

Somali Domestic Media Monitoring Report
July 26 – August 1, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

August 1, 2010

External Media (International Source)

(Source: Daily Monitor website, Kampala, in English 1 August 2010)

Text of report by Yasiin Mugerwa, Ismail Musa Ladu entitled "Terrorists now target Ugandan embassies" published by leading privately-owned Ugandan newspaper The Daily Monitor website on 1 August

- A new video from Al-Qa'idah-linked militants targeting Ugandan and Burundi embassies worldwide has surfaced, raising security concerns in Kampala about the possibility of another terror strike.
- An American-based terror monitoring group on Friday put Uganda and Burundi on the alert after it intercepted a video aired on the terrorists' "news channel," even as security chiefs in Kampala described the new threat as a mere "chestnut".
- "Our resolve now is even stronger because we know they are a real threat now," General Tinyefuza said. "We are not going to back down and I wonder what makes those terrorists think that they can make Somalia a graveyard for our soldiers."

July 31, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 31 July 2010)

- The pro-Al-Shabab Hawiye Islamic clan elders have "condemned AU peacekeepers for sending a consignment of ammunition to the regional administration of Puntland", in northeastern Somalia.
- The accusation comes amid reports of "heavy fighting between Islamist militants and Puntland troops" near the northeastern commercial port city of Boosaaso, according to radio Simba

(Source: Radio Simba, Mogadishu, in Somali 1000 GMT, 31 July 2010)

- About one thousand government soldiers who were recently trained in Ethiopia on German funding are still missing, according to a German radio. It is also reported that these forces were given military equipment after their training was concluded in Ethiopia and it is believed that they have defected to the opposition insurgent groups, particularly to the Al-Shabab Islamic Movement administration.
- Reports confirm that these government soldiers have been missing for two months.

July 30, 2010

External Media (International Source)

(Source: Daily Monitor website, Kampala, in English 30 July 2010)

Text of report by Abdulkadir Khalif, Daily Monitor correspondent entitled "New group fights UPDF in Somalia" by leading privately-owned Ugandan newspaper The Daily Monitor website on 30 July; newspaper subheading

- Islamist group, Hisb al-Islam, has rejoined the struggle against the Transitional Federal Government and the African Union peacekeepers in Somalia (Amisom). The

group, led by hardliner cleric, Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys, attacked Amisom positions in Hodon District in southern Mogadishu on Tuesday [27 July].

- About 20 people died and scores were injured, according to ambulance servicemen in Mogadishu.
- Shaykh Muhammad Usman Arus, the spokesman of Hisb al-Islam said the assaults on Tuesday were just a preparation for even more violent attacks during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan, the fasting month for Muslims around the world.
- Ramadan is due to start mid-August and various groups in Somalia, including government officials, have asked all sides to observe a cease-fire.
- In June, Shaykh Abdiqadir Haji Ahmad, the chief Hisb al-Islam's mobilization officer in Beled Weyne town, announced that his group had resolved to join Al-Shabab.
- Talking to an audience, the shaykh recited verses of the Holy Koran, pointing to the need to unite the insurgents in Somalia. "We are hereby declaring our resolve to unite with our fellow jihadists (holy warriors) in this strategic Hiiraan region," said Shaykh Ahmad. "Unity is certain to arouse strength."
- He urged other Islamists to take their example and join Al-Shabab. "I am an elder and the shaykh of Hisb al-Islam in this territory, and I am leading you to unite with your fellow jihadists," remarked Shaykh Ahmad, amid chants of Allahu Akbar (God is Great) by those present at the ceremony.

State-Operated Media Source

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

- Sources say that the Puntland regional administration has rejected a proposal for aerial support [in its war against the militants of Muhammad Sa'id Atam] in Galgala Mountains.
- A Puntland official, who has information about a proposal for the aerial bombing of Galgala locality that was presented to Puntland, said that the administration said it was capable of driving out the militants from the area.

July 29, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

(Source: Shabeelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, in Somali 29 July 2010)

- Somali communities in the US have asked the American government to assist in stopping the deployment of additional foreign troops in the country. They have also asked warring groups in Somalia to enter into dialogue.
- Colonel Abdullahi Ali Ma'ow who is among members of the Somali community in the United States has called upon the government in that country to assist in stopping the deployment of additional foreign troops in Somalia and also asks AU troops already there to stop carrying out attack in civilian areas.
- "We always go to the American government, the senators, the congress and American academics, telling them that we are opposed to the deployment of additional foreign troops in Somalia and that these troops will not bring any solution to the problems being faced by Somali civilians," said Colonel Abdullahi Ali Ma'ow.
- "It is the academics, the politicians and religious scholars that are to come up with solutions and bring together the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG], which has sought safety in the mortars being fired by AMISOM (African Union's

Mission in Somalia) troops, and others under a tree. There is no solution in relying on Westerners to come and solve our problems because none of them have the interests of the Somali people at heart. They enjoy and laugh at the massacre being afflicted upon the Somali people," said Colonel Ma'ow.

July 27, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

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

- The Somaliland administration in the [disputed] Sanaag Region has accused Puntland forces of attacking an armed forces base belonging to Somaliland forces near the mountainous areas close to the locality of Galgala in Sanaag Region.”
- The fighting in the locality of Galgala, which lasted for about six hours, is said to have affected Somaliland forces.
- Forces loyal to the religious scholar, Muhammad Si'id Atam, have claimed responsibility for the attacks that took place in the mountainous regions surrounding Galgala.

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

- Mortars fired by AMISOM troops have this morning destroyed equipment belonging to Somaliweyn Radio station. The destroyed equipment was left behind by the Al-Shabab Movement during their recent raid of the station.
- Speaking of the mornings events, the director of Somaliweyn radio station told Shabeelle Media Network that the last of the radio station's equipment was destroyed by mortar attacks fired by Amisom troops who were targeting the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin that have established a base in the radio station's compound in the neighbourhood of Boondhere, Mogadishu.

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

- Somali Prime Minister Umar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke has confirmed reports that he has spoken to the AMISOM troops about the indiscriminate shelling on civilian populated areas.
- Speaking to radio Mogadishu, the Prime Minister said he was saddened by the problems inflicted on the civilians, saying that he urged government forces and AMISOM troops to minimize shelling on the civilian populated areas.

July 26, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website in Somali 26 July 2010)

- The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFG] has distanced itself from accusations by the human right's body, Amnesty International, which said government forces have wounded reporters in Mogadishu.
- Amnesty International has said government forces deliberately shot at Somali reporters and wounded them towards the end of last month. The organization said this was not in line with the rights of independent media.
- A Somali minister has said that the government has conducted investigations on the issue and that the claims are not true.

- This is not the first time that Amnesty International has accused the TFG and the armed opposition groups, Al-Shabab and Hisb al-Islam. In the past, Amnesty International said accused both sides of acting against the rules of combat by firing mortars in residential areas which result in heavy civilian casualties.