
News Summary Horn of Africa: Friday, May 31, 2013

MUST READS:

1. [Nairobi to end investment on Somalia and communiqué](#)
2. [London Terror Probe Traces Path to Radicalization, via Somalia](#)

SOMALIA:

3. [Holidays in Somalia? Mogadishu hopes to be tourist hotspot](#)
4. ['10 weeks of hell' for Somalis in Kenya](#)

KENYA:

5. [In Kenya, Girls Need a Safe Haven to Thrive](#)
6. [Kenya attacks raise worries Somalia's Al Shabab are reorganizing](#)

DJIBOUTI:

7. [Website technician gets 45 days in jail, big fine for defaming police](#)

ETHIOPIA:

8. [Somali rules out quit notice to Kenya and Ethiopia troops](#)
9. [Egypt Fears Diversion of Nile Waters for a New Dam](#)

ERITREA:

10. [Canada expels Eritrea envoy over expat fees claims](#)
11. [Persecution Greater Than Ever and 'Getting Worse' in Eritrea](#)

MUST READS

1. [Nairobi to end investment on Somalia and communiqué](#)

-Midnimo, 5/29

BLUF: The two day investment conference on Somalia that kicked off in Kenya capital, Nairobi which will offer a rare window into business opportunities available for rebuilding Somalia is expected to be concluded later today.

- This is the first regional investment conference on Somalia held in Nairobi since 1991 for a similar international forum last month held in London.
- The Somali Reconstruction and Investment Conference and Exhibition (SORIC) is expected to bring together key policymakers from Somalia and Somaliland, international and regional development organizations to showcase opportunities in the country working to rebuild itself after years of internal strife.
- Somaliland Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohamed Omar said his country's rebirth has created investments opportunities in strategic sectors of the economy including agriculture, transport, energy and fisheries.

[Back to Top](#)

2. [London Terror Probe Traces Path to Radicalization, via Somalia](#)

-Voice of America, 5/30

BLUF: More than a week after a British soldier was killed in broad daylight on a London Street in an apparent Islamist-motivated attack, one of the suspects has been charged with murder. The other is still recovering in the hospital after being shot by police. Authorities are trying to piece together how two British citizens - who were both known to security services - allegedly went on to commit such a brutal attack.

- In the days since the killing, it's emerged that one of the suspects, Michael Adebolajo, was arrested in Kenya in 2010, accused of seeking training with terror group al-Shabab in neighboring Somalia.
- Both suspects attended meetings by the Islamist group al-Muhajiroun, headed by Anjem Choudary. The group burned American flags outside the U.S. Embassy in London on the anniversary of 9/11.
- The London attack has reignited calls for radical Muslim preachers to be banned.

[Back to Top](#)

SOMALIA

3. Holidays in Somalia? Mogadishu hopes to be tourist hotspot

-CNN, 5/30

BLUF: After more than 20 years of violence, Somalia moved a step closer to stability last September after picking its first president elected on home soil in decades.

- Although security is still an issue, Mogadishu has been experiencing an economic renaissance in recent months, boosted by members of the diaspora returning home to rebuild the country, as well as the efforts of local businessmen who never left.
- Osman, who stayed in Somalia throughout its conflict, hopes his new development will attract holidaymakers from abroad. He says that he's already had American and British visitors staying in his hotels.
- Osman's ambitious new projects are part of a growing building activity that is reshaping many of the neighborhoods of bullet-ridden Mogadishu.

[Back to Top](#)

4. '10 weeks of hell' for Somalis in Kenya

-Aljazeera, 5/29

BLUF: New report details beatings, rape, and extortion by Kenyan police against Somali refugees during anti-terror campaign.

- Human Rights Watch describes in a new report a 10-week campaign of police beatings, rapes and extortion against Somali refugees in a misguided attempt to combat terrorism.

- "We'd got used to hassle from the police and paying small bribes," Warsame, 32, said. "But when they started searching houses, beating Somalis and taking them to the cells, it was quite terrifying. I have nightmares because of the beatings I got from police."
- Scores of refugees from the run-down area of Nairobi's Eastleigh, known as "Little Mogadishu" for its big Somali population, were carted off to police stations, she said. After spending eight hours in an excrement-ridden cell, a friend secured Warsame's release with a 5,000 shilling (US\$60) bribe.

[Back to Top](#)

KENYA

5. In Kenya, Girls Need a Safe Haven to Thrive

-Huffington Post, 5/29

BLUF: Situated outside of Nairobi, Kenya's capital, Kibera is an informal settlement, or slum, where hundreds of thousands of people live on one square mile of land with limited access to clean water, sanitation, and electricity.

- Uweza, which means "ability" in Swahili, works hand-in-hand with Kibera residents to break the cycle of poverty that persists in the slum. Rather than imposing our own ideas or solutions on the Kibera community, we first engage with and listen to residents to determine where our programs might have the greatest impact.
- Since nearly half of Kibera's population is under the age of 15, Uweza is especially committed to the education and empowerment of local youth. Current Uweza projects include scholarships for primary and secondary school; a soccer academy; journalism, dance, and art clubs; a girls' empowerment club; and life skills training.
- Uweza also runs its own community center in the heart of Kibera, providing a safe space for youth to study, play, develop their talents, and learn valuable life skills.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Kenya attacks raise worries Somalia's Al Shabab are reorganizing

- Christian Science Monitor, 5/30

BLUF: Some analysts view recent Al Shabab attacks inside Kenya as a sign that the Somalia-based militant group is adapting to an African Union campaign against them.

- Last Saturday, one of these heavily armed units crossed into Kenya and launched coordinated attacks on two police camps in Liboi district. Six people including two police officers, a Red Cross official, and 15-year-old boy were killed in the night attack. Soon after, Al Shabab spokesman said the group had overrun the camps.
- Since October 2011 when Kenyan troops entered Somalia to pursue the group, 30 attacks have occurred in the cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, and Garissa.

- But the claim of responsibility, after a rare silence, has alarmed security officials. In September 2012 Al Shabab was expelled from Kismayu, its logistical and economic base, a development that disrupted its operations, says David Samba, a former military officer, but that did not end the threat. The group also lost key cities and towns, but it continues to control many rural villages, where it implements a strict form of Islamic law.

[Back to Top](#)

DJIBOUTI

7. Website technician gets 45 days in jail, big fine for defaming police

-Reuters, 5/29

BLUF: Reporters Without Borders regards the jail sentence and heavy fine passed yesterday on news website employee Maydaneh Abdallah Okieh as typical of the way the government hounds critics, including journalists, media employees, social networkers and opposition activists.

- The prosecutors had nothing on Okieh, who handles the technical aspects of the *La Voix de Djibouti* website and is in charge of media relations for the National Salvation Union (USN), a coalition of opposition parties. All he did was post images online that embarrassed the police and, by extension, the government.
- A Djibouti court yesterday sentenced Okieh to 45 days in prison and a fine of 200,000 Djibouti francs (860 euros) for posting photos on his Facebook page of police breaking up an opposition demonstration. It also ordered him to pay 2 million francs (8,600 euros) in damages.

[Back to Top](#)

ETHIOPIA

8. Somali rules out quit notice to Kenya and Ethiopia troops

-Africa Review, 5/30

BLUF: Somalia has denied ordering Kenya and Ethiopia to withdraw their troops from the country.

- State minister Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir dismissed the reports that were transmitted by an independent broadcaster in Mogadishu and quoted by a number of Somali news web sites.
- The report also dominated the public discussions in the capital Mogadishu on Wednesday, with many people wondering the consequences of Kenyan and Ethiopian troops leaving Somalia within 48 hours.
- At a press conference at Villa Somalia, the State House in Mogadishu, Mr. Abdulkadir rejected the reports as unfounded and expressed surprise.

[Back to Top](#)

9. [Egypt Fears Diversion of Nile Waters for a New Dam](#)

-Voice of America, 5/29

BLUF: Egypt is expressing concern at Ethiopia's move to divert water from the Nile River to allow construction of a massive hydroelectric dam.

- Egypt's cabinet met Wednesday to discuss Ethiopia's announcement that it was diverting the flow of the Blue Nile, the main tributary of the river.
- The meeting came a day after Ethiopian officials said the water would be diverted to make way for construction of a nearly \$5 billion dam. The hydropower facility will be the largest in Africa, producing as much electricity as six nuclear power plants. It is scheduled for completion in 2017.
- A statement carried by Egypt's state run MENA news agency said construction measures already in progress do not reflect any approval by Cairo to build the dam.

[Back to Top](#)

ERITREA

10. [Canada expels Eritrea envoy over expat fees claims](#)

-BBC News, 5/29

BLUF: Canada has ordered an Eritrean envoy to leave the country following claims he demanded contributions from expatriates to fund Eritrea's military.

- Semere Ghebremariam Micael, head of the Eritrean Consulate General in Toronto, has been under investigation for the practice.
- It is in breach of both UN sanctions against Eritrea and Canadian law, the Canadian government said.
- Mr. Micael has been given until on 5 June to leave.

[Back to Top](#)

11. [Persecution Greater Than Ever and 'Getting Worse' in Eritrea](#)

-Charisma News, 5/30

BLUF: Religious persecution in Eritrea is at its "highest level ever and getting worse," an Eritrean Christian leader, who cannot be named for security reasons, has told the Christian charity Open Doors International.

- Thirty-seven Christian students from the College of Arts and Social Sciences in the town of Adi Kihe, and five men from the Church of the Living God in Asmara, were arrested

last week, taking the total number of Christians known to have been arrested this year to 191.

- Open Doors, a ministry to Christians who live under pressure because of their faith, estimates around 1,200 Christians are now incarcerated in Eritrea. However, some estimates claim the figure to be as high as 3,000.
- Churches in Eritrea have been monitored closely since May 2002, when the government closed all Protestant and Pentecostal churches which did not apply for registration with the department of Religious affairs.

[Back to Top](#)