

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
July 12 – 19, 2010
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July 19, 2010

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 19 July 2010)

- The police commander of Banaadir Region, Ahmad Hasan Ma'alin, warned the government army “against selling their arms to the businessmen in Mogadishu”
- Army commanders of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia accused government soldiers of selling their weapons to businessmen in Mogadishu
- Speaking at a news conference in Mogadishu, police commander of Banaadir Region, Ahmad Hasan Ma'alin, also warned businessmen against buying arms from the government troops.

(Source: Radio HornAfrik, Mogadishu, in Somali 0500 GMT, 19 July 2010)

- The Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement claimed victory in fighting with the Somali government forces in parts of Boondheere District in Mogadishu.
- Heavy fighting erupted between the Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement and Somali government forces and continued to early hours of last night. Over five civilians were killed and 30 others were wounded as a result of the fighting. The wounded were taken to Mogadishu hospitals for treatment.
- Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement launched an attack on government forces and took control of several bases that were previously controlled by the government forces.
- This is according to the military spokesman for Al-Shabab, Shaykh Abdiaziz Abu Mus'ab who spoke to Radio HornAfrik.

July 18, 2010

(Source: Radio Banaadir, Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 18 July 2010)

- “Hawiye Islamic clan elders said have briefed about plans to set up Islamic government in some parts in the country.” Muhammad Ahmad Guled, the spokesman of the body, mentioned the issue on his visit in Baydhabo District of Bay Region, southwestern Somalia.
- Reports further indicate that officials of the Hawiye Islamic clan elders are in Baydhabo town, the officials reportedly held meetings with elders from the region and officials from Al-Shabab Islamic Movement administration in the district.
- The spokesman of Hawiye Islamic clan elders, Muhammad Ahmed Gulled, said that the aim was to unify the people and then set up Islamic government in country.

July 17, 2010

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

- The Somali embassy in Yemen expressed serious concern about the move in which aid agencies assisting Somali refugees in the country have decided to suspend their operations.
- The Somali ambassador said the withdrawn support for seven humanitarian aid agencies operating in Yemen has had a detrimental effect on their lives.
- The ambassador said the suspension has affected Somali refugees in the camp who no longer have access to the important services such as medical care and education which they provided. He said the aid agencies also used to assist disabled and blind Somali refugees who no longer receive this assistance.
- Aid agencies suspended their operations after armed groups stirred up trouble in the Al-Qaraas Refugee Camp. Some of the agencies that suspended their operations in the camp include the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR.

July 16, 2010

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 16 July 2010)

- Reports from parts of Hiiraan Region [central Somalia] confirm that government forces have set up new military bases in Warqumayo locality in the region in the wake of radical Islamist Al-Shabab taking control of Beled Weyne town, the HQ of Hiiraan Region.
- The move has caused panic among the residents of area
- Independent sources, however, say government move to set up the bases in area is a result of increased numbers of [highway] robbers in the main road links of the central Somalia region.

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 16 July 2010)

- Reports from Sanaag and Bari Regions [northeastern Somalia] indicate that there is an increasing emergence of Islamist leaders who are opposed to the [semi-autonomous] Puntland Administration.
- Reports indicate that supporters of Muhammad Si'id Atam, who live in the Galgala mountainous areas [Bari Region], have announced that they would support Hisb al-Islam
- Reliable sources also told Allpuntland that there is growing support for Al-Shabab in parts of Sanaag Region and that the Al-Shabab's flag is being flown in the town of Dhahar in Haylaan region. The Puntland Administration has been quite concerned about security of these regions where followers of [radical] religious leaders are increasingly establishing bases

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 16 July 2010)

- A night curfew imposed by Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a group [moderate Islamists] went into effect last night in Dhuusa Mareeb District, central Somalia.
- The new Ahlu Sunnah district commissioner in Dhuusa Mareeb, Shaykh Abdirahman Gedi, said that they imposed the curfew after realizing that it was necessary. The administration has not yet announced when the curfew will end.

July 15, 2010

(Source: Radio HornAfrik, Mogadishu, in Somali 0500 GMT, 15 July 2010)

- [Presenter] The leader of the Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement [Shaykh Mukhtar Abu Zubayr] has disclosed that the explosions carried out in Kampala, Uganda, are just the beginning, pledging to take revenge on anyone who harms the Somali public. Muhammad Salad Usman has the details.
- [Usman] The top leader of Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement, Shaykh Mukhtar Abu Zubayr, has sent a video message to the media in which he, first of all, congratulates the fighters who executed the twin blasts in Kampala, Uganda, resulting in the deaths of nearly 70 people and more others injured. Abu Zubayr said the explosions were the beginning of the response they promised civilians in Uganda and Burundi, the two governments that have sent soldiers to Mogadishu in Somalia.

July 14, 2010

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 14 July 2010)

- The new minister of information, Abdirahman Umar Yarisow, held a meeting with independent media houses in Mogadishu, Radio Simba website reported on 14 July.
- The minister said the meeting centered on "working cooperation between his ministry and independent media outlets." He promised to ensure the media in Mogadishu "will continue to operate independently."
- The minister stressed that the government "will not interfere with the operations of the media houses in Mogadishu."
- He urged the media to "play a big role" in restoration of peace in the country.

July 13, 2010

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 13 July 2010)

- The president of the Puntland administration, Abdirahman Farole, held a meeting with senior United Nation officials and said "displaced people in the region contribute to the insecurity and criminal activity."

"Displaced people are quite pleased about the reception they have received in Puntland and many among them are good. There are however a significant number of them who are determined to wreck havoc and contribute to insecurity in the region. They are being used to destabilize Puntland and we blame them for being responsible for 30 per cent of the crimes," said the Puntland president.

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 13 July 2010)

- Tension is high between Al-Shabab and Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a group [moderate Islamists] in Mahas and Goobo locality in Hiiraan Region, central Somalia.
- Residents in these villages have started fleeing their homes fearing that the two sides might clash. Casualties resulting from yesterday's fighting in Goobo village remain unclear.
- Officials of Al-Shabab and Hisb al-Islam have declined to comment about the mobilizations in these two villages.

July 12, 2010

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 12 July 2010)

- The Al-Shabab Mujahidin Movement has confirmed responsibility for the bombing attacks in the Ugandan capital.
- In a news conference held in Mogadishu, the Al-Shabab Spokesman Shaykh Ali Dheere said the attacks mark the beginning of plans "to avenge against AMISOM forces"
- "Today the Ugandan people have tested the first portion of what we have been warning them against in the past", said Shaykh Ali Dheere.
- Shaykh Ali Dheere also warned the people and government of Burundi: "You are softer than the Ugandans", he said, urging the people of Burundi "We have repeatedly asked you to press your government to have your troops leave our country.. [ellipsis as published] but you still have a chance."

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 11 July 2010)

- The leaders of Hisb al-Islam and Al-Shabab held an unannounced meeting in Mogadishu in which they are said to have agreed to intensify the fighting with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] and AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops.
- "The two officials have held a meeting in which they agreed to jointly fight the TFG and AMISOM," said an Al-Shabab official who refrained from being named.