

Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, July 19th, 2010 (covering July 12th to July 18th 2010)

By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda

1) State-owned media

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 13, 2010, in English
“Police find an unexploded suicide belt” [Author unknown]**

- At least 74 people were killed in the twin explosions at a rugby club and a restaurant. The Somali Islamist group Al-Shabab has said it was behind the attack because Uganda is supporting Somalia's government in Mogadishu.
- In a statement in Mogadishu, a spokesman for the Al-Qa'idah-linked group, Shaykh Ali Mohammed Rage, threatened more attacks. A Ugandan official said a Somali's head was found at the scene of one blast, and he may have been a suicide bomber.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 13, 2010, in English
“Opposition worried by Uganda's involvement in Somalia” [Author unknown]**

- Opposition political leaders have expressed worry over Uganda's continued involvement in Somalia following Sunday bomb blasts that left about 70 people dead.
- Police boss Kale Kayihura suspected Al-Shabab militants from Somalia to be behind the bomb attacks. The militants later in the day confirmed they carried out the attacks.
- The Democratic Party (DP) president, Norbert Mao, yesterday called for a national forum bringing together all political leaders, regardless of their affiliation, to discuss the way forward on this new security threat.

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 15, 2010, in English
“Ugandan president calls for "peace enforcement" in Somalia” [Author unknown]**

- President Yoweri Museveni has said the Al-Shabab terrorists who infiltrated Uganda and bombed football fans watching the World Cup final will be pursued within and outside Uganda and eliminated.
- "Within Uganda, we shall weed out any of these elements and loopholes which these people used," said Museveni, addressing local and foreign journalists at his Ntungamo home last night.
- "It will have to be peace enforcement to bring peace to Somalia. That is my view but we shall have to agree on it in IGAD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Development]," Museveni said when asked whether he wants the mandate of the peacekeeping force changed so that it can pursue the Islamist militants.
- He urged Ugandans not to make blanket condemnation of Somalis in Uganda as terrorists. He said those who are connected to the terrorists will be profiled, arrested, charged and if found guilty through the judicial process, will be hanged. He assured the country that the AU summit will take place and that there is no way it can be stopped.
- He said the terrorists attacked unguarded pitches, but the summit will be well guarded. In any case even the pitches are now well-guarded, he added.
- He dismissed the argument that Uganda was attacked for deploying in Somalia, saying Kenya and Tanzania were attacked in 1998 although they have never had troops in Somalia, Afghanistan or Iraq.
- He also reiterated his view that the judiciary should handle the cases of murder, rape, defilement and terrorism expeditiously.
- He said he would discuss the matter with the chief justice.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 15, 2010, in English
"Ugandan Al-Shabab suspect arrested" [Author unknown]

- A Ugandan suspected to belong to Somalia's Al-Shabab terror group has been arrested. Media Centre boss Fred Opolot said Ali Issa Sekumba was arrested by Kenya police in Nairobi and handed over to their Ugandan counterparts.
- The suspect, he said, was undergoing interrogation at an undisclosed location. "At the time of his arrest, Sekumba claimed he was fleeing from Al-Shabab in Somalia. That is part of what we want to verify," Opolot said at a press conference at the Media Centre yesterday.
- The development comes as Rachid Abdi, a Somalia expert with the International Crisis Group, said there were Ugandans within the rank and file of the hard-line Islamist group, Al-Shabab.
- He said Uganda Amisom [African Mission in Somalia] commanders had recently received threats in Luganda in calls originating from Somalia.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 17, 2010, in English
"The message we send the terrorists counts" [Author unknown]

- Al-Shabab, who claimed the Sunday [11 July] twin blasts that killed 74 [people], are still threatening more terrorism if we don't pull our troops out of AMISOM, the peacekeeping force in Somalia.
- Today, security is heightened and civil vigilance keen but, unfortunately, this vigilance is difficult to maintain over a long time. We need a safer alternative than remaining on the receiving end of terror threats.
- Government plans to attack the terrorists is the only noble alternative with lasting fruitful lessons. We should destroy their safe havens and war-making capacities. We should, under the AU, muster a lethal force to return sanity to the whole of Somalia.
- This may put us at the risk of reprisals, where we are anyway, but the alternative of pulling out of Somalia is an act of capitulation and victory for the terrorists which may set a dangerous precedent.
- African countries should back us on this. If Al-Shabab can export terror beyond their borders, they can hit anyone. It is everyone's responsibility to protect our present and future generations from terrorists.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 17, 2010, in English
"No extra budget for LRA, says Kiyonga" by Joyce Namutebi

- There is no budget for operations against the Lord's Resistance Army [rebels] this year, Defence Minister Dr Crispus Kiyonga has said.
- "It is our expectation that partners in the war against the LRA will be more supportive to the Joint Task Force efforts," Kiyonga said in the ministry policy statement to parliament.

The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. July 17, 2010, in English
"Somalia to support bomb probes" by Conan Businge

- Somalia has pledged to help Uganda investigate the cause and perpetrators of the bomb attacks in Kampala on Sunday [11 July] which claimed 74 lives.
- The Somali ambassador to Uganda, Ahmad Sayid Ahmad Shaykh Dahir, said: "We are willing to help Uganda. All Somalis in Uganda have been asked to liaise with the government, when approached during investigations." [...]

- The leader of the Al-Shabab, Shaykh Mukhtar Abu on Thursday claimed responsibility for the bombings in Uganda and threatened further attacks in a new audio message.
- It was the first time Al-Shabab have claimed to strike outside Somalia.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. July 13, in English

- President Yoweri Museveni has condemned the twin bombings in Kampala that left 73 people dead, several injured. He described the attacks as cowardly.
- Opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) has dismissed allegations associating the party with last night's incident in which bomb blasts killed more than 60 people.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) Radio Kampala, 0400 GMT. July 14, in English

- Government embarks on de-mining exercise to ensure no explosives are left in the ground as people are resettled in war-torn areas of northern Uganda.

2) Privately owned media

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. July 12, 2010, in English

"50 die in Kampala bomb blasts" by Alex B. Atuhairi and Andrew Bagala

- More than 50 people have been killed in three separate bomb blasts in the Ugandan capital as the residents watched the 2010 World Cup final on giant screens.
- Police confirmed that 13 people, more than half of them foreigners were killed at Ethiopian Village Restaurant in Kabalagala, a Kampala suburb, while Daily Monitor reporters counted about 40 bodies at Kyaddondo rugby grounds where a huge crowd was watching the World Cup final.
- Another blast was reported to have gone off in Ntinda, another Kampala suburb, and more than 100 were reported admitted in hospital.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. July 12, 2010, in English

"Bomb attacks death toll rises to 64" by Emmanuel Gyezaho and Andrew Bagala

- Authorities have confirmed at least 64 people dead following last night's bomb explosions that ripped through Kampala City hitting a restaurant and a sports club.
- In the recent past, Somali Islamists have threatened to attack Uganda for sending peacekeeping troops to their country under the auspices of the African Union to protect the struggling government of Shaykh Ahmad Sharif. The Islamists under their group Al-Shabab have close ties with Usama Bin-Laden's Al-Qa'idah military network.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. July 13, 2010, in English

"Uganda blasts to stir regional anxiety" [Author unknown]

- Suspected Somali Islamists said they had carried out two bomb attacks in the Ugandan capital that killed more than 70 people as they watched the World Cup final at a

restaurant and a sports club. Following are reactions from several Somalia experts and analysts.

- Abdi Samatar, University of Minnesota: "I don't think that this was Al-Shabab, as in the Somalis of Al-Shabab. I really don't think they have the capabilities or the reach for something like this. It's much more likely that this was their foreign friends, in other words the foreign elements in Al-Shabab [...] (The more nationalist members of Al-Shabab) have to sell themselves to this (Al-Qa'idah) trend."
- Sally Healy, UK'S Chatham House think tank: "I think it is reasonable for suspicion to fall on Al-Shabab. If proven - or claimed by them - it would be their first action outside Somalia. (Unless you count Somaliland bombings in late 2008). There has been no doubt that Al-Shabaab regard Amisom (the African Union peace force) as an enemy force [...]"
- It is perceived (accurately) as a largely Ugandan force and acting in the interests of Ethiopia, the US and the West generally. This attack is the first instance of targeting civilians by association with Amisom. I note that one of the venues was an Ethiopian restaurant in Kampala. I expect it to increase anxiety about Al-Shabab and the situation in Somalia both in the region and in the international community more widely."

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. July 16, 2010, in English

"President Museveni's statement on city bombing" [Author unknown]

- President Yoweri Museveni has dismissed claims that the bomb attacks on innocent Ugandans was a result of Uganda sending troops to Somali and rubbished calls for Uganda's withdrawal from the war ravaged country in the Horn.
- The president said they have mobilized the Somali community here to identify those wrong doers. "If you want to know more about a community, then you should work with people from that community. And Somalis in Uganda can help us in knowing more about Somalia.
- "I appeal to Ugandans not to be hostile to our African brothers from Somalia especially those who are living here. Because some people may misinterpret this to mean all Somalis are involved which is not true. Many of Somali living here are very much involved in the systems of Uganda and they are living well. Many of them have no reason to involve themselves in this type of activities. Therefore don't look at every Somali living here as if they are connected with this. There are those who are connected, we shall get their details, we already know their leaders in Somalia, they will obviously be indicted for these crimes. Therefore don't blanket all Somalis in the category," he said.
- The president also said the idea that Muslims will be isolated is not part of the culture of the NRM.

The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. July 17, 2010, in English

"Tread carefully on Somalia question" [Author unknown]

- The government should make measured, well conceived responses to the 11 July bombings that claimed the lives of 74 innocent people.
- While President Museveni's declaration of war on Al-Shabab is the public reaction expected from a head of state concerned about the welfare of his people, any further action must be premised on a rational thought process, and backed by the required legal mandate.

- The consensus view among geopolitical analysts, is that the war against terrorism has to be taken to Al-Shabab if a repeat of Black Sunday is to be averted. Modalities of executing that war however require deep soul searching.
- For one, the 20,000 extra soldiers Mr Museveni said are to be deployed in Somalia must come from all over Africa. Secondly, any further troop deployment should be subject to parliamentary approval.
- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was speaking from the same page when he said any response must be made within the bounds of the UN Charter rules. The move by security agencies to round up 2,000 illegal immigrants from various parts of the country is a plausible exercise that has perhaps come a little too late.
- Each of the 125,000 refugees living in this country must all be individually re-assessed to weed out criminal elements. Uganda is home to over 10,000 Somalis, some of them naturalized citizens, and posterity will judge us on the basis of how well we handle these people. And it is these very people who can help us profile terrorists.