

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
May 24 – 30, 2010
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May 30, 2010

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1015 GMT, 30 May 2010)

- The Al-Shabab Islamic Movement temporarily suspended Universal TV operations in areas under its control.
- “[Salad] The Al-Shabab Islamic Movement has today issued orders suspending the work of Universal TV in southern and central Somalia. The spokesman of Al-Shabab, Shaykh Ali Muhammad Raage, aka Ali Dheere, has accused the TV of being party to a war against the Muslim people.”
- The spokesman of Al-Shabab accused Universal TV of “disseminating propaganda against Islam saying that the group had decided to suspend its operations in Somalia.” He indicated that “the act of publishing insulting pictures against our prophet Muhammad is a great crime which Muslims would not tolerate”
- He asked the management of Universal TV to “make an apology for the mistake it had made otherwise Al-Shabab will cut all the relations it had with Universal TV from today onwards.”

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

- “Somaliweyn radio station, among the most popular stations in Somalia, is off air for the 9th day today after forces loyal to the Al-Shabab Movement looted it during recent fighting in areas near station's offices at the junction of Manaboliyo and Boondheere in Mogadishu.”
- The director of Somaliweyn radio station, Abukar Hasan Kadaf, has said following the raid in which Al-Shabab forces looted equipment in their offices, they have made contact with senior officials of the groups: "We are quite hopeful that the equipment looted from the Somaliweyn radio station will be recovered," said Abukar Hasan Kadaf
- The director also said that “Al-Shabab officials have vowed to take stern measures that are in line with the Islamic Shari'ah against those that raided the radio stations and took away the equipment.”

May 29, 2010

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 29 May 2010)

- The newly elected Speaker of the Federal Somali Parliament, Sharif Hassan Shaykh Adan, has been accused by some MPs, of “being responsible for the conflict that recently marred the parliament and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia's [TFG] non performance”. Sharif Hasan is a close friend of President Sharif Shaykh Ahmad.
- "I do not believe Sharif Hasan can bring any changes to the difficult situation in the country. He is a close associate of the president and is responsible for the latest conflict among senior government officials. He is an individual who is known to be corrupt and irregular and that is something that the country finds unacceptable," said Abdi Hashi.

May 28, 2010

(Source: *HornAfrik Online text website, Mogadishu, in Somali 28 May 2010*)

- Al-Shabab, has said its fighters have captured more localities in Galguduud Region, central Somalia, from moderate Islamists, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, "without any resistance". (As reported by HornAfrik Radio web site on 28 May)
- According to the web site the group said "its fighters took over control of Galqoryale, Ceel Dheer and Marergur after moderate Islamists left the villages this morning."

May 27, 2010

(Source: *Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 27 May 2010*)

- Somalia's Hisb al Islam faction has ordered local journalists' operations in Lower Shabeelle Region to "submit their reports to the faction's office before publishing or broadcasting."
- The order was issued by Hisb al Islam officials in Afgooye District and among the orders that the journalists are required to follow include:
- "All local journalists in the region are required to start their reports or news with the name of God.
- Journalist should submit their reports and news to the information office of Hibs al Islam before disseminating
- All journalists should come to the information office if they need to do interview with officials of the faction."
- Recently, Hisb al Islam has arrested three local journalists in Afgooye working with Radio Simba, Radio Hurma and others because of "disseminating reports against the Islamist groups in the region" [as Hisb al Islam claimed that the journalists were later released].

May 26, 2010

(Source: *HornAfrik Online text website, Mogadishu, in Somali 26 May 2010*)

- The parliamentary select committee on finance and national assets, warned the Somali parliament "against electing Sharif Hasan Shaykh Adan [the immediate former minister of finance who many consider as the likely candidate to win the post] as the Speaker of parliament."
- The committee accused Sharif Hasan of "pocketing state funds and behaving as if he is above the law". The committee said Sharif Hasan, who has resigned as the minister of finance, had been "using the state funds as he wished, adding that he resigned without handing over the ministry's accounts and other records."

(Source: *Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 26 May 2010*)

- Somali Islamist group Hisb al-Islam has freed three radio journalists a day after their arrest in Afgooye District, southern Somalia, the website of Radio Simba reported on 26 May.
- One of the reporters, Shaykh Adow Amin, who works for Radio Simba, said they were released today and were well treated in detention. "We got our freedom back, we were not mistreated," said Shaykh Adow Amin.
- The three journalists were arrested over reports which the Hisb al-Islam administration said were "wrongly disseminated".

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 26 May 2010)

- Somali government forces in collaboration with African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) clashed against Al-Shabab in Somali capital, Mogadishu, Somalia's independent Shabeelle Media Network website reports.
- "The fighting erupted in Shibis District when government forces with AMISOM attacked a military base of Al-Shabab" the website said.

May 25, 2010

(Source: Radio Mogadishu, in Somali 1700 GMT, 25 May 2010)

- Al-Shabab militia in Marka, southern Somalia, kidnapped top officials of WSL [expansion untraced], one of the aid agencies operating in Somalia. Our reporter Abdiraham Shaykh Yusuf Al-Adala has the details.
- Reports from Marka in Lower Shabeelle Region say Al-Shabab militia seized top officials of WSL, one of the few aid agencies operating in the region. The officials kidnapped by Al-Shabab are Hasanow Mustafe and Sayid Ali, who were responsible for humanitarian operations of helping the impoverished people in the region.
- The militia last night surrounded Bullo Dar in Marka where the aid workers' residence is located. The militia then forcefully took away the officials.
- Eyewitnesses in Marka told Radio Mogadishu that the kidnapped officials are being held at Marka Central Police Station.

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 25 May 2010)

- Officials of the Somali police in Mogadishu have said that "they are now ready to carry out a major offensive against armed opposition groups fighting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] who are in control of parts of Mogadishu and southern Somalia Regions."
- The spokesman for the Somali Police held a news conference in Mogadishu and said they have "readied many forces that are to engage armed opposition groups in fighting and that they are awaiting for final orders from senior government officials before launching an offensive against opposition."
- "Government forces and particularly the police who recently concluded their training have readied themselves for fight against opposition groups. They have now finished making their final preparations and are only awaiting orders from their senior in order to start engaging groups causing insecurity throughout the country in fighting. They will soon embark on an all out offensive," said the spokesman for the Somali Police, Abdullahi Hasan Barise.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 25 May 2010)

- Officials of Hisb al-Islam administration in Hiiraan Region [central Somalia] have asked all aid agencies operating in the region to stop their work.
- The commander of Hisb al-Islam's Hiiraan regional administration, Shaykh Shuriye Farah Sabriye, held a news conference in Beled Weyne and confirmed that he ordered aid agencies to stop their operations in Hiiraan Region within 24 hours.
- The Hisb al-Islam commander said that: "the administration has issued these orders because of the poor performance by aid agencies operating in the region and added

that from today onwards, the administration has banned any of the aid agency offices from being opened, and particularly those in Beled Weyne.”

(Source: Radio Simba website, Mogadishu, in Somali 25 May 2010)

- The Somali government “strongly responded to threats made by the Somali hardline group, Al-Shabab that it will capture the presidential palace in Mogadishu, the website of Radio Simba reported on 25 April.”
- The spokesman of the ministry of information, Abdirazzaq Muhammad Qeylow, said “the government was ready to defend itself,” adding that “there is no government position that Al-Shabab is capable of capturing.” He described the threats made by Al-Shabab as “dream.”

May 24, 2010

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 24 May 2010)

- The governor of Al-Shabab Islamic Movement in Banaadir region confirmed that his group was “preparing to capture presidential palace in Somali capital.”
- The Islamic governorate of Al-Shabab in Banaadir region called on the Mujahidin group to “launch an intensive attack to seize the presidential palace in Mogadishu.”
- He further stated that “it was now time to launch holy war against Villa Somalia [presidential palace]”.
- The governor underlined that “the group was confident to take over the capital and impose Sharia'ah law.”
- The move comes at a time when heavy fighting between government forces backed by African peacekeepers and insurgents raged in Mogadishu in the past few days.

(Source: Radio Voice of Mudug, in Somali 1230 GMT, 23 May 2010)

- The commerce minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Abdirashid Iro, accused the Ethiopian government of “attacking Puntland territory [northeastern Somalia].”
- The minister accused the Ethiopian government of “trespassing on Buuhoodle town [northcentral Somali town bordering Ethiopia in Somaliland's Toghdeer Region]. The minister who was commenting on the fighting in the last few days between local residents and Ethiopian troops in Buuhoodle, accused Ethiopia of illegally entering Somali territory and killing innocent civilians in the town”
- Fierce fighting between residents and Ethiopian troops has broken out in Buuhoodle town in the past two days resulting civilian and Ethiopian casualties.