

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
March 1-7, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

March 7, 2010

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 8 March 2010)

- Al Shabab has said that they |will defend themselves from any attack launched against them by US government and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG]”. Al Shabab reiterated that “they would not allow the WFP to operate in Somalia.”
- The spokesman of Al Shabab, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage aka Shaykh Ali Dhere, addressed several issues including the recent US declaration that “it would assist the TFG in its attempt to take control of Mogadishu with air strikes.”
- The spokesman said “that the US declaration would not deter Al Shabab and that the TFG could luanch its planned attack any time it wanted as Al Shabab was ready.”
- The spokesman declared that “the WFP would no longer be allowed to operate in areas under the control of Al Shabab.”

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 5 March 2010)

- Hisb Al-Islam distanced itself from Transitional Federal Government of Somalia's [TFG] accusations of “suffocating free and independent media in the country. The group denied the accusations and said they had good relations with the media.”
- Shaykh Ibrahim Barre Usman, Hisb Al-Islam's assistant chairman in Mogadishu, told media that “the accusations by the TFG was meant to strain their relations with the media, adding that they indeed had good relations.”
- "We have a special relationship with the Mogadishu-based media organizations and we do not suffocate them. It is through the media that we are able to guide the public and those working in it are Somalis. They too have a responsibility to support the ongoing Jihad," said the deputy chairman of Hisb Al-Islam in Banaadir Region.
- He claimed that the group “did not impose any restrictions on the media in this pact.”

March 5, 2010

(Source: Radio HornAfrik, Mogadishu, in Somali 0500 GMT, 5 March 2010)

- The spokesman of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia confirmed that “a power-sharing arrangement with the moderate Islamic group Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a will cost 10m dollars”
- Speaking during a press conference in Mogadishu, the TFG spokesman, Abdikadir Muhamud Walayo, said "Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a has shown maturity and knowledge regarding the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah".
- The agreement reportedly includes “power-sharing, military cooperation, sharing of resources and joint collaboration on how to eradicate the radical Islamist groups in Somalia.”

(Source: Garoweonline.com in English, 5 March 2010)

- Shaykh Farhan Abdi Ali Moge, who was recently appointed the group’s chairman in Gedo region, accused his fellow group members Shaykh Ahmad Madobe and

Shaykh Muhammad Malin, of “executing foreign-backed agendas to destabilize Somali Islamists.”

- "The war Shaykh Ahmad Madobe is waging was planned in Kenya and Ethiopia and backed by the Transitional Federal Government. It is meant to cripple the strength of Islamist in Somalia," he said.
- "I am also categorically pointing accusing fingers on Shaykh Muhammad Malin, the groups Press Secretary who supports Sheikh Madobe agendas of putting the group at loggerheads with Al-Shabab," he added.
- His remarks come days after Sheikh Ahmed Madobe described Al-Shabaab as “his number one enemy, vowing to wipe it out of the country.”

March 4, 2010

(Source: Garoweonline.com in English, 4 March 2010)

- Abdiwahid Ilmi Umar, Minister of Energy and Petroleum for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia told reporters that "regional authorities in Somalia are prohibited from signing economic agreements with foreign partners that injected direct investments and development projects into local economies"

(Source: Garoweonline.com in English, 4 March 2010)

- Former Mogadishu mayor also the Governor of Somalia's embattled Banaadir region has lambasted hard-line rebel Al-Shabab group over their decision to ban the United Nations WFP from distributing food aid in the country.
- Muhammad Umar Habeb also known as Mohammed Dheere accused the group's leader Shaykh Mukhtar Robow Abu Mansur of “twisting the issue to suit his clan while inflicting misery to people from Mogadishu and other southern regions.”
- "Shaykh Robow banned the aid agencies from operating in between Afgooye and Mogadishu because he wants farmers from his region to sell their grains in high profit," he said.
- "The decision to ban WFP from Somalia is meant to starve the few survivors of Al-Shabab brutal attacks," he added.
- "Sharif's government is not different from other previous administrations, because it has not added anything new other than inflicting terror and fear amongst the population," he said.

(Source: Radio HornAfrik, Mogadishu, in Somali 0500 GMT, 4 March 2010)

- “Donor countries have made numerous pledges to fund provide financial support to the TFG, however, most of this cash has not yet been received. The United Nations agencies through which the funds are usually channeled have confirmed that what they have so far received have been equally divided among Regional administrations throughout the country, a statement that angered top TFG officials.”
- President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad has dispatched the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Abdirahman Abdishakur to Nairobi to hold talks with the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP].
- “The management of funds given to the TFG raises a lot of eye brows within the donor community thus the reason some of the money has been directly channeled into accounts of foreign troops in Somalia and the United Nations. The government

is now experiencing a very difficult financial situation to the extent that it is unable to afford its daily operations.”

- “The president is also accused of failing to bring any changes into the country's situation and some members of parliament have been openly calling for his resignation. These MPs have also accused the president of embezzling funds totaling 16 Million dollars which are said to have been recently seized by Malaysian security forces.”

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

- Somali President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad urged the armed opposition groups "to opt for peace and to come to an agreement with his government," Shabeelle website has reported.
- The president urged both Hisb al-Islam and Al-Shabab to "stop fighting the government," a fighting, he says, killed many civilians since the formation of the Somali government.
- In an apparent reference to the clashes between the two rival anti-government forces, the president urged Hisb al-Islam and Al-Shabab to "solve their differences and unite with his government".
- President Sharif condemned "Al-Shabab's ban on WFP," saying that the move will have a negative impact on the IDPs living on the outskirts of Mogadishu.
- "The opposition movement of Al-Shabab's refusal for the aid to reach to the people and the differences between the WFP and USA has further worsened the problems facing the people, it is therefore, important that a solution to reach aid to the Somali people be found," Shaykh Sharif said.

March 3, 2010

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali, 3 March 2010)

- Mahmud Sayid Adan, a Member of Federal Somali Parliament a former Minister of State for Internal Affairs has confirmed that they “have now formed a committee that is to work on ways they could regain control of southern Somalia Regions which are currently under the control of armed groups that have been fighting the government”.
- "In the last year, we have been preparing the force that is to recapture these Regions for the government and they are now ready. Our plans are progressing well and we have now formed a special committee that is looking into how best we can regain control of these areas some of which have been out of our hands for along time now," said Mahmud Sayid Adan while speaking to a government owned Radio station.

(Source: Radio Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 3 March 2010)

- [Al-Adala] Reliable sources in Jubba Region told Radio Mogadishu that “top Al-Shabab leaders, who have been meeting in the region, have failed to take a single stand on complex issues facing the group, which they wanted overcome.”
- “Officials [who have defected from Hisb al-Islam] are now part of the disagreement over the management of Kismaayo port in Lower Jubba Region. The main point of

contention which top Al-Shabab leaders failed to persuade Hasan Turki to accept it is their decision to declare Ahmad Madobe as an apostate”.

- “The disagreement forced the meeting to be stopped and the discussions diverted to a campaign in which Al-Shabab threatened to take action against the residents of Kismaayo if they do not enlist themselves as fighters or face action from Al-Shabab.”

March 2, 2010

(Source: Radio HornAfrik, Mogadishu, in Somali 0500 GMT, 2 March 2010)

- Somali IDPs living on the outskirts of Mogadishu have differed on Al-Shabab's move to ban WFP operations in southern Somalia, Radio HornAfrik reported.
- “While some of the IDPs faulted the timing saying ‘it was not the right time to ban the WFP operations’, others welcomed Al-Shabab's move and urged WFP ‘to support local farmers and buy foodstuff from them’”.
- One of the IDPs, who spoke to the radio, lamented that "they did not have money to buy food and they needed WFP support" and urged Al-Shabab to "reconsider their stand and have mercy on the Somali people".
- Another one welcomed the move and said "the two Shabeelle regions [Lower Shabeelle and Middle Shabeelle] were able to feed Hiiraan and Kismaayo".
- IDPs live in the area between Afgooye and Mogadishu which are controlled by Hisb al-Islam, another anti-government group that appears to be more nationalistic than Al-Shabab.

(Source: Radio Shabeelle, Mogadishu in Somali 0500 GMT, 2 March 2010)

- Farmers in Baardheere District of Gedo Region, southwestern Somalia, have confirmed that they “will begin to cultivate their farms knowing that their harvest will fetch them good money”.
- The farmers welcomed Islamist Al-Shabab's decision to ban WFP operations in the region and described the ban as “a positive move to enhance agricultural produce in the country.”

March 1, 2010

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali, 1000 GMT, 1 March 2010)

- The African Union urged the UN Security Council and the international community to “impose sanctions against ports and airports in Somalia which are under control of insurgent groups.”
- The AU blamed foreign countries for “assisting the insurgents in the country by using the ports and airports under the control of the insurgents.”

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 1 March 2010)

- Members of the Federal Somali Parliament who are in Mogadishu are increasingly concerned about their safety after “the security situation in the few areas that are under the control of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] has been getting out of hand in the recent past.”
- Some of the MPs have accused the TFG of “failing to address the security situation in small parts of the capital that are under their control and demanded that the TFG

guarantees their security after receiving threats from armed opposition groups who demanded that their either surrender to them or risk getting killed.”

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 1 March 2010)

- The World Food Programme (WFP) has said that “it will continue the aid activities in Somalia following yesterday's statement by Al-Shabab in which it had banned the activities of WFP in Somalia”, Shabeelle website reports.
- Speaking from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, the spokesman of WFP Peter Smerdon told Shabeelle Radio that “WFP will continue its activities to assist Somali displaced people, who are currently living in the camps without considering who controls the area which they want to distribute the humanitarian aid.”