

SOMALI DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
28 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

6 MARCH 2011

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, in Somali 1015 GMT, 6 March 2011)

- Reports from central Somalia say that Hundreds of Ethiopian troops with armored vehicles have entered Guriceel and Dhusamareeb districts of Galgaduud region, central Somalia. The troops are reported to have set up military bases immediately after they crossed the border from Ethiopia.
- A senior Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a official identified as Abdullahi has confirmed the presence of the Ethiopian forces in the region to the media.
- The reason behind the deployment of the troops to the country remains unclear but reports indicate that these troops were escorting newly-trained Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'a fighters from Ethiopia.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 6 March 2011)

Excerpt from report Somali Shabeelle Media Network website, published on 6 March:

- At a press conference in Mogadishu, the spokesman of Al-Shabab Islamic Movement, Shaykh Ali Mahmud Rage (Ali Dhere) called Al-Shabab militants to prepare themselves for war against Ethiopian forces.
- Shaykh Ali Dhere said Ethiopian forces are currently inside Somalia, and their flags hoisted in some of the regions they are present.
- He called Al-Shabab militants to be ready for war similar to the previous one [in 2007 when Ethiopian forces and Islamist militants clashed in Mogadishu streets].
- "The cannot remain in Somalia soil and cannot hoist their flags. We tell you that in the coming few days there will be changes in where their forces are" said Shaykh Ali Dhere

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 6 March 2011)

- Al-Shabab called on teachers in the country to "teach the youngsters combat tactics so that they can take part in the fighting against the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] and AMISOM [African Union's Mission in Somalia] troops in Mogadishu."
- Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys said that "teachers were required to teach young children about battle ground tactics." Hasan Dahir added that "once these youngsters finish their training, the teachers should have them join the Al-Shabab Movement in their fighting against the government and AMISOM troops."
- The Al-Shabab official said that "the group is determined to fighting government and AMISOM troops by all means and called upon parents to train their children on combat so that they can take part in the ongoing fighting".

4 MARCH 2011

(Source: Horn Cable TV, Hargeysa, in Somali 1730 GMT, 4 March 2011)

- The governor of Middle Shabeelle Region, southern Somalia, Ali Mahmud Ahmad accused Al-Shabab of conscripting traditional elders to fight in ongoing clashes in Mogadishu. In a press conference he held in Mogadishu, the governor alleged that the group is taking elders from Jowhar District to fight for them in Mogadishu.

- Governor: “It is unfortunate for the elderly to be tortured and forced to take part in Mogadishu fighting. This is the action of those who turned shedding of Somalis as a tradition.”

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 4 March 2011)

- The president of the Galmudug State leveled accusations against the WFP and said that he was giving the organization a final warning.
- The president of the Galmudug State, Muhammad Ahmad Alin, alleged that although the World Food Program has a warehouse in Galmudug, it has been reluctant to assist civilians affected by drought.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 4 March 2011)

- A parliamentary committee on information has said that the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia needs to impose tougher regulations on foreign journalists coming into the country.
- Ahmad Cawad Cashara cautioned that the government needs to closely monitor the activities of foreign journalists coming into the country. The MP also said that the government should invest in Somali reporters by improving their skills and giving them priority in their work.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 4 March 2011)

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] Prime Minister, Muhammad Abdullahi Farmajo, said that the government will continue operations against the Al-Shabab Movement which have been ongoing in Mogadishu and other parts of the country.
- The prime minister said that government forces are ready to combat Al-Shabab forces that have been the main obstacle to the attainment of peace in the country.
- The prime minister also asked the Somali public to support government operations against the Al-Shabab Movement which he said is opposed to the TFG continued existence.

3 MARCH 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 3 March 2011)

- The Al-Shabab court in the locality of Masagawaa in Galguduud Region [central Somalia] has handed a flogging sentence on up to 50 individuals accused of committing crimes forbidden in Islam.
- 47 were accused of committing crimes contrary to the Koranic teachings and the practices of the Prophet and were arrested by Al-Shabab forces in the town.
- Al-Shabab did not provide details of the crimes these individuals were accused

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 3 March 2011)

- A parliamentary committee on humanitarian aid asked the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] to expel the United Nation's World Food Program.
- The parliamentary committee on humanitarian aid held a meeting with representatives of displaced people in Mogadishu to discuss ways of assisting displaced people in the capital and establishing a close working relation.

- The Chairman of the parliamentary committee on aid, Mahmud Abdi Ali, said they will forward reports they have received from representatives of the displaced people in Mogadishu to parliament in order to highlight their plight to the government.

28 FEBRUARY 2011

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 28 February 2011)

- The chairman of the government appointed committee on drought said that the committee has been unable to complete their work because of disruptions by Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] forces at food distribution centers.
- Ibrahim Nur Xabeb, the chairman of the government committee on drought while speaking to Shabelle, expressed serious concerns about disruption by government forces that he said had blocked their members from distributing food to displaced people in the Mogadishu districts of Xamar Weyne.
- The chairman said a group of soldiers blocked their members from distributing food to some 600 displaced families in the district and another group of government soldiers have since come to the area to confront them. He said they were forced to halt the distribution of the food aid in order to avoid confrontation between the two sides.

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 28 February 2011)

- The National Union of Somalia Journalists [Nusoj] expressed serious concerns over renewed hostilities in Somali capital, Mogadishu. Nusoj is concerned that vulnerable civilians who have been unable to flee from Mogadishu will be the ones to bear the brunt of the fighting.
- The organization is also concerned about the welfare of Mogadishu based journalists who are already working in harsh conditions.
- Nusoj's secretary-general, Umar Faruq Usman, is calling on warring sides in Somalia to respect the journalists and treatment with dignity.