

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
August 9 – 15, 2010
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August 16, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 16 August 2010)

- Officials of the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin administration in Lower Shabelle [southern Somalia] have asked residents to take part in the "ongoing jihad in Mogadishu".
- Shaykh Muhammad Abu Abdallah, the commander of the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin in Lower Shabelle Region called on residents (in the region) to "take part in the fighting with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] and AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops".

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 16 August 2010)

- Elders in Bari Region [northeastern Somalia] and particularly those in the Galgala area have called for "an uprising against Puntland forces that recently captured the mountainous areas in the region."
- Abdirahman Farah Gurhan, who is among prominent traditional elders in area, emphasized that they are encountering "many problems with the Puntland forces that recently took control of the area and that they have burnt down farms in the area and forced women to remove their Jalbab [Burqa-like Islamic dress for women but with the face showing] clothing they have been wearing."
- The elder also called on the residents of Galgala to "confront Puntland forces whom he said had come to enforce colonial-like rules in the area".

August 15, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 15 August 2010)

- [Presenter]"Somalia's Puntland regional prohibits media from interviewing and broadcasting news about its insurgents fighting at Galgala Mountains in Bari region."
- The Puntland regional information minister, Abdihakim Ahmad Guled, held a news conference to address the recently-issued decree banning media outlets from airing, interviewing and commenting on news about the Islamist groups fighting against Puntland at Galgala Mountains in Bari region.
- The information minister noted that "local Media in Puntland cannot either directly or indirectly circulate news and reports about what he termed "the officials of terrorists in the region"
- Authorities have also banned VOA reporter in Garowe Nuh Muse Birjeb from operating in the region.

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 15 August 2010)

- [Presenter] "Militia loyal to Al-Shabab Islamic Movement in Baydhabo town, the provincial town of Bay region, southwestern Somalia arrested 15 women for

allegedly disobeying orders of not covering their head while they are working outside their residences.”

- Sources say that these women were harassed when they were arrested and they are now held at a prison in Baydhabo.
- “There are no efforts under way for the release of those women. It is not the first time that Al-Shabab has arrested women and accused them of not wearing the Islamic veil in areas they control in south and central Somalia.”

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 15 August 2010)

- The leader of Islamists linked to the Al-Shabab Islamic Movement, Shaykh Muhammad Said aka Atam, announced that “his fighters inflicted irretrievable losses against Puntland troops whom they had engaged in heavy fighting at Galgala Mountains for the past few days”.
- Atam said that “they had killed many soldiers, destroyed battle wagons and seized three armored vehicles”.
- He threatened that “his fighters will continue the confrontations until they eliminate those against the Islamic religion”.

(Source: Garoweonline.com in English 15 August 2010)

- A senior UN Official says Somalia's humanitarian assistance proportion has a "critical gap" that affects the lives of millions of dependants, Radio Garowe reports.
- Mark Bowden, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia is worried that the amount of humanitarian assistance to the war-torn country has decreased in proportion to the need of the devastated population.
- "Last year we managed to get 650 million dollars worth of assistance to Somalia and there is still that level of need," he told China's official press agency, Xinhua.
- "But this year it looked a little bit as if we will receive between 300 and 400 million dollars worth of assistance and we have critical gaps in assistance in some of the key areas where people need help," he added.
- According to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Somalia is probably the world's largest and worst complicated humanitarian crisis.
- "At the moment 35-40 percent of the population are dependent on humanitarian assistance...we have a situation in Somalia where we have 1.2 million displaced people which is one of the largest globally, this are people who have to leave areas of fighting or have to move because of the drought and there people are totally dependent on external assistance for survival."

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 15 August 2010)

- Gunmen have shot dead the head of the Somali Peace Council [a local peace activists group] in Ceelasha Biyaha area in Afgooye District, Lower Shabeelle Region.
- Shaykh Muhammad Tahlil Warsame has been killed in Ramadan Market in Ceelasha Biyaha. [Passage omitted].
- Shaykh Warsame has been campaigning for peace in Mogadishu since the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces [in early 2009]. [Passage omitted].

August 14, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 14 August 2010)

- [Presenter] “The president of Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad emphasized that his government will soon regain control of Somali capital”
- The president of Transitional Federal Government of Somalia Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad accused Islamists group of “fighting against his government of inflicting problems against innocent civilians in Mogadishu.”
- Shaykh Sharif accused “Al-Shabab of “beheading innocent people” and said that the group is “undermining peace and security restoration campaign carried by his government.”

August 13, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 13 August 2010)

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] accused armed opposition groups, and particularly Al-Shabab of “harassing aid agencies that are trying to assist displaced people that have fled from their homes in Mogadishu.”
- The acting deputy prime minister who is also the minister of transport and port, Shaykh Adan Muhammad Nur alias Shaykh Adan Madobe claimed that “armed opposition groups are causing a lot of problems for aid agencies that are trying to assist displaced Mogadishu residents”

(Source: Somaaljecel website in Somali 11 August 2010)

- Hisb al-Islam fighters rounded up nearly 100 men, most of them youths, in Mogadishu neighborhoods. They were arrested for shaving their beards and growing moustaches in resistance to a ban by Hisb al-Islam administration in Banaadir Region.
- Most of the arrested men were pulled out of passenger minibuses and private vehicles. The majority of them are reported to have been released after being warned.
- The final Hisb al-Islam deadline for men [in Mogadishu] to grow their beards and shave their moustaches passed yesterday.

August 10, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 10 August 2010)

- The Islamic council of Hawiye elders strongly condemned the UN and accused it of “being responsible for the problems in Somalia.”
- "The UN is behind the fighting in the country, if it [UN] relocates to Somalia, it will then bring the fighting even more closer [and worsen the violence]," said Muhammad Ahmad Guled.
- The UN is planning to reopen its offices in Somalia within two months. These offices will be opened at Mogadishu international airport controlled by the government.