

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
August 16 – 22, 2010
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August 22, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 22 August 2010)

- The administration of moderate Islamists, Ahlu sunnah wal Jama'a in Galguduud region, central Somalia, issued a decree “ordering women to take the veil and banning [showing and] watching of films”.
- The head of social affairs of the group in Galguduud Region, Shaykh Abdiweli Haji Diriye, said that “the move was aimed at improving social attitudes”.
- He emphasized that “women must wear veils when they are going out of their residences in the region”.

August 21, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 21 August 2010)

- Six people have been killed and eight others wounded as fighting between Puntland forces and Islamists loyal to Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id Atam raged in the mountainous terrain of northeastern Somalia, Radio Shabeelle website reported
- According to the website, the battle is said to have erupted after the Islamists "attacked new positions set up by Puntland forces," in Galgala mountains. The web adds that the fighting began "after midnight and continued into the wee hours of today."
- Eyewitnesses told Shabeelle that "an armored vehicle whose ownership has not been identified" was destroyed during the fighting.

August 20, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 20 August 2010)

- Fishermen in Banaadir Region complained of harassment by Amisom [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops that operate off the coast of Mogadishu
- Some of the fishermen alleged that “they are harassed by Amisom troops in Mogadishu whenever they go fishing.”
- Muhammad Ahmad Abdi Sandir alleged that “Amisom troops at times directly shoot at their boats and even chase them in high seas”.

August 19, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 19 August 2010)

- The minister of information, Abdirahman Umar Usman, called for a “cessation of hostilities during the holy month of Ramadan”.
- The minister said that “the government is calling for peace during the holy month of Ramadan at a time the opposition groups are announcing to wage more fighting.”

- He said that “the president has called for all sides to respect to this month of Ramadan and urged the nation to increase acts of worship”. The minister said that President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad also urged the public to feed the poor during this month, adding that it is unfortunate to ignore his call.
- He alleged that “the opposition groups are responsible for the displacement, deaths and injury of the civilians since they were responsible for the fighting the capital”.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 19 August 2010)

- “Hisb al-Islam imposed a night curfew in Afgooye District, southern Somalia,” Radio Shabeelle reports; the curfew is said to have started at nine o'clock and ended at dawn
- Business premises in the town were shut last night following the order. There was also no movement of people in the town. Hisb al-Islam fighters were patrolling the streets of Afgooye town.
- Both Hisb al-Islam and Al-Shabab fighters have been conducting military movement in the town during the past few days. Hisb al-Islam fighters fear that Al-Shabab might take over the control of Agooye town from them.

August 18, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 18 August 2010)

- Puntland's Ministry of Information issued a response to an earlier statement by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] minister of information in which he accused Puntland of violating the rights of independent media.
- Puntland's Minister of Information, Culture and Heritage, Abdihakim Ahmad Guled who is currently in Puntland's commercial town, Boosaaso, said he differs with the TFG opinion on the issue.
- "Frankly speaking we are quite disappointed about the statement made in regard to the alleged transgression of the rights of independent media in Puntland. We do not violate the rights of media and infact we are quite disappointed about the imprisonment of the director of Horseed media and we are taking up his case. The TFG should not interpret this in the wrong way and create an unnecessary conflict," said Abdihakim Ahmad Guled.

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 0000 GMT, 18 August 2010)

- Elders and the administration from Galgaduud Region have condemned “Ethiopian forces' attack on Ceel Dibir and its environs in the Ethiopian controlled Somali region.”
- The head of Balambale Administration, Hareri Hasan Barre, warned the Ethiopian forces known as the special police unit.
- Hareri threatened that “they will fight the Ethiopian police if they trespass.”

August 17, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 17 August 2010)

- Militiamen loyal to the Hisb al-Islam faction paraded a government soldier whom they said was seized in fighting that erupted on August 16, 2010.

- “The head of operations of the faction, Muhammed Osman Aruus, confirmed the capture of [additional] soldiers to the media” and said that “his group had killed a number of government troops during yesterday's confrontation in Mogadishu's Hodan district.”

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 17 August 2010)

- Additional details have emerged on earlier fighting involving mortars and direct confrontation between Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] forces and those of Hisb al-Islam.
- “AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops took part in this fighting and used heavy artillery which they fired into several residential areas in Mogadishu. Reports indicate that these mortars have resulted in losses ranging from the loss of life and injury.” (Direct excerpt)
- A spokesman for Hisb al-Islam named Muhammad Usman Arus said that “they have launched attacks in a base belonging to government forces and those of AMISOM troops in Mogadishu's Hodan District.”
- "Mujahidin forces today carried out a blessed attack which was an act of worship at Abdiqasim's former presidency, Dabka, Sayid where we were able to attain victory," said Mr. Arus who added that the attacks are just a beginning for the month of Ramadan.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 17 August 2010)

- The Somali government condemned the arrest and sentencing of Horseed radio Director Abdifatah Jamaa Mire by Puntland authorities
- The Puntland court sentenced him to six years jail and leveled a fine of 500 dollars for interviewing Islamist leader who declared Jihad against Puntland authorities
- In a press statement issued by Somali Information Minister Abdirahman Umar Usman, the government said "it was saddened by the arrest of the Radio Horseed director".