

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
March 29, 2010 – April 4, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

April 4, 2010

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 4 April 2010)

- The Somali Transitional Federal Government strongly condemned Hisb al-Islam for “banning Mogadishu radio stations to air music and songs.”
- Spokesman for Somalia's information ministry, Abdirizak Qeylow, strongly condemned Hisb al Islam's decision.
- Speaking at a press conference in Mogadishu, he said “the ban was against the freedom of expression and media, adding that the government will not tolerate such a move of media censorship.”
- “Hisb al Islam is just following the tracks of Al-Shabab of pressurizing local media.”

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali, 4 April 2010)

- According to medical doctors in Baydhabo town, the capital of Bay Region [south-western Somalia], one person died and nine others have been admitted to the town's hospital, when they ate contaminated food aid distributed by the ICRC.
- “The victims are among the displaced people in Baydhabo, who received contaminated beans from ICRC. Those who have been affected are in serious condition and are being treated in Baydhabo Hospital.”
- “Baydhabo is controlled by Al-Shabab movement and its a home for many displaced people, who are from different regions in Somalia.”

April 3, 2010

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 3 April 2010)

- Commanders of African Union's Mission forces in Somalia [AMISOM] denied reports that they are “taking part in the demolition of civilian houses in the neighborhood of Afisiyoni in Mogadishu”.
- Officials of Banaadir Regional Administration recently said they were going to “demolish homes in the Afisiyoni neighborhood with the support of AMISOM troops in Mogadishu”.
- AMISOM commanders have now dismissed these reports: "It is a lie that AMISOM troops are taking part in the operations in which the government is demolishing residential areas in the neighborhood of Afasiyoni. We consider these claims as just a rumour," said Bahuko.
- The spokesman for AMISOM troops in Mogadishu also said they welcomed the "AMISOM welcomes any agreement that the Somali people reach. We are interested in any agreement in which the people of Somalia will form an all inclusive government," said the spokesman for AMISOM troops.

April 1, 2010

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

- Traditional elders and intellectuals in Somali capital, Mogadishu have strongly accused African Union peacekeepers of “trafficking Somali children secretly to Uganda and sell parts of their human body”.
- One of the elders, Hasan Hirey has said “the African Union peacekeepers from Uganda are working for US and Jewish companies, which are in need of human body parts.”
- He mentioned a case of two dead bodies of Somali children, who were found with some parts of their bodies missing.
- The Somali traditional elders have also said that “child trafficking is becoming rampant in the war-torn country.”
- The elders have asked the Somali government to “deal with this problem of taking Somali children to Uganda illegally.” They have also called the Somalis to protect their children.

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

- The spokesman of Al-Shabab Islamic Movement, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage (Shaykh Ali Dhere), alleged that “his group will take control of the capital, Mogadishu, before the arrival of Somali forces being trained in Uganda.”
- He said “the EU decision is aimed at increasing the ongoing massacre against the Somali people, since the EU is intending to increase its support to the African Union peacekeepers.”
- “Shaykh Ali Dhere said that Al-Shabab is planning to take over all areas and bases currently held by African Union peacekeepers and Somali government army before the end of the military training in Uganda.”

March 30, 2010

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali, 30 March 2010)

- An official of the Former Transitional Federal Government of Somalia's [TFG] Banaadir Regional Administration has accused the current administration of “displacing civilians in areas under its control.”
- Abdifatah Ibrahim Shaweye, who is the former Deputy Governor of Banaadir Region, spoke to Shabeelle while in the United Kingdom about recent order by the Banaadir Regional Administration asking civilians to “vacate buildings of the former Somali government which are located in the neighborhood of Afisiyoni, Hamar Jajab district, Mogadishu.”
- The former governor said that he was “surprised that families that had been initially displaced from their homes in northern Mogadishu who have sought refuge in the Afisiyoni areas are now once again being displaced from these areas”. He accused the TFG Banaadir Regional Administration of “being responsible for the increase in civilian suffering.”

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 30 March 2010)

- “Reports of the government's involvement corruption and other scandalous activities that undermine its ability to do anything in the country have become a part of an every day life in Somali media.”

- “This government's woes started way back in Djibouti where the president was first elected. The United Nations Special Envoy to Somalia, Ahmadou Ould Abdallah, was initially not pleased with Shaykh Sharif's appointment, in fact the international community, or rather, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and their proxy in Somalia, the Ethiopian government , where the ones that remained adamant about the former Islamist official's ability to restore stability in the country.”
- “During the Djibouti talks, Shaykh Sharif entered into secret deals with some of the presidential candidates that hail from his clan in which they were to step down in his favor in return for fulfillment of an agreement they had reached during the last days of the Djibouti talks. Once he came to power, Shaykh Sharif he has never fulfilled the promises he made. The president has since been handed divine punishment in the form of Sharif Hasan [TFG deputy prime minister and minister of finance] and Dahir Gelle [Minister of information] who have surrounded him blocking any other voice of reason from getting access to his thought process or even advice him on the situation in the country. The situation has now been further complicated with the Sufi Shaykh's [Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a] who are now emerging from their spiritual hideout only to join the current chaos in the form of the TFG.”
- “The UN envoy is also scheming behind the curtains in the conflict among members of the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a. His involvement in this is to ensure that Ahmad Abdisalan [former TFG minister of foreign affairs] is brought back to the lime light. The worrying thing about all of this is that Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a has now been "packaged and sold" to the international community for the sake of one particular individual whom the UN envoy sees as the perfect tool for his agendas in Somalia.”

(Direct excerpts)

Mach 28, 2010

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali, 28 2010)

- Djibouti president, Ismail Umar Guelleh, in an interview with the Qatari based Al-Jazeera television emphasized that the “situation in Somalia is worsening”
- President Guelleh said that “armed groups fighting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] have now decided to escalate the conflict to countries neighbouring Somalia as they earlier on vowed.”
- "The international community should now take part in the attainment of peace and security in the country. Armed groups currently fighting in the country are not interested in peace. I believe the TFG has now secured enough force to instil security," said the Djibouti president.
- The Djibouti leader said his country was planning to deploy its forces in Somalia as part of the operations to re-establish peace and security in the country and called upon the international community to assist the TFG.