

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
August 30 – September 5, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

September 5, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 5 September 2010)

- Al-Shabab Islamic Movement paraded hundreds of newly-trained fighters in Mogadishu's Heliwaa District. The new fighters who were heavily armed carried out military exercise at former Maslah Centre in Northern part of Mogadishu.
- Dozens of armoured vehicles escorted them and have been patrolling the District. The spokesman of Al-Shabab Islamic Movement, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage aka Ali Dheere, has told the media that these new Holy fighters will join the fighting against Transitional Federal government of Somalia and AU peacekeepers.

September 4, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Mogadishu, in Somali 1600 GMT, 4 September 2010)

- Al-Shabab militias are said to have started collecting money which is meant to intensify the fighting in Somalia. They have ordered business people in Marka town [southern Somalia] to pay specific amounts of money, reports confirm.
- Reports also confirm that Al-Shabab radical militias have “commenced to collect money from people who go to pray at mosques in Marka town”. They say people who “disobey their orders would be severely dealt with by the administration.”
- Leaders of Al-Shabab fighters are also reported to have visited health centers where HIV-AIDS affected people are treated and urged them “to conduct suicide explosion attacks since their diseases could not be treated”.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 4 September 2010)

- The director of Horseed Radio station, Abdifatah Jama Mire, has been charged before the Appeal Court in Boosaaso, Bari Region [northeastern Somalia]. Abdifatah has been held in the town's main prison for the last 22 days following his six-year sentence, and fined, for interviewing Shaykh Muhammad Si'id Ataam who is fighting the Puntland Administration.
- Abdifatah's lawyers, Si'id Osman Dhagamadow and Hareed, addressed the court session and denied that he had committed any acts that might have led to the destruction of the state and that his imprisonment and the length of the sentence handed to him were contrary to the constitution. The lawyers stated that he should be released from prison today.

September 1, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 1 September 2010)

- [Presenter]: Unknown men have killed a Somali reporter using knives in Gaalkacyo town, central Somalia. The reporter who is identified as Abdullahi Umar Gedi has been working for Radio Daljir and was killed in the town.

- The reason behind his killing remains unclear but the police commander in Mudug Region assures that they are pursuing those involved in that attack, adding that they will bring them before justice.

August 31, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 31 August 2010)

- Al-Shabab Islamic Movement announced [a wave of]: "final, massive" attacks against the transitional government and the AU peacekeepers in Mogadishu as "more militants" from Southern and Southwestern regions arrive in Mogadishu, reports privately-owned independent Radio Simba.
- The additional forces meant to "reinforce Al-Shabab fighters in Mogadishu arrived from Lower, Middle Shabeelle, Jubba, Bay and Bakool regions".
- Hisb al-Islam's district commissioner in Buur Hakaba, southwestern Somalia, has said "many of his fighters left the district and have arrived in Mogadishu to reinforce their brothers fighting against the transitional government".

August 30, 2010

External Media Source

(Source: UN Integrated Regional Information Network, Nairobi, in English 30 August 2010)

- Nairobi, 30 August 2010: As the latest round of fighting in the Somali capital enters its eighth day, traders and civil society activists warn of food shortages due to the closure of many businesses and markets across the city, increasing pressure on the already food-insecure population.
- Residents in parts of Mogadishu are trapped and unable to access food supplies and services, civil society sources said on 30 August. "Many people, particularly in the north of the city and parts of the south, where the fighting has been heaviest, have been stuck in their homes for the past eight days; they have run out of food, water and other essentials and have no access to any help," Asha Sha'ur, a civil society activist, told IRIN.
- The areas most affected are Hodan, Hawlwadaag, Wardhigley (south Mogadishu) and Cabdicasiis, Shibis and Boondheere districts (north Mogadishu).
- According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), since 5 July some 36,000 people have been displaced. "About 15,700 have been displaced within the city, while 20,400 managed to leave the city," said Roberta Russo, UNHCR-Somalia spokeswoman. "The level of despair of the innocent men, women and children living in Mogadishu is extreme. Most of the people remaining there simply don't have the means to escape from what they describe as hell."
- "We are receiving many families, including very small children," said Muhammad Yusuf, director-general of Madina Hospital, adding that most of the injuries were shrapnel wounds.
- He said the hospital had sufficient drugs to deal with the influx but manpower and fuel were increasingly becoming a problem.