

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
June 14 – 20, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

June 20, 2010

(Source: Radio Banaadir, Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 20 June 2010)

- [Presenter] Al-Shabab Islamist hardliners have urged residents in Jowhar District, southeastern Somalia, to stage demonstrations against AU peacekeepers for “harassing innocent civilians in many parts of Mogadishu”.
- Al-Shabab called on the residents to “became fully vigilant against the invasion of foreign forces to harass their fellow-Muslims in country”.

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 20 June 2010)

- Fighting between the Al-Shabab Movement and AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops last night in Mogadishu resulted in loss of life and injury upon civilians.
- "Last night's fighting between the two sides was a heavy one. Both sides exchanged different types of weapons and I have seen the bodies of two people and more than seven others that were wounded," said an eye witness who spoke to the media. The eye witness said most of those hurt in the fighting were civilians whose homes were hit by the mortars and gunfire being exchanged by the warring sides in the neighborhoods affected by the fighting in Mogadishu's Dayniile and Hodan districts.

June 19, 2010

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 19 June 2010)

- Reports from various districts in the Somali self governing Regions of Ethiopia and particularly Wardheer Region indicate that the government in that country is “planning to shut its border with Somalia and namely with those in Mudug Region, Puntland.”
- "We are planning to shut the border with Somalia as directed by the president of the Kilinka Shanad [Somali self governing Regions of Ethiopia]. This new directive will affect many of the borders with Somalia. We are particularly eyeing Wardheer Region which borders the town of Buuhoodle in Somalia where fighting recently broke out," said this officials.

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

- Somali veterans have come out in support of Gen Samatar who has been accused of carrying out massacre [in parts of the country during former president Siyad Barre's government] and mentioned a number of other individuals whom they said were the ones responsible for it by name.
- The veterans said it is true that people of northern Somalia and particularly Hargeysa were massacred but that Gen Muhammad Ali Samatar was not among those that committed it.
- The spokesman for war veterans said those that carried out the massacres are currently in Somalia and other countries across the world. The veterans mentioned a number of people by name among them Muhammad Hirsi Morgan, Dahir Riyale

Kahin [current Somaliland leader] and Badmeceye all of whom they said were responsible for the massacre in Northern Somalia.

- The spokesman for the Somali veterans, Abdi Mahad Ali, also accused the World Food Program of failing to assist them. He said the organization had been “deceiving the country adding that they were also part of those responsible for the instability in the country”.

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 19 June 2010)

- Senior officials of the Banaadir Regional Administration [Mogadishu and its environs] have expressed their concerns over renewed attacks by armed opposition groups on the few areas that are under the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] control in Mogadishu.
- "We have received information indicating that Al-Shabab is planning to attack areas under the government control starting with Wadajir. As you are aware, there has been fighting in the district in the recent past and we have now learnt of new plans by Al-Shabab, and we are prepared for it. We have enough forces," said Ahmad Daaci, the district commissioner of Wadajir.

June 17, 2010

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

- The president of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG], Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad, denied reports that “the government is recruiting under age children as soldiers.”
- A press statement issued by the Ministry of Information in which the president of the TFG is said to be very concerned about a front page report carried by the United States of America's New York Times newspaper in which it was alleged that the TFG is hiring small children as soldiers.
- "The country has been filled beyond capacity by thousands of able bodied men whom the government is struggling to disarm. The Somali government is determined to uphold laws that bar children from being recruited as soldiers," said the president in his statement.

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

- The head of non governmental aid agencies operating in Banaadir Region, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle [southern Somalia] have spoken on recent statements made by officials of the Banaadir Regional Administration.
- The head of aid agencies operating in Banaadir, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle, Dahir Farah Qooley, held a news conference in Mogadishu in which he said that the administration does have a right to be informed about the distribution of food aid but that it was wrong for them to communicate the message through the media and make accusations against the WFP.
- The TFG Banaadir Regional Administration recently accused WFP of being responsible for fighting among government forces in Mogadishu's Xamar Jajab district. The administration has since ordered the WFP to inform them if they are to distribute any food aid in the area or else will they will be barred from operating in areas under government control.

June 16, 2010

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

- The leader of the armed opposition group, Hisb al-Islam, Hasan Dahir Aweys, who is fighting Amisom [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG], warned Ethiopia “against military and political interference in Somalia”. The Hisb al-Islam leader has asked Ethiopia to “stop meddling in Somalia's internal affairs.”
- Speaking while in Mogadishu, the Hisb al-Islam leader said the Ethiopian “government has on several occasions attempted to inflict suffering upon the Somali people but that there has always been Somalis who were ready to defend their people, their religion and their country”.
- "The Mujahidin are always ready to tackle every scheme orchestrated by Western nations and their puppets who are neighboring Somalia. We are aware that Ethiopia has now embarked on new plans to put out God's light, but, as God has earlier on said, it will not be possible," said the Hisb al-Islam leader while talking about foreign interference on Somalia.