

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
OCTOBER 25 – 31, 2010
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OCTOBER 31, 2010

EXTERNAL PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Saba news agency website, Sana', in English 1400 GMT, 31 October 2010)

- A penal court in Aden province issued a sentence of five years for 10 Somali pirates convicted on piracy acts against fishing boats of Yemenis.
- Chaired by Mohammed al-Apiadh, the court has acquitted three other Somalis for lack of evidence regarding the charges against them.

OCTOBER 30, 2010

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

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

- The Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin claimed responsibility for an explosion attack targeting AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops in parts of Mogadishu. There has also been an increase in the number of losses caused by explosions.
- Eye witnesses told Shabelle the AMISOM convoy targeted with the bomb attack were forces from Burundi who had left the Jalle Siyad police academy a short while before. One of the AMISOM vehicles that were targeted with the bomb attack is said to have been badly damaged.

(Source: AllPuntland.com website in Somali 30 October 2010)

- Officials of Puntland intelligence alleged that a senior commander of the Somaliland armed forces has been killed in recent fighting in the town of Galgala, Bari Region [North Eastern Somalia]
- Puntland intelligence issued a report in which it said the Somaliland commander named Si'id Salah Ceynab has been fighting alongside forces loyal to Shaykh Muhammad Si'id Ataam who were recently defeated in fighting with Puntland forces.
- The Puntland Administration has also said investigations are currently underway to ascertain whether there are any more Somaliland armed forces commanders that were killed in the fighting took place in Galagala. The report issued by Puntland intelligence comes at a time when senior officials of the Puntland Administration have in the past said they are quite concerned about the relations that Somaliland maintains with Shaykh Ataam's militias.

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

- Hisb al-Islam officials threatened to continue fighting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] and AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops.
- Shaykh Hasan Mahdi has vowed to "continue fighting the TFG forces and those of AMISOM troops in Mogadishu and called upon residents of the Somali capital, Afgooye and all other surrounding areas to also join the fighting".

- “The fighting will not stop until TFG forces and those of AMISOM are ousted from the capital.”

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

- Officials of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] Banaadir Regional Administration confirmed their talks with commanders of AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops about the heavy civilian casualty caused by shelling of densely populated areas.
- Officials are “dismayed by the heavy losses sustained by civilians in the capital” and called on warring groups in Mogadishu to end the shelling of civilian areas in the capital.

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

- Traders at displaced peoples' camps in Ceelasha Biyaha on the outskirts of Mogadishu expressed concerns over increasing presence of Hisb al-Islam. Hisb al-Islam fighters destroyed their premises near the main road.
- “Hisb al-Islam fighters regularly cause problems that include killing and looting to the poor people in Ceelasha Biyaha, who had fled the fighting and shelling ongoing in Mogadishu.”

OCTOBER 27, 2010

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 27 October 2010)

- Al-Shabab militants have shot dead two women accused of espionage in Beled Weyne town, central Somalia, Shabeelle website reported on 27 October.
- According to the website, "two women were executed by firing squad" after they were "convicted of spying for Somali government forces," during recent fighting between the Islamist group and government forces in central Somalia.
- Al-Shabab officials, who spoke at the venue, warned local residents against involving in espionage activities.

(Source: Jamhuuriya, Hargeysa, in Somali 27 October 2010)

- The Danish minister for development cooperation, Soren Pind, has officially announced that his country and Somaliland have agreed on the repatriation of Somali refugees living in Denmark to Somaliland.
- The two sides discussed the repatriation of Somali refugees in Denmark and development programs in Somaliland.
- "We discussed [with Somaliland officials] the repatriation of refugees from Denmark so that they can take part in the development of their motherland; in fact, this is part of the development cooperation between the two sides. We have agreed on this matter and you understand that the relations between the Denmark and Somaliland are functioning, " said the minister

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 27 October 2010)

- Al-Shabab fighters have arrested more than 20 people during security operations conducted in Jowhar District, southern Somalia.

- The massive operations saw the arrest of 20 people, who are mostly youth, accused of violating decrees issued by the local Islamic administration.
- The decree ordered men to grow beard and shave moustaches, and to have trousers that are above the ankles.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 27 October 2010)

- The spokesman for Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a religious scholars, Abu Yusuf Al-Qaadi, spoke out about the execution of two prominent religious scholars in the town of Cadaado, Galguduud Region [central Somalia].
- The Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a spokesman said yesterday's killing was carried out by Al-Shabab members whom he said are opposed to the attainment of peace and security in the country.

OCTOBER 26, 2010

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

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

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia's [TFG] High Court yesterday issued a statement in which it ordered parliament to conduct the MPs' vote on the endorsement of the new prime minister through an open ballot as stated by the TFG laws.
- The court has made its interpretations of the law based on the issue of the endorsement of the new prime minister, Muhammad Abdullahi Muhammad, and has based its conclusions on Sections 71, Chapter 2 of the TFG Charter which states that the 1960 constitution can be used in issues that are not catered for in the TFG charter if it does not violate other laws in the country.

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

- The president of Puntland regional administration, Abdirahman Muhammad Farole, spoke about the row between the top leaders of the Transitional Federal Government leaders [TFG].
- President Farole urged the TFG leaders [the president and the Speaker] to resolve their differences or otherwise resign: "I hereby urge them [the two leaders] to end the rift or resign if they are unable to resolve it," said President Farole.
- He criticized the international community saying it is not honest in handling the Somali affairs, adding that it could make big changes if there was honesty.

OCTOBER 25 2010

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Garoweonline.com in English 25 October 2010)

- Authorities in the self-declared separatist region in north-western Somalia called "Somaliland" have intensified security operations in search of a suspected terrorist leader wanted in neighbouring Puntland region of Somalia a day after Somali news agency Garowe Online reported the terrorist is hiding in parts of Somaliland, Radio Garowe reports.
- Puntland troops have seized the last insurgent outpost in the hilly jungles of Galgala, according to the region's top army commander, Gen Sa'id Dheere.

- "We have arrested several suspects," Mr Fohle told reporters in Burao, a town long suspected of hosting Al Shabaab elements and serving as a transit hub for insurgents travelling from Western and Arab countries to southern Somalia to join Al Shabaab insurgents.
- Mr Fohle denied reports that Mr Atom is currently hiding in Somaliland, particularly in Burao area, but added: "We will arrest him or anyone else who is a threat to regional security."

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

- A number of traditional elders and youngsters have today been released from a jail in the town of Xuddur, Bakool Region [south western Somalia]. These traditional elders and youth were arrested by local Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin administration in the town two weeks ago and have since been held in a local jail in Xuddur.
- A total of 10 people among them traditional elders and young people were today released from a jail in Xuddur by the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin administration in the town.

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

- Demonstrations organized by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] administrations in Banaadir Region in opposition to Al-Shabab and Hisb al-Islam were held in Mogadishu
- Hundreds of Mogadishu residents took part in these highly organized demos in Banaadir Region which were also attended by TFG officials among them ministers and district commissioners of various districts in the capital.