number of Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a group officials, including its head in the locality, Shaykh Muse Abdi". Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a officials denied the claims.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 7 April 2010)

- The ministry of information claimed that "the Somali media is currently facing the most difficulty since its inception."
- The minister of information, Dahir Mahmud Geele, who held a press conference in Mogadishu, spoke about issues concerning the media in Somalia. He alleged that "Somali media are currently operating in the most difficulty situation, making the operations of independent media in the country difficult."
- The minister said that "the scale of muzzling and abuse subjected at some journalists have never been witnessed before, even during the military government of former president Muhammad Siyad Barre"
- He believes "all Somalis are Muslims who oppose interference in [the affairs of] their country on religion grounds, saying foreigners have interfered with Somali affairs"

April 5, 2010

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 5 April 2010)

- Reports from Balanballe confirm that deadly fighting continues in Balanballe District, central, Somalia resulting in the death of four people and injury of many others. Other reports say that the death toll may be even higher.
- The fighting started after rival inter-clan militias engaged in dispute over grazing land and water wells.
- An official of Hisb al-Islam insurgent group said that he had been informed about the fighting and urged the combatants end it.