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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

21 September 2012

Mr. John Greenewald
[REDACTED]

Reference: F-2012-01721 / DIA #0294-2009

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

In the course of processing your 26 May 2009 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for documents related to the dispatching of six Iranian warships to international waters, including the Gulf of Aden, to show its ability to confront any foreign threats, the DIA located Open Source Center (OSC) material and referred it to us on 28 June 2012 for review and direct response to you.

We reviewed the material and determined that six OSC documents can be released in their entirety. Copies of the documents are enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Meeks".

Michele Meeks
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 232462

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, DOMESTIC POLITICAL,
MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: IAP20090629950011

BODY

COUNTRY: IRAN, SOMALIA

SUBJ: IRAN RESCUES OIL TANKER FROM SOMALI PIRATES (U)

SOURCE: TEHRAN PRESS TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0544 GMT 29 JUN 09 (U)

TEXT:

Television

OSC Transcribed Excerpt

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Iran rescues oil tanker from Somali pirates

Excerpt from report in English by **Iranian** news channel Press TV website on 29 June

An **Iranian Navy warship** patrolling the volatile **Gulf of Aden** has managed to save one of the country's giant oil tankers from the clutches of Somali pirates.

Somali pirates attempted to capture the **Iranian** oil tanker "Hadi", but were scared off by the **Iranian navy's** "quick response" to the oil tanker's distress call on Sunday 28 June.

The rescue mission comes as **Iran** has sent at least **six** vessels to join international efforts to create a defensive front against piracy in the key **shipping-lanes** off the coast of Somalia.

"**Six** warships and support vessels have been dispatched to the pirate-infested **Gulf of Aden** and **international waters** in its vicinity," said commander of the **Iranian Navy** Real-Admiral

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Habibollah Sayyari on 27 June.

The **Iranian Navy** has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the **Gulf of Aden** since November 2008 when Somali raiders hijacked the **Iranian-chartered cargo ship**, **Delight**, off the coast of Yemen.

The Hong Kong-registered **ship** with 25 crew aboard was loaded with 36,000 tons of wheat bound for the Islamic Republic.

In an earlier move on August 21, some 40 pirates armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades attacked Iran's Diyanat, shortly after the merchant **ship** passed the Horn of Africa.

The **Gulf of Aden** - which links the Indian Ocean with the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea - is the quickest transit point for more than 20,000 **ships** going from Asia to Europe and the Americas every year.

According to the International Maritime Bureau, pirates have attacked more than 220 **ships** in the waters leading to and from the Suez Canal this year, and have earned tens of millions of dollars in ransom.

Passage omitted: report of the Time published on 15 December 2008 on piracy along Somalia's coast.

Description of Source: Tehran Press TV Online in English -- Official website of Tehran Press TV, **Iranian** state-run TV's rolling news channel, with news in English, Persian, and Arabic and live webcast of the TV in English; URL: <http://www.presstv.ir/>

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Source Metadata

Source Name: Press TV Online
Source Type(s): Television
Source City: Tehran
Source Country: **Iran**
Source Start Date: 0544 GMT 29 Jun 09
Source End Date: 0544 GMT 29 Jun 09
Language(s): English

Article Metadata

Document ID: IAP20090629950011
Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Excerpt
Precedence: Priority

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Country(s): Iran, Somalia
Region(s): Middle East, Africa
Subregion(s): Middle East, East Africa
Topic(s): INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, DOMESTIC POLITICAL,
MILITARY, URGENT
CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 927959

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: IAP20090526950026

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BODY**COUNTRY: IRAN****SUBJ: IRANIAN NAVY SENDS SIX SHIPS TO INTL. WATERS, GULF OF ADEN****(U)****SOURCE: TEHRAN MEHR NEWS AGENCY IN ENGLISH 0740 GMT 26 MAY 09 (U)****TEXT:**

News Agencies

OSC Transcribed Text

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TEHRAN, May 26 (MNA) -- The Iranian Navy has dispatched six ships to the Gulf of Aden and other international waters, Navy

Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari announced on Monday.

This move shows the **Iranian** militarys high level of preparedness, and its capability to respond to any foreign threat to the

country's shores, **Sayyari** told a gathering of **Navy** commanders.

Responsibility for defending Iran's southern territorial waters was transferred to the **Navy** on the orders of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, he added.

Description of Source: Tehran Mehr News Agency in English -- Launched on 22 June 2003, its managing director Parviz Esma'ili stated that the news agency primarily aims at promoting the Islamic culture; URL: <http://www.mehrnews.com>

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Source Metadata

Source Name: Mehr News Agency

Source Type(s): News Agencies

Source City: Tehran

Source Country: Iran

Source Start Date: 0740 GMT 26 May 09

Source End Date: 0740 GMT 26 May 09

Language(s): English

Article Metadata

Document ID: IAP20090526950026

Content Type: Translation/Transcription

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Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Text
Precedence: Routine
Country(s): Iran
Region(s): Middle East
Subregion(s): Middle East
Topic(s): DOMESTIC POLITICAL, MILITARY
CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

WARNING: TOPIC: CRIME, DISSENT, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL, LEADER, TERRORISM

SERIAL: AFP20090629578001

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: SOMALIA, UNITED STATES, ETHIOPIA, ERITREA, DJIBOUTI,
KENYA, UGANDA, EGYPT, SUDAN, IRAN, BELGIUM, RUSSIA, YEMEN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: AU, EU, UN

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS: SOMALIA DAILY MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS 29 JUN 09 (U)

SOURCE: SOMALIA -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 28 JUN 09 (U)

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OSC Summary

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This compilation of press highlights for 26, 27, 28 June **2009** is produced by the Open Source Center and focuses on counterterrorism, political, and **military** issues relating to Somalia.

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SOMALIA Four killed, 13 wounded in Somali capital mortar attacks

AFP20090628950047 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June

More details are emerging from the heavy mortar attacks in Hodan

District, Karaan and parts of the Bakaraha market in Mogadishu.

The mortars continuously landed in the neighbourhoods of Kasa Balbalare, Sigale in Hodan District and areas in Karaan.

It has been reported that 30 mortars landed in these areas although most area residents are said to have already fled the fighting.

The mortars were fired from the presidential palace in Mogadishu and landed in part of Bakaraha market and surrounding areas at a time when there were thousands of people in the market.

Businesses in the market were shut down while those who were in the market fled.

According to ambulance drivers and doctors in Mogadishu hospitals, four people have been killed in the attacks while 13 others were wounded.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

Main market in Somali capital under mortar attack

AFP20090628950045 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June

Heavy Shelling started in Hodan District and parts of Bakaraha

market in Mogadishu at approximately 12:30 local time today.

The mortar attacks in these areas come at a time when there is no fighting going on in Mogadishu.

The mortars continuously landed in the neighbourhoods of Kasa

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Balbalare and Sigale in Hodan District. It has been reported that up to 30 mortars have landed in these areas in which most of the residents have already fled from their homes. The mortars are being fired from areas where Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG forces and those of the African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM are based in Mogadishu. The mortars landed in many areas among them the Bakaraha market and surrounding areas at a time when there were thousands of people in the market. Businesses at the market were shut down as everyone fled for their lives.

The mortar attacks carried out in Bakaraha market and parts of Hodan District is said to be in retaliation to mortar attacks earlier on carried out by Islamist groups in areas where the TFG are based. Losses sustained in these mortar attacks are not yet known, but there are assurances that as always, those most affected will be the innocent civilians who have nothing to do with the conflict

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali – Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Three killed in inter-clan fighting in Somali regions of Ethiopia

AFP20090628950034 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
27 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 27 June

There has been renewed hostilities in the town of Mustahil which is in the Somali self-governing regions of Ethiopia between two Somali militias. The feud between the two Somali militias is said
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 *****/

CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

to be due to long-standing hostilities involving inter clan revenge attacks.

A total of three people have been confirmed dead in the inter-clan militia fighting in the town of Cumar Doon which is near Mustahil in the Somali self-governing regions of Ethiopia. The latest hostility between the two rival clan militias came after one of the militias shot dead a driver from the rival clan who was working in the area. Traditional elders from both clans have now began efforts to quell the hostilities between the two warring clans. Elders from both sides have in the past not been successful in trying to end the hostilities between the clans.

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Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Al-Shabab takes control of central Somalia town
SAP20090626950016 Mogadishu Radio Simba in Somali 25 Jun 09
Excerpt from report by privately-owned Somali Radio Simba on 25 June

Local residents are confirming that Al-Shabab militants have taken control of Jalalaqsi District in Hiiraan Region, central Somalia.

Reports say Al-Shabab took the control of the town without fighting.

Al Shabab controls parts of Hiiraan Region, while pro government Islamic Courts militants control the rest of the region.

Islamic Courts militants in the region are on high alert since the suicide bombing that claimed the life of the former security minister Umar Hashi Adan and other officials in Beled Weyne the provincial capital of Hiiraan Region. Passage Omitted, background.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Radio Simba in Somali

Somalia: MYM Claims Attacking Government Militias in Middle Shabelle State 25 Jun

AFP20090628302002 Jihadist Websites -- OSC Summary in Arabic 25 Jun 09

On 24 June a forum participant posted to a jihadist website a statement issued by the Mujahidin Youth Movement MYM entitled "MYM: Remnants of Militias of Apostasy Pursued, Attacked in Shabelle State Forests," in which the group stated that they attacked government militias hiding in the forests of Middle Shabelle State, resulting in their killing and the seizure of weapons and armored vehicles. The statement is attributed to the Sada Al-Jihad Media Center of the Global Islamic Media Front.

A translation of the statement follows:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

"Attack and pursuit of remnants of militias of apostasy in the forests of Islamic Middle Shabelle State.

"On Thursday morning, 3 Rajab 1430, corresponding to 25 June 2009,

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a brigade belonging to the Al-Usra Army in the Islamic Middle Shabelle State attacked a gang from the apostate government militias who were hiding in the forests of that state and were spreading corruption. God enabled the brigade to kill the men from the government militia, and they fled the fighting arena leaving behind most of their light and heavy weapons, especially three armored vehicles. The mujahidin continued pursuing them until this evening. Praise and thanks be to God.

"O God, Revealer of the book, Disperser of the clouds, Defeater of the parties, defeat the Crusaders, and their apostate allies. O God, make them and their equipment easy booty for Muslims. O God, destroy them and shake them. O God, You are the one who helps us and the one who assists us, with Your power we move and by Your power we fight.

"God is Great.

"But honor belongs to Allah, and thus to His Messenger, and to the Believers; but of this the hypocrites are not aware' Partial Koranic verse; Al-Munafiqun 63:8.

"The Media Section of the Mujahidin Youth Movement-Al-Usra Army in Somalia

"Source: Sada al-Jihad Media Center

"Global Islamic Media Front."

Somali president said seeking financial, political support from Arab League

AFP20090626950021 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
25 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 25 June

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

The Arab League Secretary General, Amir Musa tabled a letter that was sent to the organization by the Somali President, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad at the closed door meeting for Foreign Affairs Minister from Arab League countries which was concluded in Cairo.

Shaykh Sharif in his letter is said to have sought support for his government from the heavy attacks meant to oust him from office. An official who attended the meeting said Shaykh Sharif's letter to the Arab League is seeking for urgent political and financial assistance for his government from the Arab League countries. Among the requests Shaykh Sharif has made were that African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM who are currently in the country for

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a peacekeeping mission be supported and the training of a national Somali force that will take part in the restoration of peace and security in the country. In his letter, Shaykh Sharif also urged the Arab League to urgently intervene in the situation in Somalia and plans to oust his government.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Somali president says Eritreans fighting alongside key Islamist official

AFP20090628950043 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June
The President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad today held a news conference at the Somali presidency in Mogadishu in which he said Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys, the leader of Hisb Al-Islam is being assisted by senior Eritrean armed forces officials in the fighting in Mogadishu.

"Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys and I were friends and today we differ in opinion about the situation in the country. This is because Shaykh Hasan Dahir is being assisted by officials of the Eritrean forces in the fighting against the TFG. This was not what we had agreed on, we had agreed that we liberate the country from enemies, revive the Somali nation and implement Shariah law in the country all of which we have already achieved. I do not therefore understand why Shaykh Hasan Dahir is still shedding people's blood," said President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad.

The president of the TFG said they have been forced to take part in the current fighting in Mogadishu adding that it is being carried out by terrorist groups who have come to attack the country. The president also said government will continue with the fighting until they are able to set the Somali people free. Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad also thanked African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM troops in the country adding that they are doing a very important job for the Somali government. The president also called upon the African Union to deploy the additional peacekeepers in the country.

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Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

AU Supports Somalia's Appeal for **Military** Assistance Against Islamist Group

AFP20090628581003 Dakar PANA Online in English 27 Jun 09

Unattributed report: "AU: AU Considers Backing Direct **Military** Aid for Somalia"

Sirte, Libya (PANA) - The African Union is in support of Somali government's appeal for **military** assistance in its efforts to dislodge the radical Islamist elements trying to oust it from power and "all options" are on the table, including beefing up the African forces in Somalia and direct **military** aid, officials said on Saturday in Sirte, Libya.

African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security Ramtane Lamamra said the African Union Commission was in support of the request by the Somali government for **military** assistance and "was open to all options", including direct **military** aid from the governments.

"We are putting all options on the table. This issue would be discussed at the highest political level," Ambassador Lamamra told PANA in an interview.

Heavy fighting in Somalia has killed slightly more than 300 people in Somalia in the past month alone and displaced more than 160,000 civilians, aid agencies operating in Somalia said on Friday.

Somali government has launched an appeal for **military** aid to help it combat growing hostility from the Al Shabaab militant group and the Hizul Islam, which has been fighting to seize control of authority.

Ethiopia, whose forces crossed into Somalia to help restore peace and order there, pulled out of Mogadishu and other areas after more than two years of operation.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 *****/

CITE OSC RESTON VA.232115

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which has been in the country to help provide security, has been overstretched and has no mandate to fight the militants.

Somalia's neighbours, Kenya and Ethiopia are getting worried the fighting inside Somalia is increasingly threatening their own internal stability and have been tempted to intervene militarily.

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Kenyan officials have been hinting at **military** action to protect the country's interests, saying her overall economic goals are threatened by the fighting inside Somalia. But opinion is deeply divided in Kenya as to whether the government should intervene militarily.

Kenya's foreign Minister Moses Wetangula says the country's **military** has been put on "its highest level of alert ever" over the fighting in Somalia, but has not made any indications as to whether a **military** option is on the table.

The Kenyan parliament itself has urged the government not to take the insecurity in Somalia lightly.

Ethiopia on the other hand, insists that it would not send back its forces to Somalia without an international mandate to do so.

Lamamra said the AU was considering all the possibilities of helping the Somali government militarily, either by increasing the number of AMISOM forces on the ground or seeking direct **military** intervention from friendly states.

Description of Source: Dakar PANA Online in English – Website of the independent news agency with material from correspondents and news agencies throughout Africa; URL:

<http://www.panapress.com/english/index.htm>

Islamic Courts, Al-Shabab battle in southern Somalia town
AFP20090626950024 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
25 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 25 June

There was fighting which took several hours in areas near Mahadday, Middle Shabeelle south-central Somalia between the Movement for Al-Shabab Mujahidin and the Islamic Court forces. The fighting broke out around mid morning today in the locality of Calawi which is near Mahadday was between the movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin and Islamic court forces supporting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG led by Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad. It has been reported that the fighting between the two groups broke out when the Movement for Al-Shabab Mujahidin who took control of Ceel Baraf later spread to the locality of Calawi where Islamic Court forces were.

The extent of losses sustained in the fighting by the groups involved and the civilian population living in the town are not yet known. There are reports indicating that groups involved in the fighting had sustained losses although no confirmations are available.

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The Commander for the movement for Al-Shabab Mujahidin in Middle Shabeelle, Shaykh Abdirahman Hasan Husayn, told Shabeelle that they carried out attacks against groups that were mobilizing their forces in areas that are near Mahadday. Shaykh Abdirahman said they were victorious in the fighting as they managed to capture battle wagons and a small car from these forces. Islamic Court forces have not issued any statement in connection with the fighting, however, this conflict comes at time when the Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin have recently spread to new areas in Middle Shabeelle where Islamic Court forces were initially in control of.

Last month there was heavy fighting in Mahadday between the Islamic Court forces that support the TFG and the Movement for Al-Shabab Mujahidin in the town.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabeelle.net>

Islamists in south western Region vow to fight Ethiopians
AFP20090626950023 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
25 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 25 June

The Islamic Administration in Gedo Region south western Somalia today spoke on increased **military** activity in Doolow District and vowed to fight any foreign force that comes into the Somali territory.

The Commander of the Islamic Administration in Gedo Region, Shaykh Ismail Adan Haji alias Abu Suheyb speaking to Shabeelle today said they will fight foreign troops that come into the country. Shaykh Ismail Adan called upon foreign countries to not deploy their forces in Somalia saying that if they do so, they will be humiliated and disastrous for them.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 7 *****/

CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

Speaking on the **military** activity in Doolow District, Abu Suhayb said the main intention behind this is to cause chaos and more

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blood shed in the Region by fuelling the civil war. He called upon residents of Gedo Region to defend themselves against Ethiopian troops and Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG forces who are in the town. The Shaykh also spoke on arms that were recently given to the TFG forces in Doolow District and the appointment of the new commander for government forces. He said all of this is part of the operation in which these TFG forces are planning to attack areas in Gedo Region which are currently under the control of the Islamic Administrations in the Region.

The statement by the Commander of the Islamic Administration in Gedo Region comes at a time when there are TFG officials in Doolow District have said that they are headed for Bay, Bakool and Gedo Regions which are currently under the control of the Islamists.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Somali Islamists vow to seize arms given to government by USA
AFP20090628950041 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
28 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 28 June

The Islamic Administration in Kismaayo, Lower Jubba southern Somalia has today vowed to seize arms recently given to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG by the United States.

Shaykh Hasan Yacqub, the spokesman for the Islamic Administration in Kismaayo today held a news conference at the Islamic Administration's headquarter in which he spoke on the many arms that are being brought into the country. The Shaykh particularly spoke on the arms that the United States gave to the TFG and said bringing arms into the country will worsen the situation. He said the arms given to the TFG by the United States are a good opportunity for the Mujahidin who will eventually seize it. Shaykh Hasan Yacqub was asked what their response will be to the arms that are being brought into the country. He said these arms

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have already left the hands of the unbelievers and they will share them amongst themselves.

The statement by the spokesman for the Islamic Administration in Kismaayo comes at a time when the United States last week admitted that they have given arms to the TFG which were brought into the country through the Mogadishu port.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali – Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Islamists arrest former government official in southern Somalia
AFP20090627950051 Dayniile online in Somali 27 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 27 June
The Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin in Barawe, Lower Shabelle southern Somalia, this morning arrested the former district commissioner of the town, Abdullahi Halane Dhuhulow, and his son.

Reports reaching us from Barawe indicate that the movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin today went into the residence of the former district commissioner, Abdullahi Halane Dhuhulow, where they arrested him together with his son Mahmud. The former district commissioner and his son are currently being held at the police headquarters in Barawe.

Reports also indicate that Al-Shabab forces confiscated arms from the former District Commissioner's residence, among them seven guns and two vehicles. It is not yet known why the former official in Barawe is being held at this time and what he is being charged with. The Islamic Administration in the town has not issued any statement in regard to the incident. Relatives of the former district commissioner are currently engaged in efforts in which they are trying to secure his release from prison.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali – Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

Somalia: Man Thought To Play Part in Plot To Kill Al-shabaab Member in 2008 Shot

AFP20090625327001 Toronto Warkadalka.com in Somali 25 Jun 09
Unattributed report: "Attempt Made on Life of Man in Nairobi,

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Kenya, Believed To Have Participated in Plot To Kill Al-Shabaab
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'Senior Member' Adan Ayrow in Somalia in 2008"

At 2335 the night of 25 June an unusual burst of gunfire sound was heard in an area not far from the airport in Nairobi, Kenya.

Moments later a man was founding lying on the ground wounded by gunfire. It turns out that the man was a member of a group suspected of participating in the plot to kill Adan Ayrow on 1 May 2008.

Adan Ayrow, a senior member of the Al-Shabaab Mujahidin Movement, was killed in Dhusamareb in Galgudud region central Somalia. Samatar Soonka, a reporter for Warkadalka in Nairobi, dispatched more details about the man named Husayn Weli Wardere who was shot last night. He was reportedly based inside the American military complex in Djibouti and spent some time there before arriving in Kenya on 19 June.

Mr. Wardere was seriously wounded and remains in a life-or-death situation, but there is no further information about his condition. According to a close relative of the victim who prefers to remain anonymous, Mr. Wardere is now being treated at a major hospital in Nairobi.

When asked about the motives for the attack, the close relative of the victim said that no one knows the reason. However, rumors circulating in town suggest that he may have been involved in the conspiracy to frame and kill Adan Ayrow on 1 May 2008.

According to reliable sources, Mr. Husayn Weli Wardere is a native Somali, but he holds a Djiboutian passport. He was active in Somali politics until the expulsion of the warlords, at which time he moved to Djibouti and took up a job with a local organization.

There are other Somali politicians and businessmen currently in exile who took part in the scheme to eliminate Adan Ayrow. Shortly after the death of Ayrow, most of these individuals fled to countries such as UAE, Kenya, United States, Djibouti, Canada, and so forth.

Top officials belonging to the Al-Shabaab movement often speak about their determination to exact revenge on all those implicated in the conspiracy to kill Adan Ayrow, who was one of the most skilled leaders of the movement.

In any event, this is the first such attack outside Somalia on someone suspected of taking part in the assassination of Adan

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Ayrow. Many of those who helped plan and were involved in the plot to kill Ayrow are known to maintain high personal security. Description of Source: US-Based Warkadalka.com in Somali – Privately owned website critical of the Somali and Ethiopian Governments; URL: <http://www.warkadalka.com>

US Official Reveals Transport of 40 Tons Arms to Somalia To Fight Insurgency

AFP20090628581010 Port Louis allAfrica.com in English 27 Jun 09 Unattributed report: "Somalia: U.S. **Ships** Small Arms, Munitions to Govt"

The United States has **shipped** about 40 tons of small arms and munitions to Somalia in the last two months to help the country's transitional government fight off a challenge from Islamist militants, a senior American official has revealed.

The value of the **military** aid totals less than U.S. \$10 million, the official said, and it comprises weapons for use "in an urban environment, fighting a counter-guerilla insurgency."

The unnamed official revealed limited details of U.S. **military** assistance at a briefing of journalists at the U.S. State Department in Washington, DC on Friday. The briefing was arranged after the State Department's spokesman confirmed on Thursday that the U.S. is providing arms and ammunition to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

The transcript of the briefing published by the department described the briefer only as a "senior State Department official." Reporters present wrote that the briefing was held under ground rules requiring that the official remain anonymous. The official told journalists that the **military** assistance was being provided through Ugandan and Burundian peacekeeping forces.

"We're essentially doing two things," he said. "We have provided funds for the purchase of weapons; and we have also asked the two units that are there, particularly the Ugandans, to provide weapons to the TFG, and we have backfilled the Ugandans for what they have provided to the TFG government."

Pressed on what the aid was worth, the official said "at this point, it's certainly under \$10 million." It had "substantially increased" since the beginning of the assault on the TFG launched by the al-Shabaab militia early in **May**.

"The extension of funding directly to the TFG is consistent with our efforts and support to help the TFG as much as possible to gain stability in the region," the official said.

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Description of Source: Port Louis allAfrica.com in English --
allAfrica.com is "a multi-media content service provider, systems
technology developer and the largest electronic distributor of

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African news and information worldwide;" URL:

<http://allafrica.com>

USA reportedly asks Ethiopia to deploy troops in Somalia
AFP20090627950049 Dayniile online in Somali 27 Jun 09
Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 27 June
The US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Johnnie
Carson, has held talks with the Ethiopian minister of foreign
affairs, Seyoum Mesfin, who is currently visiting the US.
The two officials discussed cooperation between the two
governments, particularly the issue of fighting terrorism in the
Horn of Africa. The two officials are said to have focused their
talks on the latest fighting in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.
A source close to the US State Department has said that the two
officials discussed the recent appeal by the Transitional Federal
Government of Somalia TFG asking countries neighbouring Somalia
to deploy their troops in the country. The TFG had also asked the
wider international community to intervene militarily in the
current fighting in Somalia in which armed groups opposed to the
government are carrying out heavy attacks in order to overthrow
the government. They asked the international community to provide
the TFG protection from the armed opposition groups.
US Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson is reported to have
told the Ethiopian government to provide urgent **military** support
to the TFG in order to eliminate extremist groups who want to
oust the TFG and take over the country.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali -- Swedish
based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali
Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

Envoy says USA supporting Somali government

AFP20090626950012 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 26
Jun 09

Text of report by Kenyan privately-owned TV station KTN on 26 June
US envoy to Kenya Michael Ranneberger has confirmed that his
government is supporting the Somali government, Kenya's
privately-owned KTN reported on 25 June.
He said, "We ourselves are providing extensive support - financial
support, political support, of course, so, material support,

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humanitarian assistance, development aid. So, we are providing a great deal of assistance to the Sharif government".

Description of Source: Nairobi KTN Television in English -- independent Nairobi TV station with respected news coverage; majority of audience is in Nairobi

Eritrea Foreign Ministry Criticizes US Donation of Weapons to Somalia

AFP20090627521003 Paris AFP (World Service) in English 1207 GMT 27 Jun 09

Addis Ababa, June 27, 2009 (AFP) - Eritrea on Saturday slammed the United States for providing weapons to Somalia's beleaguered government in its battle against Islamist insurgents.

Washington announced on Thursday that it was sending the Horn of Africa nation an "urgent supply" of weapons and ammunition at the request of Mogadishu as armed groups closed in on the transitional government's strongholds.

"US misguided acts of intervention and supply of weapons have not, in the past years, advanced the cause of stability in Somalia," the Eritrean foreign affairs ministry said in a statement.

"A repeat of those measures will not produce positive results but only aggravate and prolong the crisis," it added.

On May 7, the Shebab, a hardline Islamist armed group, and Hezb al-Islam, a more political group, launched an unprecedented nationwide offensive against the administration of President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed.

The internationally-backed Sharif has been holed up in his presidential quarters, protected by African Union peacekeepers as his forces were unable to reassert their authority on the capital.

Around 300 people are confirmed to have been killed in the latest violence, many of them civilians.

The United States has also approached Eritrea with "concerns" that it is aiding the insurgents and warned that such support would be a "serious obstacle" to better ties, a US State Department spokesman said on Thursday.

But Eritrea again dismissed the allegations.

"These pronouncements do not contain novel or substantive elements," it said.

Ties between the two countries have in recent years been frosty, with Eritrea accusing the United States of backing its arch-foe Ethiopia in a long-running border dispute.

Description of Source: Paris AFP (World Service) in English --

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world news service of the independent French news agency Agence

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

France Presse

Eritrea says US arming Somalia 'aggravate, prolong' crisis
AFP20090626950064 Asmara Shabait (Internet Version-WWW) in English
26 Jun 09

Text of statement issued in English by Ministry of Foreign
Affairs, republished by Eritrean Ministry of Information's
Shabait website on 26 June

The spokesman of the State Department announced yesterday that the
United States will deliver a new consignment of arms to a

"government" that is devoid of any legitimacy and whose control
does not extend beyond few neighbourhoods in Mogadishu.

The spokesman also alluded, in a passing remark, to his "concerns"
on the role of Eritrea in Somalia.

These pronouncements do not contain novel or substantive elements.
Nonetheless, the government of Eritrea is obliged to repeat
well-known facts on the situation in Somalia in order to put the
record straight.

The crux of the problem underpinning the crisis in Somalia does
not, and has never revolved around, the issue of extremism or
non-extremist. It squarely revolves around the overarching issue
of the existence or non-existence of a sovereign Somali State.

Oversimplification of the problem and its wrong portrayal as a
contest between extremist and non-extremist forces is thus
neither sincere nor warranted by the facts on the ground.

To accept a fragmented Somalia as an accomplished fact and to
forcibly install, without the consent and choice of the Somali
people, "governments" who bear various labels and mantels, in the
neighbourhoods of "Mogadishu" and "Baidoa" cannot be legal by any
standards. These approaches will not also contribute to a
solution of the fundamental problem. As it is patently clear, no
power in the world is above the rule of law. As such, no one can
forcibly install a government of this nature in contravention of
international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, and as it is sadly attested by events in the past
years, this course of action is fraught with destructive
consequences.

These are the indelible facts. In the event, the government of
Eritrea has not recognized in the past "governments" imposed
through external interferences and that ran counter to the legal

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and political realities in Somalia. And, it shall not do so in the future. In our view, if the yardstick is legality and accepted legal norms, no other government can indulge in unwarranted recognition of such "governments".

The government and people of Eritrea have the right and obligation to extend their moral and political support to the people of Somalia on the basis of these standard legal principles; and, in order to advance the choice of the Somali people, the continued existence of a sovereign Somalia and to put an end the enormous suffering of the Somali people. To distort the stance of the people and government of Eritrea, and to use it as a pretext for illegal acts, will not only aggravate the crisis in Somalia but it will also be futile and counterproductive.

US misguided acts of intervention and supply of weapons have not, in the past years, advanced the cause of stability in Somalia. A repeat of those measures will not produce positive results but only aggravate and prolong the crisis.

Issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Asmara, 26 June 2009.

Description of Source: Asmara Shabait (Internet Version-WWW) in English – Internet site of the Eritrean Ministry of Information;
Internet: <http://www.shabait.com>

Djibouti accuses Eritrea of causing chaos in Somalia
AFP20090627950059 Dayniile online in Somali 27 Jun 09
Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 27 June
The president of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh, has expressed serious concerns about the deteriorating security situation in Somalia and said that if armed groups that are opposed to the government took control of the country, the country will be put in a difficult position which is almost impossible to reverse. The president of Djibouti also said if opposition groups took control of the country, the international community, would be left with no choice but to attack it.
President Ismail Omar Guelleh made the statement during the Independence Day celebrations. The president said foreign fighters, who are unable to return to their own countries and are currently in Somalia, are an impediment to the attainment of peace in the country.

"Somalia belongs to the Somalis who are Muslims and Muslims are not foreigners to each other. That is true. However, Muslim countries today do not share everything and they are entities that are from each other as received. These people have their

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own agendas and do not want the Somali civilians to have a functional government that restores peace. If they take control of Somalia, it will be attacked by the entire international community and it will be a point of no return," said President Guelleh. The president also cited the problems being caused by the groups
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which he called extremists in Iraq and Afghanistan as an example.

President Guelleh accused the Eritrean government of causing chaos in the wider Horn of Africa Region, and particularly in Somalia, saying that they give **military** support to the armed groups that are opposed to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG and are causing the fighting in the country. The Djibouti president called upon the international community to take a united stand against Eritrea.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Djibouti president urges international community to assist Somali government

AFP20090628950046 Djibouti Agence Djiboutienne d'Information (Internet Version-WWW) in French 27 Jun 09

Text of report by state-owned Djibouti news agency ADI website

The president of Djibouti is calling on the international community to come to the assistance of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government. President Guelleh on Saturday 27 June made a solemn call to the international community to come to the assistance of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government which is facing threat from Al-Shabab radical extremists.

Mr Ismail Omar Guelleh, who was speaking during a reception organized at the Djibouti presidential palace for the festivities of the 32nd national independence anniversary, expressed hope that the international community "will redouble its efforts and coordinate its actions and resources in the shortest time possible in order to check this threat which hangs over regional and international security".

For the Djibouti president, who is a tireless advocate for Somalia's peace process, "the transitional government is fighting for its survival faced with ever increasing deadly attacks by the Islamist insurgents who are determined to take power by force from the internationally recognized and legitimate Somalia

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government".

"We are deeply disturbed by the turn of events in the Somali capital and by the attacks against the government and the populations threatened by these radical armed groups benefiting, we know, from external help", he said.

"Our country has been a sympathetic witness to the suffering endured by Somalis for close to two decades now. We have helped, encouraged and supported all the peace processes and all the reconciliation conferences because we are convinced that the Somali conflict can only be solved by the Somalis" he added. Mr Guelleh today added that "the source of the Somali conflict is of another nature and another scale with ideologies and strategies totally opposed to the stability and sovereignty of Somalia".

For the Djibouti president, "it is now clearly established that foreign forces are manipulating the situation and are steadfastly seeking, through this conflict, to set the region ablaze and to make Somalia the base or nest for wild extremists".

"This foreign support does not want a Somalia that is at peace with itself and with its neighbours. They will continue to tirelessly harm any attempt for peace and stability in Somalia.

They also constitute a potential threat to the IGAD Inter Governmental Authority on Development region, to Africa and to the international community in general", he explained.

Description of Source: Djibouti Agence Djiboutienne d'Information (Internet Version-WWW) in French -- State-owned news agency; URL: www.adi.dj/

Kenya Says International Body Require To Intervene in Somalia To Restore Peace

AFP20090626558003 Nairobi Office of Public Communications in English 25 Jun 09

Statement issued by the Office of Public Communication of Kenya:

"Kenya Government Concerned About the Ongoing Situation in Somalia"

The Kenyan Government is closely monitoring the unfolding situation of our neighboring state of Somalia.

First, we would like to make it clear that The Government of Kenya views that the best way of dealing with the situation in Somalia is if it is handled under the auspices of IGAD Inter Governmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations.

Second, the Government of Kenya is taking appropriate measures to

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protect the interest of our country and to ensure that our border with Somalia is safe and our citizens and refugees near the border are given the necessary comfort.

The Kenyan Government will however, not send troops to Somalia but views this as a serious matter which requires intervention by the International community.

The Government of Kenya encourages those discussing the Somalia situation to abstain from speculation which may make the

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situation worse.

Description of Source: Nairobi Office of Public Communications in English -- website of the office of the Kenyan Government spokesperson; URL: <http://www.communication.go.ke/>

Kenya will not resort to **military** intervention in Somalia - vice-president

AFP20090626950037 Nairobi Capital FM Radio in English 26 Jun 09
Excerpt from report by Vice-presidential Press Service entitled "Kenya pushes for Somalia peace" by Kenyan privately-owned Capital FM web site on 26 June

Nairobi, Kenya, 26 June: Kenya will not resort to **military** intervention in the ongoing conflict in Somalia, Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka has said. Mr Musyoka said that Kenya would uphold the principal of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and would instead support the efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union to restore peace in the country that is experiencing upsurge in violent crisis.

He also urged the international community to urgently assist the people of Somalia through peaceful means to resolve the conflict and restore stability and hope in the war ravaged country.

"Kenya will protect its national interest when under threat from any quarter to guarantee security for its citizens," the VP said.

Saying peace in Somalia was crucial for Kenya, the vice-president appealed to leaders of the warring parties to take the interest of that country before their own. "Somalia must help us to assist them find a lasting solution to the ongoing conflicts," he stressed.

Mr Musyoka made the remarks on Thursday 25 June evening when he launched two publications of peace negotiations that followed the post-elections violence of 2007. The two "Waters Edge": Mediation

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of Violent Electoral Conflict in Kenya and "Mpatanishi": A Community based Mediation Handbook, by Peace and Development Network Trust (PeaceNet Kenya) are authored by the renowned Nairobi University Professor, Mukami Mwagiru.

PeaceNet Kenya is an umbrella organization of Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisations, religious organizations and individuals committed to encouraging peace building and promotion of justice and conflict resolution in Kenya.

Mr Musyoka commended PeaceNet Kenya for the role it played during the post- election violence, pointing out that it had brought together civil society organizations to address the crisis which resulted in the formation of Elections Violence Response Initiative.

He asked Kenyans to learn from the events of early last year in which over 1,300 people were killed and hundreds of thousands more displaced following the violent conflict that arose out of the 2007 disputed poll.

"I believe that Kenyans have learnt their bitter lesson and that they will not allow a repeat of that sad episode in our country's society," said Mr Musyoka.

Mr Musyoka urged Kenyans to shun hate speech and instead cultivate peace and harmony, particularly by redirecting energies of the youth towards positive engagements.

He said the implementation of Agenda Four of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation Act was on course and that soon the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission would be in place to help Kenyans in the healing process.

Mr Musyoka expressed confidence that the Grand Coalition Government - first in Africa - would survive the entire term and would deliver services to Kenyans.

He urged Kenyans and development partners to support efforts by the government in addressing the many challenges facing the nation and ignore the negative publicity by the media.

"The media should highlight more on matters affecting Kenyans including the challenges of the ravaging famine instead of misleading Kenyans and international community on the situation in the Grand Coalition," he added. Passage omitted

Description of Source: Nairobi Capital FM Radio in English – independent Nairobi radio operated by the Nation Media Group

Kenyan army on high alert over Somalia

AFP20090626950003 Nairobi Daily Nation online in English 26 Jun 09

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Excerpt from report by Dominic Wabala, Kenneth Ogosia, Oliver Mathenge, Abdullahi Jama and entitled "Somalia: Kenya army ready for attack" by Kenyan privately-owned newspaper Daily Nation website on 26 June; newspaper subheadings

Kenya's **military** is preparing to protect its borders and refugees seeking a safe haven in the country following threats by extremists in Somalia to attack Nairobi.

The extremists, who have been fighting the Somalia government, have threatened to attack if Kenya sends its army to support the

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beleaguered transitional government. But the Kenyan **military** has been on high alert to prevent and - if need be - respond to any foreign attack.

At the same time, MPs on Thursday 25 July asked the government to close the border with Somalia and stop the movement of people from the war-torn Horn of Africa nation into Kenya.

Drastic action

The Parliamentary Committee on National Security described the threats by extremists as serious. "The threats require drastic action from the government," said committee chairman Fred Kapondi, who is also the MP for Mt Elgon.

Mr Kapondi said people flocking into the country from Somalia posed a major security threat and should be blocked from entering Kenya. He said his committee and that of Foreign Affairs and Defence would jointly petition the government to take drastic action to protect its borders.

The Islamic militants, backed by foreign Al-Qa'idah fighters, have been battling to topple the embattled government of President Shaykh Sharif. Fifteen Somali MPs have so far fled to Kenya and their government has declared a state of emergency and called for urgent **military** support from the international community, including its neighbours.

Unconfirmed reports said a "Zulu alert" has been declared in some **military** installations. The alert means the county is in danger of attack and requires soldiers to be ready for action. There were also reports that some bases had cancelled leave and off days for their soldiers.

One soldier told the Nation that the chief of general Staff, Gen Jeremiah Kianga, addressed soldiers at Moi Airbase, Nairobi, shortly before he left for Rwanda and informed them of the new leave orders.

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On Thursday, there were reports in Garissa that Al-Shabab, the main militant group in Somalia, had threatened to blow up a crucial bridge that links northern Kenya with the rest of the country to prevent deployment of troops. A special police rapid response unit has since been sent to guard the bridge.

All vehicles and passengers are being thoroughly searched.

"Our security is on high alert," government spokesman Alfred Mutua said during the weekly briefing in Nairobi on Thursday. "Kenya will protect its citizens and the refugees near the border will be given the necessary comfort."

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is chaired by President Mwai Kibaki, is expected to meet on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Sirte, Libya, on Monday.

IGAD has taken a hard line on the extremists and Eritrea, which is supporting them.

Eritrea is mainly looking for a new theatre for its hostilities with Ethiopia, which in 2006 routed the Somalia Islamists. The two countries are technically in a state of war.

An IGAD meeting of ministers towards the end of May petitioned the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Eritrea, which is a member of IGAD.

Eritrea has denied US President Barack Obama a visa, though the administration is willing to engage the African state in dialogue.

In North Eastern Province, which borders Somalia, security forces were working to thwart possible infiltrations and cross-border movements by Islamist fighters. Most police stations and police posts across the barren frontier had been reinforced, according to police sources.

Police checks along the Mandera-Nairobi road have also been tightened. "We are carrying out strict security measures as we are on alert following what is going on in Somalia," Wajir police boss Julius Kitili said. "We have intensified and tightened patrols."

There are fewer Somalis crossing the border illegally into Wajir as a result of the tighter controls. "We are now arresting an average of three Somalis a day. They are mostly arraigned in court and repatriated to their country," said Mr Kitili.

The Kenya army has also increased its presence on the border, strangling the smuggling of sugar and other commodities from Somalia into Kenya.

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Further down the border, the flow of refugees into camps has increased. According to the UNHCR, an estimated 200 refugees are crossing into Kenya every day. There are 275,000 Somali refugees in Kenya. Passage omitted; Reuters report

Description of Source: Nairobi Daily Nation online in English -- Website of the independent newspaper with respected news coverage; Kenya's largest circulation newspaper; published by the Nation Media Group; URL: <http://www.nationaudio.com>

President Kibaki hints Kenya **may** be considering **military** intervention in Somalia

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AFP20090627950012 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 26 Jun 09

Excerpt from report by Kenyan privately-owned TV station KTN on 26 June

Presenter We begin with news of the troubled Horn of Africa region where President Mwai Kibaki today seems to hint that Kenya **may** be considering **military** intervention in Somalia.

Speaking in Naivasha, the president made it clear that Kenya would step up its roles in regional security in an effort to stabilize Somalia.

With the growing concern the Al-Shabab group **may** be close to taking Mogadishu, could this be the moment that Kenya sends its troops into Somalia?

Reporter The (?swath) of Al-Shabab mighty in Somalia continues to be felt internationally. With everyone jittery about the possibility of the Horn of Africa country becoming a horn for global terrorism, President Mwai Kibaki is now set to turn up the heat on the Al-Shabab.

Kibaki For our country to remain safe, we will need to diversify our approaches and get more involved in regional security initiatives to assist our neighbouring states especially Somalia.

Reporter Even though Kibaki's statement **may** be open to a myriad of interpretations, countries in the region are now calling for an urgent formation of a multi-national force to prop-up the Somali Transitional Government, and they wouldn't be lacking in arms.

Description of Source: Nairobi KTN Television in English -- independent Nairobi TV station with respected news coverage; majority of audience is in Nairobi

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Ethiopian forces conduct operations in central Somalia
SAP20090626950012 Mogadishu Radio Simba in Somali 1000 GMT 25 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Radio Simba on 25 June
Ethiopian forces currently Hiiraan Region central Somalia have stretched their presence in to new areas in the region. Soon after their arrival the Ethiopian forces have conducted security operations.

Residents in the region have expressed concern on the Ethiopian security operations, specially the search of public vehicles heading for southern parts of the country.

Reports say the Ethiopian forces have an intention to remain in the regions, while other reports link the supporters of Somali government of being behind the Ethiopian presence.

The residents are now fearing of fighting that can erupt between Ethiopian forces and insurgents.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Radio Simba in Somali

Ethiopian premier, Somali minister discuss security
AFP20090626950057 Addis Ababa ENA (Internet Version-WWW) in Amharic 26 Jun 09

Text of report by state-owned Ethiopian news agency ENA website
Prime Minister Meles Zenawi today in his office received and held talks with deputy prime minister and finance minister of Transitional Federal Government TFG of Somalia, Sharif Hasan. According to a high ranking official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who attended the meeting, the two leaders discussion mainly focused on the current general situation in Somalia. The two leaders' discussion mainly centred on how to reverse the current security situation in Somalia and Ethiopia's support to TFG.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Meles said that his country wants to assist the transitional government in training and capacity building sectors.

Ethiopia and the transitional government of Somalia also reached an agreement to reverse the danger posed by Al-Shabab in collaboration with the international community, the foreign affairs official said.

After the meeting, the deputy prime minister and finance minister of the Somalia transitional government, Sharif Hasan, said that his country wants to further enhance its bilateral relations with Ethiopia. He also said that his discussion with Prime Minister Meles had focused on the prevailing security problem in his

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country and on the support Ethiopia wants to give to his country.

Description of Source: Addis Ababa ENA (Internet Version-WWW) in Amharic -- state-owned news agency

Ethiopian PM says Somali Government not in immediate danger from opposition

AFP20090626950022 Daynille online in Somali 25 Jun 09

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Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Daynille website on 25 June
The Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, has said that he does not believe the Somali government is on the brink of collapse.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister yesterday held a press conference in Addis Ababa and said he does not believe armed groups opposed to the government have been successful in ousting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG. The Ethiopian Prime Minister said he holds a view different from that of the Speaker of the Somali Parliament who said that the TFG is facing heavy attacks from armed opposition groups who want to oust it adding that he does not believe the government is facing any immediate danger from the opposition.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi reiterated his support for the TFG and said his government has no plans to deploy its forces in Somalia at this time. He said the African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM troops and support given to the TFG forces is enough to guarantee the existence of the Federal Somali Government.

"We believe they should be supported, however, we should wait and see how the international community responds to the request by the TFG in which they appealed for the deployment of foreign forces in the country," said Meles Zenawi.

Last Saturday, the speaker of the Somali Parliament, Shaykh Adan Madobe appealed to the international community and particularly countries neighbouring Somalia to deploy their troops in Somalia. The speaker sent a direct appeal to Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti and Yemen.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Premier Says Ethiopia Likely To Send Troops To Tackle Instability in Somalia

AFP20090627564008 Paris Sudan Tribune in English 25 Jun 09

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Unattributed report: "Ethiopia Position Toward Somalia Could Change - Meles"

Ethiopia could send troops to Somalia if the situation there deteriorates but for the time being there is no need to intervene, said the Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

Somalia's speaker last week called on neighboring countries and international community to intervene militarily in Somalia to prop up the UN backed transitional federal government (TFG)

Transitional Federal Government, which has been facing a fierce **military** offensive since **May 7** carried out by the Islamists.

"Our reading of the situation in Somalia and in Mogadishu, is slightly different from the one of the speaker of the parliament that if there is no foreign **military** intervention within 24 hours, the TFG will collapse," Meles told reporters in a press conference held late Wednesday.

"The TFG is facing a very difficult situation with Al Shebab and Hizb Al-Islam militias supported by hundreds of jihadists, but we don't believe they will be toppled," he further said.

However he did not rule out sending troops to Somalia if the situation gets worse. "We want to wait and see how the international community as a whole responds and then see if there is any need to revisit our position on the matter," he said.

He also suggested not willing to expose his troops to danger and criticism at the same time.

"We do not want to find ourselves in a situation where a so-called Ethiopian horse would be trying to take the chestnut out of the fire on behalf of everybody else," Meles told a news conference late on Wednesday.

"And this horse being whipped by every idiot and his grandmother."

The Ethiopian Communications Minister, Bereket Simon, said on Saturday it would only intervene militarily in Somali to support the besieged transitional government if it has a clear international mandate.

Ethiopian troops invaded Somalia in 2006 to oust a government led by the Islamic courts from the capital in which new President Sheik Sharif Ahmed played a role. But Ethiopia besides fighting the Islamists groups had been blamed for hindering the international efforts to settle the conflict.

Also after being supported in the first stage of the operation by the US administration, Washington dropped its logistical and financial support to the Ethiopian troops there.

Description of Source: Paris Sudan Tribune website in English --

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Paris-based Sudanese newspaper; URL: <http://www.sudantribune.com>

Somalia: Uganda, AU Respond to Call for Aid Against Extremists
FEA20090626865237 - OSC Feature - International -- OSC Report 26
Jun 09

Somali President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad called for **military** aid and declared a state of emergency on 20 June in response to increasing Al-Shabaab violence.^a Uganda and the AU have said
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they support Sharif's appeal for **military** aid to combat Al-Shabaab,^b an east Africa-based Islamic extremist group with Al-Qa'ida ties.

Sharif declared a state of emergency on 20 June after Al-Shabaab allegedly assassinated three high-profile government officials, gained control of more areas in Mogadishu, and deployed more fighters.

(-ASTERISK-) A suicide bomber killed National Security Minister Umar Hashi Adan and former Somali Ambassador to Ethiopia Abdikarim Laqanyo on 18 June, independent Mogadishu-based Shabeelle Media Network reported. 1 Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack the same day, according to the pro-Islamist Sweden-based Dayniile Online. 2

(-ASTERISK-) Regional Police Commissioner of Mogadishu Ali Said Shaykh Hasan was killed by "insurgent" gunfire on 17 June, Shabeelle reported. 3

(-ASTERISK-) Al-Shabaab has reportedly expanded its control of areas of Mogadishu, according to independent Somalia-based Somaaljecel.com (20 June) 4 and pro-Puntland Government website Allpuntland.com based in Puntland (20 June). 5

(-ASTERISK-) Kismayo-based Al-Shabaab elements reportedly traveled to Mogadishu to provide "backup to their brothers engaged in the fighting," according to pro-Islamist insurgency Somali diaspora website Somalimirror (14 June). 6

In response to Sharif's plea for **military** assistance, Uganda, the largest contributor to the 4,300 strong AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), pledged to deploy additional troops and logistic support to AMISOM "to help the government cope with the deteriorating security situation in Somalia." The AU also expressed support for Somalia's request but has not said when it will deploy more troops.

(-ASTERISK-) Uganda's permanent secretary at the Foreign Ministry, James Mugume, said: "If IGAD the Intergovernmental Authority on

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Development, a regional political grouping asks us to send troops to Somalia, we will do so," according to reliable South African Press Agency (24 June). 7 Allpuntland.com 8 quoted a Ugandan Defense Ministry spokesman who reportedly said he had discussed increasing troop contributions with the AU "on many occasions" but had been "unable to do so because of financial and logistic issues." (24 June)

(-ASTERISK-) On 22 June, AU Commission Chairman Jean Ping said that the Somali Government "has the right to seek support from AU members states and the larger international community," according to AFP. 9 UN Security Council Resolution 1872 had previously extended AMISOM's mandate for seven months on 26 May until January 2010, and members are considering expanding its rules of engagement, possibly to include allowing peacekeepers broader scope to help Somali troops defend the government, according to the UNSC website. 10

(-ASTERISK-) Separately, on 23 June, AMISOM spokesman, Major Felix Kulayigye, told Uganda's leading privately owned Daily Monitor 11 that AMISOM plans to launch a "peace radio" station in Somalia to serve as a "mouthpiece of the Transitional Federal Government to bolster its campaign against the Islamist hardliners."

Other countries in the region have expressed concern but, so far, remain noncommittal on additional troop contributions to AMISOM. Neighboring Kenya encouraged others to assist Somalia but does not plan to deploy their own troops for now. Ethiopian officials stated that they may intervene if they feel directly threatened but cautioned that they would be reluctant to deploy troops unless granted permission under an international mandate.

(-ASTERISK-) On 22 June, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga said that "Kenya will not rush to provide **military** reinforcements to beef up security in the war-torn Somalia," according to independent Capital FM Radio. 12 He said the government would meet and "make an announcement on the issue soon." Odinga did, however, urge the AU, UN, EU, and the United States to deploy forces to Somalia during a 23 June news conference, according to the Kenyan Government spokesperson's website. 13

(-ASTERISK-) On 24 June, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles said Ethiopia would intervene in Somalia in a manner "proportional" to a threat posed against it but added: "We do not see the need for our army to enter Somalia if our national security is not threatened," according to state-run Ethiopian Television. 14

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Previously, on 21 June, Ethiopian Government spokesman Bereket Simon said that Ethiopia would not send troops to Somalia again without "an international mandate," according to the BBC. 15 a The UNSC condemned the recent increased fighting in Somalia and reiterated its "continued and full support to the Transitional Federal Government, its efforts to achieve peace, security, and reconciliation in Somalia" according to AFP on 19 June. For more information, see the 19 June OSC Transcription, Somalia: UN Security Council Condemns Suicide Bomb Attack, Increased Fighting (AFP20090620521004).

b For more information on the Somali Government's relationship with Al-Shabaab see the 12 June OSC Report, Somali Government Adopts Hard-Line Approach Toward Armed Opposition (AFP20090612430001), and the 29 May OSC Report, Somalia -- International Bodies, Neighbors Call For Sanctions (AFP20090529423001).

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c Founded in 1996 by East African countries, IGAD's mission is to promote food security, environmental protection, maintain peace and security, and foster economic cooperation and integration in the region, according to the IGAD website at www.igad.org/.

1 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090618950045 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 18 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somali minister killed in suicide attack (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

2 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090618950068 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 18 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somalia's Al-Shabab claims responsibility for attack in central region (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Dayniile online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist

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insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

3 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090617950015
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 17 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somalia: Top Mogadishu police official killed in fighting
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
-- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network
based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8
million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora;
and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers
working with international organizations; and the UN; site has
partnership with Radio France International; URL:
<http://www.shabelle.net>

4 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) FEA20090620863305
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 20 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somali Government Appeals for **Military** Aid as Militants Make
Gains (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somaaljecel.com in Somali -- Independent website
featuring news reports by Mogadishu-based reporter; intended
audience is Somalis in the Diaspora; URL:
<http://www.Somaaljecel.com>

5 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090620950034
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 20 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somali website says clashes in capital concentrated in
president's backyard (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AllPuntland.com in Somali
-- Pro-Puntland government website; URL:
<http://www.allpuntland.com>

6 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090615327002
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 14 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somalia: Kismayo Al-Shabaab Spokesman Visits Mogadishu, Brings
Extra Militia (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somalimirror in Somali --
News oriented pro-Islamist insurgency website; URL:
www.Somalimirror.com

7 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24
June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Uganda ready to back
Somali (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Description of Source: Johannesburg SAPA in
English -- Cooperative, nonprofit national news agency, South
African Press Association; URL: <http://www.sapa.org.za>

8 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090625950040

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(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24 June **2009** (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Uganda said ready to deploy additional troops in Somalia

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) AllPuntland.com in Somali -- Pro-Puntland

government website; URL: <http://www.allpuntland.com>

9 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090622532005

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 22 June **2009** (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Somalia: Further on Shaykh Ahmad Declares State of Emergency Due

to Violence (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

(U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Paris AFP (World Service) in English --

world news service of the independent French news agency Agence

France Presse

10 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 26

May 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Security Council

condemns renewed fighting in somalia, authorizes African, Union

peacekeeping force to maintain mandate until 31 january 2010

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Official Website of the United Nations,

www.un.org.

11 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090624950013

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24 June **2009** (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AU

mission to start radio station in Somali capital - Ugandan report

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Kampala Daily Monitor online in English --

Website of the independent daily owned by the Kenya-based Nation

Media Group; URL: <http://www.monitor.co.ug>

12 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090622950042

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 22 June **2009** (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Kenyan premier says country will not send troops to Somalia

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Nairobi Capital FM Radio in English --

independent Nairobi radio operated by the Nation Media Group

13 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090623581020

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 22 June **2009** (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Premier Urges Global Community To Resolve Somalia Crisis

'Urgently' (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

(U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Nairobi Office of Public Communications in

English -- website of the office of the Kenyan Government

spokesperson; URL: <http://www.communication.go.ke/>

14 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090624950075

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(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Ethiopia will intervene in Somalia if threatened (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Ethiopian Television (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Addis Ababa Ethiopian Television in Amharic -- nationwide, state-owned channel

15 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 21 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Ethiopia rejects Somali request (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) BBC -- the United Kingdom's public service broadcaster

OSC Report: Somalia -- Uganda, AU Respond to Call for Aid Against Extremists

AFP20090626048001 International -- OSC Report in English 26 Jun 09 Somali President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad called for **military** aid and declared a state of emergency on 20 June in response to increasing Al-Shabaab violence.^a Uganda and the AU have said they support Sharif's appeal for **military** aid to combat Al-Shabaab,^b an east Africa-based Islamic extremist group with Al-Qa'ida ties.

Sharif declared a state of emergency on 20 June after Al-Shabaab allegedly assassinated three high-profile government officials, gained control of more areas in Mogadishu, and deployed more fighters.

(-ASTERISK-) A suicide bomber killed National Security Minister Umar Hashi Adan and former Somali Ambassador to Ethiopia Abdikarim Laqanyo on 18 June, independent Mogadishu-based Shabeelle Media Network reported. 1 Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack the same day, according to the pro-Islamist Sweden-based Dayniile Online. 2

(-ASTERISK-) Regional Police Commissioner of Mogadishu Ali Said Shaykh Hasan was killed by "insurgent" gunfire on 17 June, Shabeelle reported. 3

(-ASTERISK-) Al-Shabaab has reportedly expanded its control of areas of Mogadishu, according to independent Somalia-based Somaaljecel.com (20 June) 4 and pro-Puntland Government website Allpuntland.com based in Puntland (20 June). 5

(-ASTERISK-) Kismayo-based Al-Shabaab elements reportedly traveled to Mogadishu to provide "backup to their brothers engaged in the fighting," according to pro-Islamist insurgency Somali diaspora website Somalimirror (14 June). 6

In response to Sharif's plea for **military** assistance, Uganda, the largest contributor to the 4,300 strong AU Mission in Somalia

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(AMISOM), pledged to deploy additional troops and logistic support to AMISOM "to help the government cope with the deteriorating security situation in Somalia." The AU also expressed support for Somalia's request but has not said when it will deploy more troops.

(-ASTERISK-) Uganda's permanent secretary at the Foreign Ministry, James Mugume, said: "If IGAD the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a regional political grouping asks us to send troops to Somalia, we will do so," according to reliable South African Press Agency (24 June). 7 Allpuntland.com 8 quoted a Ugandan Defense Ministry spokesman who reportedly said he had discussed increasing troop contributions with the AU "on many occasions" but had been "unable to do so because of financial and logistic issues." (24 June)

(-ASTERISK-) On 22 June, AU Commission Chairman Jean Ping said that the Somali Government "has the right to seek support from AU members states and the larger international community," according to AFP. 9 UN Security Council Resolution 1872 had previously extended AMISOM's mandate for seven months on 26 May until January 2010, and members are considering expanding its rules of engagement, possibly to include allowing peacekeepers broader scope to help Somali troops defend the government, according the UNSC website. 10

(-ASTERISK-) Separately, on 23 June, AMISOM spokesman, Major Felix Kulayigye, told Uganda's leading privately owned Daily Monitor 11 that AMISOM plans to launch a "peace radio" station in Somalia to serve as a "mouthpiece of the Transitional Federal Government to bolster its campaign against the Islamist hardliners."

Other countries in the region have expressed concern but, so far, remain noncommittal on additional troop contributions to AMISOM. Neighboring Kenya encouraged others to assist Somalia but does not plan to deploy their own troops for now. Ethiopian officials stated that they may intervene if they feel directly threatened but cautioned that they would be reluctant to deploy troops

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 19 *****/

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unless granted permission under an international mandate.

(-ASTERISK-) On 22 June, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga said that "Kenya will not rush to provide **military** reinforcements to beef up security in the war-torn Somalia," according to independent Capital FM Radio. 12 He said the government would

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meet and "make an announcement on the issue soon." Odinga did, however, urge the AU, UN, EU, and the United States to deploy forces to Somalia during a 23 June news conference, according to the Kenyan Government spokesperson's website. 13

(-ASTERISK-) On 24 June, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles said Ethiopia would intervene in Somalia in a manner "proportional" to a threat posed against it but added: "We do not see the need for our army to enter Somalia if our national security is not threatened," according to state-run Ethiopian Television. 14 Previously, on 21 June, Ethiopian Government spokesman Bereket Simon said that Ethiopia would not send troops to Somalia again without "an international mandate," according to the BBC. 15 a The UNSC condemned the recent increased fighting in Somalia and reiterated its "continued and full support to the Transitional Federal Government, its efforts to achieve peace, security, and reconciliation in Somalia" according to AFP on 19 June. For more information, see the 19 June OSC Transcription, Somalia: UN Security Council Condemns Suicide Bomb Attack, Increased Fighting (AFP20090620521004).

b For more information on the Somali Government's relationship with Al-Shabaab see the 12 June OSC Report, Somali Government Adopts Hard-Line Approach Toward Armed Opposition (AFP20090612430001), and the 29 May OSC Report, Somalia -- International Bodies, Neighbors Call For Sanctions (AFP20090529423001).

c Founded in 1996 by East African countries, IGAD's mission is to promote food security, environmental protection, maintain peace and security, and foster economic cooperation and integration in the region, according to the IGAD website at www.igad.org/.

1 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090618950045 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 18 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somali minister killed in suicide attack (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

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2 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090618950068
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 18 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somalia's Al-Shabab claims responsibility for attack in central
region (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news
oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist
insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

3 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090617950015
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 17 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somalia: Top Mogadishu police official killed in fighting
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
-- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network
based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8
million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora;
and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers
working with international organizations; and the UN; site has
partnership with Radio France International; URL:
<http://www.shabelle.net>

4 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) FEA20090620863305
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 20 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somali Government Appeals for **Military** Aid as Militants Make
Gains (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somaaljecel.com in Somali -- Independent website
featuring news reports by Mogadishu-based reporter; intended
audience is Somalis in the Diaspora; URL:
<http://www.Somaaljecel.com>

5 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090620950034
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 20 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somali website says clashes in capital concentrated in
president's backyard (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AllPuntland.com in Somali
-- Pro-Puntland government website; URL:
<http://www.allpuntland.com>

6 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090615327002
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 14 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Somalia: Kismayo Al-Shabaab Spokesman Visits Mogadishu, Brings
Extra Militia (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Somalimirror in Somali --
News oriented pro-Islamist insurgency website; URL:
www.Somalimirror.com

7 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24

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June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Uganda ready to back Somali (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Description of Source: Johannesburg SAPA in English -- Cooperative, nonprofit national news agency, South

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

African Press Association; URL: <http://www.sapa.org.za>

8 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090625950040

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Uganda said ready to deploy additional troops in Somalia

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) AllPuntland.com in Somali -- Pro-Puntland

government website; URL: <http://www.allpuntland.com>

9 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090622532005

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 22 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Somalia: Further on Shaykh Ahmad Declares State of Emergency Due to Violence (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

(U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Paris AFP (World Service) in English --

world news service of the independent French news agency Agence

France Presse

10 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 26

May 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Security Council

condemns renewed fighting in somalia, authorizes African Union

peacekeeping force to maintain mandate until 31 january 2010

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Official Website of the United Nations,

www.un.org.

11 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090624950013

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AU

mission to start radio station in Somali capital - Ugandan report

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Kampala Daily Monitor online in English --

Website of the independent daily owned by the Kenya-based Nation

Media Group; URL: <http://www.monitor.co.ug>

12 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090622950042

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 22 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

Kenyan premier says country will not send troops to Somalia

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Nairobi Capital FM Radio in English --

independent Nairobi radio operated by the Nation Media Group

13 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090623581020

(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 22 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)

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Premier Urges Global Community To Resolve Somalia Crisis
'Urgently' (-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
(U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) Nairobi Office of Public Communications in
English -- website of the office of the Kenyan Government
spokesperson; URL: <http://www.communication.go.ke/>

14 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-) AFP20090624950075
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 24 June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-)
Ethiopia will intervene in Somalia if threatened (-VERTICAL-BAR-)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Ethiopian Television (-VERTICAL-BAR-) (U)
(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Addis Ababa Ethiopian Television in Amharic --
nationwide, state-owned channel

15 OSC (-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-) 21
June 2009 (-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-) Ethiopia rejects
Somali request (-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-)(-VERTICAL-BAR-)
(U) (-VERTICAL-BAR-) BBC -- the United Kingdom's public service
broadcaster

Djibouti leader hailed for assisting fleeing Somali journalists
AFP20090627950019 Djibouti Agence Djiboutienne d'Information
(Internet Version-WWW) in French 25 Jun 09
Head of state Ismail Omar Guelleh welcomed today, at the end of
the day, a group of African journalists led by the chairman of
the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), Omar Faruk
Osman.

The journalists coming from east and central African countries,
concluded a conference on working conditions for African
journalists at the Kempinski Hotel on Thursday 25 June.
The conference focused on how the profession is exercised in
Africa, the working conditions, and ways and means of improving
the plight of journalists.

Journalists took the opportunity to express their esteem for the
head of state, for his concern during their stay in our country.
They further paid homage to the Djibouti president for the
precious help his government brought to his Somali brothers
threatened in their country, offering them refuge and assisting
them in Djibouti in particular.

They took the opportunity to finally thank the head of state for
all the facilities offered to the East African Journalists
Association (EAJA), as well as, the Somali Independent News
Agency (Somina).

Description of Source: Djibouti Agence Djiboutienne d'Information
(Internet Version-WWW) in French -- State-owned news agency; URL:
www.adi.dj/

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Xinhua 'Roundup': Kenya Blocks Cross-border Trade With Somalia, as Alert Heightened

CPP20090626968145 Beijing Xinhua in English 0728 GMT 26 Jun 09

Xinhua "Roundup" by Daniel Ooko : "Kenya Blocks Cross-border Trade With Somalia as Alert Heightened"

NAIROBI, June 26 (Xinhua) -- A recent string of victories by Al-Shabaab militias in central Somalia and the capital Mogadishu has alarmed the international community, prompting neighboring Kenya /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 21 *****/

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to heighten its cross-border patrols.

However, the Islamist insurgent group seems unmoved by Kenya's enhanced border patrols and threats from the international community to impose sanctions over areas under their control. Already Kenyan authorities have blocked cross-border trade from Somalia as the east African nation's "untested" military tightens its grip on the northern frontier.

A senior police chief confirmed on Friday the country's security forces in Northeastern province have been put on high alert to counter possible attacks from Somali militia.

The Kenya Army has also increased its presence on the border, strangling the smuggling of sugar and other commodities from Somalia into Kenya.

Regional analysts said the move has ruined trade at Somalia's Gedo region whose proceeds help to fuel Al-Shabaab rebellion. All police stations and police posts near the Somali border have been reinforced.

Sources within police and military told Xinhua on Friday that fresh deployments were sent on Thursday "and more are expected at the end of this week."

"The army and police officers have been sent from Nairobi and other areas. Contingents of police officers and army troops have been arriving there since morning," said a senior police chief who did not want to be named.

"Some left Nairobi on Thursday morning and there are those leaving today (Friday)," he said without saying the exact number of security officers sent to the common frontier.

Fighters from Al-Shabaab and Hezbul Islam, an allied faction, have been mounting attacks against forces loyal to President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, a moderate Islamist elected in January by the expanded Somali parliament following successful UN-brokered peace talks between the Somali government and a faction led by

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Sheikh Ahmed.

Al-Shabaab now effectively controls almost the entire south and central portions of Somalia except for few pockets run by Hezbul Islam, which also partly controls the central Somali town of Beledweyn, the last stronghold of pro-government forces in central Somalia.

In the latest onslaught, fighters managed to take large swathes of key positions in Mogadishu from government forces backed by a small contingent of AU troops.

However, government officials put a survival strategy in motion by mobilizing its forces and waging a counter-offensive on May 22, capturing nearly half of the territory it had lost in the previous days.

But the victory was short lived as the insurgents hit back, reclaiming the lost territory and positioning themselves close to government forces and AU peacekeepers.

"We are carrying out strict security measures as we are on the alert following what is going on in Somalia," Wajir police boss Julius Kitili said.

Kitili said police checks on roads have also been increased amid renewed Al-Shabaab's threats to annex North Eastern Province if Kenya dares sending troops to Somalia.

There are fewer Somalis crossing the border illegally into Wajir as a result of the tighter controls. "We are now arresting an average of three Somalis a day. They are mostly arraigned in court and repatriated to their country," said Kitili.

Police sources said they were put on alert following worsening Somalia crisis over the past few weeks.

The extremists, who have been fighting the Somalia government, have threatened to attack if Kenya sends its army to support the beleaguered transitional government.

But the Kenyan military has been on high alert to prevent and -- if need be -- respond to any foreign attack.

The development came as Kenyan lawmakers asked the government to close the border with Somalia and stop the movement of people from the war-torn Horn of Africa nation into Kenya.

"The threats require drastic action from the government," the Parliamentary Committee on National Security chairman Fred Kapondi told journalists late Thursday. Kapondi described the threats by extremists as serious

He said people flocking into the country from Somalia posed a major security threat and should be blocked from entering Kenya.

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He said his committee and that of Foreign Affairs and Defense would jointly petition the government to take drastic action to protect its borders.

The Daily Nation reported on Friday that Al-Shabaab, the main militant group in Somalia, had threatened to blow up a crucial bridge that links northern Kenya with the rest of the country to prevent deployment of troops.

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Citing unconfirmed reports, the newspaper said a "Zulu alert" has been declared in some Kenyan **military** installations.

The alert means the county is in danger of attack and requires soldiers to be ready for action. There were also reports that some bases had cancelled leave and off days for their soldiers.

A special police rapid response unit has since been sent to guard the bridge. Dozens of Somali lawmakers have so far fled to Kenya and their government has declared a state of emergency and called for urgent **military** support from the international community, including its neighbors.

Meanwhile, State Department admitted Thursday the U.S. is providing urgent **military** aid to Somalia's government to help it repel what is termed an "onslaught" by Islamist rebels.

The state department said the move followed an urgent call for help from the government, which has been fighting Islamist militias.

The Obama administration, which has given strong political support to the besieged Somali administration, is backing that up with an emergency **shipment** of weapons and ammunition help prevent a militant takeover of the chronically-unstable African state.

U.S. officials are also renewing their criticism of alleged Eritrean support for Somali extremists. The U.S. arms aid, first reported Thursday by the U.S. media, was confirmed by State Department spokesman Ian Kelly, who said the supplies were being conveyed to the TFG on an urgent basis in response to an appeal by the Mogadishu authorities.

"At the request of that government, the state department has helped to provide weapons and ammunition on an urgent basis," spokesman Kelly said.

He said the TFG faces an "onslaught" by extremist forces intent on destroying the U.N. sponsored Djibouti peace process for Somalia and spoiling efforts to bring peace and stability to the country

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through political reconciliation.

The insurgents control swathes of Somalia and US officials have been alarmed at their gains, analysts say. The U.S. would also provide logistical support for training Somali troops, officials said.

The arms would help the government "repel the onslaught of extremist forces which intent on... are spoiling efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia," he added.

Somalia's neighbors who are members of the Eastern Africa bloc, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), is expected to meet on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Sirte, Libya, on Monday.

The regional bloc, which brokered peace that culminated in the formation of the transitional government in the Horn of Africa nation, has taken a hard line on the extremists and Eritrea, which is supporting them.

Regional diplomats say Eritrea is mainly looking for a new theatre for its hostilities with Ethiopia, which in 2006 routed the Somalia Islamists. The two countries are technically in a state of war.

Many Somalis believe that Al-Shabaab is much closer to realizing its goal than ever before, as the government, despite its popular support, struggles to survive the determined onslaught on its last position and the international community, which prides itself on being the supporter of the legitimate government of Somalia, engages in perpetual debate.

Description of Source: Beijing Xinhua in English -- China's official news service for English-language audiences (New China News Agency)

Commentary urges Kenya to avoid **military** intervention in Somalia
AFP20090627950056 Nairobi The Friday Bulletin in English 26 Jun 09

Text of unattributed commentary entitled: "Somalia needs peace not war drums" published by Kenyan Muslim weekly news sheet The Friday Bulletin on 26 June

In the run up to the Ethiopian invasion of Somalia in 2006, analysts predicted that the invaders will be embroiled in a quagmire and the operation will further create a conducive climate of anarchy and disorder.

Of course, Ethiopia under the express backing of the US went ahead and deployed its **military** which ousted the Shaykh Sharif Ahmad-led Islamic Courts Union (ICU) government. In its short-lived six-month stint in power, the ICU was credited for

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restoring peace and order in much of Somalia after 16 years of inter-clan warfare. The only mistake which prompted its removal from power appeared to be the insistence to run the country through the Islamic system of government.

Ethiopia and its Western backers had argued that its mission was to prevent the emergence of an "Al-Qa'idah"-linked administration and also support the "legitimate" Transitional Federal Government TFG, a loose coalition of warlords loathed by the majority of Somalis for their role in the conflict.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 23 *****/

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In 1993, the US **military** suffered its major **military** humiliation since the Vietnam war when scores of its troops were killed in Somalia. This painful experience prevented the US to actively engage its troops in the country and it found Ethiopia a willing pawn in fulfilling its strategies in the region.

But as predicted, the Ethiopian two-year occupation was also met by active resistance from Somali fighters and early this year, they were forced to withdraw following a long-term guerrilla campaign which incurred heavy losses.

The Ethiopian legacy saw the emergence of various armed groups which included the Alliance for the Reliberation of Somalia (ARS), Al-Shabab, Hisb al-Islam, and scores of others, who sought to attain influence and control over the country. These groups also found a common enemy, the TFG government now ironically led by the same person who was demonized for being an Al-Qa'idah accomplice, Shaykh Sharif Ahmad.

With all the groups now fighting amongst themselves to assert their control of the capital Mogadishu, a human catastrophe followed with hundreds of people killed while more than 400,000 people have been forced out of the capital. With the twin threats of war and drought, the UN says Somalia is plunging into its worst humanitarian catastrophe.

But even with these alarming reports, sentiments echoing the 2006 invasion are now being replayed suggesting that another invasion might be on its way. More worrying is that these sentiments are mainly emanating from the Kenyan government. Recent comments from the Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula have pointed to a possible plan by Kenya to invade Somalia. This week, the prime minister, Raila Odinga, further gave credence to these reports when he called for foreign **military** intervention as a measure of support for Shaykh Sharif's weakening authority.

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Other pointers which include reinforcement of troops along the border with Somalia, joint **military** exercise with US troops and the recent budgetary allocation to the Defence Ministry of a whopping 44bn shillings about 593m dollars are increasing fears that our **military** might be sent to the combat zone in the volatile neighbouring country.

For most of the nearly two decades when Somalia fell into anarchy, Kenya has been playing a neutral role in the conflict as it embarked on pacification efforts to restore peace and stability in the troubled country. This was however, to change during the Ethiopian invasion when the government gave active support to the operation which in the end did not have a bearing in safeguarding the country's strategic interests.

While the government has a responsibility to safeguard its national interests, this should be done purely on the guidelines of putting the country's interests ahead rather than acting as proxies for other nations. Sending our troops to Somalia will not only put them at the risk of losing their lives but at the same time risk the conflict spilling over into the country.

With its advanced **military**, moving into Somalia would prove much easier for Kenyan troops but its presence will no doubt ignite a costly guerrilla warfare that will be catastrophic for the government which is still reeling from a slow economic growth. Before venturing further to solve other country's problem, it is paramount that the unfinished business of the post-election violence is addressed. Kenyans are yet to heal from this painful past and it will be inappropriate to subject them to another painful disastrous engagement.

The Al-Shabab and other armed groups could be given the worst of labels but at the same time, it should be understood that apart from enjoying considerable support from some of the local people, they also control large swathes of territories far bigger than that controlled by the so-called legitimate government. In seeking for a genuine solution for the conflict in Somalia, it is imperative to engage these groups in setting up a legitimate government rather than fighting them. No solution can be reached without a fair engagement with all sides in the conflict and as it has been proved in the past, a **military** option cannot and will never be a lasting solution to restore order and stability in Somalia.

It is time that those beating the war drums stop the war cries and pursue an alternative negotiated settlement which will best serve

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the interests of our country.

Description of Source: Nairobi The Friday Bulletin in English -- weekly news bulletin published by the Jamia Mosque in Nairobi, the largest mosque in Kenya.

Egyptian radio says ending conflict in Somalia 'priority'
GMP20090626950020 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio General Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Jun 09

A commentary on the Egyptian radio on 26 June by Mamduh Isma'il tackled the situation in Somalia.

Examining the current situation, the commentary said a conflict in the African country had negative results, such as piracy off the Somali coast, tension in the Horn of Africa region, and interference of some regional powers.

"The situation in Somalia needs international attention and cooperation among all regional and international parties to protect the legitimacy, prevent interference in the internal

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affairs of African countries, and to confront the coups that shake the political entity of the continent," the commentary said.

The commentary then examined the talks held recently in Cairo between Egyptian foreign minister and his Eritrean counterpart. It said the two ministers discussed the situation in Somalia and the Horn of Africa as well as the efforts exerted to achieve stability and restore security in Somalia.

The commentary said the Somali issue will be on top of the agenda of the African summit in Libya next week.

"What is going on in Somalia now poses a threat to the entire region so that the region would turn into an arena of terrorism. Therefore, stopping the conflict in Somalia as quickly as possible is a priority," the commentary concluded.

Description of Source: Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio General Service in Arabic -- government radio

Sudan: Commentary Discusses Kenya's Concern Over Emergency in Somalia

AFP20090628581011 Khartoum Sudan Vision Online in English 27 Jun 09

Commentary by Gitau Warigi: "Somalia's Trying Moments Worsen"
Somalia's interim government declaration of state of emergency comes at a time when it is looking very likely it will fall to Islamist insurgents unless urgent external intervention happens.

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Already, the insurgents have escalated their onslaught on the weak government by assassinating, through a suicide bomber, the Defence Minister, Omar Hashi Aden.

But the most dramatic development of the week was Kenya's clear warning that she would militarily invade if the situation deteriorates. As Somalia's immediate neighbour, Kenya has no desire to see jihadist cells mutate from Somalia nor to see the huge refugee burden she shoulders from there get unmanageable. It is difficult to say right now whether Kenya's invasion warning, delivered no less than by Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula, was intended to give the insurgents pause or whether a decision to actually move in has been made by Nairobi. At any rate, though, the Kenyan **military** is heavily patrolling the Kenyan border and will clearly not allow any fighting to spill over from Somalia.

The appeal for intervention was issued by the interim government itself. Predictably, it has provoked the anger of the Al-Shabab insurgents, who have boasted that they will react by attacking Kenyan and "the tall, glass buildings" of Nairobi. Kenya has dismissed the threats, but it is not taking any chances.

Whatever action Kenya takes - diplomatic or **military** - it is assured of support from the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

Description of Source: Khartoum Sudan Vision (Internet Version-WWW) in English -- daily published by Sudanese Ministry of Information; <http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com>

Somalia: UN Says Islamists, Government Fighting Killed 250 Civilians Since **May**
AFP20090626534008 Paris AFP (World Service) in English 1533 GMT 26 Jun 09

Geneva, June 26, **2009** (AFP) - Clashes between Islamist rebels and Somalia's government have killed some 250 civilians and forced more than 160,000 to flee their homes since last month, the UN refugee agency said on Friday.

The fighting "is leaving a trail of civilian casualties, destruction and renewed displacement," said William Spindler, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "According to records of local Somali hospitals, more than 250 civilians have been killed and at least 900 wounded since last month," he said.

"We estimate that since the start of the fighting in **May**, more than 160,000 people have been forced to leave their homes and seek shelter elsewhere within Somalia or in neighboring

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countries."

He said that some 26,000 were displaced from Mogadishu between June 19 and June 22 alone amid an Islamist offensive that has seen them take control of much of the country.

Large numbers of people have fled to neighbouring Kenya, where 38,000 new refugees have arrived since the start of the year, nearly all Somalis, according to the agency.

The Dadaab camp in Kenya, which the UNHCR calls the largest refugee complex in the world with more than 280,000 people, saw 4,104 arrivals in June.

Those fleeing the capital have also faced major difficulties in trying to leave, with most seeking rides on minibuses that charge 250 dollars (178 euros) or more for a fare in the impoverished country, according to the UNHCR.

A mother-of-six told aid workers "it took her nine days to reach Afmadow as the local transporters took her money and then left

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her and her children stranded along the route," according to the UNHCR.

Afmadow is some 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of Mogadishu.

"The deteriorating security situation has sharply reduced deliveries of desperately needed humanitarian aid to the displaced in and around Mogadishu," said Spindler.

Somalia's speaker last week made an urgent appeal for foreign **military** intervention to prop up the internationally backed government, which has been facing a fierce insurgent **military** offensive since **May 7**.

Description of Source: Paris AFP (World Service) in English -- world news service of the independent French news agency Agence France Presse

Somali deputy premier said seeking Ethiopian **military** aid

AFP20090627950044 AllPuntland.com in Somali 27 Jun 09

Text of report by Somali pro-Puntland government website on 27 June

Reports reaching us from Addis Ababa and Mogadishu indicate that the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG and Ethiopian government are discussing plans to redeploy Ethiopian troops back in the country in order to provide protection to the TFG against Islamist groups who are trying to oust it.

Sources at the Somali embassy in Addis Ababa have confirmed to us that the TFG deputy prime minister, who is also the minister of finance, travelled to Addis Ababa in an unannounced trip and is

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currently holding talks.

Sharif Hasan Shaykh Adan, the deputy prime minister of the TFG, has met senior officials of the Ethiopian **military** after chairing a recent cabinet meeting in Mogadishu in which ministers in the TFG agreed to seek the deployment of foreign troops, particularly Ethiopian forces, in the country.

Allpuntland tried making contacts with the offices of the Somali president and prime minister about talks with the Ethiopian **military**, but both declined to comment on the issue. Spokesmen at both offices said they do not have the permission to discuss the matter. Somalia's embassy in Ethiopia also officially declined to confirm the issue. However, a Somali diplomat at the embassy who refrained from being named confirmed that the TFG and Ethiopian **military** officials were discussing the deployment of Ethiopian troops in Somalia.

The TFG deputy prime minister and Ethiopian **military** officials have not yet finalized their agreement. However, the TFG has suggested that once both governments agree on the matter, it will then be tabled before the Federal Somali Parliament which will endorse the deployment of Ethiopian troops in the country.

The TFG resorted to the deployment of Ethiopian troops in the country because of the united opposition groups that are planning to overthrow it. Armed groups opposed to the TFG have said they will take stern measures against any foreign force that is deployed in Somalia, adding that they will engage them in clashes.

Two year ago, the Ethiopian prime minister, Meles Zenawi, deployed more than 5,000 of his troops in Somalia where they were engaged in fierce fighting by armed groups opposed to the then government.

It is not yet known whether the Ethiopian government will go ahead and redeploy its forces in Somalia, although some analysts have suggested that Ethiopia might just sent its forces in areas bordering Somalia and that it might not have the capability to once again redeploy its forces in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

Description of Source: AllPuntland.com in Somali -- Pro-Puntland government website; URL: <http://www.allpuntland.com>

Top rights group urges probe into 'abuses' by AU troops in Somalia

AFP20090627950052 Dayniile online in Somali 27 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 27 June

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Human Rights Watch has asked the African Union to form a committee to investigate human rights abuses committed by the African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM troops in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu.

The head of the Human Rights Watch office for Africa that is based in Nairobi has issued a statement in which she said that the AMISOM troops had committed abuses in the country, adding that it was inevitable that a committee to look into these violations must be formed.

The head of the Human Rights Watch office for Africa cited an example of the abuses carried out by AMISOM troops in Somalia, pointing out that in February, 15 Somali civilians were shot dead by AMISOM troops in Mogadishu after they troops started shooting wildly.

She added that African Union officials had refrained from speaking about the incident.

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The call by Human Rights Watch for investigations into the activities of the AMISOM troops in Somalia comes at a time leaders of African countries are expected to meet in Tripoli, Libya, on 13 July to discuss many issues among them the situation in Somalia.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

AU peacekeepers in Somalia slam rights body over claims of abuses

AFP20090628950049 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June Speaking to the media, Francis Okello, the commander of operations of the African Union peacekeepers in Somalia, distanced African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM troops from accusations of abuses by Human Rights Watch. The human rights body said AMISOM troops carry out human rights violations in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu.

The commander of operations for the African Union troops in Somalia said the report by the human rights watch is false and has no basis. The Commander said the report was written by individuals who do not have the facts about the peacekeeping mission that AMISOM troops in Somalia are involved in. Francis urged the human rights body to table any evidence it may have in

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connection with the accusations made against them or otherwise apologise for the inaccurate reports it has spread.

"AMISOM troops are in Somalia for the specific reason of peacekeeping and providing support to the Somali people. They assist vulnerable Somali civilians particularly in treating those who are wounded. The African Union and the AMISOM peacekeepers have been wronged by the statements made by the organization," said Francis Okello.

The commander of AMISOM troops in Somalia also said groups that are opposed to the attainment of peace in the country carry out attacks against their forces using landmines and other forms of direct attacks. He said AMISOM troop have a right to defend themselves if they are attacked.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Elders oppose deployment of additional foreign forces in Somalia
AFP20090628950025 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
27 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 27 June

Elders of the Mudulood clan have held a meeting in Mogadishu in which they issued a statement touching on some issues. The elders said they would fight any force that is deployed in Somalia. The elders said they are saddened by the current fighting in Mogadishu and have expressed concerns. They also condemned the call for the deployment of additional foreign forces in Somalia and demanded that they want to see a sincere implementation of Shari'ah law in the country. Shire Dalface, a member of the Mudulood clan called upon the international community to stop meddling in the Somali affairs. Shire said the implementation of foreign troops in Somalia at this time is unnecessary and that their clan would fight them if they were to be deployed in Somalia.

The statement issued by the Mudulood clan which was signed by the chief elder, Husayn Muhammad Abdi and other clan elders also said their clan does not have any problems with anyone in Somalia and that no one in particular wants to harm members. Elders of the Wacbudhan clan yesterday issued another statement after their meeting in which they said there is no need to deploy additional foreign troops in Somalia.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in

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Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Somalia: Warning leaflets dropped in central region
AFP20090626950017 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
26 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 26 June

Leaflets against businessmen who hail from Digil-Mirifle clan, currently living in Beled Weyne town, the provincial capital of Hiiraan Region central Somalia, have been dropped in the town. Digil-Mirifle clan is found in Bay and Bakool regions, south-western Somalia. The Islamic Courts administration of Hiiraan Region said its responsible to assure the security of these businessmen.

Unknown groups have dropped the leaflets in the town against the young men from Digil-Mirifle clan, who trade in the markets of
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Beled Weyne. Residents in the town have expressed concern over the leaflets, in which the businessmen have been ordered to leave within 24 hours.

The security chief of Beled Weyne administration, Shaykh Ibrahim Yusuf, has expressed his disappointment regarding the leaflets against young men from Digil-Mirifle clan.

He said that the security forces are chasing those behind the leaflets.

Local residents have said that the leaflets were undermining the security situation of the town.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Somali elders said concerned about leaflets warning traders in

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central region

AFP20090628950031 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
27 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network
website on 27 June

Traditional elders from Bay and Bakool Region south western
Somalia have expressed concern over leaflets distributed in
Beled Weyne central Somalia in which businessmen from Bay and
Bakool Region has been asked to leave.

Traditional elders, scholars and religious leaders in Baydhabo
have for the first time spoken on leaflets distributed in Beled
Weyne in which members of the Digil and Mirifle clans in the town
were threatened. Ma'alin Ali Barri who is the coordinator for
traditional elders in Bay and Bakool Region in Baydhabo said they
are saddened by the incident and added that it is shameful and
unbearable. The elders called upon clans residing in Beled Weyne
to apologise for the incident as soon as possible in order to
resolve the issue with members of the Digil and Mirifle clans who
are trading in Hiraan Region.

The statement by the traditional elders in Bay and Bakool Region
comes at a time when Members of the Federal Somali Parliament
from Hiraan Region have said that they will carry out
investigations in order to establish who is responsible for the
distribution of these leaflets in Beled Weyne in which
businessmen from Digil and Mirifle clans by Bay and Bakool Regions
were threatened and asked to leave the region.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in
Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television
network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more
than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country;
diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti;
policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN;
site has partnership with Radio France International; URL:
<http://www.shabelle.net>

Sudanese speaker holds talks with Somali parliamentary
delegation

AFP20090628950037 Khartoum Suna news agency (Internet Version-WWW)
in English 28 Jun 09

Text of report in English by state-owned Sudanese news agency Suna
website

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmad Ibrahim Al-Tahir, met
Sunday 28 June with the Somali parliamentary delegation led by

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the deputy speaker of the Somali Parliament, Muhammad Umar. Al-Tahir expressed Sudan support to the Somali people and government to surpass the current circumstances and to maintain stability in Somalia, indicating that the enemies of Somalia are the only beneficiaries of the war currently taking place in the country.

The National Assembly Speaker called for the unity of the people of Somalia to face the conspiracies that target its sovereignty and the integrity of its territories, adding that stability will enable Somalia to benefit from its resources.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Somali Delegation briefed Al-Tahir on the security situation in Somalia.

Description of Source: Khartoum Suna news agency (Internet Version-WWW) in English -- Sudanese news agency

Somali delegation in Sudan for talks with government officials

AFP20090628950021 Dayniile online in Somali 27 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 27 June

A delegation led by the Deputy Speaker of the Federal Somali Parliament, Professor Muhammad Umar Dalha, arrived in Khartoum a short while ago and were welcomed into the country by senior Sudanese officials.

The Somali delegation has been taken to a hotel in Bahri and is expected to attend a seminar which was organized by the Sudanese

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government. The delegation led by the Deputy speaker of the Federal Somali parliament comprises of 12 Members of Parliament and is expected to be in Sudan for a short time. The Somali community in Sudan have confirmed to us that so far, the Somali government delegation in Khartoum have not yet held any talks with officials in Sudan. There has been an increase in the number of trips made by Somali government officials to Sudan. As you are all aware, there has been several delegations from the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG that have in the recent past travelled to Sudan in order to hold talks with the government there about the deteriorating situation in Somalia. These delegations have also been working on maintaining closer ties between the two governments.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

UN Expresses Concern Over Somali Crisis

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AFP20090627558008 New York UN News Centre in English 26 Jun 09
Unattributed report: "Spiraling Violence Claims Hundreds of Lives
in Somalia (-ILLEGAL-CHARACTER-) UN Refugee Agency"

The United Nations refugee agency today voiced its grave concern over the escalating violence and worsening displacement crisis in the Somali capital, where local hospitals report that over 250 civilians have been killed and nearly 1,000 others wounded since fighting erupted last month.

Continued fighting, which broke out on 7 May in several parts of north-west Mogadishu between Government forces and the opposition Al-Shabaab and Hisb-ul-Islam, "is leaving a trail of civilian casualties, destruction and renewed displacement," William Spindler, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters in Geneva.

Since violence broke out last month, the agency estimates that over 160,000 people have been driven to other parts of Somalia or to neighbouring nations, with some 26,000 uprooted between 19 and 22 June alone.

Most of the internally displaced persons (IDPs), numbering nearly 50,000, have moved to safer areas within Mogadishu or to makeshift camps on the capital's outskirts. A further 45,000 people have fled towards the so-called Afgooye corridor 30 kilometres south-east of Mogadishu, joining 400,000 other IDPs who have been displaced since 2007.

Some of the newly displaced are families who had recently returned to the capital after a period of relative peace in the first quarter of this year, Mr. Spindler said.

"Many IDPs tell stories of hardship and suffering as they try to flee the embattled Somali capital," he added, noting that most people escaping the clashes are leaving on minibuses, whose drivers are charging \$250 or more, carrying 20 people on average.

According to UNHCR's local partners, a mother of six who had left Mogadishu said it took her nine days to reach Afmadow, 400 kilometres west of the capital, with transporters taking her money and leaving her family stranded along the route.

"The deteriorating security situation has sharply reduced deliveries of desperately needed humanitarian aid to the displaced in and around Mogadishu," the agency's spokesperson said, adding that UNHCR partners, which are providing emergency aid to IDPs, are facing growing security problems.

Neighbouring Kenya is seeing numbers of Somalis crossing the

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border increase. Since the start of the year, 38,000 new refugees - virtually all of them from Somalia - have arrived. The Dabaab camp, the largest in the world, is currently home to nearly 300,000 people, three times the number it is intended to hold. More than \$4 million has been allocated from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to alleviate overcrowding and assist Somali refugees at Kenyan camps, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said today. Last week, the Security Council voiced its concern at the situation in Somalia, reiterating its support for the Transitional Federal Government, its efforts to achieve peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia through the UN-facilitated Djibouti process, which aided the formation of the new government in February, as well as the creation of a newly-expanded Parliament and election of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. Description of Source: New York UN News Centre in English -- UN online news service; URL: <http://www.un.org/news/>

Somali envoy says situation 'very severe', calls for intervention

AFP20090626950013 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 26 Jun 09

Somali's Ambassador to Kenya Muhammad Ali Nur has said the situation in his country is "very severe" and has consequently appealed for help from the international community. Speaking during an interview with Kenya's privately-owned KTN TV at the Somali embassy in the capital, Nairobi, Nur said: "The situation is very severe. We have humanitarian crisis. People are dying daily. People are being displaced, going out of the

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115 cities.

"Al-Shabab group who are fighting against the government are not peace-loving people. They are fighting the government. They don't want peace. The government always welcomed Somali parties and groups to participate in the peace process. Al-Shabab actually - they are the ones who are really indiscriminately killing people. They are the ones responsible for the displacement of people and that is why we have appealed to the international community to enable countries to come and support us. We need nation building.

"The hospitals are very overwhelmed with injured people, kids especially, young women who are really injured by the shelling of

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these Al-Shabab groups who are shelling indiscriminately to civilian people".

Responding to a question as to whether a **military** intervention was now necessary, he remained evasive saying, "I think apart from that, Somalia needs capacity building. The Somali forces need to be helped. We have now AMISOM AU Mission to Somalia troops who are helping peacekeeping forces in Somalia, but on top of that I think the international community need to reassess, re-evaluate, re-help, help again, the Somali forces who will be able to bring peace and stability to Somalia".

He was asked whether the recent US arms **shipment** would be of any help. His response: "I think it will. I think the transitional federal government is a legitimate government and the US is a friendly country who came to help of the plea that we have asked to help us. Well, as we all know that Al-Shabab have been assisted by other countries who do not want peace. For example, Al-Shabab, have been getting assistance by weapons and ammunition from Eritrea, and that is a well-known fact. I think we welcome the assistance we are receiving from the USA."

He said his government had warned both Kenya and Ethiopia to beef up security along their borders with Somalia. "Some of the border sides in Somalia, for example in Kenya and Ethiopia, we have some Al-Shabab forces around that area. And we have told the Kenya government and the Ethiopian governments to beef up the borders so that foreign fighters or the Al-Shabab fighters will not enter into Kenya and destabilize Kenya".

Description of Source: Nairobi KTN Television in English — online(-AT-)ktnkenya.com, independent Nairobi TV station with respected news coverage; majority of audience is in Nairobi.

Somali religious group supports government, criticizes opposition for hostility

AFP20090628950024 Puntlandpost (Internet Version-WWW) in Somali 27 Jun 09

Text of report by Somali pro-Puntland government Puntlandpost website on 27 June

Al-Islah which is among religious groups in Somalia but is not among those taking part in the current fighting in the country today harshly criticized religious groups that are opposed to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG and are planning to overthrow it.

Al-Islah's Secretary General, Shaykh Usman Ibrahim Ahmad speaking to the media today said armed groups that are opposed to the TFG

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have refused to accept reconciliation and have restored to solving their grievances through violent means.

"Groups opposed to the government have refused to take part in dialogue and reconciliation and they have instead resorted to fighting in order to take power by force," said Shaykh Usman. The Al-Islah official called upon groups that are opposed to the TFG to stop the fighting and urged them to accept the reconciliation efforts that are being pursued by the government that was elected in Djibouti.

"The government has a responsibility to ensure security and also show groups that are opposed to it an acceptable means of reconciliation. It should also implement the Shari'ah law which it recently announced," said Shaykh Usman Ibrahim Ahmad. Al-Islah has on many occasions warned about any fighting between the TFG and groups that are opposed to it. They have called upon leaders in both the TFG and the armed opposition groups to engage in dialogue

Description of Source: Puntlandpost (Internet Version-WWW) in Somali -- Internet site; www.puntlandpost.com

Article Urges Global Community To Enable Somalia in Resolving Internal Conflicts

AFP20090627558003 Port Louis allAfrica.com in English 26 Jun 09

Article by Daniela Kroslak: "Somalia: Militant Islamists Try To Draw Kenya Into a Trap"

As Somalia's transitional government fights for its existence and the region's governments debate how to respond, guest columnist Daniela Kroslak argues strongly against another foreign **military** incursion. Instead what is needed, she writes, is more international investment in the political process aimed at re-orienting and broadening reconciliation efforts already under way.

Kenyan media have been abuzz in recent days with speculation that Nairobi and its allies in the region could be planning a **military** operation to prop up the fragile Transitional Federal Government

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(TFG) in Mogadishu, which is under siege from militant Islamist factions led by Al-Shabaab.

Official rhetoric against the Somali Islamists has been hardening: Nairobi increasingly fears the TFG could collapse unless the international community provides it with additional troops to hold its ground.

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The deadly suicide bombing in Beledweyne last week that killed the TFG's security minister, Omar Hashi - a key figure in the regime's **military** counter-offensive against Al-Shabaab - came as another shocking reminder of the group's capacity to undermine the interim government. In a sense, the TFG is fighting for its very survival. Resurgent militant Islamist groups are clearly bent on overthrowing the current regime. President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed has imposed a state of emergency to deal with these threats.

Despite the gravity of the current situation, the calls for foreign **military** intervention in Somalia are ill-advised. The TFG and its supporters have circulated dire warnings of a high number of foreign jihadi combatants in order to create panic about Somalia being on the verge of becoming another Afghanistan, the new den of international Al-Qaeda militants. This threat is supposed to also justify a foreign intervention.

Under Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, the former leader of the Islamic Courts Union who was elected president last February, the TFG has regained some legitimacy and holds potentially valuable keys to a political settlement. It is more representative of central and southern Somalia's populations and can probably articulate an Islamic vision for Somalia which will rally the support of its majority, contrary to the jihadists whose practice of Islam is foreign to the country.

Yet external **military** intervention is not the way forward.

Since the collapse of Siad Barre's regime in 1991, there have been several foreign incursions. Every single one of them exacerbated the conflict by increasing radicalisation and political polarisation. They reduced chances for political dialogue and helped militant groups to recruit. Al-Shabaab has grown in strength over the last two years largely because it used Ethiopia's intervention and the United States' bombing campaign to whip up nationalism and rally the clans around its banner.

A Kenyan intervention force - alone or as part of a force by the regional Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) - would only lead to the same result. In fact, Al-Shabaab, currently under siege politically, desperately wants such an intervention for those very reasons. The movement **may** be militarily triumphant, but its political message is increasingly challenged in south and central Somalia.

Militant Islamist factions in Somalia are taunting Kenya into a **military** intervention in the same way they taunted Ethiopia in

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2006. Kenya should be wary of falling into the same trap. Another possible threat which Kenya needs to weigh is the direct security implications stemming from such an intervention. Al-Shabaab's threat to strike Kenya, which could reasonably be dismissed as bravado, may become real. Al-Shabaab has honed its terror tactics and skills in recent years and is now by far the deadliest guerilla movement operating in the Horn.

Kenya should not get sucked into the Somalia conflict but concentrate on securing its borders and actively supporting its resolution.

What is needed today is more international investment in the political process aimed at re-orienting and broadening the United Nations-sponsored reconciliation efforts known as the "Djibouti process" to ensure as many militants and radicals as possible are reached and the necessary concessions made to ensure their buy-in.

Reaching out to moderates is not enough: peace will have to be made between Somalia's bitter enemies. This will be difficult, but it is not altogether impossible, as some suggest, and many channels of communications transit through Nairobi.

In the short run, rather than direct **military** intervention, efforts should concentrate on bolstering the TFG's **military** capacity through additional training, funding and the provision of new **military** equipment as part of an overall strategy to restore the balance of forces conducive to political negotiations.

The African Union peacekeeping mission should not become a direct party to the fighting but should be used only to secure strategic points essential to the reinforcement of the TFG. No foreign army should fight the Somalis' war; instead the TFG must be enabled to fight its own fight. This is what many Somali officials actually believe will be effective.

Nairobi's traditional pragmatist tendencies and the practice of using dialogue to resolve problems have not lost their currency. In fact, despite the belligerent tone of some official Somali declarations, provincial and local administration leaders are engaged with Al-Shabaab in a dialogue to resolve the problems of banditry, armed car-jacking and inter-clan tensions along Kenya's long border with Somalia, and they have effectively succeeded in managing the situation over the past year.

Now is not the time to beat the drums of a new regional invasion

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of Somalia but to invest in the political process that will provide an end to its decade long conflict.

Description of Source: Port Louis allAfrica.com in English -- allAfrica.com is "a multi-media content service provider, systems technology developer and the largest electronic distributor of African news and information worldwide;" URL: <http://allafrica.com>

Somali crisis adversely affects trade with Kenya
AFP20090626950036 Nairobi Daily Nation in English 26 Jun 09
Excerpt from report entitled "Border trade cut as Red Alert is raised" by Kenyan newspaper Daily Nation on 26 June
Cross-border trade from Somalia has been blocked as Kenyan **military** tightens its grip on the northern frontier. Security forces in Northeastern Province have been put on high alert to counter possible attacks from Somali militia.
The move has ruined trade at Somalia's Gedo Region whose proceeds help to fuel Al-Shabab rebellion.

Renewed threat

Police checks on roads have been increased amid renewed Al-Shabab threats to annex Northeastern Province if Kenya dares sending troops to Somalia.

Police sources say they were put on alert following worsening Somali crisis over the past two weeks. "We are carrying out strict security measures as we are on the alert following what is going on in Somalia," Wajir police boss Julius Kitili said yesterday. Passage omitted: Somali refugees - covered
Description of Source: Nairobi Daily Nation in English -- independent newspaper with respected news coverage; Kenya's largest circulation newspaper; published by the Nation Media Group

Islamists lift ban on food aid distribution in southern Somalia
AFP20090627950053 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali 27 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 27 June

Hisb al-Islam has given the WFP permission to distribute humanitarian aid in the form of food rations to residents of Gedo Region southern Somalia. Hisb al-Islam officials in Gedo Region have called upon the WFP to resume the distribution of food in the region after it was stopped a few weeks ago due to misunderstanding between the parties. The food was supposed to

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have been distributed by WFP in parts of Gedo Region where the residents are living in harsh living conditions.

Hisb al-Islam's head of internal security in Gedo Region, Muhammad Indhabur speaking to Shabelle dismissed recent reports which said that their group had blocked distribution of food aid which was desperately needed by the Gedo Region residents. The Hisb al-Islam official has said their group has now given the organization the greenlight to go ahead and distribute the food in Gedo Region. Indhabur urged the WFP to urgently distribute the food aid to the residents of Gedo Region who have been affected by prolonged drought and are suffering.

The Hisb al-Islam official said the reason for the misunderstanding between their group and WFP was because of the aid agencies that were contracted by the WFP to carry out the operations and the establishment of feeding centres which their administration was not aware of. The official added that they have since made concessions on the issue and moved on. The statement by the Hisb al-Islam official in which they gave the WFP the greenlight to distribute food aid in Gedo Region comes at time when the organization has been blocked from distributing food in the past few weeks.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Somali Islamist Militia Publicly Stone to Death Man Accused of Murder, Rape

AFP20090628532009 Paris AFP (World Service) in English 1153 GMT 28 Jun 09

Mogadishu, June 28, 2009 (AFP) - Masked Somali Islamist militiamen on Sunday stoned to death a man accused of rape and murder in front of a crowd of more than 1,000 people south of Mogadishu, officials and witnesses said.

An ad-hoc court set up by the hardline Shebab movement in the town of Wanlaweyn, 90 kilometres (55 miles) south the capital, found Mohamed Mohamoud Abdi guilty of raping and murdering a teenage girl.

"This man was accused of raping and killing an 18-year-old girl in

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May this year. The court found him guilty of the charges brought against him," Sheikh Mohamed Saleban, a local Shebab official, told AFP.

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"He was a married man, which is why the court sentenced him to be stoned to death," he added, explaining that a rape conviction only incurs flogging.

Abdullahi Husein, a resident of Wanlaweyn, said most of the town's population turned out to watch the lynching, where Shebab gunmen banned cameras and mobile phones.

"Ten masked men from the Shebab forces stoned him to death in front of everyone. They had dug a hole, buried him to his neck before throwing stones at him," he said.

On Thursday, Shebab forces in Mogadishu publicly amputated the right hand and left foot of four men accused of theft.

The four suspected robbers' ages were not immediately clear but witnesses said they looked very young and that some of them were most likely teenagers.

While most of the political players in Somalia recognise Islam as the main source of legislation, the Shebab advocate a very strict interpretation of Sharia.

An alliance including the Shebab and other hardline Islamists has since last year controlled and administered large parts of southern Somalia, where courts impose tough sentences that have been condemned by rights groups.

In October, a 13-year-old girl was stoned to death in public by around 50 men in the southern city of Kismayo. She was accused of adultery by local hardline Islamists after reporting that she had been raped by three men.

Amnesty International issued a statement condemning the Shebab -- who are engaged in a deadly **military** offensive against the fledgling administration of President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed -- over Thursday's sentences.

"These punishments amount to torture," said Tawanda Hondora, the London-based watchdog's Africa Deputy Director, in a statement.

Description of Source: Paris AFP (World Service) in English -- world news service of the independent French news agency Agence France Presse

Rape, murder suspect stoned by Al-Shabab in southern Somali town
AFP20090628950042 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

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Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Daynille website on 28 June
The Movement for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin in Wanle Weyne, Lower
Shabelle southern Somalia today publicly stoned to death a man
accused of rape and killing in the locality of Yaaqbar Weyne
which is near Wanle Weyne. The man is said to have raped and
killed a girl whose family lives in Yaaqbari Weyne.

Hundreds of the residents gathered at the venue of the execution
as the Kadhi judge dispensing Shariah law who sentenced the man
spoke on the crimes that he was being charged with. The suspect
named Muhammad Mahmud Abdi and was aged 27. The judge said the
man had raped an 18 year old girl in the locality of Yaaqbari
Weyne in the month of May and killed her afterwards. The Kadhi
said the man had admitted to the crimes and the court sentenced
him to death by stoning. The judge said the ruling was in line
with the Shariah law and the sentence carried out against the man
accused of killing and raping the 18 year-old Somali girl.

Few days ago, Al-Shabab carried out a cross amputation sentence
against four young men accused of robbery. The sentence was
carried out at the Maslah grounds in Mogadishu.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali – Swedish
based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali
Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Somali Islamists Al-Shabab arrest woman over murder in south
AFP20090627950058 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
27 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network
website on 27 June

The Al-Shabab mujahidin has arrested a woman who is reported to
have killed her former husband in Afgooye, Lower Shabelle
southern Somalia.

Reports reaching us from the Gurdan locality near Afgooye indicate
that the woman hacked her former husband to death yesterday
afternoon using a machete.

The conflict between the couple was over the collapse of their
marriage. After the woman killed her husband, residents of the
town immediately captured her and telephoned the Al-Shabab
mujahidin who were carrying out security operations in the area
at the time. The woman was taken to the police headquarters in
Wanle Weyne where she is being held.

The Al-Shabab mujahidin have said they will judge her according to
shari'ah law.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in

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Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country;

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diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

Somalia: MYM Decrees Islamic Punishment of Amputation on 4 Criminals in Mogadishu

AFP20090628302001 Jihadist Websites -- OSC Summary in Arabic 24 Jun 09

Somalia: MYM Decrees Islamic Punishment of Amputation on 4 Criminals in Mogadishu

On 24 June a forum participant posted to a jihadist website a statement issued by the Mujahidin Youth Movement MYM, entitled "MYM: Punishment for Banditry Carried Out Upon Four Youth Who Looted Muslims Money," in which the group stated that their Islamic Court found four youth guilty of banditry and said they were to be punished accordingly because they looted people's money in Mogadishu. The statement is attributed to the Sada Al-Jihad Media Center of the Global Islamic Media Front.

A translation of the statement follows:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

"Banditry Punishment Carried Out Upon Four Youth Who Looted Muslims' Money Using the Threat of Weapons in Mogadishu

"Praise be to God, Lord of the World, prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

"Almighty God said: 'The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter'. Koranic verse; Al-Ma'idah, 5:33.

"On Monday, 30 Jamadi al-Thani 1430, corresponding to 22 June 2009, the Islamic Court belonging to the Mujahidin Youth Movement MYM in the Islamic state of Banadir sentenced four youth with the banditry punishment. These youth used weapons against Muslims while looting neighborhoods. After following the incidents, Al-Hisbah Army was able to capture the criminals, and found their

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weapons and some of the items stolen from the vulnerable victims. After investigating the accused, they admitted to the crimes and pleaded guilty. The court sentenced them to the punishment for banditry, which is cutting off their hands and legs.

"The trial, which was held with strict security measures, was attended by a large number of Mogadishu residents and relatives of the defendants, in addition to senior officials from the movement. It is noted that Mogadishu was one of the areas most infested with highway bandits in broad daylight before the appearance of the mujahidin. Now, praise be to God, this phenomenon has started disappearing entirely, especially in the areas controlled by the mujahidin.

"O God, Revealer of the book, Disperser of the clouds, Defeater of the parties, defeat the Crusaders, and their apostate allies. O God, make them and their equipment easy booty for Muslims. O God, destroy them and shake them. O God, You are the one who helps us and the one who assists us, with Your power we move and by Your power we fight.

"God is Great.

"But honor belongs to Allah, and thus to His Messenger, and to the Believers; but of this the hypocrites are not aware' Partial Koranic verse; Al-Munafiqun 63:8.

"The Media Section of the Mujahidin Youth Movement-Al-Usra Army in Somalia

"Source: Sada al-Jihad Media Center

"Global Islamic Media Front"

Somalia: Syrian Paper Says 288 Somali Parliamentarians Flee Mogadishu Fighting

AFP20090626327001 Somalimirror in Somali 26 Jun 09

According to Tishrin newspaper published in Damascus, Syria, 288 Somali parliament members have left Mogadishu to escape the recurring violence in Somalia between the forces of Al-Shabaab and the Islamic Party on one side against the Transitional Federal Government TFG forces of Somalia.

The newspaper wrote that many of the fleeing parliamentarians seek exile in countries such Djibouti, Kenya, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States. It added that the Somali parliament, with 550 members, has not had a session since 25 April. A two-thirds majority is required for a session.

Abdullahi Haji Ali, a parliament member who fled to Kenya last week remarked: "I cannot function as a member of parliament for a

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regime that is unable to safeguard my personal security. No one is safe in Somalia."

The Syrian paper wrote: "Last week Shaykh Adan Madobe, the speaker of the parliament, urged all parliamentarians to return to Somalia. The Finance Ministry suspended the salaries of 144

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parliamentarians who are outside the country. Many parliament members are often seen lounging around and talking politics in hotel lobbies and restaurants in Nairobi, Kenya."

Description of Source: Somalimirror in Somali -- News oriented pro-Islamist insurgency website; URL: www.Somalimirror.com

Somalis said stranded in Sudan as government cracks down on illegal immigration

AFP20090628950048 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June Somali youth who are illegal immigrants in Sudan have expressed serious concerns about hindrances to illegal immigration between Sudan and Libya after the Sudanese government embarked on operations to crack down on illegal immigration.

A Somali youth who is among the illegal Somali immigrants in Sudan has said there are many Somali migrants who are stranded in Sudan and are living in harsh conditions. He said the Somali youth, among other things, are facing shortage of cash that would enable them to cross the long desert between Libya and Sudan. He also said the Sudanese police have arrested six human traffickers among them nationals of Sudan, Somalia and Libya and have received sentences between 3-6 years. He said the Sudanese police are also looking for other human traffickers in areas that are near the bus stops from where vehicles travelling in the desert between Libya and Sudan leave.

Efforts by the Sudanese government to curb illegal immigration intensified towards the end of last year when 23 Somali illegal immigrants died in the desert between Libya and Sudan and 80 wounded after the vehicle in which they were travelling at high speed overturned.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

Iranian Warship Prevents Pirates Hijacking Tanker in Gulf of Aden

IAP20090628950086 Tehran Iranian Labor News Agency in Persian 0930

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GMT 28 Jun 09

Tehran, 28 June: The timely action of a dispatched **warship** of the Islamic Republic of **Iran's Navy** has prevented an **Iranian** tanker from being hijacked in the **Gulf of Aden**.

During the past few days, pirates of the **Gulf of Aden** have attacked the **Iranian** tanker Hadi to hijack it. Following an emergency call by the tanker to the dispatched group of the Islamic Republic of **Iran's Navy**, the **warship** caught up with the tanker preventing the pirates from hijacking the tanker by scaring them away, ILNA reported.

According to the report, after Hadi tanker made the emergency call, a Saudi Arabian frigate also headed for the tanker speedily for help. However, the tanker had already been escorted by the **Iranian warship** before the Saudi frigate caught up with it.

A number of warships of the Islamic Republic of **Iran's Navy** have been dispatched to the **Gulf of Aden** over the past few months to establish the security for **Iranian** vessels, which commute regularly in the **Gulf of Aden**.

Description of Source: Tehran **Iranian** Labor News Agency in Persian -- ILNA (Khabargozari-ye Kar-e Iran) was formally launched on 24 February 2003. Managing Editor Mas'ud Heydari claims that ILNA does not receive any financial backing from any center and operates under the supervision of the Labor Higher Education Institute. The founding members of the news agency are the secretary-general of the House of Labor 'Alireza Mahjub, the head of the Labor Higher Education Institute Seyyed Abutorab Fazel of Qazvin Unit; the head of the Labor Higher Education Institute Afshin Habib of Tehran Unit.

Iranian Warships Foil Pirates' Plan For Hijacking Oil Tanker
IAP20090628950085 Tehran Fars News Agency in English 1420 GMT 28
Jun 09

TEHRAN (FNA)- The **Iranian Navy's** fleet of warships aborted a plot by a group of pirates for hijacking an **Iranian** oiler in the Gulf of Eden.

The pirates embarked on hijacking an **Iranian** oil tanker named 'Haadi' earlier this week, but minutes after the oiler sent an SOS message, an **Iranian** group of warships could find the tanker's whereabouts and save it a serious danger.

Pirates ran away from the scene after the **Iranian ships** showed serious preparedness for engagement.

Meanwhile, a US destroyer and a Saudi Arabian frigate also hastened to Haadi tanker but the **Iranian** fleet escorted the oiler

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out of the danger zone before their arrival.

Iran in recent months had sent **6** warships and logistic vessels to the **Gulf of Aden** and the surrounding **international waters** to safeguard **Iranian** trade cargo **ships** against piracy.

The move was in line with UN resolutions 1838 and 1846 and a request by the Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

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In addition to safeguarding the **Iranian ships** and **ships** that are in a way related to **Iran**, the **Iranian** warships would assist any other foreign **ship** that would seek assistance against the pirates, and help Somalia government in its combat against piracy.

According to UN Security Council resolutions, different countries can send their warships to the **Gulf of Aden** and coastal waters of Somalia against the pirates and even with prior notice to Somali government enter the territorial waters of that country in pursuit of Somali sea pirates.

So far a noticeable number of world countries have sent their warships to that region to safeguard their **ships** and confront the pirates.

Description of Source: Tehran Fars News Agency in English -- Privately owned online news agency which began operating in mid-November 2002. In December 2007, Hamid Reza Moqaddamfar replaced Mehdi Faza'eli as managing director and told Fars managers that the agency follows "Principle-ists" policies and its activities are in line with the Islamic Republic and the Vali-ye-Faqih; URL: <http://www.farsnews.com/>

Navy Thwarts Attempt To Hijack Iranian Oil Tanker
IAP20090628950081 Tehran Mehr News Agency in English 1405 GMT 28 Jun 09

TEHRAN, June 28 (MNA) -- The **Iranian Navy** has thwarted an attempt to hijack one of the countrys oil tankers in the **Gulf of Aden**.

In recent days, a group of Somali pirates carried out an offensive against the **Iranian** oil tanker Hadi, the **Navy** Public Relations Department announced on Sunday.

After the tanker contacted the **Iranian Navy**, a battleship was sent to the location and drove the pirates off.

A U.S. destroyer and a Saudi Arabian frigate also arrived at the location after the **Iranian Navy ship** began escorting the oil tanker.

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Despite the presence of international **navy** patrols, piracy has skyrocketed around Somalias 1900-mile (3060-kilometer) coastline and in the **Gulf of Aden** due to the fact that Somalia has had no effective central government for nearly 20 years.

Description of Source: Tehran Mehr News Agency in English -- Launched on 22 June 2003, its managing director Parviz Esma'ili stated that the news agency primarily aims at promoting the Islamic culture; URL: <http://www.mehmews.com>

Somali Pirates Free Belgian **Ship** After Ransom Payment; Amount Undisclosed

AFP20090628532007 Paris AFP (World Service) in English 1049 GMT 28 Jun 09

Brussels, June 28, 2009 (AFP) - Somali pirates have released a Belgian **ship** and its European and Filipino crew, hijacked 10 weeks ago, after a ransom was paid, Belgian authorities said Sunday, adding that the crew were in good health.

"At 5.43 (0345 GMT) this morning, the last hostage-taker finally left the **ship**," Jaak Raes, director general of the Belgian government's crisis centre, told a press conference.

"We can confirm that they (the crew) are all in good health, considering the circumstances," he added.

The amount of ransom paid was not disclosed.

The **ship**, the Pompei, was hijacked at dawn on April 18 about 150 kilometres (90 miles) north of the Seychelles and taken to the Somalia coast.

Its Dutch captain and crew of two Belgians, three Filipinos and four Croatians have since been held hostage.

A tape of the captain, Hendrik Toxopeus, confirming that the hijackers had left was played to the press conference.

"An initial ransom demand was made for eight million dollars.

After 68 days of negotiations, an agreement was reached on Wednesday, thanks to the mediation of a Somali intermediary, who went on board the **ship** several times," Interior Minister Guido De Padt said.

The ransom was paid by the Belgian owners of the Pompei, Jan De Nui, Deme and Herbosch-Kiere. The amount was not revealed.

It was dropped by parachute on Saturday afternoon by a plane near the **ship**, which was at anchor off Hobyo, 34 kilometres northeast of the Somali coastal town of Harardhere, Belgian officials said.

Because of the weather conditions, the hijackers were not able to leave the **ship** until Saturday night.

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In the coming days, the Pompei will put into a safe port in the region, escorted by a Greek **ship** in the European Union's anti-piracy Operation, Atalanta, Defence Minister Pieter De Crem said.

He added that **military** intervention to free the **ship** had "been judged inopportune."

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The news of Pompei's release was broken Sunday by Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy.

"The government was informed of the release of the Pompei and its crew," he said in a statement. "We were also informed that the entire crew is in good health."

"Our thoughts are with the Belgian, Dutch, Croatian and Filipino families of the crew who had to endure difficult moments since Saturday April 18," he added.

At the time of its capture the **ship**, which specialises in the transportation and laying of rocks, was on its way to South Africa from Dubai, where it had taken part in the construction of artificial islands.

Belgian officials said they had opened an enquiry and would send a team of investigators to look for fingerprints or DNA traces left by the pirates on the vessel.

"There is a chance" of finding them, Belgian state prosecutor Johan Delmulle said, adding that the hostage-takers were liable to up to 30 years in prison if caught and convicted.

He said that the Pompei, which was flying the Belgian flag and in **international waters** when it was attacked, "should be considered part of Belgian territory."

Description of Source: Paris AFP (World Service) in English -- world news service of the independent French news agency Agence France Presse

Prime Minister Says Somali Pirates Free Belgian **Ship**, Crew Seized 18 Apr

AFP20090628532002 Paris AFP (World Service) in English 0709 GMT 28 Jun 09

Brussels, June 28, 2009 (AFP) - Somali pirates have released a Belgian **ship**, the Pompei, and its European and Asian crew two months after their capture, the Belgian prime minister said Sunday.

"The government was informed of the release of the Pompei **ship** and

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its crew," Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy said in a statement. "We were also informed that the entire crew is in good health."

No detail was given on the circumstances of the **ship's** release.

The crew included a Dutch captain, two Belgians, three Filipinos and four Croats.

The Pompei was hijacked on April 18 around 150 kilometres north of the Seychelles.

Description of Source: Paris AFP (World Service) in English -- world news service of the independent French news agency Agence France Presse

Ransom paid for release of Belgian **ship's** crew by Somali pirates
EUP20090628950015 Brussels RTBF La Premiere Radio in French 1300
GMT 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Belgian independent public station RTBF Radio 1, on 28 June

The crew of the Pompei Belgian **ship** will be repatriated by plane in the coming days. There were two Belgians on board. They spent more than two months in the hands of Somali pirates. The hijackers received a ransom, but the amount has not been announced.

The Belgian **ship** is currently en route for a port which has been made secure.

The French news agency AFP reported earlier that the **ship** was hijacked on 18 April some 150 km north of the Seychelles. It said Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy today announced the release of its 10 crew members: a Dutch commander, two Belgians, three Filipinos and four Croatians. Van Rompuy said they were all well.

Description of Source: Brussels RTBF La Premiere Radio in French

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Hopes Raised Regarding Release of Belgian **Ship** Hijacked by Somali Pirates

EUP20090625024004 Brussels lesoir.be in French 25 Jun 09
Report by Jean-Francois Munster and Alain Lallemand: "A Free Crew by the End of June?"

Ever since the Somali pirates made a unilateral declaration on Tuesday 23 June 2009, a breeze of optimism has been blowing from Mogadishu to Brussels and several Belgian ministries are bustling. "The issue is wrapped up, an agreement was reached on a ransom of \$2.8 million," declared a certain Mohamed Ali (sic), who represents the pirates on board the Pompei and who was cited by the Reuters press agency. A down-to-earth reaction from the

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Belgians: "'Mohamed Ali' can say what he wants, we are waiting for something concrete," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Bart Ouvry, temporizes in Brussels. While admitting that, yes, a message was being prepared this Wednesday 24 June 2009 in the event the Belgian vessel was released with 10 crewmembers on board. The crisis center and Prime Minister Van Rompuy could make statements as soon as the release is

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confirmed.

Released Sunday at the Earliest.

"The hostages will be released Sunday evening (28 June) at the earliest," tempered Marc Stordiau, president of the European Association of Dredging Companies EUDA. "We must be cautious. This Wednesday, it is premature to speak of a release; false hopes were already raised on two occasions. We do not want to play unnecessarily with the families' nerves." EUDA will not make any comment until it is 100(-PERCENT-) certain that the **ship** is free and it points out that the information provided by the pirates is only binding on them: EUDA has received orders not to refer to any ransom.

First verification: does the name "Mohamed Ali" evoke anything at all in Somali pirate circles? Yes, in November 2008, a certain Ali Mohamed Ali, nicknamed "Mr. Ali" intervened in the release, in exchange for a ransom, of a Danish **ship**. This Mohamed Ali, who is hired by the pirates, is reliable, speaks perfect English and left the Danish **ship**-owner, who had to deal with him, with an entirely positive recollection. The Danish **ship**-owner contacted Mr. Ali again this Wednesday on behalf of Le Soir. Alas, this particular Somali was quietly at home in Hargeisa, in Somaliland. So, he is not the one who is negotiating for the Pompei.

However, there is another man on the African continent who has indirect knowledge of this matter: "It is very possible that the release is imminent," we are told by Andrew Mwangura, an observer based in Mombassa who tries to follow, on behalf of the SAP aid to sailors, the hostage taking on the Indian Ocean. "Negotiations are proceeding very well but they have a fuel problem that could delay the release."

Meaning?

"The **ship** has wandered off course and since the start of the hostage taking situation; its machines have been turned on for communications, cooking, etc. Also, some **ships** only have enough

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fuel for a given voyage, not for the return trip. It seems that the Pompei could have a fuel problem once it is released." In other words: the Pompei is still not out of Somali waters. What is certain is that in the event of a release, the Belgian Ministry of Defense is also on deck. By proxy, the fleet serving with operation Atalante (the European **military** response to the acts of piracy) should provide protection for the Pompei as soon as the Belgian vessel reaches **international waters**. A Belgian army team could be posted on board, according to the defense staff.

As a reminder, Belgium will assume its part in Operation Atalante: the frigate Louise-Marie is leaving Zeebrugge on 17 August to take effective position in the European contingent on 1 September 2009.

Description of Source: Brussels lesoir.be in French -- Website of leading centrist daily; URL: <http://www.lesoir.be>

Italy hands over nine pirates to Kenya
AFP20090626950038 Nairobi Nation Television in English 1000 GMT 26 Jun 09

Text of report by Kenyan privately-owned TV station NTV on 26 June
Nine suspected Somali pirates were yesterday evening handed over to Kenyan authorities by Italian **navy** officers at the port of Mombasa.

The suspects were arrested by Italian naval officers at the **Gulf of Aden** last month.

Reporter Coast Provincial Police Officer in charge of operations Patrick Lumumba was at the port to receive the suspected pirates.

The suspected pirates attempted to hijack a **ship** heading to Israel from Abu Dhabi. The vessel which the suspects were using was destroyed, hence it could not be loaded into the naval **ship**.

The officer attributed delay in releasing the suspects from the **ship** from the time it docked (?at the) port of the Mombasa on Tuesday due to documentation process.

The number of suspected pirates currently undergoing trial in the country is 98, and it is expected to rise to 107, after those brought yesterday are arraigned in court today.

Description of Source: Nairobi Nation Television in English

Iran navy to fight pirates off Yemen - agency
IAP20090627950061 Tehran Press TV Online in English 1008 GMT 27 Jun 09

Text of report in English by **Iranian** news channel Press TV website

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on 27 June

Tehran and Sana'a have agreed to confront piracy off the coast of Yemen and the **Gulf of Aden**, says the **Iranian** foreign minister.

"Yemen has agreed to permit **Iranian** warships to dock at Yemen's port (of Aden) to provide security to **Iranian** commercial ships in the region," IRINN quoted Manuchehr Mottaki as saying.

The deal was reached during a meeting between Mottaki and Yemeni

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President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a.

The agreement came a month after **Iran** announced that **six Iranian** vessels were joining the international efforts against piracy off the coast of **Somalia**.

"**Six** warships and support vessels have been dispatched to the **Gulf of Aden** region and **international waters**," said commander of the **Iranian Navy** Real-Admiral Habibollah Sayyari.

Over the past two years, more than 220 **ships** have fallen victims to pirates based in the lawless **Somalia**. The pirates have obtained tens of millions of dollars in ransom payments from **ship-owners**.

Iran's first deployment came after **Somali** pirates hijacked the Hong Kong-flagged cargo **ship**, Delight, operated by the Islamic Republic of **Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL)** in the **Gulf of Aden** in November 2008.

The latest incident involving an **Iranian ship** came in March 2009 when pirates attacked an **Iranian** vessel for what they called "illegal fishing" in the northern semi-autonomous region of **Puntland**.

The **Gulf of Aden**, which links the Indian Ocean with the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea, is the quickest route for more than 20,000 vessels going from Asia to Europe and the Americas every year.

The pirates in the area usually try to board and take over the **ships** and hold their crews hostage for huge ransoms from **ship-owners**.

Description of Source: Tehran Press TV Online in English – Official website of Tehran Press TV, **Iranian** state-run TV's rolling news channel, with news in English, Persian, and Arabic and live webcast of the TV in English; URL:

<http://www.presstv.ir/>

Shipping Executive Details Pirate Hijacking off Somalia
JPP20090627969014 Tokyo Asahi Shimbun Online in English 0216 GMT

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27 Jun 09

The ransom demand was "outrageous," but the targeted company could not ignore the pleas for help from the skipper of a **ship** captured by increasingly agitated pirates off Somalia.

The tension-filled nightmare, one of **six** hijackings of Japanese-affiliated **ships** in the year from autumn 2007 off the coast of Somalia, ended after the company paid the pirates.

"We weren't sure whether paying ransom would resolve the ordeal, but we decided that we couldn't put the crew's lives at risk," an executive of the **shipping** company targeted in the attack said. The Asahi Shimbun received details of the hijacking on condition that the company's name, the date of the incident, the ransom amount paid and other details not be revealed.

The **shipping** company first learned that something was wrong when it received a call from a naval rescue team of a Scandinavian country saying it had "intercepted an emergency signal from one of your **ships**."

The **ship**, manned by a crew of several dozen Asians, was traveling through waters off Somalia en route from Southeast Asia to Europe.

After company officials could not contact the **ship** by phone, they worked with a crisis management consultant and a lawyer to deal with the situation.

The company later learned that about eight pirates in two small **boats** stormed the stern of the larger merchant vessel using ladders. Armed with guns, the pirates rounded up the crew.

A U.S. **Navy** official told the company that a patrol had spotted the **ship** with two small **boats** tied to the stern.

When the U.S. official asked for consent to attack the pirates, the executive panicked.

"Don't do it. The **ship** is carrying dangerous goods and an attack could trigger a disaster," he said he told the **Navy** official.

After forcing the **ship** to anchor near Mogadishu, the pirates contacted the company via satellite phone and demanded "an outrageous sum," the executive said.

The skipper said he was being held at gunpoint and pleaded for the company to comply with the captors' demands. "If you don't do it soon, they're going to kill us," the skipper groaned.

The ransom negotiations dragged on, and the **ship's** fuel was running low. The impatient pirates agreed on a lower ransom amount for the release of the crew.

A foreign man representing the company and carrying a briefcase

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filled with U.S. currency looked around casually at the crowds near the designated handoff site in a city in northern Africa, the company said.

Soon, another foreign man started walking toward him. As the two passed each other, the briefcase changed hands, the company
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said.

The crew members were later released unharmed.

According to the Japanese **Shipowners'** Association, **six ships** related to Japanese companies have been taken over by pirates since November 2007.

A senior official at a major **shipping** company said the fact that the crews were released in all **six** incidents "means that the ransom was paid."

However, those involved in such hostage incidents usually do not acknowledge ransom payments for fear that they could be targeted again.

Pirates had previously targeted mainly the cargo of the **ships**, but they are increasingly demanding ransom payments.

The standard amount of ransom paid has been estimated between \$1 million and \$2 million (96 million yen and 190 million yen).

Another **shipping** industry source said that when the costs for negotiations and other factors are included, the targeted companies could lose "as much as 1 billion yen."

In recent cases, companies have made the ransom payments by dropping cases filled with cash from a helicopter using parachutes normally used for emergency food supplies in disasters at sea.

The scourge of piracy off Somalia has prompted international efforts to protect commercial vessels in the area. Japan has dispatched destroyers for that purpose.

Shipping Executive Details Hostage Ordeal Involving Pirates
JPP20090626969050 Tokyo Asahi Shimbun Online in English 0605 GMT
26 Jun 09

The ransom demand was "outrageous," but the targeted company could not ignore the pleas for help from the skipper of a **ship** captured by increasingly agitated pirates off Somalia.

The tension-filled nightmare, one of **six** hijackings of Japanese-affiliated **ships** in the year from autumn 2007 off the coast of Somalia, ended after the company made the ransom handover.

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"We weren't sure whether paying ransom would solve the ordeal, but we decided that we couldn't put the crew's lives at risk," an executive of the **shipping** company targeted in the attack said. The Asahi Shimbun received details of the hijacking on condition that the company's name, the date of the incident, the ransom amount paid and other details not be revealed.

The **shipping** company first learned that something was wrong when it received a call from a naval rescue team of a Scandinavian country saying it had "intercepted an emergency signal from one of your **ships**."

The **ship**, manned by a crew of several dozen Asians, was traveling through waters off Somalia en route from Southeast Asia to Europe.

After company officials could not contact the **ship** by phone, they worked with a crisis management consultant and a lawyer to deal with the situation.

The company later learned that about eight pirates in two small **boats** stormed the stern of the larger merchant vessel using ladders. Armed with guns, the pirates rounded up the crew.

A U.S. **Navy** official told the company that a patrol had spotted the **ship** with two small **boats** tied to the stern.

When the U.S. official asked for consent to attack the pirates, the executive panicked.

"Don't do it. The **ship** is carrying dangerous goods and an attack could trigger a disaster," he said he told the **Navy** official.

After forcing the **ship** to dock at Mogadishu, the pirates contacted the company via satellite phone and demanded "an outrageous sum," the executive said.

The skipper said he was being held at gunpoint and pleaded for the company to comply with the captors' demands. "If you don't do it soon, they're going to kill us," the skipper groaned.

The ransom negotiations dragged on, and the **ship's** fuel was running low. The impatient pirates agreed on a lower ransom amount for the release of the crew.

A foreign man representing the company and carrying a briefcase filled with U.S. currency looked around casually at the crowds near the designated handoff site in a city in northern Africa, the company said.

Soon, another foreign man started walking toward him. As the two passed each other, the briefcase changed hands, the company said.

The crew members were later released unharmed.

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According to the Japanese **Shipowners'** Association, **six ships** related to Japanese companies have been taken over by pirates since November 2007.

A senior official at a major **shipping** company said the fact that the crews were released in all **six** incidents "means that ransom was paid."

However, those involved in such hostage incidents usually do not acknowledge ransom payments for fear that they could be targeted again.

Pirates had previously targeted the cargo of the **ships**, but they are increasingly demanding ransom payments.

The standard amount of ransom paid has been estimated between \$1 million and \$2 million (96 million yen and 190 million yen).

Another **shipping** industry source said when the costs for negotiations and other factors are included, the targeted companies could lose "as much as 1 billion yen."

In recent cases, companies have made the ransom payments by dropping cases filled with cash from a helicopter using parachutes normally used for emergency food supplies in disasters at sea.

The scourge of piracy off Somalia has prompted international efforts to protect commercial vessels in the area. Japan has dispatched destroyers for that purpose.

Pacific Fleet Sending New Force of **Ships** on Anti-pirate Mission
CEP20090626964028 Moscow Interfax in English 0658 GMT 26 Jun 09
VLADIVOSTOK. June 26 (Interfax-AVN) - The Russian Pacific Fleet will send a new force of **ships** from Vladivostok to the **Gulf of Aden** to protect **shipping** routes from pirate attacks. The force is comprised of the large anti-submarine warfare **ship** Admiral Tributs, the tanker Boris Butoma and the tugboat MB-99, the fleet reported.

The tanker Izhora and the tugboat MB-37 will return to Vladivostok from a journey to the coast of Somalia on June 28, the fleet also said. These two **ships** together with the large submarine chaser Admiral Panteleyev and the tanker Irkut were on a security mission off the African coast between April and early June. The Admiral Panteleyev and the Irkut will come back to their home base on July 1. On their way home, they visited Port Danang in Vietnam, the fleet said.

The next group of **ships** will be a third force to be dispatched to

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the **Gulf of Aden** to protect the area this year. The first one was comprised of the large antisubmarine warfare **ship** Admiral Vinogradov, the tugboat Foty Krylov and the tankers Pechenga and Boris Butoma. It was replaced by **ships** led by the submarine chaser Admiral Panteleyev.

Pacific Fleet Ships Back To Base From Anti-piracy Mission In Gulf Of Aden

CEP20090628950048 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 28 Jun 09
VLADIVOSTOK, June 28 (Itar-Tass) -- The Izhora tanker and the MB-37 towboat of the Russian Pacific Fleet returned to Vladivostok from the **Gulf of Aden** on Sunday.

The two vessels, the Admiral Panteleyev large anti-sub **ship** and the Irkut tanker were fighting sea piracy in the **Gulf of Aden** from late April through early June. They escorted **six** convoys of over 30 vessels flying diverse flags and seized 29 pirates.

The Admiral Panteleyev and the Irkut will reach Vladivostok on Wednesday, July 1.

Another Pacific Fleet unit made up of the Admiral Tributs large anti-sub **ship**, the Boris Butoma tanker and the MB-99 towboat, will head for the **Gulf of Aden** on June 29. They will join the international naval force suppressing piracy offshore Somalia.
Description of Source: Moscow ITAR-TASS in English -- Main government information agency

PUNTLAND Ethiopian intelligence service said opening office in Puntland

AFP20090628950030 Dayniile online in Somali 27 Jun 09
Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 27 June
Sources at the Ethiopian Intelligence have confirmed to us that they will be opening an office in Puntland Region. The Ethiopian sources have said they are opening an office in Puntland because it is an important Region for the Ethiopian government in regard to monitoring the activities of the terrorist organizations and the Somali rebel group, Ogaden National Liberation Front ONLF which fights the Ethiopian government.

Ethiopia has in the past accused the Puntland Administration of being responsible for the arms that make their way into its country and end up in the hands of the ONLF. Vehicles carrying arms from the Puntland Administration have been captured by border guards between Puntland Administration and Ethiopia on many occasions. The border guard pointed a finger at the Puntland administration for the arms that are being smuggled into Ethiopia.

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Ethiopia had sent a senior official to Puntland in 2008 in order

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to monitor the situation and has been based in Garowe where he was being guarded by highly trained Puntland forces. Another senior official of the Ethiopian intelligence is said to have arrived in Puntland Administration this month in order to assess the situation in Boosaaso which is said to be among the port cities that are used by the ONLF Somali rebels and other terrorist groups in the country.

The Ethiopian intelligence official has held a meeting with the Puntland Intelligence Service.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

SOMALILAND Ethiopia's Ogaden rebel group denies killing Somaliland traders

AFP20090628950051 Ogaden Ogaden National Liberation Front website in English 25 Jun 09

Text of statement issued by Ethiopian opposition Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF); published in English by official ONLF website on 25 June

The claim by the website, Somalilandpress, which fabricated baseless allegation that ONLF Ethiopian rebel Ogaden National Liberation Front fighters killed several civilian traders from Hargeysa, is not based on facts. The concocted story continues further to say that ONLF carried out this act because it was angry with people from northern Somalia's relationship with Ethiopia.

The ONLF regards all Somalis as brethren and does not hold any grudges against any groups from Somalia despite many transgressions by some Somali warlords against the Somali people from Ogaden in southeastern Ethiopia, where government forces are engaged in fighting against ONLF combatants and their legitimate struggle for total emancipation. The Somali people in the Ogaden and the Somalis in north Somalia share a common heritage, kinship and economic ties that benefit both peoples. It is our conviction that these mischievous acts will not affect the relationship between the two brotherly peoples as the agents of the TPLF Tigray People's Liberation Front, reference to the incumbent government in Ethiopia regime from Ethiopia try to destroy their peaceful coexistence.

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The raison d'etre for ONLF's struggle is to emancipate the Somalis in Ogaden regardless of clan, belief or affiliation and there is no reason why it should target parts of its own people. Any entity or group trying to sow conflict and division among the Somali sub-clans in the Ogaden will fail. People with this attitude should know that this outmoded logic will benefit no one and they will be held responsible for unnecessary consequences of their machinations.

It is not simple thing to forget that the practice of continuous rendition of people from Ogaden who seek safety and security in Hargeysa to please Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi Meles and his henchmen. Hence it is no wonder if such paid stooges and their sympathisers such as Somalilanderpress redouble their efforts to tarnish the name of ONLF and incite hatred among the people of both sides of the border.

Finally, the Somali people of the Ogaden wish peace and stability for all Somalis in Somalia and hope this will be reciprocated.

Description of Source: Ogaden Ogaden National Liberation Front website in English

Somaliland scholar urges end to fighting in Mogadishu
AFP20090628950032 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
27 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 27 June

A scholar in Somaliland has called upon people in southern Somalia to work towards the attainment of peace in the region and unite for the common good.

Boobe Yusuf Du'ale, a prominent Somaliland scholar speaking to Shabelle last night called upon groups involved in the conflict in Mogadishu to consider the plight of the vulnerable civilians. He asked the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and armed groups that are opposed to them that the civilian population is increasingly vulnerable to the gunfire and mortars being exchanged and it is now time to stop.

"We are telling them that there is no way your arms can take charge, it is the brains that are in charge. We are also telling them to seat down and reason together about what it is that they are fighting about," said Boobe Yusuf. The statement by the Somaliland scholar comes at a time when traditional elders and kings in Somaliland held a meeting in Ceerigaabo yesterday in which they called upon the TFG and armed groups that are opposed to them to stop the fighting in which they are killing innocent

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civilians who have nothing to do with the conflict.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN;

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 42 *****/

CITE OSC RESTON VA 232115

site has partnership with Radio France International; URL:
<http://www.shabelle.net>

Somaliland independence day not marked in Mogadishu

AFP20090626950028 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
26 Jun 09

Today, northern parts of Somalia (Somaliland) are celebrating the 49 anniversary since the independence from Britain. Shabeelle web site reports that the celebration have been ignored in the southern parts of Somalia, including the capital, Mogadishu. (Somaliland got its independence from Britain on 26 June, 1960, but on 1 July 1960 it united with southern Somalia to form the Somali Republic. On 18 May 1991 Somaliland declared independence from the rest of Somalia, but so far there it has not succeeded to get international recognition).

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL:
<http://www.shabelle.net>

Somaliland independence day marked in areas under moderate Islamists

AFP20090626950049 Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali
26 Jun 09

Excerpt from report by privately-owned Somali Shabeelle Media Network website on 26 June

Huge processions took place today in parts of districts of Galguduud Region to commemorate the first time a Somali flag was hoisted on its soil on 26 June 1960.

Large number of people today, after Friday prayers, converged for the processions in Dhuusa Mareeb, Guraceel, Balanbale and all

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areas under the control of Ahlu wal Jama'a administration in Galguduud Region. Passage omitted.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Shabeelle Media Network.net in Somali -- Internet site of independent FM radio and television network based in Mogadishu; network claims an audience of more than 1.8 million; target audience includes Somalis in-country; diaspora; and Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti; policymakers working with international organizations; and the UN; site has partnership with Radio France International; URL: <http://www.shabelle.net>

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 239807

WARNING: TOPIC: CRIME, DISSENT, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS,
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER

SERIAL: AFP20090630566001

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: FRANCE, **IRAN**, KENYA, RUSSIA, SOMALIA, TANZANIA, UNITED
KINGDOM, UNITED STATES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: AU, NATO

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS: SOMALIA DAILY MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS 30 JUN 2009 (U)

SOURCE: SOMALIA – OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 29 JUN 09 (U)

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Internet

OSC Summary

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This compilation of press highlights for 29 June 2009 is produced
by the Open Source Center and focuses on counterterrorism,
political, and **military** issues relating to Somalia.

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SOMALIA

Somalia: Five people killed in Mogadishu fighting

AFP20090629950012 Garowe online in English 28 Jun 09

Text of report in English by Somali pro-Puntland government Garoweonline website on 28 June

At least five people were killed and 14 others wounded Sunday in the Somali capital Mogadishu after suspected insurgents targeted the presidential compound with mortars and government forces responded with artillery fire, Radio Garowe reports.

At least four of the victims were killed when a single artillery shell slammed into a crowded area in Mogadishu's Hodan district, witnesses said.

Local sources reported that the artillery fire originated from Villa Somalia presidential compound, where government forces and African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) are protecting Somalia's president, Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad.

President Shaykh Sharif, who was holding a press conference at the of the time, told reporters that government forces were responding to mortar attacks and were specifically targeting "areas where Al-Qaidah foreign fighters are based."

He rejected media speculation that government forces were targeting civilian areas, while praising government troops and AMISOM peacekeepers for their security efforts.

Description of Source: Garowe online in English -- independent website; URL: <http://www.garoweonline.com>

Fighting between rival Somali Islamists erupts in southern town

AFP20090629950033 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June

Reports reaching us from the locality of Ceel Baraf which is near Mahadaay, Middle Shabeelle south-central Somalia indicate that there has been heavy fighting in the town between the movement

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for the Al-Shabab Mujahidin and Islamic Court forces allied to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG
It is not yet known what caused the fighting between the two groups, however, both are said to have used different types of weapons among them mortars. The sound of heavy gunfire could be heard in the locality of Ceel Baraf as areas residents were panic stricken and expressed concern that the fighting might spread into residential areas.

Areas where the fighting broke out in the outskirts of Ceel Baraf are now calm although tension is still high. Losses sustained in the fighting are also not yet known except for a female resident of the town who has been hit by a stray bullet at her house. Groups involved in the fighting have so far not issued any statements in regard to the fighting.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Explosion hits opposition base in central Somalia
AFP20090629950019 Mogadishu Radio HornAfrik in Somali 0500 GMT 29 Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali radio HornAfrik on 29 June

PresenterAn explosion hit last night an area near the HQ of Hiiraan Region, Baled Weyne, where officials from Hisb al-Islam were based. Husayn Yusuf Ahmad has the details.
Yusuf No casualties were reported as a result of the explosion. Senior officials said the explosion was a remote controlled one. The explosion was heard from various parts of Baled Weyne. Hisb al-Islam security officials say they are pursuing those who carried out the attack and that they will charge them as per Islamic Shari'ah if they will be able to capture them. Hisb al-Islam did not accuse any group to be behind the explosion. The motive behind the explosion is not known.

This is the first explosion to target a Hisb al-Islam base in Baled Weyne city and Hiiraan Region as a whole.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Radio HornAfrik in Somali -- Independent radio and television broadcast station; Internet: <http://www.hornafrik.com>

Somali President Appeals for Deployment of More AU Troops
FEA20090629866190 - OSC Feature - Holy Koran Radio 1530 GMT 29 Jun 09

President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmed has said forces fighting

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against his government in country are not only Somalis, he said that Shaykh Hassan Dahir Aways the leader of Hisb al-Islam is being supported by foreign terrorists in his war against the government.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 *****/

CITE OSC RESTON VA 239807

In a media conference held at the presidential palace, the president has commented about the general situation in the country, he also condemned that Eritrean **military** officials that he said were fighting alongside Shaykh Hassan Dahir Aways against the Somali government.

When asked about the mortars launched from the presidential palace by AU peace keeping forces, the president said that government forces and AU troops were only targeting Al Qa'idah strongholds in the capital but not civilians.

Finally, President Sharif thanked AU peacekeeping forces and appealed for deployment of more AU troops to assist the Somali government.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Holy Koran Radio in Somali -- FM station that indentifies itself as "the voice of Ahlu Sunnah Waljama, Mogadishu," a Sunni Islamic organization. Station includes regular newscasts in its programming, but generally steers clear of controversial subjects. Station is also known as IQK

This item was originally filed as AFP20090629950039

Somali president appeals for deployment of more AU troops
AFP20090629950039 Mogadishu Holy Koran Radio in Somali 1530 GMT 29 Jun 09

Text of report by Somali Holy Koran Radio on 29 June

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Somalia: Man Thought To Play Part in Plot To Kill Al-shabaab Member in 2008 Shot

AFP20090625327001 Toronto Warkadalka.com in Somali 25 Jun 09

Corrected version: Correcting date in first graf, first para to read "24 June" sted "25 June;" Unattributed report: "Attempt Made on Life of Man in Nairobi, Kenya, Believed To Have Participated in Plot To Kill Al-Shabaab 'Senior Member' Adan Ayow in Somalia in 2008"

At 2335 the night of 24 June an unusual burst of gunfire sound was heard in an area not far from the airport in Nairobi, Kenya. Moments later a man was founding lying on the ground wounded by gunfire. It turns out that the man was a member of a group suspected of participating in the plot to kill Adan Ayrow on 1 May 2008.

Adan Ayrow, a senior member of the Al-Shabaab Mujahidin Movement, was killed in Dhusamareb in Galgudud region central Somalia. Samatar Soonka, a reporter for Warkadalka in Nairobi, dispatched more details about the man named Husayn Weli Wardere who was shot last night. He was reportedly based inside the American military complex in Djibouti and spent some time there before arriving in Kenya on 19 June.

Mr. Wardere was seriously wounded and remains in a life-or-death situation, but there is no further information about his condition. According to a close relative of the victim who prefers to remain anonymous, Mr. Wardere is now being treated at a major hospital in Nairobi.

When asked about the motives for the attack, the close relative of the victim said that no one knows the reason. However, rumors circulating in town suggest that he may have been involved in the conspiracy to frame and kill Adan Ayrow on 1 May 2008.

According to reliable sources, Mr. Husayn Weli Wardere is a native

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Somali, but he holds a Djiboutian passport. He was active in Somali politics until the expulsion of the warlords, at which time he moved to Djibouti and took up a job with a local organization.

There are other Somali politicians and businessmen currently in exile who took part in the scheme to eliminate Adan Ayrow. Shortly after the death of Ayrow, most of these individuals fled to countries such as UAE, Kenya, United States, Djibouti, Canada, and so forth.

Top officials belonging to the Al-Shabaab movement often speak about their determination to exact revenge on all those implicated in the conspiracy to kill Adan Ayrow, who was one of the most skilled leaders of the movement.

In any event, this is the first such attack outside Somalia on someone suspected of taking part in the assassination of Adan

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Ayrow. Many of those who helped plan and were involved in the plot to kill Ayrow are known to maintain high personal security.

Description of Source: US-Based Warkadalka.com in Somali -- Privately owned website critical of the Somali and Ethiopian Governments; URL: <http://www.warkadalka.com>

Somalia: Al-Shabaab, Hizb al-Islam Plan To Merge Forces
AFP20090629301001 Markacadey.net in Somali 29 Jun 09

Somali Islamist groups fighting the interim Somali government and foreign troops are working on plans to merge their **military** forces. Intense efforts to merge al-Shabaab and Hizb al-Islam forces are taking place in Islamist-controlled areas.

Important news sources tell Markacadey.net that Hizb al-Islam and al-Shabaab, which have a common enemy, will announce a merger in the coming days. The unification is being pushed by al-Shabaab and Hizb al-Islam leaders.

Al-Shabaab is said to be pleased with the way Hizb al-Islam fighters have been waging war and with the way Hizb al-Islam leaders have been opposing statements of Westerners and of the Somali government. The report adds that areas controlled by Islamists will soon have a joint administrations.

Al-Shabaab is on the US Government list of terrorist organizations, while Hizb al-Islam leaders, such as Shaykh Aweys and Hasan Turki, are on the terrorist list.

Description of Source: Markacadey.net in Somali -- Independent news website; URL: <http://www.markacadey.net>

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Somalia's Al-Shabab appoint new governor for southwestern region
AFP20090629950051 Mogadishu Radio HornAfrik in Somali 1000 GMT 29

Jun 09

Text of report by privately-owned Somali radio HornAfrik on 29
June

Presenter The Al-Shabab's governor of Bay and Bakool Regions, Shaykh Hasan Ahmad Ali Abu Ayman has today handed over the leadership of the region to another official from the Mujahidin Movement of Al-Shabab. A high level delegation from the movement that left Mogadishu and some other parts, among them Al-Shabab's secretary for political and regional issues, Shaykh Husayn Ali Fidow, has arrived in Baydhabo. I have contacted our reporter in Baydhabo Abdiaziz Ibrahim via phone

Reporter Thanks, senior officials from Al-Shabab, among them the secretary for political and regional affairs, Shaykh Husayn Ali Fidow, has arrived in Baydhabo. The ceremony was attended by many locals.

The administration of Bay and Bakool Region was handing over power to a new administration. The former governor of Bay and Bakool Region Abu Ayman said he handed over the leadership of the region to Mahad Umar Abdikarim who will be the new governor of Al-Shabab administration of Bay and Bakool Regions as from now. He will resume his responsibilities in the next few hours. Shaykh Ali who was speaking in the hand over ceremony said.

Bay Ayman As you know I was the Wali governor of Islamic administration of Bay and Bakool, God willing, I want to congratulate the people of the region that as of now the region got a new governor who is Mahad Umar Abdikarim.

Reporter The reason behind the timing of the hand over was not mentioned, however, locals who attended the ceremony welcomed the move regardless of the reasons behind it.

The former administration is remembered for the many changes over implementation of Islamic shari'ah the were made during their tenure, like the decision to ban chewing and selling of Qat narcotic leaf in town.

Description of Source: Mogadishu Radio HornAfrik in Somali -- Independent radio and television broadcast station; Internet: <http://www.hornafrik.com>

Saudi Arabia Concerned About Developments in Somalia
GMP20090629866003 Riyadh SPA Online in English 29 Jun 09
SPA headline: "Saudi Arabia expresses concern over situation in Somalia"

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Riyadh, June 29, SPA -- Admiral Prince Fahd bin Abdullah bin Mohammed, the Commander of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, said Monday June 29 that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been following up with a great concern the current developments of the situation in Somalia.

"The Kingdom is also worried about the state of instability in the country of the Horn of Africa due to the deterioration of the security conditions leading to aggravation of the piracy phenomenon," he said.

Speaking at a joint meeting of the Commanders of the naval forces of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) member states and the Arab countries on the coast of the Red Sea, held here today, Admiral Prince Fahd bin Abdullah said the Kingdom had earlier hosted a conference for the reconciliation of the Somali factions in Jeddah, noting that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz had urged the Somali factions to take into account the higher interests of their country.

Admiral Prince Fahd bin Abdullah pointed out that the Kingdom had welcomed Djibouti's agreement which paved the way for the election of Sheikh Shareef Ahmad as a new President of Somalia. He noted that the Kingdom's humanitarian assistance to Somalia has exceeded \$150 million.

"It is well-known that sea-lanes constitute the major transportation means for our exports and imports," he said,

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noting that 90 percent of the exports and imports come through the sea.

"This means that any threat to navigation will have an adverse impact on our economic security and our national security in general," he said noting that piracy against the commercial ships and oil tankers has remarkably increased recently in a manner that threatens our exports and imports.

"The Kingdom views piracy as a crime which undermines the global economy," he said, adding that several decisions were issued by the international Security Council calling for using the required measures for combating piracy.

Admiral Prince Fahd bin Abdullah called for confronting this phenomenon and exerting more efforts to preserve the security of the Arab region as well as for enhancing the authority of the Somali government.

"These events take place within the territorial waters of the Arab

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countries, threatening the navigation lines," he pointed out. Admiral Prince Fahd bin Abdullah said the meeting aims at promoting cooperation to ensure the safety of navigation in the Arab region as well as forging coordination with the friendly countries to combat the piracy phenomenon which endangers the Arab interests.

Description of Source: Riyadh SPA Online in English – Website of the Saudi Government's official news agency. URL:

<http://www.spa.gov.sa/English/index.php>

Muslim brotherhood in Jordan offers to mediate between Somali Islamists

AFP20090629950029 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has for the first time spoken on the current fighting in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG and armed groups that are opposed to it. The group said they would like to play their role in mediating between groups that are fighting in Somalia.

The General coordinator for Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Hamam Si'id Bashir has said that they are saddened about the current fighting in Mogadishu between the TFG and armed groups that are opposed to it which resulted in the loss of life, injury, displacement and destruction of property. Bashir also called upon the TFG and armed groups fighting in Somalia to put the general interest of the Somali people before their own.

The group said they are ready to mediate between groups fighting in Somalia in order to convince them to unite and reconcile for the sake of their country and future of their people who have been through prolonged fighting in the last 20 years.

"We are saddened by the blood shed of the Muslim Somali brothers. We are calling for an end to the fighting in order not to give foreign powers the opportunity to take control of the country and colonize it which is not in the interest of the Somali people," said the Muslim Brotherhood official in Jordan. The official called for an immediate end to the fighting without any preconditions.

Description of Source: Dayniile online in Somali – Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.dayniile.com>

France Brings Forward Training of Somalian Security Forces From September to July

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EUP20090629056001 Paris France Diplomacy in French 26 Jun 09
Statements by Eric Chevallier, spokesman of the Ministry of
Foreign and European Affairs, from the ministry's daily briefing
with unidentified correspondents at the Foreign Ministry in Paris
on 26 June

Somalia

France has decided to speed up the implementation of its training
program for Somalian security forces. The training program will
begin in July and not, as initially planned, in September.

Correspondent Will the program be maintained even if the
government changes?

Chevallier It is program designed to support the current
authorities, whom we regard as legitimate and determined to try to
bring peace and stability to Somalia.

Correspondent Are you alone in organizing this program?

Chevallier It is a program decided on by France and which was
announced at the meeting in Brussels devoted to Somalia on 23
April. It is a French plan, but we have worked with our European
partners to examine the possibility of broadening it and
extending it to other European participants who wish to be
involved. The French pace is speeding up and we hope that this
will encourage European contributions.

Correspondent This program is taking place in Djibouti. Do you
have any details on the number of people who will be trained and
the size of the French aid?

Chevallier The program consists in training 500 people. Part
of the program will be in place as of July.

Correspondent How many French people will be involved in this
task?

Chevallier That is an operational question which it would be
more logical to put to the Ministry of Defense.

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Description of Source: Paris France Diplomacy in French --
Official website of the French Foreign Ministry; URL:
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr>

Djibouti Opposition Head Objects to Somali Officials' Statement
on Politics

AFP20090629558002 Hargeysa Somaliland Times Online in English 27
Jun 09

Unattributed report: "Djibouti Opposition Objects to Somaliland
Interference"

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The Chairman of Djibouti's opposition party (DPD), Mr Muhammad Daud Shihm strongly objected to what he called interference by Somaliland government ministers in Djibouti's politics. Mr Shihm was referring to a statement recently made by Somaliland Minister of Aviation, Ali Muhammad Waran Adde in which he urged Somalilanders to emulate Djibouti and change the constitution so that President Dahir Rayale Kahin could run for a third term, the same way that Djibouti had changed its constitution so that President Ismail Omar Gelleh could run for president. Mr Shihm explained that given the fact that Mr Waran Adde travels quite frequently to Djibouti, he should know about the situation of the people of Djibouti who now live in conditions not different from that of Somalilanders when they were under Siyad Barre's dictatorship.

Mr Shihm added that he does not want Somaliland's people to be given the wrong information about what is going on in Djibouti. Description of Source: Hargeysa Somaliland Times Online -- Website of weekly newspaper published by the independent Haatuf Media Network, a Somaliland journalists cooperative association founded in Nov 01; Internet: <http://www.somalilandtimes.net>

Somalia hopeful upcoming AU summit to offer government respite - Kenyan website

AFP20090629950075 Nairobi KBC Online in English 29 Jun 09 Text of report by Nicholas Kigundu and Rose Kamau entitled "Somali govt seeks AU assistance" published by state-owned Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) website on 29 June; subheadings as published

The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia is optimistic that the ongoing African Union meeting in Libya will offer a solution for the troubled country.

The fragile UN-backed transitional government has been locked in a fierce battle with Al-Shabab's guerrillas.

The TFG has since last month launched a series of attacks aimed at driving the rebels out of Mogadishu but has failed to make headway. The attacks have left Somalia's security minister and the Mogadishu police chief dead as the situation threatens to get out of hand.

It is a development that the transitional government hopes that the ongoing African Union meeting in Libya will offer respite to.

Military assistance

The government has appealed to the international community for

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military assistance to help it contain the militia.

The United States government has already offered to send financial and **military** support to the fragile government after a green light from the UN Security Council to prevent rebels seen as a proxy for Al-Qa'idah from overrunning the Horn of Africa nation.

The transitional government has previously relied on African Union troops from Uganda and Burundi to protect essential facilities.

Somalia which has been without a functional government since 1991 has been hit by unrest with piracy along its coastline causing havoc within the maritime trade.

Financial management

Meanwhile the Somali federal government Monday appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers to manage donor funds meant for institutional capacity building and development.

The TFG with support from bilateral and multilateral organizations is trying to help put in track the basic institutions through a process of reconstructing the financial institutions.

The TFG finance minister, Sharif Hassan Shaykh Adan, said Price Waterhouse Coopers will specifically undertake financial and procurement management, tracking and monitoring the use of disbursed funds and financial capacity building of the government financial institutions.

"This is a big step in reconstructing and rebuilding Somalia. I encourage other development partners to expeditiously support the TFG. In addition, this will enhance transparency, accountability and will make it possible for resources to be connected to results," he said.

Description of Source: Nairobi KBC Online in English -- web site of the state-owned Kenyan Broadcasting Corporation; URL: <http://www.kbc.co.ke>

Somalia: Speaker says arms given by USA response to governments appeal

AFP20090629950031 AllPuntland.com in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Somali pro-Puntland government website on 28 June

The speaker of the Federal Somali Parliament, Shaykh Adan Muhammad Nur Madobe, has said that arms given to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG by the United States were a response

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to the government appeal for foreign **military** intervention as a result of the risk poised by groups that are opposed to it.

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The speaker said the arms given to the TFG are powerful and they will be able to protect themselves from the armed opposition groups. The speaker also said they still haven't given up on the **military** support they have been waiting to get from neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia. He said the Ethiopian government also faces the same risk they do as these opposition groups if not stopped can spread everywhere.

The statement by the speaker of the Federal Somali parliament comes at a time when he has in the recent past called for foreign **military** intervention before armed opposition groups took control of the Somali presidency saying that these groups were near the presidency.

Description of Source: AllPuntland.com in Somali – Pro-Puntland government website; URL: <http://www.allpuntland.com>

Article Calls for New Global Policy for Somali People's Survival
AFP20090629558008 Hargeysa Somaliland Times Online in English 27
Jun 09 - 03 Jul 09

Report by Khadar Hanan: "Somalia's Terrorist Plague Pandemic Poses Imminent Danger To the Region"

It is a certain phenomenon once something evil generates; over a time, it goes through black-white evolutions that radically could change the cultural, social and psychological compositions of a population over successive generations. Somalia is a by-word country for inhuman, barbarous and heinous civil war and during the last two decades, it had been making its place in the world-news banner headlines. Somali culture and religion (Islam) go hand in hand and never crosses each other. However, the world's illegitimate and hypocritical political interventions in Somalia brokered by the front line countries have yielded a new, but an unprecedented fashion of war mongered by the most notorious international terrorists in the name of Islam. This has absolutely derailed the Somali conventional warring-systems and invited a hollow calamity. Today, Somalia is said to be the new African Iraq or Afghanistan with regard to its ongoing reckless type of war, every shot is fired at human cost and the lives of the innocent people are taken in both fleet and individual manner. Somalia is a country disappeared into shapeless, untraceable political dust storm orchestrated by western collective powers.

The Al-Qaida claimed Trojan horse in Somalia "Al-Shabaab" has snagged a bare sword in a vacuum power to log, amputate and decapitate the helpless, hopeless and needy people scattered

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across the bed of the tinny war tone country. The plague of which would no longer be confined within the boundaries of the country, but pose a clear threat to the entire region. It is a widely acknowledged fact that terrorism is a psychological problem with a serious radical mission; a mission without clear vision; a mission that heals one's heaven hunger with life loses of the innocent people; a mission that is accomplished by hypnotized youngsters; a mission named religious obligation but satanic in nature.

The Somali fragile government presided by Sheikh Ahmed was about to lose its last standing leg and pleaded a 24 hour swift **military** interventions from the front line countries to help them revive their globally supported government. To the contrary, Al-Shabaab vowed that any foreign interventions would cause the invaders to have their bodies sent back in coffins to their respective homelands. On the other hand, Al-Shabaab's claim for being responsible the suicide attack in Baladwayne during the last week which has taken the lives of more than 80 people.... was neither the first nor the last of its type undertaken by them. Unlike Somalia and its semi-autonomous region of Puntland Somaliland is still healing the physical and psychological scars reached by the last year Oct, 29th untimely serial terrorist explosions that claimed the precious lives of dozens of beloved ones, mothers, fathers, kids, teenagers, etc. It shattered the future of many families; transformed many abled to disabled; traumatized the people in the city and dropped a moment of unforgettable fear and insecurity into the hearts of the nation at large. In one way or the other, this was a wake-up call for the region and helped the people understood what terrorism is meant by, their goals and disguised images. It helped the nation feel how this wave (terror) has embittered the millions of innocent people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Palestine. Here is the bottom line; the survival of the Somali people is not only a regional responsibility but a global obligation as well. However, the world must now put the right shoe on the right feet, come up with a new global policy towards Somalia and of course lift the unfair cover off the recognition of the Republic of Somaliland that is one of the crucial missing pillars from the peace process and stability many times sought for Somalia. Somalia is a government in search for a country whereas; Somaliland is a government in a stable country in search for an international recognition. Surely, if the world keeps defiant

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from the fact that Al-Qaida pouches are overtaking the Somali people and power, the plague would first hit hard Puntland, then Somaliland and the region at large.

Description of Source: Hargeysa Somaliland Times Online -- Website of weekly newspaper published by the independent Haatuf Media Network, a Somaliland journalists cooperative association founded in Nov 01; Internet: <http://www.somalilandtimes.net>

More Somali Refugees Reach Taiz Coasts

GMP20090629950044 Sanaa SABA Online in English 1405 GMT 29 Jun 09
TAIZ, June 29 (Saba) - In what has become most daily displacement, nearly 27 Somali refugees including 11 women have reached Thubab coast of Taiz province, Interior Ministry has said.

In collaboration with Yemeni Red Crescent, the refugees were collected in order to be sent to the main camp of Kharaz in Lahj province.

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Around 25 Somali refugees reached last Saturday Thubab coast of Taiz province, Interior Ministry has reported.

Few days earlier, 34 Somali refugees, including 19 women, have arrived at al-Jahaf area at Thubab district after an unidentified boat disembarked them at the coast and escaped.

They were all sent to Kharaz Camp.

Thubab coast received daily between 25 - 40 refugees, security authority said, expecting more of African displacement to the Yemeni shores due to the deterioration of the security condition in Somalia.

Yemen has witnessed a tremendous rise in the number of Somali refugees, which is exceeding more than 800.000 Somali refugees.

Description of Source: Sanaa SABA Online in English -- official news agency of Yemen; URL: <http://www.sabanews.net/>

Somali elders says mediation between rival Islamist groups progressing well

AFP20090629950034 Dayniile online in Somali 28 Jun 09

Text of report by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 28 June
Traditional elders in Hiiraan Region central Somalia have said reconciliation talks between the Islamic Court administration in the town which support the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG and the group that is opposed to it, Hisb Al-Islam, are progressing very well. Hisb al Islam which is opposed to the TFG is in the western part of Beled Weyne, the headquarter of Hiiraan Region and has been involved in fighting with the Islamic

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Court forces on several occasions resulting in the loss of life and injury.

The Chairman of traditional elders in Hiiraan Region, Mahmud Ahmad Toshow speaking to the media said reconciliation talks between various sections of the population in Hiiraan Region are progressing very well. The Chairman said they are hopeful that in the next few days, they will be able to bring groups opposed to each other into a face to face meeting in order to avert the repeat of hostilities that might result in losses.

Mahmud Ahmad Toshow said religious groups in Beled Weyne are free to support any political group in the country; however, it is inevitable that they work towards the interest and development of Hiraan Region. The Chairman of traditional elders in Hiiraan Region also welcomed the leaders of Hisb Al-Islam and the Islamic Court for accepting their mediation efforts. The statement by traditional elders in Hiiraan Region comes at a time when there has been explosions and skirmishes in the town between rival religious groups that are in Beled Weyne. It also comes at a time when curfew has been imposed on the east side of Beled Weyne by armed Islamist groups that are opposed to the TFG.

Description of Source: Daynille online in Somali -- Swedish based, news oriented website that appears sympathetic to Somali Islamist insurgents; URL: <http://www.daynille.com>

Somalia: Al-Shabaab Fighters Close Down 'Un-Islamic' Shops Selling Expired Goods

AFP20090629532007 Paris AFP (World Service) in English 1309 GMT 29 Jun 09

MOGADISHU, June 29, 2009 (AFP) - Somalia's hardline Islamist group Shebab on Monday raided Mogadishu's main market to hunt for traders stocking expired food, warning that offenders would face trial for "un-Islamic behaviour".

Dozens of fighters from the armed group -- which controls much of the capital as part of a deadly insurgency against the government -- swept Bakara market for food goods past their sell-by date.

"It is a supreme responsibility for us to fight those people harming our society by selling expired food to the people, it is un-Islamic behaviour," Shebab official Sheikh Ali Mohamed Husein told reporters.

"Our forces raided the market today and we found around five shops where rotting food was stored. We closed them down and we will continue until we get rid of all of them," he explained.

"Starting today, traders should clean their stores and discard all

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expired commodities within five days or face a Sharia court," the cleric added.

War-torn Somalia has had no effective central authority for almost two decades and traders have made brisk business importing rejected or expired-date goods from neighbouring countries.

The Shebab, a group inspired by Al-Qaeda ideology, has in recent weeks stepped up its enforcement of Sharia, or Islamic law, and on several occasions set up ad-hoc courts to sentence offenders. Last week, four men accused of robbery had their right hand and left foot hacked off in public in Mogadishu while another individual accused of rape and murder was buried up to his neck and stoned to death in the town of Wanlaweyn.

Description of Source: Paris AFP (World Service) in English -- world news service of the independent French news agency Agence France Presse

Somalia: Commentary says Somali Islamists fighting for different 'ideologies' in

AFP20090629950066 Dayniile online in Somali 24 Jun 09

Text of commentary by Sharif Ma'alim entitled "President Sharif, Hisb al-Islam's Shaykh Hasan Dahir and Al-Shabab: Where are they leading Somalia to?" as published by Swedish-based Somali Dayniile website on 24 June; subheadings inserted editorially: The Prophet was right in saying that as time goes, the more the evil in this world will increase. We have seen the meaning of

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this Hadith sayings of the prophet in practical terms. Two months after the central government led by Muhammad Siyad Barre was ousted, people came to the realization that he was far much better than the warlords who ousted him and started regretting thus the famous saying "Bring back the old man with blessings." After the two main warlords, Aydid and Ali Mahdi were done fighting; they were replaced by more than 20 other warlords that further worsened the situation by partitioning the areas that were under the control of these two warlords into smaller ones. The country has been put into a cycle in which one bad decision led to far worse decisions and a new level of deterioration. This is not to say that the situation in Somalia was ideal when former president Muhammad Siyad Barre was in power, far from it, we are trying to compare one evil with a far much worse evil that completely undermines its intensity.

The warlords who took control of Mogadishu and most parts of

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southern Somalia are responsible for the grave position that we find ourselves in today. The anti-terrorism missions orchestrated by the United States led to the downfall of these warlords and made them lose their relevance in Somali politics. Mogadishu residents sided with the religious scholars who later became known as the Islamic Courts.

The change in 2006 in which Islamic Court forces came to power was not something that came out of the blue. It was a miracle and showed the unpredictable nature in which God operates. These religious scholars were previously sold like animals to foreign powers; they did not intend to fight the warlords but were merely protecting themselves from aggression. God has however handed them victory and they scored a series of successes out of the situation by taking control of most parts of southern Somalia except Bay and Bakool Region south western Somalia where the former Transitional Federal Government of Somalia TFG was based at the time. They felt powerful and the arrogance that comes with it led to their downfall. Some elements within the Islamic Courts decided to run over the already sick and bed-ridden government that was confined in Baydhabo without any wisdom and tact having been blinded by their perceived power. The courts comprised of groups with different ideologies who chose to take matters into their own hands by rushing to carry out operations such as the one intended to overrun the TFG at the time when indeed the top leadership of the Islamic Courts were against it. They were then rewarded with downfall during the 24 hour operation that saw the Islamic Courts ousted and invasion of Ethiopian troops into the country.

When Jihad was most appropriate following the invasion of Ethiopian troops into the country, the Muslim world were shocked that senior Somali religious scholars and leaders of the Islamic Courts fled the country. Is it not even more shocking now that Ethiopian troops have withdrawn from the country, some of these religious scholars have returned to Somalia and are at the forefront of the current fighting drumming up support for more hostilities? They are the loudest in war mongering now at a time when shadows of doubt have been cast over the legitimacy of current fighting in the country by prominent religious scholars. The Islamic Courts which enjoyed the support of the entire population had a life span of six months before its collapse and has since not recovered. It is to be expected that every administration will have a term of life however; remnants of the

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Islamic Courts regrouped and formed Al-Shabab, Hisb al-Islam and the Islamic Courts forces allied with the TFG. These three groups are the ones fighting in the country as of now and we will discuss in detail where it is that they intend to take the country and what the goals of each of these groups are and whether these groups can possibly unite.

Al-Shabab

Al-Shabab has always been an isolated group separate from the rest even during the Islamic Courts era. It is the only group in Somalia whose stand on issues has not shifted over the years. Its ideology, the Salafi, has remained intact and has all along said it is seeking Jihad and re-establishing the Islamic Caliphate rule in the entire world. Once the operations in Afghanistan have become near impossible, Somalia has been seen as the next best easy target where the Islamic rule that will eventually spread to the rest of the world can be reinforced, however long it takes.

Al-Shabab shares the same ideology as Al-Qa'idah and they do not hide the fact that they consult them and have ties with Usamah bin Ladin. The man that is most influential in the Somali affairs after Usamah bin Ladin and Ayman Al-Zawahiri is Abu Yahya Al-Libi. They work in complete secrecy and it is not known how the chain of command is established or who has what say over which matters. The same way all Islamist groups are under the command of foreign bodies.

Their political ideology is very far from what the average Somali can comprehend. Their long term plan is to spread Islam to the rest of the world and their immediate goal is Eastern Africa.

They get their biggest support from the Somali youth and there are Somalis who have come from all corners of the world among them senior officers in the former armed forces and youth who are playing a major role in the so called Jihad in Somalia. No one knows for sure who the actual leaders of this group are, however, there are reports indicating that some individuals in list of most wanted terrorists by the United States are leaders of the Al-Shabab.

Spokesmen who are once in a while replaced address the local and international media as Somali elders whom I have spoken to have told me that they have tried meeting leaders of the group in order to discuss the situation in the country and have been unable to do so despite their efforts and have only managed to speak with them on telephone. Whoever joins Al-Shabab should

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withdraw from the public limelight, be free from any nationalist ideas, be free from his clan, be free from any attachments with the region they hail from. In other words, they should give themselves up for Jihad and "Islam" only.

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Now, bearing in mind all of these, don't you think some may argue that Al-Shabab are trustworthy, predictable and individuals who have a solid stand on issues given that they denounce the clan-based Somali politics which has been more of a curse to the country. If we are to look at the modern world today and the way nations co-exist, Al-Shabab wants to make Somalia a second Afghanistan.

If at all you might be tempted to think that Afghanistan is a disaster, you should know there are individuals who would have loved to take part in the Jihad there, only that they have no means of getting into that country. There are those who were leading prosperous lives and have abandoned it all for the "Jihad". Somalis say that our country which is already in tatters and our people who have suffered for a long time should be rescued from the hands of Al-Shabab. We have been through a bitter war for the last 20 years why then should we, at this time, harbour foreigners? How is it that Alaska United States and Al-Aqsa Mosque which is occupied by the Jews are being liberated from Somalia? Fact: We cannot fight the whole world, we should fight Al-Shabab and break loose the chains on our necks. The International community is opposed to the kind of Islam that Al-Shabab intends to spread in the world. There has also been a drastic change in the support that Somali Muslims have for the Islamists in the country. Today we are at a point in which most people would be pleased to know that Ethiopia will once again intervene in the country if only they will rid the nation of the Al-Shabab menace. For your information, Al-Shabab would never take part in an international conference on reconciliation let alone a meeting with traditional elders. Its plans do not include taking part in any reconciliation talks. They are on two extremes, either they will be martyrs all of whom will die for their cause by carrying out attacks such as the suicide attack in Beled Weyne in which TFG minister of national security, Umar Hashi Adan, was killed or they will take full control of the country and lead it into the direction they want. Do not be surprised to see suicidal individuals carrying out attacks against the common man.

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Hisb al-Islam

This group's history isn't that long. It came to existence around the same time the Djibouti talks were concluded and President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad was appointed. It comprises union of Islamist group such as Al-Ictisam formerly Al-Ittihad whose main aim is to oppose the government led by Shaykh Sharif. They feel wronged and believe they have been used as a ladder by the president in his quest for power.

This group was initially formed in secrecy and got its first support from the Qatari government. Some of those that were initially united in it were Shaykh Hasan Turki, Umar Iman and Yusuf Indhacade. Indhacade proved to be a bit of an inconvenience and was eventually given a red card. Senior officials of this group have close ties with Al-Shabab which had provided the role of a mentor during its early days. The first leader of Hisb al-Islam, Dr Umar Iman, arrived in Mogadishu way before final touches were put on the group in order to challenge President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad who was then returning to Mogadishu after his election as the president of the TFG. Hawiye clan elders who were opposed to the outbreak of any more fighting in the country stopped Dr Umar Iman whose group had barely set foot on the ground at that time from taking matters into his own hands. He was restrained to the point where he was even unable to manage the former Raas Kaambooni and Caanoole groups that were in Mogadishu at the time after personal attacks were launched against him by the Hawiye elders on the media.

Attempts by the Sudanese government to mediate between Hasan Dahir Aweys the current leader of Hisb al-Islam and President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad failed and he returned to Asmara where he was based. He then travelled to Mogadishu at a time when his close friend, Dr Iman, was in a very difficult situation. For the first time after two and half year, Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys was re-united with his group, the Al-Ictisam. He has been through a bitter struggle leading groups that had an ideology very different from his Djibouti based Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia led by Shaykh Sharif some of whom have tainted images of working for the west. It became apparent that Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys was unable to lead normal political parties. He took charge in the Asmara-based Alliance after he accused Shaykh Sharif of breaking the covenant. Some of those who were in the Asmara camp with him at the time were Zakariya Haji Husayn, Husayn Aydid, Jama Ali Jama and many others. It is not yet known how

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relations between them are as of now or even whether the Asmara-based ARS is still intact after Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys took control of Hisb al-Islam.

The arrival of Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys in Mogadishu and the decision by Al-Shabab to wage war on the TFG coincided. Hisb Al-Islam was not actively involved in the fighting and even after a while, all they did was provide back up to Al-Shabab who were the ones mainly involved in fighting the government. The arrival of Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys in Somalia was significant for Al-Shabab who needed him most at the time.

Analysing statement by the Hisb al-Islam spokesman, many are of the view that Hisb al-Islam was among those that orchestrated the plan to fight the government and are even now actively pursuing it. However, the truth of the matter is that their aims are very different from those of Al-Shabab who are now leading the battle to overthrow the government. There is a very big difference between Hisb al-Islam and Al-Shabab. This is because Hisb al-Islam, the group lead by Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys is accepting the Somali leverage in the current conflict. They were successfully removed from some of the frontlines in Mogadishu through clan based negotiations and part of the conflict with their group resolved. Their aim is to establish their own government in Somalia and they consult Somali traditional elders. They want to take charge of the country's affairs now that everyone claims to have endorsed the implementation of Shari'ah law. That is their main goal. No hidden agendas.

Also by analysing statements by Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys, one tends to come to the conclusion that he is strongly opposed to

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the west and is seeking to establish a government that they do not approve of. Influencing Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys on this will be easy if the current sanctions on terrorism that have been imposed on the Shaykh are lifted. Even if President Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Ahmad were to resign today, there would still be a glimpse of hope. However, who can possibly replace him?

The reason that Dr Umar Iman resigned is because senior religious scholars in the former Al-Ictisam group have made a ruling in which they said the current fighting in Mogadishu cannot be legitimately referred to as Jihad. They said it is an unnecessary hostility that might drive the country into the hands of foreign powers. Therefore, where are Shaykh Hasan Dahir Aweys and his

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SECTION 1 OF 20

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, ENERGY, INTERNATIONAL
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SERIAL: IAP20090908434001

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: **IRAN**, ISRAEL, SOMALIA, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES,
VENEZUELA, YEMEN

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: EU, IAEA, OPEC

SUBJ: **IRAN**: NEWS ROUNDUP 5-8 SEP (U)SOURCE: **IRAN** -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 05 SEP 09 08 SEP 09 (U)**TEXT:**

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(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001001.jpg)

IRAN NEWS ROUNDUP

5-8 September 2009

The following is a roundup of reports appearing in the **Iranian** media sources in English, and news and commentaries published in non-US media on 5-8 September. This roundup is in the following sections: (Click on the links to go to the desired section)

POLITICS

NUCLEAR

MILITARY

TERRORISM

ECONOMY/ENERGY

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

SOCIETY

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

ARTS/CULTURE/SPORTS

COMMENTARIES/ANALYSES

POLITICS

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001002.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Ahmadinejad ready for public debate with Obama at UN" (7 Sep) **Iranian** President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday he is ready to "debate and talk" with US President Barack Obama in a public meeting before the mass media when he attends the UN General Assembly later this month. As we have said earlier and as we announced during Mr. Bush's tenure, we are ready to debate and talk about important global issues (with Mr. Obama) in the presence of the world media," Ahmadinejad said in his first press conference after his reelection. "We believe that the era of secret moves and secret agreements to decide the fate of the world is over and the world nations should be aware of the developments," he added. Ahmadinejad also announced that he would certainly attend the UN General Assembly along with his colleagues and stressed that Iran would be present in any such meetings in future. "We oppose the current situation of the world and we believe it is our responsibility to be present in all arenas and explain our viewpoints in a bid to reform this situation," he underlined. **Iranian** President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had said in July that he wants to engage US President Barack Obama in "negotiations" before the international media. He also had previously urged a televised debate with former US president George Bush. The **Iranian** president wrote an 18-page letter to

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President Bush in 2006 that touched on religious values, history and international relations. The letter was viewed as an offer extended to the United States for dialogue. However, the Iranian official's letter never received an answer from the former US president. President Obama has adopted a new tone for engaging Tehran, drawing a sharp line between his foreign policies on Iran and that of his predecessor. The call for talks comes as earlier in February Ahmadinejad expressed willingness for dialogue but stressed that negotiations should be held "in a climate of fairness with mutual respect". (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "Ahmadinejad says internal enemies committed post-election crimes" (8 Sep) President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said that there is conclusive documentation showing that elements affiliated with the rioters perpetrated some of the crimes committed against the people detained during the post-election unrest. "I have a firm belief that some of the crimes that were committed at one of the detention centers and at the dormitory of the University of Tehran are linked to a scenario to provoke riots and unrest," Ahmadinejad stated at a press conference here on Monday. "I have lived approximately 30 years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and I am familiar with Iranian society. Not only loyalists but any noble Iranian citizen who loves his country would never engage in illegal actions like those that happened after the election," he added. And anyone who intentionally or unintentionally acts against the Iranian nation's interests is on the enemy's side, he asserted.

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Ahmadinejad stated that no conscientious (police) officer would act against their duty, the law, humanitarianism, and national interests unless an atmosphere created by their favored party or group influenced them, and it was clear that Iran's main enemies supported these actions. "In my view, it is dishonorable that revolutionary forces are stabbed and beaten in Tehran's streets. They sacrificed their lives to provide people safety and security," Ahmadinejad said. Ahmadinejad said that the main players who directed the vandalism and disruptive activities after the election should be prosecuted. He went on to say that the presidential election was free and fair, but added that some went too far and started slandering and casting doubt in the excited atmosphere the country was experiencing. In the past, when an election was over, friendliness and sympathy prevailed in

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the country, he noted. However, after the recent election, some contended that the election was rigged and called for the results to be nullified, he added. "I believe it is the worst kind of dictatorship," he said. The people who were deceived should be treated with Islamic compassion, but influential figures who planned and masterminded the events or who did not respond properly and remained silent should be held responsible, Ahmadinejad asserted. The elements who deliberately tried to damage the Iranian nation should answer for their actions, he insisted. "It is the people's demand, and (we) should respond by administering justice and observing the law." Ahmadinejad said some media outlets in two Arab countries took an improper stance toward the Iranian presidential election. "However, we do not blame their respective countries for their actions. We are offended and expect them to make amends for their actions." He added, "We regard all nations, including Arab nations, as our friends and we maintain friendly relations with most of them." He said that Iran has excellent relations with Arab countries. "Two Arab countries acted improperly, but this will not last, since we are brothers and have common humanitarian and regional interests and (common) enemies," he observed. He pointed out that Iran's stance is clear, saying Iran is ready to establish friendly ties with all countries, including Egypt. "However, we view the Zionists as occupiers and do not recognize a right to sovereignty for them," he added. Ahmadinejad also said, "Over the past few months, the nation managed to clean out the pollution... which has been imposed on the nation and the revolutionary system." In the recent election, the nation achieved some major victories, and the first victory was the introduction of a lofty and humanitarian paradigm of democracy -- a democracy based on divine and monotheistic principles and a democracy that insists on the realization of genuine justice, he opined. He called the successive defeats of the sworn enemies after the election another victory for the nation. "The enemies, who utilized all of their money and capabilities, took advantage of some media outlets and devised elaborate plots," he noted. Ahmadinejad said that what happened revealed the malicious intentions of Britain and the United States and their allies. They sent messages stating that they intended to change their behavior towards Iran and acknowledging their previous wrong deeds, but their actions in the aftermath of the election revealed their true nature, he opined. "Certain individuals who came to power by resorting to

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the slogan of change and who had announced that they would change their behavior and policies, did not discard their expansionist, aggressive, and interventionist policies." (Top)

Press TV: "Iran questions US double standards on citizens" (8 Sep) After the US makes a lot of hue and cry over its three citizens detained in Iran after illegally entering the country, Iran questions Washington's contradictory attitude to US and Iranian citizens. "US officials and media have put making continual news about its detained citizens on their agenda but took no measure concerning the two and a half years' illegal imprisonment of Iranian diplomats in Arbil Iraq who had the right to political safety taken away from them," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said in response to a question on US double standards toward American and Iranian nationals. Iran's security officials have confirmed that three Americans identified as Shane Bauer, 27, Sarah Shourd, 30 and Joshua Fattal, 27 were arrested in the western Iranian city of Marivan on July 31, after 'illegal entry' into the country. "It is surprising that US officials and media have no sense of humanity about Iranians who are arrested or abducted in the US and other countries for baseless reasons," Qashqavi said. On January 11, 2007, US soldiers broke into the Iranian consulate in the northern Kurdish city of Arbil, seizing the consulate's computers, documents and staff, including five diplomats. Two diplomats were later released. The five remaining Iranians, including three diplomats—kept in Iraq under US custody without charge—were released and returned back after 2.5 years. They were released on 12 Jul 2009 in line with the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the US and Iraq. Under the terms of the agreement, the US military had to deliver more than 1,500 prisoners including the non-Iraqi nationals in its custody to the Baghdad government. (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "Society of Combatant Clergy urges Islamic Revolution loyalists to avoid disputes" (8 Sep) The principlist (conservative) Society of Combatant Clergy called on the loyalists to the Islamic Republic system to take steps toward strengthening national unity and avoid getting involved in political infighting. It is expected that the Islamic system's loyalists try to provide grounds for the country's development, the clerical assembly said in its statement issued on Monday. The statement also called on the president and his administration to avoid raising unnecessary issues which cause "tension" in the

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society. All parties, political groups, and figures must spare no efforts to safeguard the country, the statement added. (Top)

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(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001003.jpg) Press TV:

"Visiting Chavez backs Iran nuclear program" (5 Sep) The Venezuelan president, who arrived in Tehran early Saturday 5 Sep, says Iran 'will not back down' in its plans for peaceful nuclear energy. "We are certain that Iran, as it has shown, will not back down in its effort to obtain what is a sovereign right of the people: to have all the equipment and structures to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes," Chavez said after his arrival in the Iranian capital. "There is not a single proof that Iran is building ... a nuclear bomb," Chavez said. "Soon they will accuse us of also building an atomic bomb" in Venezuela, he added. Iran has categorically denied Western allegations that it is seeking nuclear weapons and has called for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction across the globe. In its latest efforts to resolve the nuclear issue, Iran will present an updated version of its proposed nuclear package to the world powers next week. Tehran has also said it is ready for 'fresh talks' with the West. Chavez also said that Caracas aims to build a 'nuclear village' with Iranian assistance in Venezuela. In his seventh official visit to Iran, Chavez is scheduled to meet his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad later Saturday. The Venezuelan president visited Libya, Algeria and Syria before coming to Iran. He is also scheduled to go to Belarus, Russia, Turkmenistan and Spain after his visit to Iran. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001004.jpg) Press TV:

"Iran, Venezuela vow to form anti-imperialist front" (5 Sep) As relations between Iran and Venezuela continue to blossom, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says Tehran and Caracas are determined to form a united front against imperialism. "Iran and Venezuela carry out important missions to help the oppressed and revolutionary nations and to expand the anti-imperialist front in the world," Ahmadinejad said in a meeting with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo on Saturday. "Time has passed for arrogant powers to have influence on revolutionary nations," he added. The Iranian president urged Tehran and Caracas to make utmost use of their potentialities, saying, "Iran and Venezuela can pursue joint cooperation in different international scenes by implementing the bilateral agreements they have previously

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reached." Tehran and Caracas had previously signed an array of agreements, pledging to work together in oil exploration, building low-income housing and assembling tractors and bicycles, and **military** projects among other ventures. Chavez, a vocal critic of the global capitalistic system, said that **Iran** and Venezuela should move to enhance mutual ties to help other revolutionary nations. Venezuela has been a vociferous defender of **Iran** and its nuclear program as Western countries, spearheaded by the US, accuse **Iran** of pursuing a nuclear weapons program and demand a halt to the country's uranium enrichment activities. Tehran, however, denies all such allegations and has called for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction across the globe. "We are certain that **Iran**, as it has shown, will not back down in its effort to obtain what is a sovereign right of the people: to have all the equipment and structures to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes," Chavez said after his arrival in the **Iranian** capital early on Saturday. The Venezuelan president visited Libya, Algeria and Syria before coming to **Iran**. He is also scheduled to go to Belarus, Russia, Turkmenistan and Spain after his Tehran visit. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Venezuela ready to export gasoline to **Iran**" (7 Sep) Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced his country's preparedness to export 20,000 barrels of gasoline to **Iran** as soon as October. Speaking in a joint press conference with his **Iranian** counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad here in Tehran on Sunday, Chavez reiterated that the two countries have signed an agreement in this regard. Chavez's remarks came as the US tries to put energy sanctions on **Iran** and cut off the country's fuel supplies in a bid to force Tehran to halt its peaceful nuclear program. To force Tehran to halt its nuclear activities, the US Senate has approved a bill to put pressure on companies selling gasoline to **Iran**. According to the bill, companies that continue to sell gasoline and other refined petroleum products to **Iran** will be banned from receiving US Energy Department contracts to deliver crude to the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Despite lying on large oil reserves, **Iran** only produces 60 percent of its domestic gasoline demand and imports the remaining 40 percent. The Europe-based trading firms Vitol, Trafigura, Russia's LUKOIL and Malaysian state oil company Petronas are among the companies that currently export fuel to **Iran**. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Official hails **Iranian** firms' effective presence in Latin America" (5 Sep) **Iranian** companies play an

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effective role in the markets of Latin America, an Iranian foreign ministry official said on Saturday, hoping that Venezuelan firms would also boost their activity and widen their presence in Iran's market. "There are many projects underway (by Iran) in the Latin America, and it is interesting to know that 300 Iranians are now working in just one of these projects," Director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's First Office for Latin American Affairs, Hojjatollah Soltani, told FNA, noting that the opportunity should be taken by both sides in order to pave the way for the further expansion of economic ties through such projects. Meantime, Soltani pointed out that Iran's potentials and capacities exceed the level of its activities in Latin America, and said the new Iranian government is expected to accelerate the present trend and boost the country's economic activities in different Latin states. The senior diplomat further noted the current visit to Tehran by Venezuelan president, and said that Hugo Chavez is accompanied by several of his ministers who have come to Tehran to conclude new trade contracts with the Islamic Republic. He mentioned that the Venezuelan delegation also aims to study and discuss several underway projects and

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explore avenues for the further development of relations with Iran in meetings with senior Iranian officials. Soltani reminded that Chavez would leave Iran for Turkmenistan later in the week, and said, "The present visit is the fruit of the efforts made by Iran to transform bilateral relations to multilateral ties. Soltani underlined that the same approach and trend of activities are carried out by Latin states in their relations with Iran, meaning that Tehran's partners in Latin America also endeavor to transform their bilateral ties with the Islamic Republic into multilateral relations encompassing Iran and several Latin states. (Top) (Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001005.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Analyst: "Iran's presence in Latin America endangers imperialism's interests" (7 Sep) Iran's improved ties with Latin America have endangered the interests of the world's imperialist states, an Iranian analyst said, adding that it is natural for the US to be deeply concerned about Tehran's growing ties and strong foothold in Latin America. "Latin America was the United States' backyard for decades and imperialists had gained an uncontested ruling in that region but Latin America has gone through fundamental developments during the last two decades and

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several countries have attained actual independence and democratic governments," Abdolhamid Shahrabi told FNA here on Monday. Noting that Iran's presence and reinvigoration of its position in the Latin America have posed a threat to the interests of the imperialist states, Shahrabi viewed the trips by the US and Israeli officials to the region in line with their efforts to weaken Iran's standing in the region. He also hailed the vigilance shown and efforts made by Iranian and Venezuelan leaders in consolidating ties with each other, including Hugo Chavez's current visit to Iran, and described it a proper way to boost the anti-imperialism front. Chavez, accompanied by a high ranking politico-economic delegation, arrived in Tehran on Saturday in the fourth leg of his tour of six nations. This is the seventh time that President Chavez visits Iran. Shahrabi further hailed the enthusiasm shown by the Venezuelan president for enhancing ties and cooperation with Tehran as a strategy for confronting imperialist states. In his meetings with senior Iranian officials, including the Supreme Leader, Chavez has repeatedly stressed that enhanced cooperation and unity between the two countries would be the only way to fight against enemy plots. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001006.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Iran-Venezuela Friendship Society lauds efforts to boost bilateral ties" (6 Sep) Head of Iran-Venezuela Friendship Society Mohammad Jafar Qorbanpour on Saturday praised efforts made by high ranking officials of both sides to promote bilateral ties.

Underlining that joint meeting between the two countries' delegations would expand and deepen mutual cooperation, Qorbanpour termed consolidation of Tehran-Caracas ties among honors of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's first administration. The official further lauded efforts made by Iran's diplomatic establishment for rapid promotion of bilateral ties, adding that now there is no obstacle in the way of the development of cultural, economic and political relations between the two countries. He noted that the two countries' ties have created a united front which serves national interests of the two sides as well as peace and friendship in the world. The comment by Qorbanpour came the same day that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, accompanied by a high ranking politico-economic delegation, arrived in Tehran in the fourth leg of his tour of six countries. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001007.jpg) Press TV: "At

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Friday prayers: Ministers advised on colleagues" (5 Sep) Tehran's substitute Friday prayers' leader Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani urges the country's new cabinet to materialize the objectives of the Islamic Republic. Delivering his second Friday prayers sermon, referring to the parliament's (Majlis) strong vote of confidence given to President Ahmadinejad's minister nominees, Ayatollah Kashani urged the ministers to choose managers and directors that would help them reach the objectives of the Islamic Republic, IRNA reported. Elsewhere, he said, "It is now the time to export the revolution," rephrasing what the late founder of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini had once said. Kashani went on to quote the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as highlighting the need for setting a comprehensive scientific plan for universities. Earlier, in an address to a group of academicians, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution had attached great importance and respect for university and college instructors and students, calling them the biggest assets of the Islamic Republic. "Universities are of great importance (to the country) therefore, both the university professors and the students should pay close attention to the materials taught at the university," Kashani said. He noted that teachings at the Humanitarian fields should not go along a western line of thought, calling for the graduates to have a comprehensive knowledge of Islamic thought. (Top)

Press TV: "Leader: 85(-PERCENT-) turnout proves Iran a republic in nature" (7 Sep) The Leader of the Islamic Revolution says the Iranian nation proved the 'republican' nature of the country through their 85-percent turnout in the presidential election. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for "the true understanding of the messages, which the presence of 40 million people in the June 12 presidential vote and the election of the president with 25 million votes, send." "If the intellectuals and political elites in the country truly understand those messages, a lot of problems and deadlocks will be resolved," said the Leader in a Monday meeting with the members of the 9th and 10th Iranian government. Ayatollah Khamenei said the 85 percent turnout of /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

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people in the election had "hammered the enemies of the revolution." "The nation and the Islamic Revolution have proven their republican nature through the election." "The comments of

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presidential hopefuls on their obedience to Islam, the Revolution and its late founder Imam Khomeini's path show that the nation is leaning toward those concepts, so they (the defeated candidates) attempt to portray themselves as followers of Imam Khomeini and the Revolution." The leader also called on the new administration of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to "thoroughly observe the law", adding that any breach of law by the administration would lead to "the defiance of law" in the society.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the government should "pay attention to benevolent criticisms" leveled by its opponents. "There is domestic criticism backed by foreign media with destructive intentions but there is also benevolent criticism which may not come from supporters of the government but they come with the best of intentions," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader urged President Ahmadinejad and his cabinet to pay attention to "the advices of religious authorities and religious scholars" in fulfillment of their duties. "Prominent cleric figures in different parts of the country and religious schools are supporters of the Islamic establishment and they are aware of the government's efforts in serving the country. Therefore their advices are based on compassion and empathy and should be prized." Ayatollah Khamenei also recommended the president and his cabinet to welcome the criticisms of university elites, saying the move will help the executive body to be further strengthened in the face of problems. The Leader also urged the government to avoid vanity which may lead to "several deviations and downfalls." Ayatollah Khamenei says "having faith in God and consolidation of body and spirit are important elements in tackling problems." The Leader urged the new government to follow up the past administration's priorities such as "justice, fighting corruption, supporting the weak people and leading simple lives." Ayatollah Khamenei also touched on the issue of the economy and asserted that establishing justice would be achieved through the fair redistribution of wealth in the country. The Leader said the newly-installed Ahmadinejad government should move to refurbish Iran's economy and reduce inflation. "We should devise a plan to reduce the pressure of inflation on the people," the Leader added. (Top)

Press TV: "Amid 'soft war', Leader calls for 'influential' artists" (6 Sep) The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has called on the Iranian artists to make a strong presence in the 'ongoing soft war' through 'full-fledged' and 'influential art'.

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Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, speaking during a Saturday meeting with poets, intellectuals and artists, described the soft war as a 'reality', which **may** have been underestimated and overlooked by some people. "One believes the existence of the soft war, when one sees fully-equipped aggressors, who have lined up with clenched teeth against the Revolution, its late founder Imam Khomeini, and the principles of the Revolution," the Leader said, adding that "however, some **may** overlook these signs." Ayatollah Khamenei said that distinguishing between 'friend and foe' and between 'aggressor and defender' have become a difficult task, therefore an artist should make 'sacrifices' and 'tremendous effort' to find 'the truth' and to redistribute it in an artistic manner. Artists and intellectuals are part of the great movement of the Revolution and they are obliged to express their understanding of 'the truth', fluently and eloquently," the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei concluded that the ongoing soft war cannot be fought through a 'political approach', offering the presentation of 'the truth' through a "full-fledged and influential artistic manner" as the alternative. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001008.jpg) Fars News Agency: "FNA Managing Director urges investment in media for soft warfare" (7 Sep) Fars News Agency Managing Director Hamid Reza Moqaddamfar on Monday stressed the importance of policy-making and investment in media for strengthening the country's power in soft warfare. "Media capacity for soft warfare can be truly utilized through proper investment and policy-making," Moqaddamfar said. He underlined the necessity for deeper and closer link between Basij (volunteer) forces and **Iranian** media, given the fact that Basij has been tasked with confrontation against soft threats posed by enemies to **Iran**. "In soft warfare, media is the main and the most important weapon, soldier and equipment. If Basij forces want to play an effective role in fields of soft warfare, they should close link with the media," Moqaddamfar reiterated. In February, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Mohammad Ali Jafari said that Basij (volunteer) forces have been assigned by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to fight the threat of soft regime change plans against the Islamic Republic. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Spokesman lambasts Arabs claims over **Iranian** islands" (6 Sep) **Iranian** Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi on Sunday blasted the baseless claims raised by the

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Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) ministers on three **Iranian** Islands, and described the trio as an indispensable part of his country. "The islands have been and are indispensable parts of the **Iranian** territory," Qashqavi said in reaction to a statement issued by the PGCC foreign ministers. In a communique issued during their two-day meeting in Jeddah, the ministers reiterated their support for the UAE's claim to the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf, and called for action to help the Emirates gain sovereignty over the trio, which are internationally considered as **Iranian** territory. Qashqavi also described the move as clear interference in **Iran's** internal affairs. "As we have repeatedly announced the only way to resolve the misunderstanding about Abu Musa Island is bilateral

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negotiations and any meddling by the third parties will not help this trend," the spokesman noted. International documents clearly show that the three islands, which were historically owned by **Iran**, temporarily fell to British control in 1903. The islands were returned to **Iran** based on an agreement in 1971 before the UAE was born. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001009.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Boroujerdi emphasizes **Iran** role in resolving Mideast crisis" (8 Sep) Chief of **Iran's** Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Alaeddin Boroujerdi stressed on Tehran's role in resolving the crisis in the Middle East. Boroujerdi told the **Iranian** students news agency on Tuesday that **Iran** is able to play an important role in regard with regional and international issues adding its proposal package addressing the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5(-PLUS-)-1) was an initiation. "The reason **Iran** used this initiation is that we believe the issues between **Iran** and the P5(-PLUS-)-1 are in a wide range which a number of them include needs of western countries," Boroujerdi said. Considering the US and some European countries conflict in the region particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan, important energy concern of the world in the future, the West energy demand, **Iran's** readiness to defy terrorism and drug trafficking and cooperation in field of energy, the proposal package of Tehran includes similar topics, he added. Also regarding the IAEA recent report on **Iran** nuclear program he said, it showed **Iran** did not diverted from the agency's regulations. **Iran** will continue the path of using peaceful

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nuclear technology in the future and that is not something to be changed by negative propaganda, he asserted. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Iran takes S. Arabia responsible for missing citizen" (7 Sep) Iran announced on Monday that it holds Saudi officials accountable for the disappearance of its national in the country, expressing the hope that Riyadh officials would release the Iranian citizen at the earliest. "According to the consulate conventions, Saudi Arabia is responsible for clarifying the fate of the person and we hope to hear the news on his release or be provided with the possibility for meeting him as soon as possible," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said. An Iranian pilgrim, who traveled to Saudi Arabia for the Umrah Hajj nearly three months ago, went missing in the country. "My husband (Shahram Amiri) who entered Saudi Arabia for Umrah Hajj (a shortened version of the major hajj pilgrimage) on the 10 of Khordad (4th of June 2009) has not contacted the family except for a few phone calls he made at the beginning of his trip," Mrs. Amiri said on Sunday. Saudi Arabia has not been able to safeguard the pilgrims' security visiting the holy sites, she complained, urging Iranian officials and the press to help her find the missing husband. Qashqavi criticized the Saudi officials for their delay in responding to Iran's request to present information on Amiri's fate, and said, "We have not received a clear response from the Saudi officials yet." He called on the Saudi officials to enhance their efforts and announce Amiri's freedom at the earliest, reminding that the spouse and family members of the missing Iranian are gravely concerned. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Opposition spokesman: Yemen accuses Iran to receive S. Arabia's aid" (6 Sep) Spokesman of the al-Houthi Movement Mohammad Abdossalam on Sunday viewed the accusations leveled by the Yemeni officials against Iran as an attempt to charm Riyadh and absorb financial aid from Saudi Arabia. Referring to the claims raised by a number of Yemeni and Arab media outlets about Iran's support for the Al-Houthi movement, Abdossalam reiterated, "These accusations are void and we have repeatedly urged the government to prove its claims about foreign support (for al-Houthi)." He stressed that the Yemeni government tries to receive financial aid from Saudi Arabia through misusing its relations with certain countries. Pointing to the long-term interference of the Saudi government in Yemen's domestic affairs, Abdossalam complained, "Saudi Arabia has been interfering in the internal affairs of Yemen for tens of years." The Yemeni Foreign

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Minister, Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, said Monday his country would make some "hard decisions" regarding **Iran** if it did not stop what he claimed as supporting the al-Houthi group. The Minister said he delivered a memo to the **Iranian** ambassador to Sana'a and to the **Iranian** Foreign Ministry in which he informed them of Yemen's displeasure. "We brought it to the attention of the **Iranian** government that their media broadcasts are not serving the best interests of the bilateral relations between the two countries," said al-Qirbi in a press interview published Monday by the ruling party's paper, al-Methaq. **Iran** has strongly dismissed the claims as baseless, underlining that Tehran has and will always stay aside the internal issues of the other countries for it respects the sovereignty of all other nations. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Envoy underlines religious leaders' role in Muslim unity" (6 Sep) **Iranian** Ambassador to Qatar Abdollah Sohrabi on Sunday stressed the significant role played by religious leaders and figures in uniting the Muslim community against enemies. "Prominent Islamic scholars and figures and religious authorities play a great role and have the heavy responsibility of guiding and leading the Islamic Umma (community) towards unity, consolidation and solidarity against the enemies," Sohrabi said in a meeting with Head of the Doha-based Muslim Umma Union Sheikh Youssef al-Qarzavi. Reminding the special attention paid by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei to the issue of Islamic unity, the envoy noted, "Religious scholars and Marjas (religious authorities) play a vital and decisive role in the combat against extremism and divisive moves." He also called on Islamic countries to safeguard their unity and solidarity through relying on religious commonalities. Elsewhere, the **Iranian** envoy

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described Palestine as a major issue determining the fate of the Muslim world. Sheikh Qarzavi, for his part, said that the Islamic Umma is currently in a real political, economic, cultural and even **military** battle against common enemies, and underlined the necessity for solidarity and unity among nations and Islamic countries. The Sunni scholar also noted that the necessity for maintaining practical unity among Muslims has always been stressed in his meetings with **Iranian** religious leaders and scholars. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Iran, Japan study bilateral ties" (6 Sep)

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Iranian and Japanese deputy foreign ministers examined different aspects of bilateral relations and explored ways to provide a proper atmosphere for investment in various fields. Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kenichiro Sasae and his **Iranian** counterpart Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh held a meeting on Saturday evening here in Tehran. During the meeting, the two sides conferred on the two countries' potentials for mutual cooperation and also discussed regional and international issues.

Akhoundzadeh announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Japan in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other third countries, and Sasae urged Tehran to develop its cooperation with Tokyo in Afghanistan after conducting more studies. Also, the two senior diplomats exchanged views over developments in Lebanon and Palestine. Akhoundzadeh and Sasae underlined the necessity for cooperation by all friendly and influential countries to reinvigorate the Lebanese national unity government and provide special care for the Palestinians and Gazans. (Top)

Press TV: "Arrest warrant issued for Karroubi's son" (7 Sep) An **Iranian** court has issued an arrest warrant for the son of defeated presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi over charges of financial misconduct, a report says. Tehran's Civil and Revolutionary Court has issued arrest warrants for the top executives of Persian Tagam, based on a complaint filed by Irancell, one of the country's three mobile phone network operators, Farsnews reported on Monday. The report said that Irancell launched a legal battle against Persian Tagam CEO Ali Karroubi after the company failed to comply with commitments it had made to provide advertising services for the operator. The report added that one of the company's top executives, who was arrested and later released on bail, had announced in his confessions that Ali Karroubi was responsible for Persian Tagam. "Ali Karroubi, Mehdi Karroubi's son, runs Persian Tagam and I am only in charge of signing the contracts," Farsnews quoted the manager as saying, without disclosing his name. Farsnews said Irancell had provided Persian Tagam with around 2.4 million dollars worth of SIM cards, but the company had refused to pay back the sum after selling them. According to the news agency Irancell also acted as a sponsor for Mehdi Karroubi in the recent elections. Hours after the report was published, however, Sahamnews, the official website of Karroubi's Etemad-e-Melli or National Confidence party posted another version of the story rejecting the account given by Farsnews. "Ali Karroubi holds no shares in Persian Telecom.

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Based on a legal contract with Irancell, the company is one the operator's leading distributors," Sahamnews wrote, quoting a statement released by Persian Telecom. The statement also said that Persian Telecom- which is the company's correct name- was strictly an Irancell distributor and not one of the operator's advertising companies. It also pointed out that the company had "no links whatsoever with either of the presidential candidates."

(Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001010.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Senior MP rejects reports on post-election death tally" (5 Sep) A senior Iranian lawmaker questioned reformist media claims on the number of people killed during events after June 12 presidential election in Iran. Head of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi told FNA on Saturday that the claims in this regard are "questionable given the fact that no detail on the identity of the victims has been present". Ali Reza Beheshti, an aide to failed reformist candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi was quoted on website Kaleme as saying on Thursday that 72 people died in post-election violence, upping an earlier toll of 69. Another reformist Web site on Friday released the identities of 72 people it says were killed by government forces in the aftermath of Iran's presidential elections. The list is more than double the government estimates which put the death toll of protesters between 25 and 30. About Beheshti's comments, Boroujerdi told FNA, "A few weeks ago, Mr. Beheshti and Mr. Alviri (a former mayor of Tehran) came to the national security commission and presented a list of 69 people allegedly killed during the recent incidents without mentioning details of the victims' identities, including the name of the victims' father and their ID numbers." "We, in return, asked them to present us with precise details, reminding them that a list of names without details of (the victims') identities lacks any legal value," the lawmaker went on saying. (Top)

AFP: "Two-km anti-Ahmadinejad banner unfurled in Stockholm" (5 Sep) STOCKHOLM - Opponents to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday unfurled a two-kilometre (1.25-mile) banner bearing signatures of his foes on the sidelines of an EU foreign ministers meeting. The green banner, covered with thousands of signatures collected in July from 190 countries and reading 'Ahmedinejad is not our president', was held by some 400 demonstrators, organisers said. The demonstration took place calmly along a popular Stockholm waterfront near the Modern

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Museum where the ministers were meeting. The banner had already been displayed in Paris at the end of July, according to one of the organisers of Saturday's event, Ashi Hoseini.

The demonstration in Stockholm was a protest against Ahmadinejad's

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controversial re-election in June, she added. Several hundred others had assembled for another protest against the Iranian president earlier on Saturday.

The foreign ministers of the 27 EU states gathered in Stockholm on Friday and Saturday for an informal meeting where the situation in the Middle East was at the top of the agenda. Sweden has a large Iranian community, estimated at around 80,000 people, including around 57,000 born in Iran and most of whom are exiles from the Islamic regime. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001011.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Iran names new envoy to Kirgizstan" (7 Sep) Iran appointed Manouchehr Moradi as its new ambassador to the Central Asian Republic of Kirgizstan. Following a proposal by Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and endorsement of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Manouchehr Moradi was assigned as Iran's new ambassador to Bishkek, Iranian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Bureau announced in a statement on Monday. Moradi was head of the Center for Central Asia and Caucasus Studies in the ministry's Political and International Studies Office, Caretaker in the ministry's second office for Commonwealth affairs, and Deputy head of the ministry's first office for Commonwealth affairs. He also served as the number 2 diplomat in Iran's embassy in Spain. (Top)

Press TV: "Iran invites Afghan contenders to calm" (5 Sep) Iran has called on the candidates in Afghanistan presidential election to refrain from making judgments before the official results are announced. The two main contenders for presidency, Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, have both claimed victory throughout the gradual announcements of election results. Abdullah has accused Karzai of massive vote rigging and warned he would reject the result if fraud played a part in the outcome. "The Islamic Republic of Iran advises all candidates in Afghanistan presidential election to wait for the final results to be released on September 17 and do not be influenced by foreign propaganda and pursue their claims within the framework of the Afghan law," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi

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said on Saturday. "Foreign countries have no right to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, including elections. They should not impose their own ideas on others," he added. Afghanistan's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has said preliminary results will be announced on either Sunday or Monday while final results are not due before September 17. Qashqavi also said that all countries should accept the official winner of the election as the 'legal' president of the Afghanistan. The latest results were released September 3, and showed Karzai maintaining a lead with 47.3 percent of the results from 60 percent of the polling stations. Out of 3.69 million valid votes, Karzai won 1.74 million and Abdullah 1.2 million or 32.6 percent, the IEC announced. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001012.jpg) Mehr News Agency: "Woman MP Fatemeh Alia nominated education minister" (6 Sep) Female lawmaker Fatemeh Alia said on Sunday that her nomination as education minister has become certain. "In the light of my 20-experience in education... I have been selected as the final choice for the ministry of education," Alia told the Mehr News Agency. Alia represents the people of Tehran at the parliament. MP Hamid-Reza Hajji-Babaei also told the MNA that the president, in a letter to the Majlis presiding board on Sunday afternoon, declared Fatemeh Alia and Ali Zabihi as education and energy ministers respectively. Ali Zabihi is the current chairman of the Social Security Organization. Hajji-Babaei, a member of the Majlis presiding board, said the confirmation vote for the vacant ministerial posts will take place on Sept. 15. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001013.jpg) Mehr News Agency: "Woman MP Zohreh Elahian is a candidate for welfare minister" (7 Sep) Presidential Office chief of staff Esfandiar Rahim-Mashaii stated on Monday that MP Ms. Zohreh Elahian is one of the nominees for the post of welfare and social security minister. Elahian sits on the Majlis national security and foreign policy committee. Talking to reporters, Rahim-Mashaii said that there are different nominees for the ministerial post and he doesn't know who will be the president's choice. He added that Elahian is one of the options but the president has not decided yet. Asked on the gender of the nominee, Rahim-Mashaii said he has no information about the issue. Rahim-Mashaii noted that the president will name the candidate for the post before the Majlis holds the confirmation vote for the proposed education

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and energy ministers. Member of the Majlis presiding board Hamid-Reza Haji-Babaei said on Sunday that the confirmation vote for the vacant ministerial posts will take place on Sept. 15. On Thursday, the Majlis confirmed 18 ministerial nominees but voted down the candidates for the post of education, energy, and welfare ministers. In a letter to the Majlis presiding board on Sunday afternoon, the president proposed female MP Fatemeh Alia as education minister and Ali Zabihi as energy minister. (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "Zero interaction between Social Security Organization and Majlis" (7 Sep) A member of the Majlis Social Committee, Seyed Javad Zamani, criticized on Monday President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for proposing Ali Zabihi, chairman of the Social Security Organization, for the post of energy minister. There has been no interaction between the Social Security Organization and the parliament since Zabihi took over the post, Zamani lamented. Zabihi has never participated in the Majlis Social Committee sessions since he was appointed the organization's director, so, the MP noted, it seems unlikely that he would be familiar with "the concept of interaction". Zabihi

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was expected to attend the sessions and give reports to the MPs on his performance in the organization but unfortunately "he never recognized the parliamentarians," Zamani explained. "I have never seen his face; if you have a picture of him, show me to know him", MP Zamani asked reporters in jest. Ali Zabihi was appointed the chairman of the Social Security Organization in late March 2008. On Thursday, the Majlis confirmed 18 ministerial nominees but voted down the candidates for the post of education, energy, and welfare ministers. The president, in a letter to the Majlis presiding board on Sunday afternoon, declared Fatemeh Alia and Ali Zabihi as education and energy ministers respectively. According to MP Hamid-Reza Hajji-Babaei, the confirmation vote for the vacant ministerial posts will be cast on Sept. 15. (Top)

Press TV: "Iran probing post-vote prison abuse charges" (8 Sep) Iranian authorities say they have launched an investigation into public complaints regarding the post-election unrest, with a focus on charges of prisoner abuse. The Supreme National Security Council has formed a committee to look into the cases of those who sustained losses of any kind after the June 12 presidential elections, Iran's local state television reported. The officials

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are investigating the charges of mistreatment made by a number of detainees who were held at the Kahrizak detention center, which is located in southern Tehran. The Kahrizak ordeal began when a number of people, who were arrested during the July 10 protests, were transferred to the facility. University students were separated and moved to Evin Prison in the north of the capital, Tehran. However, up to 145 detainees were temporarily taken to Kahrizak because of the limitations at Evin. "I think there were 10 university students among them. They were there either because they refused to declare that they were students or they were transferred there by a judicial order," said Iran's Chief Police Inspector Brigadier General Mahmoud Tashakkori. "A 70-meter section where hooligans were held was evacuated for the 145 new-comers," he added, during the televised interview. When news of the maltreatment of prisons came out, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei ordered the prison to be shut-down and those responsible to be punished. "The prison officials were suspended, sacked or detained," said Brig. Gen. Tashakkori, explaining the steps that were taken following the order. However, before the closure the dire conditions at the prison had already claimed several lives, leaving the families of victims, such as Mohsen Ruholamini, with only one demand, punishment for those responsible. "Some suppose that our support for the system means that we will give up our rights," said Abdul-Hossein Ruholamini, father of the 25-year old Tehran University Student. "No. It is the system's responsibility to bring those who killed our beloved son, Mohsen, to justice. God willing, hopefully, a spirit of accountability and apology will be defined in all ranks," he added. After Abdul-Hossein Ruholamini's comments, the Leader stressed that all were equal before the law, promising that no compassion would be shown when dealing with the perpetrators of any crimes that may taken place. "The issue of taking responsibility that was mentioned by Mr Ruholamini is completely correct. This family and anyone else who sustained losses of any kind at the hands of any individual whomsoever, should know that the system does not plan to compromise on such issues," said Ayatollah Khamenei. (Top)

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(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001014.jpg) Press TV: "Ahmadinejad avers readiness for 'pressures'" (5 Sep) Amid talks of western confrontation with Iran over its nuclear program, the country's president says his government has prepared itself for

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pressures. "If some believe that through accusations, impoliteness, insults, and spreading of lies they can force us to retreat from the values of the revolution, they are gravely mistaken," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a meeting with war veterans, IRNA, the state news agency, reported. The remarks came after diplomats from the six world powers, known as P5(-PLUS)-1, met in Frankfurt to discuss Iran's nuclear enrichment program and warned Tehran with pressure over its nuclear activities. Sweden, which holds the rotating EU presidency, urged Iran to either accept their offer of direct talks or face confrontation over its much-debated program. "If they are ready to engage with us, we're ready to cooperate with them," Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt told reporters on Friday. "But if they decide to go for confrontation, then confrontation will happen." President Ahmadinejad added that, "We have prepared ourselves to be subjected to pressures and in my government no withdrawal from the principles -- not even one iota -- will take place." (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Japan welcomes Iran's readiness to present new package of proposals" (7 Sep) A senior Japanese foreign ministry official expressed his country's pleasure in Iran's readiness for presenting a new package of proposals for nuclear talks.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Jalili told reporters last week that Tehran is ready to present its updated package of proposals to the six world powers to resolve the nuclear standoff between the two sides. Japan's First Deputy Foreign Minister Kenichiro Sasae on Sunday met with Jalili and expressed Tokyo's pleasure in Iran's readiness to present the package, work and negotiate based on new proposals. He also invited Jalili for a visit to Japan... Elsewhere, Sasae also called for expansion of Tehran-Tokyo cooperation and further consultations between the two countries. During the meeting, Jalili reminded common grounds for relations in different regional and international fields between Tehran and Tokyo and noted that the two countries' ties could be considered as a good example for ties with other countries. (Top)

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MILITARY

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001015.jpg) Fars News Agency: "DM: Zionists' psycho war pushed back by MPs strong vote

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of confidence" (6 Sep) New Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi on Sunday described the strong vote of confidence given by the Iranian MPs to him as a good response to the Zionist regime's psychological war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. "The parliament's high confidence vote (to me as Iran's defense minister) shows the Iranian MPs' emphasis on the strengthening of the Islamic Iran's defense power and development of its deterrence power," Vahidi said. He further underlined that the move by the Iranian lawmakers "defused the world Zionists' negative propaganda and psycho war" against Iran. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Iran advises US to revise positions on new DM"

(6 Sep) The Iranian foreign ministry on Sunday blasted the US officials for their baseless claims about the country's new Defense Minister, Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, and advised Washington to revise its hostile stance. "It is surprising that assignment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Defense Minister which has been carried out through the most populist trend, has come under the US criticism," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi stated... Qashqavi reminded that the world Zionism and certain Argentinean officials involved in the case have failed to present convincing proof to substantiate their claims about Iran's involvement in the AMIA bombing. "The Zionist regime's recent positions are tactics of psychological warfare led by the Zionists to divert the public opinion," he added. The spokesman further expressed regret over the stance adopted by the US in this regard, and advised Washington not to be hooked by the world Zionism which, he said, is the leader of state terrorism.

(Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001016.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Iran builds systems to trace, destroy cruise missiles"

(6 Sep) A senior Iranian commander announced on Sunday that the country's experts managed to build hi-tech missile defense systems capable of tracing and intercepting Cruise Missiles. "Today, we can not only trace, but also destroy radar-evading Cruise Missiles," Commander of Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani said. Miqani also described continued optimization of the existing systems, good interaction with universities and industries, building dozens of home-made flaks capable of competing with the world's modern systems and building anti-aircraft missiles and military and civil defenses as among the most important activities of the base. He further viewed the 30-year-long military boycotts imposed against Iran as

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"ineffective", and said the **Iranian** armed forces have taken good steps towards self-sufficiency and could make vast progress in **military** and aerospace fields. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001017.jpg) Press TV:

"**Iran** warns of US great failures in Afghanistan" (7 Sep) **Iran's**

top **military** commander, Yahya Rahim-Safavi, has warned against great failures of the United States in the war-ravaged country.

"It seems that the US **military** failure in Afghanistan is far greater than its failure in Iraq," the senior **military** advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei told Mehr News Agency. "There is a high probability that Afghanistan will turn into another Vietnam for US and its allies," he said. "On the other hand, we should accept the fact that presence of more than 200,000 foreign forces in the region particularly in South-West Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Middle East, expansion of their bases, sale of billions of dollars of **military** equipments to Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and looting their oil resources are the cause root of insecurity in South-West Asia, the Persian Gulf region and **Iran**," added the top commander. He believed that the current situation makes Muslim nations feel more profound hatred towards presence of occupiers in the region. "The recent security pact between US and NATO and Afghanistan showed the United States has no plan to leave the region," he said. Rahim-Safavi noted that presence of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf had been a cause for concern for Russia, China and **Iran**. "Russia worries about US presence in Central Asia and China has concerns about US interference in its two main Muslim provinces bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

"The Islamic Republic of **Iran** regards presence of the forces as a main reason for insecurity and believes that withdrawal of occupiers will be the mere way to establish security and peace in the Middle East," he added. **Iran's** top **military** figure said that although 130,000 US forces would leave Iraq by 2010, "the US will keep 10 **military** bases in Iraq." "The US has so far sold \$8 billion weapons to Iraq's army. The US does not present in Iraq's ground border but has a full control over its sky." "I think the US will remain in Iraq during next years to loot its oil sources and meet its own strategic interests," Rahim-Safavi said. The commander went to give an analysis on Israel's moves in the future, saying, "I believe that Israel **may** draw plots to reciprocate its defeats in war on Lebanon and Gaza. These plots

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can either target the Gaza Strip, Lebanon or even Iran." "It is necessary to mention that despite their great power, Iran's armed forces will never underestimate the threat of Israel,"

Rahim-Safavi concluded. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001018.jpg) Press TV:

"Iran Navy prepared to block 'enemy' routes" (5 Sep) Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy commander says that the country's naval forces are tasked with blocking water routes used by 'the enemy', in the event of a necessity. Navy commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari made the comments during a Saturday ceremony

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held to welcome back Iran's second navy brigade from a patrol mission in the pirate-infested waters off Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. The commander praised the 64-day mission in which Iranian warships safeguarded the passage of 2,279 commercial ships and oil tankers while escorting 21 of the vessels. The Iranian Naval Forces "are constantly making efforts to have an active role in international waters, in addition to defending the interests of the Islamic Republic," Sayyari was quoted by Fars News as saying on Saturday. "Therefore, it has a duty to block routes used by the enemy, should the necessity arise. It is also tasked with clearing waterways" used by Iranian vessels, he added. Sayyari described the anti-piracy missions, which have placed Iran among an elite group of countries, as an 'honorable' achievement. The Iranian navy deployed its second naval brigade to the Gulf of Aden on August 6, to fight piracy off Somalia. The country's first anti-piracy mission ended on July 7, after keeping a watchful eye on 366 merchant ships -- 36 of which were owned or leased by Iran. Piracy off the coast of Somalia has led to attacks on more than 200 ships over the past 17 months. International concerns over the issue have prompted a fleet of warships to attempt to protect merchant ships in one of the world's most important shipping lanes. Naval ships from the European Union, NATO and other US-led coalitions have been stationed in the region to prevent hijackings and to capture the ominous pirates. However, despite international efforts and calls for countering piracy in the notorious Somali waters, the bandits continue to seize ships, holding them until hefty ransoms are paid. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Commanders of Iranian warships open to international cooperation" (6 Sep) Commanders of Iran's Second Fleet of Warships, which recently backed home from a mission to

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high seas and the **Gulf of Aden**, said that they had met with their Japanese and Australian counterparts during their mission to exchange information on sea pirates. The commander of the **Iranian Navy's** second fleet of warships dispatched to the **Gulf of Aden** said on Saturday evening that he and his colleagues met with Australian and Japanese fleet of warships during their two-month-long mission in the region. He said that the meeting was aimed at exchanging information about the latest conditions in the region, pirates weapons, tools and equipment and the way they act during their assaults on cargo ships and tankers. The commander noted that such meetings play a significant role in uprooting piracy in the region. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Over 2,000 ships detected by Iran's naval fleet in **Gulf of Aden**" (5 Sep) The second **Iranian Navy** fleet dispatched to the **Gulf of Aden** had detected over 2,000 ships in the area during its 64-day-long mission, an **Iranian** commander said on Saturday. "21 **Iranian** cargo ships were escorted by the **Navy's** fleet during the mission," Chief Captain Mohammad Reza Helalipour said in a ceremony marking the return home of Iran's second fleet from the **Gulf of Aden**. He added that the second **Iranian** fleet had detected 2,279 freight ships and oil tankers, communicated with 184 ships and 41 **Iranian** oil tankers and freight ships during its mission. Helalipour pointed out that 72 foreign ships from 21 trans-regional countries were deployed in the region, and said the **Iranian** fleet had staged joint exercises with a number of them. The **Iranian** captain also referred to unfavorable weather conditions in the Indian Ocean and the Oman Sea as among the major hurdles faced by the **Iranian** fleet in its crucial mission. The Islamic Republic of Iran's **Navy** dispatched its third fleet of warships to the **Gulf of Aden** in August. The fleet, which includes Khark battleship and Sabalan destroyer with 400 personnel and naval forces, replaced the second fleet in the region. The second **Iranian** fleet of warships came back home this morning and was welcomed in a special ceremony held in Iran's Third Naval Zone in the southern port city of Chabahar and attended by the Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's **Navy**, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari. The fleet, which included Bandar Abbas logistic ship and Shahid Naqdi destroyer, succeeded in boosting security in the region and providing safe passage for tens of **Iranian** trade cargo ships and tankers and also foreign vessels during its long mission. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Commander lauds **Navy** fleet for saving **Iranian**

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ships in Gulf of Aden" (5 Sep) A senior **Iranian Navy** Commander praised the performance of the country's second fleet of warships during its mission in the **Gulf of Aden**, announcing that the fleet succeeded in saving a group of **Iranian** freight **ships** in the area on July 27. On July 27th, sea pirates sought to approach the **Iranian** cargo **ships** but failed after the presence of the **Iranian Navy's** fleet," Commander Ebrahim Ashkan added in a ceremony marking the return home of **Iran's** second fleet of warships from a 64-day mission to the **Gulf of Aden**. Noting that the second **Iranian** fleet traversed 9,375 miles during its mission, he reiterated that the mission was completed successfully due to the strong commitment and high expertise, skillfulness and capability of the **Iranian Navy** forces. "In recent days we have witness the dispatch of the third fleet of the Islamic Republic of **Iran's** fleet which includes Sabalan destroyer and logistic Khark battleship to the **Gulf of Aden** region," Ashkan reminded, underlying that the country would continue dispatch of troops to the high seas in a bid to assure safe passage for **Iranian ships**. The Islamic Republic of **Iran's Navy** dispatched its third fleet of warships to the **Gulf of Aden** in last Monday. The fleet, which includes Khark battleship and Sabalan destroyer with 400 personnel and naval forces, replaced the second fleet in the region. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "**Iran** welcomes back second **Navy** fleet from **Gulf of Aden**" (5 Sep) **Iran** on Saturday welcomed back its second fleet of warships which returned home at the end of a 64-day-long mission to the high seas and the **Gulf of Aden**. The **Iranian Navy's** /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 12 *****/

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second fleet of warships came back home Saturday morning and was welcomed in a special ceremony held in **Iran's** Third Naval Zone in the southern port city of Chabahar and attended by the Commander of the Islamic Republic of **Iran's Navy**, Rear Admiral Habibollah **Sayyari**. The fleet, which included Bandar Abbas logistic **ship** and Shahid Naqdi destroyer, succeeded in boosting security in the region and providing safe passage for tens of **Iranian** trade cargo **ships** and tankers and also foreign vessels during its long mission. Last Monday, the Islamic Republic of **Iran's Navy** dispatched its third fleet of warships to the **Gulf of Aden**. The fleet, which includes Khark battleship and Sabalan destroyer with 400 personnel and naval forces, replaced the second fleet in the **Gulf of Aden**, a stretch of water between south Yemen and Somalia.

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The two previously deployed fleets secured the area for not just about 300 **Iranian** trade cargo **ships** and tankers but also for 50 foreign vessels. So far the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have dispatched three fleets of warships, comprising 6 warships and logistic vessels to the **Gulf of Aden** and the surrounding **international waters** to safeguard **Iranian** trade cargo **ships** against piracy. The move was in line with the UN resolutions 1838 and 1846 and a request by the Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001019.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Spokesman denies deployment of Israeli forces at Afghan borders" (5 Sep) Afghanistan's Defense Ministry Spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi on Saturday dismissed reports on the deployment of Israeli forces at an Afghan border garrison. Asked to comment on media reports claiming a US-Israeli deal to use an Afghan border post by Israeli forces, Azimi told FNA that such reports are "sheer lies" and "baseless". The spokesman further pointed out that such unfounded reports should be rooted in the baseless allegations and rumors devised and spread by a number of Pakistani state officials. "Certain groups within the Pakistani government, which suspect that the Afghan government has established secret ties with the Zionist regime (of Israel), have recently embarked on spreading such rumors," the spokesman went on saying. "The Afghan government did not and will not have any political and trade ties with Tel Aviv," Azimi reiterated. Also last week, Afghanistan's Defense Ministry dismissed media reports that the country has concluded an agreement with Israel for the purchase of arms and **military** equipment. Pakistan's Observer reported last Friday that Afghanistan has signed a multi million dollar agreement with Israel to purchase armored vehicles and other **military** tools and equipment. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001020.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Freed diplomat urges vigilance against enemy's plots" (5 Sep) One of the five **Iranian** diplomats released from the US **military** jails in Iraq in July, called on the **Iranian** nation to be vigilant about enemies' plots against the Islamic Republic. "The enemies of Islam won't find the chance to do any aggression as long as the **Iranian** nation is vigilant," Majid Qaemi Heydari told FNA on Saturday. "After our freedom, we compared the statements made by the Americans when we were in jail with the events which erupted in Iran after the June 12 presidential election and we came to the conclusion that the enemies had

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hatched and pursued plots against the Islamic Republic since long time ago," the diplomat said. Reciting memories of the behavior and statements of his US jailors during the time of unrests in Iran, Heydari noted that one of his keepers brought a number of photos of post-election unrests in Iran claiming that "the Islamic Republic is over". Heydari is one of the five Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped by the US forces in Iraq in early 2007. US forces on January 11, 2007 broke into the Iranian consulate in the Kurdish city of Arbil, and seized the consulate's computers, documents and staff. Baqer Qabishavi, Majid Qaemi Heidari, Abbas Hatami Kasavand, Mahmoud Farhadi and Majid Daqari were released from US custody in July after over 30 months of detention. (Top)

TERRORISM

Fars News Agency: "Envoy describes Jundullah as Pakistan's enemy" (7 Sep) Pakistani Ambassador to Tehran Mohammad Bakhsh Abbasi here on Monday voiced anger at the Jundullah group for its terrorist operations in Iran, and underlined that the group and its ringleader are enemies of the Pakistani nation as well. Speaking to the reporters on the sidelines of a special ceremony to sign a cooperation agreement between Iran and Pakistan's border police, the ambassador said, "The Jundullah and Abdulmalik Rigi are the enemies of the Pakistani people." Abdulmalik Rigi, a well-known gang leader whose group has already staged several terrorist operations in southeastern Iran, has long been chased by the Iranian troops. In one of the worst cases, his group killed 22 citizens and abducted 7 more in Tasouki region. Abbasi noted that Islamabad is ready for providing any kind of cooperation with the Iranian government and nation, adding, "We will try to arrest and transfer Jundullah (members) and Abdulmalik Rigi to Iran as we did in relation to Rigi's brother (Abdulhamid)." Abdulhamid Rigi, the brother of the ringleader of Jundullah terrorist group, has conducted a number of bombing operations and other violent attacks in Iran resulting in many casualties. Reminding that many terrorist gangs are active inside Pakistan, Abbasi further underlined that his government would never provide support for the terrorist groups active against Iranian people. However, he acknowledged that Pakistan does not have enough police and security forces to chase Jundullah members, and pledged that Islamabad would spare no effort to prevent their operation inside Pakistan. (Top)

ECONOMY/ENERGY

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Press TV: "New deals cement Iran-Venezuela alliance" (7 Sep) Iran and Venezuela sign three cooperation agreements in the fields of medicine, oil and trade at the end of President Hugo Chavez's two-day visit to Tehran. According to the deals, the two allies will jointly produce medicine, swap oil and improve trade ties. The deals were signed between the Iranian ministers and their Venezuelan counterparts during President Chavez's tour to northeastern city of Mashhad on Sunday. Tehran and Caracas had previously signed an array of agreements, pledging to work together in oil exploration, building low-income housing and assembling tractors and bicycles as well as military projects among other ventures. In a joint press conference with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Chavez also announced setting up a joint Iranian-Venezuelan bank. "The two-national bank of Iran and Venezuela is very important and based on an agreement the two sides must inject 100 million dollars into the fund within one month," Chavez said. The Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez also said his country is ready to provide Tehran with 20,000 barrels of gasoline per day. He said that an agreement has been signed between the two countries, according to which Venezuela will start exporting 20,000 barrels of gasoline to Iran per day starting from October. The deal came as the US Senate has approved a bill to put pressure on companies selling gasoline to Iran to force Tehran to halt its nuclear activities. According to the bill, companies that continue to sell gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran will be banned from receiving US Energy Department contracts to deliver crude to the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. "Based on the agreement Venezuela will import machineries and technology (from Iran) in exchange for export of gasoline," Chavez said, adding that the deal is "a strategic" move. (Top)

Press TV: "In Iran, textile mills struggle for survival" (7 Sep) An Iranian official says flood of imports are leading to stoppages at many textile mills across the country. "Due to reckless imports of foreign blankets, the blanket weaving industry has faced production drops," said Mohammad Moravvej-Hosseini, the head of the Board of Directors of Iran's Textile Industry. In an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), he said imports of fabrics and clothes, both "legally and illegally", as well as personal imports have caused

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major difficulties for the industry. "Issuing permissions to cargo dhows in the south to import goods independently has also been a factor in the reckless increase in imported goods," he was quoted as saying by Ettelaat newspaper. According to Moravvej-Hosseini, from the start of the current Iranian year (March 21), 30 percent of textile mills have been unable to renew their contracts with their employees. About 280,000 people were active in the country's textile industry, and their numbers have been cut by the same ratio. "Currently many of the textile mills are facing cuts in liquidity and working capital," he stressed. The sources of the flood of imported textiles are Turkey, China, Pakistan and India. "The value of imported cotton goods from India over the past 5 months equals the whole of last year, while many Iranian mills are at a standstill," Hosseini elaborated. "At present, the biggest textile mill in the Middle East is in the city of Arak, which has not been immune to the circumstances. The operation of another large textile mill in the city of Golpayegan is coming to a halt as well," he warned. "Without a doubt, the reckless import of textiles is a threat to domestic production and, if we aim to support the domestic products, then we must put an end to this." (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001021.jpg) Fars News Agency: "Iranian president to visit Turkmenistan in December" (6 Sep) Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is scheduled to visit Ashgabat late in December, Tehran's envoy to Turkmenistan announced on Sunday. "The exact date for the visit has yet to be determined," Iran's Ambassador to Ashgabat Mohammad Reza Forqani told FNA, adding that the trip will take place at the invitation of Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow to his Iranian counterpart to attend inauguration ceremony of Iran-Turkmenistan new gas pipeline. Earlier media reports announced that Turkmenistan is slated to launch the new gas link in December. The Iranian envoy further said the visit by President Ahmadinejad will take place within the framework of mutual visits by the two country's leaders. Forqani said that the second rail line between Iran and Turkmenistan will also be inaugurated during Ahmadinejad's visit to the Central Asian state. Forqani further pointed to an exclusive exhibition of Iranian made goods to be held in Ashgabat in November, and announced that high-ranking Iranian officials, including Commerce Minister Mehdi Qazanfari, will likely attend the inauguration ceremony of the fair. He noted that a gathering of the two countries' traders and

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businessmen is scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition. The Iranian envoy had earlier announced that the two countries planned to build a new pipeline to transfer Turkmen gas to Iran. "Given the closeness of Turkmenistan's gas resources to Iran's border, a new gas pipeline is to be constructed in near future for transferring Turkmen gas to Iran in addition to the existing Korpheje-Kurt Kui pipeline," Forqani told FNA in July. The diplomat also noted that the gas companies of the two countries have agreed to export gas to Iran from a Turkmen gas field, other than Korpheje. Turkmenistan has agreed to boost the volume of its natural gas exports to Iran to 14 billion cubic meters (bcm) from the current 8 bcm following the start of operation of the new gas pipeline between the two countries. The new pipeline from the eastern Turkmen town of Dauletabad to Iran will have a capacity of 12.5 bcm of gas per year. Turkmenistan has also undertaken to increase the quantity of its gas exports to Iran to 20 bcm in the future. (Top)

Press TV: "Iran plans to set up five new airports" (7 Sep) Iran

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plans to build five new airports to bring the number of its airfields to 59 across the country, an Iranian official has announced. Ali Golmohammadi, the deputy head of Iran Airports Company for operational affairs, told Moj news agency that the new airports will be built in the cities of Torbat-Heydarieh, Boroujerd, Maku, Saqez and Abadeh. Some 70 million dollars has been given to the company by the government this year to develop its construction projects, he said. Golmohammadi says the company owns 54 airports of which only four are "economical for the country". The official previously said plans are underway to classify and standardize airports countrywide. He says systems, equipment and facilities will be provided to the airports to offer services in compliance with international standards. Golmohammadi also told Moj news that the number of transit flights via Iran increased by 4.7 percent in 2008 compared with the previous year. (Top)

Press TV: "5 western planes to join Iranian airlines" (7 Sep) A senior Iranian aviation official says Iran will add five new western planes to its airlines within the next 30 days. Iran plans to introduce 14 new passenger planes to its aviation fleet, acting Iranian Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) chief Mohammad Ali Ilkhani was quoted by Mehr News Agency as saying. "Five

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Boeing and Airbus planes will be entered into the fleet within the next month," he said. **Iran** has banned its airlines from leasing more Russian-made aircraft or buying such planes second-hand after two fatal accidents in July resulted in the deaths of 184 passengers with 30 more suffering injuries. US sanctions prevent **Iran** from updating its 30-year-old American aircraft and makes it difficult to get European spare parts or planes as well. After being prevented from buying the latest Boeing or Airbus aircraft due to US sanctions, **Iran** has started a fleet modernization program based on the latest Russian aircraft, with outstanding orders for 35 Tupolev Tu-204 medium-range airliners. (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "Conference on **Iranian** investment opportunities in Turkey to be held" (6 Sep) A large conference will be held soon in Turkey on **Iran's** investment opportunities in that country, the president of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of **Iran** (OIETAI) stated. The Mehr News Agency quoted Behrouz Alishiri as saying that 130 **Iranian** entrepreneurs and project managers will attend the conference and take part in specialized panels. "These panels include fields such as industry and mines, tourism, agriculture, packaging, wood and MDF, foodstuff, downstream industries, petrochemicals, steel, spare parts, automobiles, household appliances, handbags, shoes and leather," he said. He added that after China, Turkey is the second destination for **Iranian** investments opportunities. Alishiri called on commercial chambers of the country, **Iran's** private sector and entrepreneurs to introduce their new and half-finished projects to OIETAI so they can be proposed to foreign investors. Over the past few years, Turkey and **Iran** have increased their financial cooperation gradually deepening their relationship through growing trade and bilateral investment. Economic relations between Ankara and Tehran began to improve after a groundbreaking official meeting between Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Nezer and **Iranian** President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. For the five years following this 2002 meeting, trade between Turkey and **Iran** increased more than six-fold, hitting \$7.5 billion in 2007. In March 2009, **Iran** and Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding agreeing to cooperate in air, land, and sea transportation as part of an effort to raise the two countries' bilateral trade to \$20 billion. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Pakistani official calls for strengthening ties with **Iran**" (6 Sep) Pakistani Chief Minister Seyed Qaem Ali Shah

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urged for the further expansion and consolidation of his country's relations with Iran, given the age-old friendly ties between the two nations. Speaking in a meeting with Iranian Consul General in Karachi Mohammad Masoud Zamani, Ali Shah reiterated that Iran and Pakistan enjoy ample commonalities, and called on the two sides to use such commonalities to further expand ties and mutual cooperation. He further pointed to a multi-billion-dollar pipeline project for transferring Iran's gas reserves to his nation, and reiterated the Pakistani government's strong support for the project. The long-awaited gas pipeline deal was signed by Iranian and Pakistani officials in Istanbul, Turkey in May. The 2700-kilometer long pipeline is to supply gas for Pakistan which is suffering a lack of energy sources. Also during the meeting, Zamani described Pakistan and Iran as one soul in two bodies, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the democratic approach of Pakistan's new government. "The Islamic Republic of Iran respects the sovereignty of Pakistan," he added. Briefing Ali Shah on bilateral relations, Zamani termed the two countries ties "positive", and expressed the hope that relations and solidarity between Iran and Pakistan would further consolidate under the new Islamabad government. (Top)

Fars News Agency: "Qatar keen to invest in Iran" (7 Aug) Qatar's Finance and Economy Minister Youssef Hossein al-Kamal announced on Monday that his country's investors are eager to invest in Iran's telecommunication, tourism, Banking and steel sectors. Iran's Deputy Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Behrouz Alishiri met with Kamal on Monday and discussed ways to expand the two countries' economic and trade cooperation. During the meeting, the Qatari minister called for the setting up of Qatar's Bank in Iran, and added that Qtel which is among major telecommunication companies in the Middle East is eager to invest in Iran. Also during the meeting, the two sides stressed implementation of agreements signed between Tehran and Doha on customs and tax tariffs. The two sides also agreed about briefing Qatari investors on the investment opportunities in Iran during an

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upcoming meeting on Qatar's investment to be attended by Iran's state and private trade officials. Elsewhere, Alishiri discussed investment opportunities in the tourism sector in a meeting with head of Qatar's Tourism Organization Ahmad al-Naeimi. Alishiri said that establishment of a company for joint ventures was

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proposed during the meeting with the Qatari tourism official. The Iranian official also pointed out that the two sides agreed to set up an exhibition of Iran's industrial and agricultural products in Qatar. (Top)

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

Press TV: "27 Iranians in world's top scientists list" (5 Sep)

Twenty seven Iranian scientists have been named among the 100-member-list of the most prominent scientists in the world, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has announced. The ISI, now part of the Healthcare & Science business of the multi-billion dollar Thomson Reuters Corporation, has put 27 Iranians in different scientific fields were registered among the world's most prominent scientists. Mohammad-Reza Ganjali was put in the 48th place to be the highest-ranking Iranian in the list.

On choosing the scientists, the ISI took into consideration their world ranking; the university, the field of the education as well as the h-index for each nominee, IRIB quoted Parviz Olya, an Iranian Health Ministry official, as saying. The h-index measures both the scientific productivity and the apparent scientific impact of a scientist. It is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other people's publications. (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "Iran to renew tender for third mobile operator" (6 Sep)

The newly appointed minister of Communications and Information Technology said the Third Operator tender will be repeated. Reza Taqipour stated, "We predict foreign investors are interested in the Third Operator project." Taqipour was speaking at the minister's introduction ceremony in Tehran on Sunday in which he expressed his plans for his period as minister. Iran put its third cell phone operator on tender in December 2008. Since then, some international firms, including Russia's MegaFon, UAE's Etisalat and Kuwait's Zain had been announced as winners in different periods, but they have backed away from obligations having reviewed the tender terms. Due to factors related to conducting business in Iran the companies refused to work on the project. According to Press TV, the two mobile service providers in Iran are subsidiaries of state-controlled Iran Telecommunication Company and MTN Group - sub-Saharan Africa's most prominent cell phone operator. (Top)

SOCIETY

Fars News Agency: "Iran to open highly specialized hospital in Tajikistan today" (6 Sep) Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, is

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scheduled to witness today the inauguration of a highly equipped medical center for heart surgery and cardiac diseases built and run by the **Iranian** private sector. The hospital which will be run by the most skillful **Iranian** physicians and nurses is unique in Central Asia. The preparation and equipment of Abu Ali Sina (Avicenna) hospital in Dushanbe, built through investment of the **Iranian** private sector, have already been done and the hospital is slated to witness a special ceremony tonight to mark the launch of its operation. Tajikistan's high ranking officials as well as **Iranian** officials in the country are due to attend the ceremony. **Iranian** Ambassador to Dushanbe Ali Asqar Sherdoust and Tajikistan's Health Minister Nusratullo Salimov as well as head of the investors' group Dr. Salamat visited the different parts of the hospital today. During the visit, the **Iranian** ambassador highlighted growing ties between Iran and Tajikistan in health and treatment field, saying that about 20 Tajik patients travel to Iran each week to receive medical treatment. Thus far, over \$10 million has been spent by the foreign private investors, including Iranians, to construct the building and purchase the most modern equipments for diagnosis, testing, treatment and surgery as well as Cardiac Care Unit (CCU), the envoy added. Sherdoust also said the hospital was built in 18 months, and added that such a short time for constructing and equipping a specialized hospital sets a new record. (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "One instructor per 665 students in Iran" (6 Sep) There is only one instructor for every 665 students in Iran, director of Physical Education Department of the Education Ministry said here on Sunday. According to Reza Rafiani, the ratio of instructors to students was 1:1000 in the last academic year (September 2008-June 2009). Rafei said that the ministry has faced a 12,000-member instructor shortage over the past years.

Referring to the new ministry's plan on reorganization of human forces, he said through the implementation of the plan, the shortage rate will be reduced to 7,000 instructors in the upcoming academic year (to begin on September 23, 2009). (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "30(-PERCENT-) of **Iranian** women anemic" (6 Sep) Recent researches has shown that 30 percent of women aged between 15 and 49 in the country suffer from anemia. Compared with developed countries around the world, anemic women are not in good condition in the Islamic Republic, blood specialist Mina Izadyar said. Women also suffer more from iodine deficiency in Iran compared to men, Izadyar noted, highlighting the fact that

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women are not well-provided with health care services. She blamed discrimination, unequal social, cultural, economic, and employment opportunities as well as health illiteracy for high incidence of anemic diseases and vitamin deficiency among the **Iranian** women. She also described poor nutrition (fast food diet) as other main factor in anemia outbreak in the society. According to Izadyar, women in low-income families are most

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affected by the disease. (Top)

ENVIRONMENT

Fars News Agency: "Quake hits southwestern **Iran**" (6 Sep) An earthquake measuring 3.6 on the Richter scale jolted the town of Do gonbadan in Kohgilouyeh and Boyerahmad province southwestern **Iran**, on Sunday. The Seismological center of Kohgilouyeh and Boyerahmad province affiliated to the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University registered the quake at 05:54 hours local time (0224 GMT). The epicenter of the quake was located in an area 50.95 degrees in longitude and 30.10 degrees in latitude. There are yet no reports on the number of possible casualties or damage to properties by the quake. (Top)

HEALTH

Mehr News Agency: "Regular flu more fatal than swine flu in **Iran**" (5 Sep) Seasonal flu death rate is higher than swine flu's, the director of the **Iranian** Society of Internists warned here on Saturday. Compared with H1N1 flu, regular influenza kills more **Iranians**, but there is no official figures showing the exact death rate from regular flu across the country, Iraj Khosrow-Nia told the Mehr News Agency. Khosrow-Nia called the old and those who have had chronic diseases the most victims of the regular seasonal flu. Great numbers of people die of regular flu per annum in the country during the fall and winter, but the rate has not been registered so far, Khosrow-Nia explained. Of course, swine flu outbreak in **Iran** is nothing to sneeze at. As of June 22, when it burst onto the scene in the Islamic Republic, a total of 285 cases of the disease have been confirmed around the country. One person has also died from the H1N1 virus since then. But swine flu cases in **Iran** are mild, Khosrow-Nia said, we should be cautious but not panicky. The severity doesn't seem to be much different than what it is in the regular seasonal flu, Khosrow-Nia noted. Mohammad-Mahi Guya, an official at the Infectious Diseases Department of the Health Ministry, also named

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regular seasonal influenza more dangerous than the H1N1-A flu. Guya recommended the high-risk groups (the old and those with chronic disease) to get vaccinated against the flu before the flu season (fall) sets in. The former health minister Kamran Baqeri-Lankarani also today spoke of the availability of the free seasonal flu shot in pharmacies across the country. Speaking at his final meeting with ministry's deputies, Lankarani said, "The free flu shots are available for high-risk groups across the country." High risk groups include senior citizens (65 and over), infants under 5, and pregnant women, anyone with a weak immune system or a chronic illness, and anyone with asthma or heart disease. The meeting was also attended by the new Health Minister Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi who was approved by the Parliament on Thursday to become the first **Iranian** minister since the history of the Islamic Revolution. (Top)

ARTS/CULTURE/SPORTS

Fars News Agency: "Montreal International Film Festival awards two **Iranian** films" (8 Sep) **Iran's** "Fire Keeper" directed by Mohsen Amir Yousefi was awarded by Montreal International Film Festival 2009. The film received The Innovation Award from the main section of the 33rd edition of the festival. Also Mohammadreza Vatandoost's "When the Lemons Turned Yellow" managed to win silver Zenith Award from the cultural event. Three other **Iranian** films represented the country at the festival, "Twenty" by Abdulreza Kahani, "Penalty" by Ensie Shah Hosseini and "The First Film" by Panah Panahi, the **Iranian** students news agency reported. **Iranian** famous director, Jafar Panahi headed the festival's jury from August 27 to September 7. (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "**Iranian** album wins top US music award" (7 Sep) "From Stone To Diamond", the latest album by the **Iranian** musician Hossein Behruzinia, recently won second prize in the Middle Eastern Album category at the Just Plain Folks Music Awards (JPF). The nine-track album has been described by the L.A. Times as "spectacular musicianship." 47-year-old Tar and oud virtuoso Behruzinia is one of the students of renowned **Iranian** maestro Mohammadreza Lotfi. He has previously collaborated with Mohammadreza Shajarian, Shahram Nazeri, Alireza Eftekhari, Iraj Bastami and several other **Iranian** top vocalists. He currently lives in Vancouver, Canada. The JPF was founded by U.S. entrepreneur Brian Austin Whitney in 1999. "I want to connect with one motivated musician, writer from every country on planet Earth... I want to get to know you as a fellow human, and then I

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want to learn about what makes you and your country unique," Whitney says in JPF website. The winners of the event are chosen by industry professionals, artists and fans. This year's winners were announced in late August. L.A.-based **Iranian** singer Andy won the JPF first prize in the Middle Eastern Album category for his "City of Angels" while Indonesia's Debu received the third award for "All Together". (Top)

Mehr News Agency: "Muslim world's largest Quranic complex to be established in Tehran" (6 Sep) The greatest Quranic complex in the Islamic world to be built in the capital city of Iran, Tehran Municipality spokesman Mohammad-Hadi Ayazi announced here on Sunday. Its base covers an area of 60,000 square meters and has seven halls featuring Quranic verses, concepts, and themes, Ayazi said. The unique complex of the Islamic world is to be established under the auspices of the Tehran Municipality's Cultural and Arts Organization, Ayazi added. (Top)

(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001022.jpg) Mehr News Agency: "Ghotbi criticizes **Iranian** media" (7 Sep) Iran's football coach Afshin Ghotbi said on Monday that it is not fair to slam
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the national team. **Iran** was badly beaten by Bahrain 4-2 last week, and was held to a goalless draw against Uzbekistan on Saturday. "Iran has yet to defeat Bahrain on their soil. We lost to the team 3-1 in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers. **Iran** was beaten by Bahrain last year in a friendly as well. It is not fair to criticize our team," he said in a news conference held in Iran's Football Federation. Ghotbi cited the lack of facilities in **Iranian** football as a reason for the losses, and said, "Iran doesn't have well-organized facilities compared to other countries, for example Uzbekistan. They will be among the best eight Asian teams in the near future." We should not be afraid of playing with the strong teams. We have to change our view of football to reach big goals," the coach stated. (Top)

Press TV: "Iran to open largest open-air cinema" (7 Sep) Iran's Khavaran Cultural Center is preparing to open the country's largest open-air cinema in the capital of Tehran on Eid ul-Fitr. "The cinema can accommodate 2,500 people and runs in modern Anamorphic format," manager of Khavaran Cultural Center Farzad Houshyar told IRNA. "Cinema fans will be able to watch their favorite movies on weekends in fall and winter and all spring and summer nights," he added. The **Iranian** cinema has been a

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flourishing industry during its long history and Iranian films have won countless awards in prestigious international venues, such as the Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Locarno film festivals.

(Top)

COMMENTARIES/ANALYSES/INTERVIEWS

AFP: "Iran's Mousavi vows to continue fighting election 'fraud'" (6 Sep) Iranian opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi yesterday renewed allegations of fraud in June's disputed presidential election and called for protests to continue against the result. "People, your friends are committed not to betray you on the path of fighting liars and fraudsters," he said in a statement carried on his official website, www.kaleme.com. "With respect to this commitment, the only way that I recommend is to continue on the green path that you have followed in the past months ...with small and large gatherings, campaigns and questions," Mousavi said. His call came two days after Iran's conservative-dominated parliament united behind President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to approve the vast majority of his new cabinet, reportedly after supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei intervened. Mousavi - who came second in the June 12 poll - dismissed hardliner Ahmadinejad's re-election as a "shameful fraud" as hundreds of thousands of Iranians poured on to streets in protest. (Top)

Press TV: "Why the Western media exert pressure on Press TV" (6 Sep) The British government is stepping up pressure against Iran's Press TV in a bid to cover up the true nature of its regional policies, which has been reflected by the English-language news channel, Iranian analysts say. London has been pressuring prominent British figures to resign from their posts at the channel. When some of these individuals -- such as George Galloway, Yvonne Ridley and Tariq Ramadan -- refused to end their cooperation with Press TV they were denied their basic social rights. While European countries claim to be the defenders of human rights and democracy, the City of Rotterdam and Erasmus University dismissed Ramadan because of his program on Press TV. Certain British media outlets have recently launched a propaganda campaign against Press TV claiming that many of the channel's employees have quit their jobs over the network's policies. This is while these media outlets have so far failed to provide the name of even one of the former employees to support their allegations. Iranian analysts believe the British government is imposing restrictions on Press TV in retaliation to Tehran's decision to limit the activities of BBC Persian in Iran

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and the expulsion of two British diplomats over their involvement in the country's post-election unrest. Reports suggest that the UK has been exerting pressure on Ofcom (the Office of Communications) to enforce a ban on Press TV. Ofcom, however, does not appear to have convincing reasons to comply. Analysts believe that the reason for the UK government's attempts to boycott the **Iranian** news channel is a number of Press TV reports and programs, which have exposed Britain's inability to answer to the public about the issues pertaining to the war in Afghanistan. While Britain says its forces are in Afghanistan to fight terrorism, London has proposed holding talks with Taliban terrorists. Despite claiming to be defending British national interests in Afghanistan, the UK government has forced taxpayers to shoulder the heavy costs of war since it began in 2001. Moreover, the eight-year war has not only been able to eliminate terrorist leaders but has made them stronger. Analysts believe these issues along with Press TV's role in uncovering the British government's constant betrayal of public trust has led to London's increasing animosity toward the **Iranian** news channel. (Top)

Payvand: "Jordan shuts down Press TV in Amman" (6 Sep) The Jordanian government has reportedly shut down the Amman bureau of the Tehran-based English news channel, Press TV. The report comes as Jordanian officials had earlier called on Press TV to apply for a renewal of its accreditation in **2009**, which the satellite station had accordingly submitted to the concerned parties. In June, Jordanian authorities revoked the press credentials of two **Iranian** satellite TV stations, the Arabic-language Al-Alam and the English-language Press TV. The move caused the Paris-based journalism watchdog organization, Reporters Without Borders, to write a letter to the Jordanian Media and Communication Minister Nabil Al-Sharif urging him to treat all satellite TV stations equally, and to therefore rescind the closure of Al-Alam and Press TV and give them the licenses and accreditation they need. "News media must be able to work freely even if their editorial

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policies or their funding are clearly linked to a foreign country," the press freedom organization said. Amman alleges that the two **Iranian** satellite TV stations were denied licenses after they lacked the accreditation and permits needed to operate in Jordan. This is while an Al-Alam journalist has informed

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Reporters Without Borders that his station has submitted several requests to the media and communication ministry for the renewal of its accreditation in the past seven months. (Top)

Asharq Alawsat: "Qom and Tehran: Two different attitudes and directions" by Ataollah Mohajerani (6 Sep) Two Friday prayers sermons took place on 21 August 2009, one in the holy city of Qom - the religious capital of Iran - and the other in Tehran - the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran - however these sermons were completely different from each other. When comparing the sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini in Qom to that delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran, it is clear that they each Ayatollah belongs to a very different trend. In my opinion, what we are witnessing is two very different types of Islam, and there is a wide gap between them. However first, allow me to introduce you to the two Imam's mentioned above. Ahmad Jannati has been a member of the Guardian Council since 1980, and has served as Chairman of the Guardian Council since 1988. Ayatollah Jannati wields a considerable amount of influence because not only is he Chairman of the Guardian Council, he also has seats on the Expediency Discernment Council, and the Assembly of Experts... Obviously, Ayatollah Jannati did not accept any security or **military** position; however he has been one of the most extremist religious figures over the past three decades, and during the Friday sermon in question, he advised the security forces and the judiciary to arrest opposition figures, Mohammad Khatami, Mehdi Karroubi, and Mir Hossein Mousavi, for being the leaders behind the recent turmoil seen in Iran... On the other hand, there is Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini, who gave the Friday prayers sermon in the holy city of Qom. Amini is also a member of the Assembly of experts. He is older than Jannati, although both men are from Isfahan. In his Friday prayers sermon in Tehran, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati implied that the reformist leaders, Khatami, Mousavi, and Karroubi, should be arrested in order to end the election dispute and unrest. Ayatollah Ahmed Jannati is the chairman of the Guardian Council and a staunch Ahmadinejad supporter, he described the 12 June election in Iran as the "healthiest" elections held since the 1979 revolution... In his Friday sermon, Ayatollah Jannati also urged the newly appointed head of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani, to make prosecuting the "leaders of the riots" his first official act. This call has been backed by other extremist clerics and officials, as well as high-ranking **military** officers in the

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Revolutionary Guards. In early August, head of the Revolutionary Guard's political bureau, Brigadier General Yadollah Javani, said: "The question is who were the main plotters and agents of this coup. What role did Khatami, Mousavi, and Karroubi play?" Whilst previous to this, in July, the General said "Today, nobody is impartial. There are two currents; those who defend and support the revolution and the establishment, and those who are trying to topple it." In his Friday prayers speech, Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini, who is the most popular Friday prayer Imam in the holy city of Qom, condemned the government's use of violence, and called upon the government to release all of the innocent prisoners. Ayatollah Amini also called upon the Ahmadinejad government to begin the process of reconciliation and put an end to its violation of people's rights. The striking difference between the Friday sermon which was delivered in the religious capital of Iran, Qom, and the political capital, Tehran, provides further evidence of the deep rift between the religious and political sectors in Iran which have emerged following the 12 June elections. The strong sermon delivered by Ayatollah Amini reportedly caused hard-line supporters of Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi to cancel their planned protest against Grand Ayatollah Saneii, who recently spoke out strongly against Ahmadinejad. It seems to me that what we are witnessing is a huge rift between the government and the people. Slowly but surely, Qom is making clear that it stands against more violence, and the arrest of the reformists. In spite of significant political pressure being exerted against Qom, it has not sent any message to Ahmadinejad congratulating him on his re-election. Moreover, Qom's religious figures are openly criticizing the government. In my opinion, this is the beginning of the end for despotism in Iran.

(Top)

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Asharq Alawsat: "Iran and reorganizing priorities" by Tariq Alhomayed (5 Sep) There is caution in our region and anticipation of the near future, whether with regards to Iran, Iraq after US withdrawal, the inter-Palestinian conflict and the peace process, or the escalating political crisis between Baghdad and Damascus. One opinion that I heard deserves serious consideration, even if it is not yet complete in some aspects, and it is the opinion that Iran has begun to reorganize its priorities. Iran's main priority

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now is to control Iraq as a whole; this is what financial indicators suggest, as Hezbollah is not in the best financial situation right now and it was the one spending on Sunni and Christian areas in Lebanon. Moreover, financial support for Hamas has decreased. It is true that Iran is experiencing an internal crisis; however, it is clear that Iran is spending substantial amounts on Iraq at a rapid pace, especially with the US withdrawal. Tehran is not worried about Lebanon because of Hezbollah's strength. This explains Hezbollah's calm and its openness towards its opponents, as Hezbollah has become calmer than the Syrians themselves. In addition, Iran is not relying on Damascus as much as it relies on Hezbollah. Therefore, losing

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Damascus in exchange for gaining control over Iraq as a whole or transforming it into an Iranian colony as some Iraqis say, is more beneficial and logical to the Iranians... (Top)

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(Attachment not included: IAP20090908434001023.jpg) Times Online: "Missing channel pirate ship carried Russian arms for Iran" by Mark Franchetti in Moscow and Uzi Mahnaimi in Tel Aviv (6 Sep) A CARGO ship that vanished in the Channel was carrying arms to Iran and was being tracked by Mossad, the Israeli security service, according to sources in both Russia and Israel. The Arctic Sea, officially carrying a cargo of timber worth (-POUND-CURRENCY-)1.3m, disappeared en route from Finland to Algeria on July 24. It was recovered off west Africa on August 17 when eight alleged hijackers were arrested. The Kremlin has consistently denied that the vessel was carrying a secret cargo. It claims the ship was hijacked by criminals who demanded a (-POUND-CURRENCY-)1m ransom. The official version was challenged by sources in Tel Aviv and Moscow who claimed the ship had been loaded with S-300 missiles, Russia's most advanced anti-aircraft weapon, while undergoing repairs in the Russian port of Kaliningrad. Mossad, which closely monitors arms supplies to Iran, is said to have tipped off the Russian government that the shipment had been sold by former military officers linked to the underworld. The Kremlin then ordered a naval rescue mission which involved destroyers and submarines. Any evidence that the Kremlin had let advanced weaponry fall into the hands of criminals or be

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sold to **Iran** would be highly embarrassing, so **military** officials believe a "cover story" was concocted. "The official version is ridiculous and was given to allow the Kremlin to save face," said a Russian **military** source. "I've spoken to people close to the investigation and they've pretty much confirmed Mossad's involvement. It's laughable to believe all this fuss was over a load of timber. I'm not alone in believing that it was carrying weapons to **Iran**." The alleged hijackers, four Estonians, two Russians and two Latvians, will go on trial in Moscow. According to the Kremlin's account, they boarded the Arctic Sea in the Baltic by claiming their inflatable craft was in trouble and then took over the **ship** at gunpoint. Sources in Moscow suggested Mossad **may** have played a part in the alleged hijacking by setting up a criminal gang, who were unlikely to have known anything about a secret cargo. "The best way for the Israelis to block the cargo from reaching **Iran** would have been to create a lot of noise around the **ship**," said a former army officer. "Once the news of the hijack broke, the game was up for the arms dealers. The Russians had to act. That's why I don't rule out Mossad being behind the hijacking. It stopped the **shipment** and gave the Kremlin a way out so that it can now claim it mounted a brilliant rescue mission." According to Israeli **military** sources, Israel received intelligence that weapons bound for **Iran** were being loaded in Kaliningrad, a port notorious for gun runners. "A decision was then taken to inform the Kremlin," said the source. Had the S-300 missiles been delivered, **Iran** would have significantly strengthened its air defences. An Israeli air force source said that in the event of an attack on **Iranian** nuclear installations, such missiles could increase Israeli casualties by 50(-PERCENT-). Since the Arctic Sea was retaken, Russia has imposed a security blackout. The hijackers, the crew and two investigative teams were flown back to Moscow in three Il-76 air freight planes. For more than a week after being freed the crew were not allowed to talk to their families. The captain and three crew are still on board the **ship**, which has resumed its voyage to Algeria, but they have not been able to call home. Last week Mikhail Voitenko, an outspoken piracy expert who disputed the Kremlin's original version of events, fled Russia, claiming he had received threats from an official angered by his statements. Admiral Tarmo Kouts, former commander of Estonia's armed forces and the European Union's rapporteur on piracy, has infuriated Moscow by saying the only plausible explanation of the mystery is

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that the **ship** was transporting weapons. A spokesman for the Finnish owner s denied that missiles could have been secretly loaded onto the **ship**. Sources who suspect Mossad's involvement point to a visit to Moscow by Shimon Peres, the Israeli president, the day after the Arctic Sea was rescued. Peres held four hours of private talks with Dmitry Medvedev, the Russian president. Although the Israeli foreign ministry would not be drawn on the Arctic Sea, it confirmed that the two leaders had discussed the sale of Russian weapons to countries hostile to Israel. According to Israeli officials, Peres received verbal guarantees from the Russians that they would not sell advanced weapons systems to Iran or Syria. "Clearly the Israelis played a role in the whole Arctic Sea saga," said a Russian **military** source. "Peres used the incident as a bargaining chip over the issue of arms sales to Arab states, while Israel allowed the Kremlin a way out with its claims to have successfully foiled a piracy incident." (Top)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article6823300>.

ece

The Telegraph: "US dishonours its promise to Iranian refugees; Why are world leaders ignoring the fate of exiles belonging to the People's Mujahideen of Iran, asks Christopher Booker. " (5 Sep)

In recent weeks, widely reported in the US but virtually unnoticed here, an extraordinary drama has been unfolding over the ruthless attack by Iraqi government forces on Camp Ashraf, north of Baghdad, which for years has been home to exiles belonging to the People's Mujahideen of Iran (PMOI), the leading group opposed to the murderous tyranny in Tehran. In July, despite the fact that each of the 3,500 residents had been given a personal guarantee of safety by the US government, Iraqi troops, supported by Iranian special forces, stormed into Ashraf,

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bulldozing homes and civic buildings, killing 11 unarmed refugees, injuring 500 and taking 36 people hostage (an action which has since been ruled illegal by Iraq's criminal court). For **six** weeks in London, backed by Amnesty International, the Law Society and an all-party group of MPs and peers, Iranians have been camped outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square, pleading with the US government to honour its pledge. **Six** protesters, related to Ashraf residents, have been on hunger strike for 40 days, three now so seriously ill that they were last week removed to hospital. Similar scenes have taken place outside the White House.

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Yesterday, hundreds of Iranians staged protest rallies in London, Washington and Stockholm, outside a meeting of EU foreign ministers, calling on the EU, the US, the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross to take action on this continuing outrage. The remaining Ashraf residents, denied proper medical or food supplies, fear that unless the US and international bodies intervene, they face forcible deportation to Iran, where most would be imprisoned or executed. The EU is compromised because only last year it was forced by both British and EU courts to lift the ban it imposed on the PMOI as a "terrorist" organisation, to appease the Tehran regime. But the real onus to stop this horror lies with the UN, the Red Cross and above all the US government, which should honour the pledge it gave, in writing, to each of those refugees it has since betrayed. (Top)

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COUNTRY: DJIBOUTI

SUBJ: DJIBOUTI CJTFHOA DAILY PRESS SUMMARY 30 JUN 09 (U//FOUO)

SOURCE: DJIBOUTI COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE HORN OF AFRICA IN
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Prepared for CJTFHOA by the Cubic Virtual Analysis Center on 30 June, 2009, (808)534-7601/7607

Top Headlines Houthis Want Yemen To Release Over 1000 Detainees
Analysis/Road Ahead: Despite Houthis' offer to swap detainees, neither rebels nor the Yemeni government will decrease its armed presence in Sa'ada Province, ensuring continued clashes in towns where Houthis maintain funding and supply connections as well as community support. These clashes will produce more prisoners who will remain the focus of on-going half-hearted talks between rebels and the government. Houthi accusations Sana'a treats detainees inhumanely elicited a riposte alleging the rebel movement is degenerating into a criminal group related to arms and drugs smuggling. Although Houthis will deny Interior Ministry

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allegations, the statement highlights the growing problem of networks linking criminal, separatist and Islamist movements in Yemen. As long as government security forces cannot control rural or urban environments, Houthis will maintain links to criminal, separatist and jihadi groups, raising all of these organizations' abilities to operate in the broader Arabian Peninsula/Horn of Africa region.

For related articles, go to: Pg 6 - 10 Yemen Related Articles

Sources: Yemen Times, 29 Jun 09

Somali Insurgents Say Will Acquire US Arms

Analysis/Road Ahead: The al-Shabaab threat to acquire arms sent by the US to the Somali government will raise debates over controlling trade into and out of Somalia more effectively as well as how to ensure arms reach their intended recipients. Ugandan and Burundian officials within AMISOM will demand that organizations/nations **shipping** arms and other supplies also provide personnel and protocols to handle the distribution and verification processes, stalling the delivery of arms to the Somali government. Moreover, if arms and munitions are stockpiled at AMISOM facilities, they will attract radical militia attacks, causing Ugandan and Burundian casualties and raising intra-African tensions over the failure of Nigeria, Ghana and Malawi to deploy pledged contingents. Rising indicators of a paralyzed Mogadishu government will result in previously pro-government clan militia fighting autonomously and eventually brokering deals with radical Islamists in interior regions, permitting Islamists to focus solely on Mogadishu.

For related articles, go to: Pg 13 - 19 Somalia Related Articles

Sources: AP, AFP, Shabelle, 29 Jun 09 - earlier media reporting; AMISOM; C-VAC Somali Factions Primer

Kenyan Herders Move To Somalia For Pasture

Analysis/Road Ahead: Besides administrative and political repercussions Kenya's northeastern officials will experience based on inaccurate census counts, Kenyan herders moving into Somalia will spark territorial skirmishes with Somali herders and provoke an armed al-Shabaab response. Radical Somali Islamists will not only try to indoctrinate/recruit herders before sending them home in hopes of sparking violence within Kenya but will also abduct some of them and publicize their executions as Kenyan spies, events that will elicit angry anti-Somali demonstrations in Nairobi and Kenya's northeastern border provinces where Somali refugees number in the hundreds of thousands. The humanitarian

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consequences of both the migration and demonstrations will be that malnourished people will be exposed to harsh elements and require medical assistance while traveling or moving into camps, increasing mortality rates in both countries. Kenyan herders unfamiliar with the Somali rivers and pastures risk being caught in flash floods when/if rains occur.

For related articles, go to: Pg 22 - 27 Kenya Related Articles
Sources: Daily Nation, Reuters, 29 Jun 09 - earlier media reporting

NATO Renews Anti-Piracy Mission In Somali Waters

Analysis/Road Ahead: NATO renewed its anti-piracy deployment to the **Gulf of Aden**, Red Sea and Indian Ocean to protect civilian vessels transiting Somali waters. The small number of warships compared to the patrol area will continue to thwart coverage of all traffic despite expanding communications and cooperation links with other anti-piracy patrols, including Russia's **warship** in the region and Yemen's coastguard. With NATO and other anti-piracy contingents displaying difficulty prosecuting detained pirates and with the Somali government lacking judicial structures, pirates will exploit their own information networks to target vessels flagged in countries with no warships in the

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****/

region, forcing warships successfully foiling attacks to hand pirates over to Kenya or Puntland or release them. The introduction of Kenyan and Tanzanian patrols in more southerly waters will press pirates further north and east again, keeping them from picking off coastal trade there and possibly energizing Arabian Peninsula countries to increase their participation.

For related articles, go to: Pg 33 - 42 Piracy Related Articles
Sources: AP, ITAR-TASS, The East African, SABA, 29 Jun 09
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Other Highlights Middle East Yemen Houthis Want Yemen To Release
Over 1000 Detainees

Synopsis: Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi ordered his supporters to release 25 soldiers who were handed over to a mediation committee last week, Houthi spokesman Sheikh Saleh Habra said. The soldiers had been detained in Shada district during confrontations last week that erupted between Houthis and

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the army and resulted in dozens killed and injured on both sides. "Releasing soldiers is a humanitarian sign and positive initiative by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi who hopes that the government deals similarly and releases 1,200 Houthi detainees," said Habra. "Detainees are subjected to the most heinous non-humanitarian treatment in the government's prisons." An official source in Sa'ada governorate has accused the Houthis of attacking police stations, killing a number of policemen and soldiers, and kidnapping a number of soldiers last week. The source pointed out that the Houthis controlled some schools, hospitals and government centers in Ghamr district in Sa'ada, where a state of tension has been hovering since the breakout of the first war in June 2004. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior accused the Houthis of drugs trafficking to supply their rebellion and using drug revenues to purchase weapons. It further pointed out that there is a relation between drugs merchants and the Houthi movement which provides them with protection and safe shelter. The ministry made clear in a statement published by the state security's media center that there is a notable spread of addiction to drugs among Houthis, as disclosed by investigations with Houthi elements arrested throughout the five wars in Sa'ada. Analysis/Road Ahead: Despite Houthis' offer to swap detainees, neither rebels nor the Yemeni government will decrease its armed presence in Sa'ada Province, ensuring continued clashes in towns where Houthis maintain funding and supply connections as well as community support. These clashes will produce more prisoners who will remain the focus of on-going half-hearted talks between rebels and the government. Houthi accusations Sana'a treats detainees inhumanely elicited a riposte alleging the rebel movement is degenerating into a criminal group related to arms and drugs smuggling. Although Houthis will deny Interior Ministry allegations, the statement highlights the growing problem of networks linking criminal, separatist and Islamist movements in Yemen. As long as government security forces cannot control rural or urban environments, Houthis will maintain links to criminal, separatist and jihadi groups, raising all of these organizations' abilities to operate in the broader Arabian Peninsula/Horn of Africa region.

Sources: Yemen Times, 29 Jun 09

Houthis Release 25 Soldiers

Source: Yemen Times, 29 Jun 09 (Yemen Times is an English language newspaper published twice a week Monday and Thursday.

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Located in Yemen, it has a general degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias. Most reporting focuses on:

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news, articles, special reports and briefs on economy, culture and entertainment as well as articles supporting press freedom, respect for human rights, political pluralism and democracy.

Yemen Times' estimated circulation/audience reach is 30,000 reaching audiences across Yemen.)

Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi ordered his supporters to release 25 soldiers who were handed over to a mediation committee last Wednesday, Houthi spokesman Sheikh Saleh Habra has told the Yemen Times.

The soldiers had been detained in Shada district during confrontations last week that erupted between Houthis and the army and resulted in dozens being killed and injured on both sides.

"Releasing soldiers is a humanitarian sign and positive initiative by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi who hopes that the government deals similarly and releases 1,200 Houthi detainees," said Habra.

"Detainees are subjected to the most heinous non-humanitarian treatment in the government's prisons." An official source in Sa'ada governorate has accused the Houthis of attacking police stations, killing a number of policemen and soldiers, and kidnapping a number of soldiers last week. The source pointed out that the Houthis controlled some schools, hospitals and government centers in Ghamr district in Sa'ada, where a state of tension has been hovering since the breakout of the first war on June 18, 2004. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior accused the Houthis of drugs trafficking to supply their rebellion and using drug revenues to purchase weapons. It further pointed out that there is a relation between drugs merchants and the Houthi movement which provides them with protection and safe shelter. The ministry made clear in a statement published by the state security's media center that there is a notable spread of addiction to drugs among Houthis, as disclosed by investigations with Houthi elements arrested throughout the five wars in Sa'ada.

European conflict resolution think-tank International Crisis Group (ICG) recommended late last **May** that no countries of the region offer financial or **military** support to either the Houthis or the Yemeni government, including the pro-government armed tribes. The organization, that offers analysis and consultancy to international organizations and countries, recommended the Yemeni

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government stop the random detention of people from Sa'ada, releasing detainees in the context of the Sa'ada war, and declaring an amnesty for Houthis. It recommended the government and Houthis stop recruiting tribal militia and survey damage in the areas affected by war through the assistance of independent local and international experts, and launch development projects in Sa'ada. It further recommended that diplomats, journalists, charitable associations and human rights organizations be allowed to reach the areas affected by the war. ICG also recommended the Yemeni government "condemn the stigmatization of Hash-e-mite identity and facilitate the entry of qualified Hashemites into state institutions." "The destruction of entire villages and infrastructure by army shelling, air bombardment and indiscriminate **military** and police violence exacerbated grievances among not only Hashemites generally and Zaydi revivalists in particular but, more broadly, civilians in all northern governorates," said the organization's report. ICG recommended western donor countries supporting Yemen pressure both sides to end the conflict, and participate in mediation efforts to insist on full access to war-affected regions for diplomats, journalists, and humanitarian and human rights organizations. It also recommended donors pledge reconstruction assistance for the development of Sa'ada governorate as an incentive to reach a durable peace agreement. It further advised Houthi leaders articulate political demands and publish a political program as a step toward becoming a political movement or party, and to clearly endorse government sovereignty in Sa'ada governorate and other districts with a rebel presence.

Yemen Jet Crashes In Indian Ocean

Source: BBC, 29 Jun 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

A Yemeni airliner with 150 people on board has crashed in the Comoros archipelago in the Indian Ocean, officials say.

"We don't know if there are any survivors among the 150 people on the plane," a senior government official told Reuters news agency. The plane belonged to Yemeni state carrier Yemenia Air. The three

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islands of Comoros are about 300km (190 miles) northwest of Madagascar in the Mozambique channel.

Yemen Will Not Send Troops To Somalia

Source: Yemen Times, 29 Jun 09 (Yemen Times is an English language newspaper published twice a week Monday and Thursday.

Located in Yemen, it has a general degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias. Most reporting focuses on: news, articles, special reports and briefs on economy, culture and entertainment as well as articles supporting press freedom, respect for human rights, political pluralism and democracy. Yemen Times' estimated circulation/audience reach is 30,000 reaching audiences across Yemen.)

Yemen does not intend to send any **military** troops to interfere in the conflict in neighboring Somalia, said high ranking official yesterday.

The source confirmed that, although Yemen supports the current government of Somalia, Yemen is not going to send any troops or peacekeeper soldiers. Yemen and other African countries are under intense pressure from Somalia to send troops into Somalia to keep the Shabab, Islamist militants, from taking power. Somali President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed declared last week a state of emergency, following weeks of intense fighting between Shabab and pro-government forces. Somali parliamentary speaker requested help from troops in neighboring countries, including Yemen, Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia, to stabilize the nation, while the Shabab, who reportedly have ties with Al-Qaeda, have warned against any foreign intervention. Somalia's call for help came hours after top politicians were killed in ongoing fighting in the

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

capital. Although Yemeni has not announced a defined official response to Somalia's request, the diplomatic procedures between the two countries have not been suspended. Two telephone calls were reported between the Yemeni president and his counterpart in less than five days. According to Yemen's state-run news agency, during the two calls President Saleh asserted Yemen's strong stand with Somalia to achieve national unity and return peace and stability to the country. The Somali president assured that "extremist forces would not achieve their evil goals to destroy the unity of Somali people," the agency quoted.

Like Yemen, Djibouti hasn't given an official response about the Somali request for troops. Ethiopia, however, said that it would only intervene under a mandate from the international community.

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Ethiopia ended a widely unpopular **military** occupation of Somalia in January under a UN-sponsored peace deal signed in Djibouti. Kenya also rejected to send its troops after a direct warning from the Shabab, which is listed as terrorist origination at the UN. Last week, the Shabab warned against any foreign **military** intervention in the Somali conflict. "We are sending our clear warning to the neighboring countries. Send your troops to our holy soil if you need to take them back inside coffins," Sheikh Ali Mohamed Rage, a Shabab spokesman, told a news conference in Mogadishu. "We tell you that our dogs and cats will enjoy eating the dead bodies of your boys if you try to respond to the calls of these stooges, because we wish to die in the way of God more than you wish to live," he said. More than 4,300 soldiers are already deployed in Somalia as part of an African Union (AU) force, protecting strategic sites such as the presidential office, the port and the airport. But the troops are not allowed to fight alongside government forces and are authorized only to retaliate if they come under direct attack. The US government has provided about 40 tons of weapons and ammunition to shore up the besieged government of Somalia in the past **six** weeks and has sent funding to train Somali soldiers, said the Washington Post on Saturday. US officials said that Somalia has become a haven for Al-Qaeda operatives. More than 300 people have died since the clashes in early **May**. An estimated 18,000 civilians have been killed in the insurgency since early 2007, while over a million have fled. The insurgency, combined with drought, has left over 4 million Somalis -up to one third of the population- dependent on food aid and has allowed piracy to flourish off the coast of the Horn of Africa nation.

35 Outlaw Elements Arrested In Dalei Province

Source: SABA, 29 Jun 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News. SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

About 35 persons in connection with attacking a demonstration in Dalei province were arrested by security forces in the province last Wednesday.

Interior Ministry sources have mentioned that the accusers were referred to the criminal prosecution after being arrested acting against the unity of the country. The outlaw elements shot fire and threw stones against the demonstrators in order to stop it,

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the sources added.

Coastguard Tests Radar Monitoring System In Aden

Source: SABA, 29 Jun 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News. SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

Yemen coastguard forcers carried out on Monday a test for the vessel radar monitoring system, which aims to secure the navigation safety in the territorial waters and the international passages.

Two **boats** of coastguard forces sailed to a distance of 68 - 90 miles in the territorial waters and made communication operations between the two **boats** and the radar monitoring location in Aden using high-technical equipment to transmit data via digital codes to the main centre in the capital Sana'a. It is worth to mention that Yemeni Coastguard Authority launched last Tuesday in Aden the 1st stage of marine radar project funded by Italian government at a total cost of (-VERTICAL-BAR-) 20 million. The project was achieved by a Yemeni technical team along with experts from the Italian company SELEX. The work in this vital and strategic project has started in 2008 to enable coastguards to receive SOS from **ships** asking for help and to discover early any piracy act in the sea.

More Somali Refugees Reach Taiz Coasts

Source: SABA, 29 Jun 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News. SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

In what has become most daily displacement, nearly 27 Somali refugees including 11 women have reached Thubab coast of Taiz province, Interior Ministry has said.

In collaboration with Yemeni Red Crescent, the refugees were collected in order to be sent to the main camp of Kharaz in Lahj province. Around 25 Somali refugees reached last Saturday Thubab coast of Taiz province, Interior Ministry has reported. Few days earlier, 34 Somali refugees, including 19 women, have arrived at al-Jahaf area at Thubab district after an unidentified **boat** disembarked them at the coast and escaped. They were all sent to Kharaz Camp. Thubab coast received daily between 25 - 40 refugees, security authority said, expecting more of African displacement

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to the Yemeni shores due to the deterioration of the security condition in Somalia. Yemen has witnessed a tremendous rise in the number of Somali refugees, which is exceeding more than 800.000 Somali refugees.

Swine Flu Cases Cured, Unknown Epidemic Hits Hais, Hodeidah Governorate

Source: Yemen Post, 29 Jun 09 (Yemen Post is an English-language newspaper, located in Yemen. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows a political bias towards Islamic policy,

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 *****)

Muslim religious affiliation, and no bias against the USG or US **military**. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion and business. The Yemen Post reaches audiences throughout the Middle East.)

The sixth swine flue case "H1N1" has been successfully cured, according to Health Ministry.

The General Director of Disease Control and Epidemiological Surveillance, Dr. Abdul Hakim Al-Kuhlani said that the case of a Yemeni girl holding the British nationality was successfully cured. Dr. Al-Kuhlani added that neither the passengers arrived on the same flight with the girl nor any of her family members were infected. Dr. Kahlani also confirmed that all six cases were discovered in Yemen have been cured and they are living their life normally now. Locally speaking, a sixth death case due to the unknown epidemic which is sweeping the rural villages of Hais department, Al-Hodaida governorate, was confirmed, raising the number of deaths to 6. Other 10 new cases were hospitalized from the neighboring villages raising confirmed cases to 90, medical sources said. The sources added that the real causes behind this pandemic were not revealed, since samples have been sent to the Central Laboratory in Sana'a soon after its emergence. For his part, Sultan Al-Maqtari denied that the Central Laboratory revealed the epidemic to be cholera. Al-Maqtari attributed the epidemic to lack of access to clean water sources in those areas, adding that preparations for addressing it are very scarce.

Horn of Africa Ethiopia Ethiopia Is The US' Primary Ally In The Region

Source: AFP, in French, 29 Jun 09 - Translated by Cubic Translation Services (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP

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has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)

The world will closely watch the 2010 elections in Ethiopia.

The US Deputy Secretary of State, Jacob Lew, declared on Monday evening 29 June at a press conference in Addis Ababa that Ethiopia remains his country's 'principal ally' in the region although he did express concerns over the political situation. "I am here because Ethiopia is our principal ally in this region and an important development partner. Ethiopia plays a very strategic role in the region," Lew said. As for the situation in Somalia, Lew pointed out the US' support to the Somali transitional federal government (TFG) and the 'need to help this state reestablish stability,' although he also insisted that the US 'in engaged in activity within the framework of what regional countries like Ethiopia want.' Somalia has been tangled in civil war since 1991, and the TFG had confronted an Islamist insurgent offensive since May. Ethiopia intervened in the country in late 2006 to press Islamists out of power and support the TFG. The country's troops totally withdrew earlier this year. Insisting on the 'deep, strong and lasting' relationship between the two countries, Lew said that 'among friends, there is not always agreement' and pointed to Ethiopia's political situation. During his 29 June meeting with Prime Minister Meles, Lew noted 'that the 2005 elections were good but that there remains concern over making a place for public debate' and pointed to the problems of 'opposition and freedom of speech.' "We discussed the 2010 elections and the importance of dialogue between the government and opposition parties to support elections and democratic processes," he added, saying also that 'his government was worried over restrictions recently imposed on NGOs and other associations.' The 2006 elections were disputed by the opposition, which organized protests that authorities repressed, killing some 200 people. Several Ethiopian opposition leaders are currently in exile or prison, notably Ms. Birtukan Mideksa, the President of the opposition coalition. "We have absolutely said that next year's elections must be free and fair. I highlighted our concerns over Ms. Birtukan and indicated that the case should be rapidly and definitively resolved," Lew said. On other topics, he noted 'that on poverty reduction, Ethiopia is working in a

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positive direction,' and he express the US' desire to reforms its own aid to development policy toward less emergency aid and more long-term development. "Last year, we furnished more than one billion dollars of aid to Ethiopia, 60(-PERCENT-) of which was food aid. We are seeking to implement agricultural development assistance to promote food security in a more effective way," he explained.

US Administration Committed To Work With Ethiopia

Source: Nazret.com, 29 Jun 09 (Nazret.com is an English language news aggregator, considered the largest Ethiopian news and information service online, located in College Park, Maryland.

Most reporting focuses on: daily news, discussion forums, web and blog directory and sports news; as well as links to Ethiopian radio and television. Nazret.com's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 12 per 1 million with 49(-PERCENT-) of the global audience located in the United States.)

Deputy Secretary of State: United States' new administration committed to work with Ethiopia

United States' new administration is committed to work with Ethiopia in providing more productive and sustainable assistances designed to meet fundamental needs of the society, said Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Jacob J. Lew. Concluding his official visit to Ethiopia on Monday the deputy secretary told journalists in Addis Ababa that his country will continue to support Ethiopia in areas of agriculture and health. "I am here to listen and underscore our commitment to work with the people and government of Ethiopia," he said. The deputy secretary said the new administration seeks long term and sustainable agricultural sector growth to boost farmers' productivity, increase food availability and raise income with a view to eradicating famine. In the global health arena, he said, we seek to build on the successes of our HIV/AIDS program to build durable and sustainable health system while concentrating on maternal and child health.

The deputy secretary mentioned that Ethiopia has made important
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 7 *****/

strides in the areas of agriculture and health, pointing out that the new America's administration looks forward to working together with the Ethiopian government to achieve the common goal of improving the lives of Ethiopians. He also said that Ethiopia is working in a positive direction on poverty reduction while facing very difficult challenges. The United States is committed

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to working closely with Ethiopia to find new ways and new mechanisms so as to gain more productive results, he added. In his visit to Ethiopia the secretary met with senior government officials including Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. He also paid a courtesy visit to the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange, an organized marketplace where buyers and sellers come together to trade and assured of quality, quantity and payment, and the Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Addis Ababa. The deputy secretary told ENA that he had fruitful discussion with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on development cooperation and other issues of mutual interest.

Give Us Political Space To Maneuver - Meles Zenawi

Source: Nazret.com, 29 Jun 09 (Nazret.com is an English language news aggregator, considered the largest Ethiopian news and information service online, located in College Park, Maryland.

Most reporting focuses on: daily news, discussion forums, web and blog directory and sports news; as well as links to Ethiopian radio and television. Nazret.com's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 12 per 1 million with 49(-PERCENT-) of the global audience located in the United States.)

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is appealing to the international community to provide Africa with policy space so that the continent can weather the current economic challenges. The Prime Minister said that the international community could and should provide adequate policy space, live up to its commitments in terms of development assistance, limit global warming and pay compensation for the unavoidable damage caused by it so that it could assist Africa. "Sovereign African nations are not so sovereign when it comes to economic policy making", Meles said indicating that most African states depend heavily on foreign aid and credit to sustain their economic activities and the aid is largely disbursed on the basis of how well countries adhere to the policy orthodoxy promoted by donors. "While there may have been a neo-liberal consensus among major donors, there was never any such consensus in Africa. It was imposed on Africa," Meles argued. While making his speech on Africa's policy response to the Global Financial Crisis and how the International Community should help Africa Meles said that it is necessary for the International Community to make a distinction between "development assistance that Africa is asking for and the compensation for global warming that it is demanding". Meles who represented Africa during the G20 meeting and is referred as the voice of Africa said reduced growth, low commodity

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prices and high oil prices were likely to affect Africa for about 10 years and the West needed to give African nations the ability to devise their own policies to lessen impacts. Meles also note that rich countries should stop attaching economic polity conditions to foreign aid, which he said the hungry continent was dependent on. "African countries are faced with very well-coordinated and solid policy orthodoxy from donors... They either adhere to it and get the money, or chart their own course and face the risk of the drying up of external assistance."

"Growth in Africa collapses when prices go up too far and when they go down too far. In other words the fragility of Africa's economy is at the root of the impact of the current crisis on our economies." If the international community does the things he suggested, Prime Minister Meles advised: "I think many if not all of the African countries will have a fighting chance of surviving the dangerous economic storms that we are passing through and even thrive in them".

Fighting Kills About 10 In Mustahil Town

Source: Shabelle Radio via All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (Shabelle Media Network is a Somali and English language network comprising of an internet site, a radio station and a television channel, located in Mogadishu, Somalia. Independently owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. The typical audience demography targeted consists of: Somalis in Somalia and Diaspora, non-Somalia Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia and the Diaspora, regional communities, policy makers working with international organizations and the NU system and stake holders in the International humanitarian and security systems. Most reporting focuses on: news, features, analysis and investigative reporting from Somalia on various natures in particular on political, economic and social, as well as humanitarian issues. Shabelle Media Network's estimated circulation/audience reach is more than 1.8 million reaching audiences across Somalia and the surrounding regions.) About 10 people have been killed and more others have been injured after clannish fighting between two militias started near Mustahil town in the Somali region in Ethiopia, witnesses told Shabelle radio on Sunday.

Reports from Mustahil town say that the fighting started on Saturday afternoon in Omar Don village near Mustahil town in Ethiopia as two Somali clan militias clashed there killing about

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10 and injured more others during the war. Reliable sources confirmed that all the died and injured people in the fighting were the two warring tribal militias adding that there are more other casualties though the fighting continued until overnight. Residents in Mustahil town said that the traditional elders and scholars in the region started efforts mediating the two sides to halt the continuing fighting between the Somali people in Ethiopia. Reports from Mustahil town say that there is still tense situation in the area where the fighting started as the people in the region expressed concern about the fighting between the two sides.

Ethiopia Health Facilities Readied For Service In Limuseka

Source: Nazret.com, 29 Jun 09 (Nazret.com is an English language news aggregator, considered the largest Ethiopian news and information service online, located in College Park, Maryland. Most reporting focuses on: daily news, discussion forums, web and blog directory and sports news; as well as links to Ethiopian radio and television. Nazret.com's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 12 per 1 million with 49(-PERCENT-) of the global audience located in the United States.)

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Various health facilities constructed in Limuseka Woreda, Jimma Zone of Oromia State at a cost of over 11 million birr are readied for service, the Woreda finance and economic development office said.

Office head Fikadu Baleme told ENA that the facilities includes the construction of two health stations and 14 health posts. Some seven million birr for the construction of the facilities was secured from the government and the balance from NGOs and the public, he said. Currently, some 35 health posts and five health stations are providing services in the Woreda. The newly constructed facilities are believed to increase the health coverage of the Woreda.

Somalia Somali Insurgents Say Will Acquire US Arms

Synopsis: A radical Islamic group in Somalia has threatened to seize weapons and ammunition the US supplied to the nation's embattled government. But Uganda, a key US ally in the region, praised the arms **shipment**. Both were responding to an announcement by US officials last week that the Obama administration had supplied arms and provided **military** training worth just under \$10 million to the east African country's

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official government. The Obama administration's goal is to provide the faltering Somali government with weapons and to help armies in several neighboring African nations train Somali forces. But experts have expressed concern that the arms **may** end up diverted to insurgent groups. Sheik Hassan Ya'qub, a spokesman for the militant group al-Shabaab in the port town of Kismayo, said, "The weapons sent to the so-called government will only escalate violence in Somalia and we, the holy warriors, believe that we will eventually seize them." The group, which controls much of southern Somalia, is trying to drive out the government and install a strict form of Islam. "I welcome (the) USA's sending of weapons to Somalia," said Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, a major contributor of troops to the African Union force in the Somali capital. The African Union and the UN "support Somalia's government, and if the US comes out to support it, it is a good gesture," Museveni told reporters. In **May**, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development - a group of seven countries in the Horn of Africa region that has led past peace talks on Somalia - imposed a sea and air blockade to stop **military** supplies reaching the Islamic insurgents. It is not clear whether the blockade has been effective.

Analysis/Road Ahead: The al-Shabaab threat to acquire arms sent by the US to the Somali government will raise debates over controlling trade into and out of Somalia more effectively as well as how to ensure arms reach their intended recipients. Ugandan and Burundian officials within AMISOM will demand that organizations/nations **shipping** arms and other supplies also provide personnel and protocols to handle the distribution and verification processes, stalling the delivery of arms to the Somali government. Moreover, if arms and munitions are stockpiled at AMISOM facilities, they will attract radical militia attacks, causing Ugandan and Burundian casualties and raising intra-African tensions over the failure of Nigeria, Ghana and Malawi to deploy pledged contingents. Rising indicators of a paralyzed Mogadishu government will result in previously pro-government clan militia fighting autonomously and eventually brokering deals with radical Islamists in interior regions, permitting Islamists to focus solely on Mogadishu.

Sources: AP, AFP, Shabelle, 29 Jun 09 - earlier media reporting; AMISOM; C-VAC Somali Factions Primer

Somali Rebels Threaten Violent Response To US Arms

Source: AP, 29 Jun 09 (The Associated Press is an English

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language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest new organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

Uganda praises the arms **shipment**.

A radical Islamic group in Somalia has threatened to seize weapons and ammunition the U.S. has supplied to the nation's embattled government. But Uganda, a key U.S. ally in the region, praised the arms **shipment**. Both were responding to an announcement by U.S. officials last week that the Obama administration had supplied arms and provided **military** training worth just under \$10 million to the east African country's shaky official government. The Obama's administration's goal is to provide the faltering Somali government with weapons and to help armies in several neighboring African nations train Somali forces. But experts have expressed concern that the arms **may** end up diverted to insurgent groups. Sheik Hassan Ya'qub, a spokesman for the militant group al-Shabab in the port town of Kismayo, said late Sunday: "The weapons sent to the so-called government will only escalate violence in Somalia and we, the holy warriors, believe that we will eventually seize them." Washington considers al-Shabab a terrorist group with links to al-Qaida, which al-Shabab denies. The group, which controls much of southern Somalia, is trying to drive out the government and install a strict form of Islam. "I welcome (the) U.S.A.'s sending of weapons to Somalia," said Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, a major contributor of troops to the African Union force in the Somali capital. The African Union and the U.N. "support Somalia's government, and if the U.S. comes out to support it, it is a good gesture," Museveni told reporters in the Ugandan port town of Entebbe on Monday.

Over the past two months, Somali President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed's government has come under heavy attacks from Islamic insurgents pounding government positions with mortars and targeting senior officials in suicide attacks. During an intense two-week period of fighting in the capital in **May** about 200 civilians were killed. It is unclear how al-Shabab, an extremist Islamic group fighting to overthrow the government, will follow

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through on its threat to seize the arms. U.S. officials said last week that the arms were supplied through the African Union force in the Somali capital, which has firm control of Mogadishu's main air and sea port even though Al-Shabab controls other parts of Mogadishu. In **May**, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 9 *****/

- a group of seven countries in the Horn of Africa region that has led past peace talks on Somalia - imposed a sea and air blockade to stop **military** supplies reaching the Islamic insurgents in Somalia. It is not clear whether the blockade has been effective. There has been a U.N. arms embargo on Somalia since 1992, but it is regularly violated. The U.N. amended the embargo in 2006 to allow the deployment of an African Union force in Somalia without violating international law. Somalia has not had an effective government since 1991 when the overthrow of a dictatorship plunged the country into chaos. That also has allowed pirates to operate freely in the **Gulf of Aden** and around Somalia's 1,900-mile (3,060-kilometer) coastline.

US Official Stresses Support For Embattled Somali Govt
Source: AFP, 29 Jun 09 (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)
A top US diplomat on Monday stressed his country's support for Somalia's transitional government, whose control has been hanging by a thread in the face of a fierce Islamist insurgency.

"The US government has always been clear that it is important to support the TFG (transitional federal government)," US Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew said during a visit to neighbouring Ethiopia. "We are engaged in activities consistent with what the countries of the region are involved in." Last week, a US official said the United States was giving Somalia's embattled government urgent supplies of weapons and ammunition to fight off the insurgents. Islamists launched a nationwide offensive against the administration of President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed on **May 7**. The internationally-backed Sharif has been holed up in his presidential quarters, protected by African Union peacekeepers as his forces were unable to reassert their authority on the capital. In 2006, Ethiopia, a key US ally in the region, invaded

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Somalia to remove an Islamist rebellion that had taken control of large swathes of the country. When it pulled out earlier this year, having failed to stabilise the country, Ethiopia warned it could return at any time should hardliners threaten to take control.

Lew had earlier met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and said he raised US concerns over Ethiopia's 2005 elections. "We noted that the 2005 elections were good but expressed that we were troubled at the reduction in space for open public debate ...," he said. The European Union and other observers said the 2005 elections fell short of international standards, and around 200 people died in violence that erupted after the opposition accused Meles' party of rigging the ballot. Several members of the Ethiopian opposition are now in exile or in prison, including Birtukan Mideksa, the head of an opposition coalition. "We have expressed very strong views that the election next year should be free and fair," Lew said. "I raised concerns about Birtukan and said the case should be resolved quickly and finally." Lew also said the United States was concerned over restrictions Ethiopia has placed on aid groups. Ethiopia adopted a law early this year stating any local group drawing more than 10 percent of its funding from abroad would be classified as foreign and subjected to tight government control.

Heavy Shelling Starts, Injuring Six People In Mogadishu

Source: All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (All Africa.com is an English language online new aggregator, located in Washington D.C. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: African news and information through a diversity of opinions from more than 130 international media organizations. All Africa.com reaches audiences world-wide.)

At least 6 people have been injured after heavy shelling started in parts of Hodan district in the Somali capital Mogadishu, residents said on Sunday.

Residents said that about 25 mortar shells landed in parts of Hadan district as KPP and Sigale neighborhoods in Mogadishu where a base for armed Islamist forces against the transitional government adding that at least seven people were injured in the shelling. An emergency traffic official said that they took seven people to the hospitals in Mogadishu as the residents started to flee from their houses to get a shelter and save their lives at

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the concrete buildings around the district. There is no full details about the shelling in parts of the capital so far and it is also unclear the real figure of the casualties. The shelling comes as there was no fighting in Hodan district neighborhoods in Mogadishu where more displaced residents returned recently. We shall keep updating you for any further details about the fighting.

Heavy Shelling And Clashes Kill Four, Injure 13 People In Mogadishu

Source: Shabelle Radio via All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (Shabelle Media Network is a Somali and English language network comprising of an internet site, a radio station and a television channel, located in Mogadishu, Somalia. Independently owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. The typical audience demography targeted consists of: Somalis in Somalia and Diaspora, non-Somalia Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia and the Diaspora, regional communities, policy makers working with international organizations and the UN system and stake holders in the International humanitarian and security systems. Most reporting focuses on: news, features, analysis and investigative reporting from Somalia on various natures in particular on political, economic and social, as well as humanitarian issues. Shabelle Media Network's estimated circulation/audience reach is more than 1.8 million reaching audiences across Somalia and the surrounding regions.) At least 4 people have been killed and 13 others have been injured after separate heavy shelling and sporadic fighting started in parts of Hodan and Karan districts in the Somali capital Mogadishu, residents and official told Shabelle radio on Sunday.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 10 *****/

Residents said that about 25 mortar shells landed into parts of Hadan district as KPP and Sigale neighborhoods in Mogadishu where a base for armed Islamist forces against the transitional government adding that at least four people were killed while seven others were injured in the shelling. Ali Muse, An emergency traffic official confirmed the death of 4 people in the Hodan district and took seven people to the hospitals in Mogadishu as the residents started to flee from their houses to get a shelter and save their lives at the concrete buildings around the

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district. The shelling comes as there was no fighting in Hodan district neighborhoods in Mogadishu where more displaced residents returned recently. On the other hand at least six people were wounded after clashes between the Islamist forces and government soldiers started in Karan district in the north of the Somali capital Mogadishu. The clashes and shelling come as there has been calm situation in the capital.

Al-Shabaab Destroys Spoiled Food In Mogadishu Market

Source: AFP, in French, 29 Jun 09 - Translated by Cubic

Translation Services (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)

Radical Islamist leaders are expanding implementation of strict sharia in the capital.

Radical Islamist fighters belonging to al-Shabaab launched an operation in Mogadishu's main market against the sale of expired food and threatened those who disobey with punishment within an Islamic tribunal, al-Shabaab announced. Several dozen militiamen descended on Bakara market seeking expired food in its stalls, according to witnesses. "It is a top priority for us to fight people who wrong society by selling spoiled food to the people; that is anti-Islamic behavior," Sheikh Ali Mohamed Hussein, an al-Shabaab official, said. "Our fighters are patrolling the market today and have uncovered 5 stalls where expired food was in stock. We closed them and will continue until we totally run them out," Hussein threatened. "From today, merchants must clear their shops and remove all expired merchandise in five days time; otherwise, they will face Islamic law," Hussein said. Al-Shabaab controls most of the Somali capital where they have begun to implement strict shari'a law. On 25 June, four thieves had their right hands and left feet amputated in northern Mogadishu after an Islamic court condemned them for stealing cellular phones and assault rifles. Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam launched an offensive against the fragile Sheikh Ahmed government on 07 May. Government forces now control only a small part of the country and several blocks of the capital.

Somali Insurgents To Seize US Arms Supply

Source: AP, 29 Jun 09 (The Associated Press is an English

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language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest new organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

A spokesman for radical Islamic insurgents says his group will seize weapons the U.S. has supplied to Somalia's embattled government.

Sheik Hassan Ya'qub of al-Shabab says the weapons **shipments** will escalate violence in war-racked country. He was speaking late Sunday in reaction to U.S. officials' statements last week that the Obama administration was supplying arms and providing **military** training to the shaky government. The U.S. officials say the goal is to stem Islamic insurgent advances in the Horn of Africa region. Islamic insurgents have been trying to topple the government for more than two years. Somalia has not had an effective central government for 18 years.

Ethiopia Ogaden Rebels Blast Report On Killing Civilians

Source: Sudan Tribune, 29 Jun 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The ONLF rejected the claim by the website, Somaliland press, accusing the rebel group of killing several civilian in south Eastern Ethiopia, who are traders from Somaliland's Hargesa town.

"The report by the website, Somaliland press, which claims that ONLF fighters killed several civilian traders from Hargesa, is not based on facts." In a press release, the rebel group said that "It is a fabricated and baseless allegation" The report by Somaliland press earlier this week said that, a group of ONLF rebels ambushed a convoy killing two Somali civilians in Ethiopia and seriously wounding several others. The report said the victims were traders with Somaliland origins, going toward the Gashamo town in the Degehabur Zone of southeastern Ethiopia when they were attacked. The zone is bordered by the semiautonomous

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Somaliland region of Somalia whose clan lives along both sides of the border. Unlike The concocted story which said that, ONLF fighters carried out the attacks because it was angry with people from Northern Somalia's relationship with Ethiopia, ONLF regards all Somalis as brothers. The statement said. "The Ogaden National Liberation Front regards all Somalis as brothers and does not hold any grudges against any groups from Somalia despite many transgressions by some Somali warlords against the Somali people from Ogaden and their legitimate struggle for total emancipation." "The Somali people in the Ogaden and the Somalis in North Somalia share a common heritage, kinship and economic ties that benefit both peoples. The reason for ONLF's struggle is to emancipate the Somalis in Ogaden regardless of clan, believe or affiliation and there is no reason why it should target parts of its own people." it added.

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"Any entity or group trying to sow conflict and division among the Somali sub-clans in the Ogaden will fail. People with this attitude should know that this outmoded logic will benefit no one and they will be held responsible for unnecessary consequences of their machinations." The statement further said. According to the report by Hargesa media, this incident was not the first time the ONLF killed Somali Landers in Ethiopia. The ONLF is a grassroots social and political movement founded in 1984 by the Somali people of Ogaden. The organization wants a referendum for separation of the Ogaden region from Ethiopia. Ethiopia considers the rebel group as a terrorist organization. The ONLF fighters oppose exploration for Oil by Ethiopian authorities and foreign companies in the Ogaden region. In 2007 ONLF attacked an oil venture and killed 74 Ethiopian and Chinese Oil workers. The group has also been accused by local Somalis of laying mines, burning villages, attacking development projects and intimidating Somalis who do not support its cause. The London-based ONLF leadership has in turn accused Ethiopian authorities of detaining civilians, threatening rebel sympathizers, blocking food aid and committing war crimes in the region. Recently the resistance group has warned all international Oil corporations, including the Malaysian Petronas company, from making any deals with Addis Ababa. ONLF recently blamed multinational oil corporations for allegedly financing criminal activities in the Ogaden and causing a huge environmental disaster. Since the 1990s, ONLF and the Ethiopian

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government were engaged in several peace talks led by local Somali elders but all the efforts have failed.

Somali Govt Seeks AU Assistance

Source: KBC, 29 Jun 09 (KBC is a state controlled leading Internet, radio, and television media organization located in Nairobi, Kenya. Broadcast services are provided in Kiswahilli, English, Somali, Borana, Rendile, Burj, Turkana, Meru, Embu, Maqasai, Kamba, Luo, Kisii, Kalenjin, Kuria, Teso, Luhya, Suba and Pokot.)

The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia is optimistic that the ongoing African Union meeting in Libya will offer a solution for the troubled country.

The fragile UN-backed transitional government has been locked in a fierce battle with al-Shabab's guerrillas. The TFG has since last month launched a series of attacks aimed at driving the rebels out of Mogadishu but has failed to make headway. The attacks have left Somalia's security minister and the Mogadishu police chief dead as the situation threatens to get out of hand. It is a development that the transitional government hopes that the ongoing African Union meeting in Libya will offer a respite to. The government has appealed to the international community for **military** assistance to help it contain the militia. The United States government has already offered to send financial and **military** support to the fragile government after a green light from the U.N. Security Council to prevent rebels seen as a proxy for al Qaeda from overrunning the Horn of Africa nation. The transitional government has previously relied on African Union troops from Uganda and Burundi to protect essential facilities. Somalia which has been without a functional government since 1991 has been hit by unrest with piracy along its coastline causing havoc within the maritime trade. Meanwhile the Somali federal government Monday appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers to manage donor funds meant for institutional capacity building and development. The TFG with support from bilateral and multilateral organisations is trying to help put in track the basic institutions through a process of reconstructing the financial institutions. The TFG Finance Minister Sharif Hassan Adan said Price Waterhouse Coopers will specifically undertake financial and procurement management, tracking and monitoring the use of disbursed funds and financial capacity building of the government financial institutions. "This is a big step in reconstructing and rebuilding Somalia. I encourage other development partners to

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expeditiously support the TFG. In addition this will enhance transparency, accountability and will make it possible for resources to be connected to results," he said.

Big Explosion Occurs In Beledweyn Town

Source: Shabelle Radio via All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (Shabelle Media Network is a Somali and English language network comprising of an internet site, a radio station and a television channel, located in Mogadishu, Somalia. Independently owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. The typical audience demography targeted consists of: Somalis in Somalia and Diaspora, non-Somalia Somalis in Kenya, Ethiopia and the Diaspora, regional communities, policy makers working with international organizations and the NU system and stake holders in the International humanitarian and security systems. Most reporting focuses on: news, features, analysis and investigative reporting from Somalia on various natures in particular on political, economic and social, as well as humanitarian issues. Shabelle Media Network's estimated circulation/audience reach is more than 1.8 million reaching audiences across Somalia and the surrounding regions.)

Big explosion has occurred near Al-aqsa school in Beledweyn town in Hiran region injuring a civilian, witnesses told Shabelle radio on Monday.

Residents said that the blast was very big and happened near Al-aqsa school in Beledweyn town about 9:00 PM local time over night in the western side of the town in central Somalia adding that it injured young teenager who near where the blast occurred. It is unclear what kind of the explosion was and there is no group claimed the responsibility of the blast. "The blast occurred on a street that connects different neighborhoods in Beledweyn town. It has wounded a young man who was traveling on the street in Beledweyn town," a resident said. The people in the town expressed concern about the big blast that convulsed the parts of the town overnight and it was the first such explosion happen in that neighborhood in Beledweyn town in central Somalia.

Armed Bandits Kill, Rob People Traveling Near Jowhar Town

Source: All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (All Africa.com is an English language online new aggregator, located in Washington D.C. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards

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the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: African news and information through a diversity of opinions from more than 130 international media organizations. All Africa.com reaches audiences world-wide.)

At least one person has been killed and more others have been injured near Jowhar town 90 kilometers north of the Somali capital Mogadishu after armed bandits opened fire to a lorry and its passengers, witnesses told Shabelle radio on Monday.

Reports say that the bandits fired the truck and its passengers as it left from Mogadishu and traveling to the central regions of Somalia, killing one and injuring several others in the lorry.

Some of the passengers told Shabelle radio that their vehicle was from Mogadishu and to central regions saying that the gunmen opened them fire as they were passing through Shimbirow village in the west of Jowhar town in Middle Shabelle region adding that they were also robbed by the armed thieves after the accident. The passengers said that the bandits took all things on the truck as mobiles and money which belonged by the traveling people. There is no comment about the robbing and killing event from Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen administration in Middle Shabelle region in southern Somalia.

Sudan Sudan Says No Secret Deal With US

Source: Sudan Tribune, 29 Jun 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The Sudanese government today denied reports that it struck a secret deal with the United States that would eventually lead to the easing of the unilateral sanctions.

Some Sudanese newspapers reported this week that Washington asked Khartoum to degrade relations with Iran and stop arms smuggling to the Palestinian Hamas militant group in Gaza. In return, the US would reconsider its position on the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant issued last March for Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir. Furthermore, Sudan would be removed from the US list of states that sponsor terrorism and lift economic sanctions imposed since 1997. But the Sudanese foreign ministry spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq denied the reports saying that

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international relations prevent interference in affairs of other countries. He added that no country can impose conditions on another country when conducting its foreign affairs saying that this is not a negotiable issue. Al-Sadiq said that the "serious dialogue" with Washington **may** resolve the pending issues that "has nothing to do with compromises". The US administration appeared to be softening its stance towards Sudan with suggestions that it could move forward in normalizing relations between the two countries.

Yesterday the Sudanese president welcomed the "reconciliatory" tone by the Obama administration saying previous US presidents were hostile to his country. The issue of arms smuggling to Hamas controlled Gaza strip **may** have recently emerged as an outstanding issue between Sudan and the US. Last March the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported that the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak personally warned his Sudanese counterpart on the growing trend of arm smuggling from his country. The WSJ said that Mubarak was also echoing US complaints on the same issue who sent a formal letter demanding Sudan's government "cease smuggling arms into Egypt". Israeli plane have reportedly struck suspected arm smugglers headed towards Gaza strip earlier this year in Eastern Sudan killing dozens of people. On the issue of the ICC former US administration vowed to use the veto power to block any attempt to stall the arrest warrant through a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution as requested by some of Sudan's allies. However, Obama's administration on the position appears ambiguous. It was reported that that the US reaffirmed the same stance in a UNSC closed session with the ICC prosecutor this month.

US Envoy To Meet Darfur's Rebels

Source: BBC, 29 Jun 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

The US envoy for Sudan, Scott Gration, is due to meet Darfur rebel leaders in neighbouring Chad in a bid to revive the stalled peace process.

Mr Gration is hoping to talk to officials from two rebel groups - the SLA and Jem - as well as Chad's President Idriss Deby. Chad

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and Sudan accuse each other of backing rebel groups which operate across their troubled border. Some 300,000 people have died in the six-year conflict, the UN says. The BBC's Celeste Hicks in N'Djamena says it is an open secret that leaders from the Justice and Equality Movement (Jem) are often in Chad's capital. Many are from the same Zaghawa ethnic group as President Deby. Leaders of Abdul Wahid's faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) are also in Chad for the talks. Diplomatic sources say that the US envoy is hoping for a sign of the rebels' willingness to agree to a cessation of hostilities and to become more of a political force. However just four weeks ago Jem said they took and briefly held the towns of Kornoi and Um Baru in Darfur, and Jem sources told the BBC that they **may** consider trying to retake Kornoi if the circumstances are right. Although Mr Gration initially said it was not in his mandate to talk to Chadian rebels who recently staged an attack in the east of Chad, it is thought that he **may** now try to look at their role in the whole destabilisation of the region. Chad accuses Sudan of backing these rebel groups. Recent peace talks have stalled, partly because the rebels have split into so many different groups.

Official Says More Disarmament To Occur In Lakes State

Source: Sudan Tribune, 29 Jun 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 13 *****/

news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The Lakes state Deputy Governor and Minister of Local Enforcement, H.E. David Nok Marial Buot appeared in Yirol West County on Thursday amid tight security to enforce disarmament in the county.

Mr. Buot for the first time is visiting Yirol West County, Awerial County and Yirol East County just to raise awareness in the communities on how disarmament procedures could be carried out in the state. In a rally held at Yirol West County on Thursday after a security meeting of the county local authority, the community strongly welcomed the disarmament but demanded Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) President Salva Kiir Mayardit to visit greater Yirol. A number of chiefs notified the deputy governor to convey the message to Governor Daniel Awet to invite

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President Kiir for a normal visit to all Lakes state counties; they cited prior visits in which the GOSS president visited Rumbek Central County without paying a visit to the others county as he has done in other states. The GOSS president had promised to visit all eight counties of Lakes during the Lakes state political turmoil last year. Recently a special court in Yirol West County bearing the authority of a traditional court has announced the findings of some murder cases of Anuol Payam. Inter-clan and inter-tribal violence continues in the state, compounded by lack of a fully functioning justice system and the widespread availability of arms left over from the 22 year civil war.

Lawyers To Seek Genocide Charge Against Sudan's Bashir
Source: Reuters, 29 Jun 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Prosecutors will try to charge Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir with genocide in Darfur after the International Criminal Court (ICC) denied this count in March, prosecutors at the court said on Monday.

The ICC indicted Bashir on seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape and torture and issued an arrest warrant for him in March but said it had insufficient grounds for a charge of genocide. The court said last week it would allow prosecutors to appeal its ruling. Prosecutors said in an e-mailed statement they would appeal on or around July 6 against the ICC's decision to exclude the genocide count. The court, set up in 2002 by international statute, could change its decision if the prosecution could gather additional evidence, the ICC said in March. Bashir, 65, has dismissed the allegations made by the ICC, the world's first permanent court for prosecuting war crimes, as part of a Western conspiracy. The ICC warrant was the first issued against a sitting head of state by the Hague-based court for a conflict that United Nations officials say has killed as many as 300,000 people since 2003. Bashir has refused to deal with the court and has continued to travel to countries which oppose the indictment despite the arrest warrant.

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Darfur IDP's Skeptical Over Mbeki Panel

Source: Sudan Tribune, 29 Jun 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

The spokesperson of Darfur displaced people, expressed skepticism over the ability of the African Union (AU) panel headed by the former South African President Thabo Mbeki to contribute positively in the resolution of the six year crisis.

Hussein Abu Sharati speaking from Kalma camp in south Darfur said the issues discussed by Mbeki's panel did not respond to their expectations for security and trial of people responsible of war crimes committed since 2003. "The panel, during its meeting with the IDP's, spoke about issues like compensations, voluntary return, and peace," said Abu Sharati. "But the priorities for us are elsewhere," he added. "The security is our top priority and this should be achieved through the disarmament of the Janjaweed militias not by the government but by international forces to implement it properly and effectively." "Also there should be justice in Darfur and we want to see those who killed our people, raped women and took the control of our land tried for all these crimes," he further added. The eight-member panel was established by the AU last February in response to the imminent issuance of an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir. The AU rallied behind Bashir and criticized the warrant saying it will severely impede peace efforts throughout Sudan. The commission has been tasked with looking into ways to balance accountability with bringing peace into Darfur and will submit a report to the summit next July. A report is due to be submitted by the panel next week to the AU leaders during their summit in Sirte, Libya. Abu Sharati asserted without these demands, the IDP's would not return to their homeland. He reiterated that peace only could be reached at this price. In an interview this month, Abu Sharati said they fear without the complete disarmament the militias would resume their attacks even if a peace deal is reached. They also think the government has plans to reshape the ethnic composition of the troubled province in order to have permanently political supporters there.

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Sudan Tribune Journalist Detained In Juba

Source: Sudan Tribune, 29 Jun 09 (Sudan Tribune is an English language non-profit news aggregator. Located in France, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: Sudan relevant news, opinions, press releases and studies from various news agencies, news outlets, academic organizations, and "think tanks". Sudan Tribune reaches audiences in Sudan 33(-PERCENT-) and Kenya 13(-PERCENT-).)

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A reporter named Isaac Vuni, who frequently covers parliamentary debates and other developments in South Sudan's capital city, was detained by police for five days, he said.

Mr. Vuni, whose writings appear in the Sudan Tribune, said that he was arrested for exposing the collapse of Nile Commercial Bank and the knocking of the presidential motorcade by a hit-and-run vehicle that belonged to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's headquarters in Juba. He reported that National Security arrested him while he was covering debates in the Government of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly. On June 22, the administrator of the August House had ordered the reporter to get out during a parliamentary deliberation. The administrator pointed to a report in Citizen Magazine, which he attributed to Mr. Vuni, stating that legislators were avoiding debate due to lack pay. However, the Chairman ruled that there is freedom of the press and that besides parliamentary debates are open for public consumption and scrutiny. While in custody, the reporter was periodically denied water, food, and access to the toilets, while UN officials allegedly were denied access to detainees. In another development, ten Kenyan Somalis were deported for entering the South without any documents, three Tanzanians were arrested for printing fake currency while several Ugandans were arrested on various offences and have been in Juba police custody since April 29 this year.

East Africa Kenya Kenyan Herders Move To Somalia For Pasture
Synopsis: Hundreds of herders in Kenya's North Eastern province are crossing the Somali border in search of water and pasture for their livestock, even as the security situation in the war-torn country worsens. The unusual migration to Somalia is coming at a time when escalating violence is forcing hundreds of Somalis to flee their country and seek refuge in Kenya. And this development could derail this year's national population census as herders are expected to remain in the insecurity-plagued country for

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months. The herders, who have been watching their herd succumb to death as the drought bites, have embarked on the exodus to the unlikely destination: Somalia. And they are unlikely to return to the country before August when the Kenya 2009 Population and Housing Census is to be conducted. Dadaab district officer Evans Kyule expressed concern that the tide of pastoralist migration in the northern parts of the country is unlikely to end soon as drought persists. He added that unless it rains before August, herders were unlikely to return. At Alikune village in Lagdera District, only women and children remain as men have deserted the area in search of pasture. The movement to Somalia continues despite rising insecurity threats posed by the Al-Shabaab militia fighting to topple President Sheikh Shariff's Transitional Federal Government. But the lure of available pasture and water is pushing Kenyan pastoralists from the northern districts of Fafi, Lagdera, Ijara, among others to risk their lives rather than watch as their livestock die. As evidence of the plenty pasture in Somalia, flood waters have swept across Fafi plains, enticing residents to relocate to the lawless country. Rains are expected around September and October, by which time census will have been concluded.

Analysis/Road Ahead: Besides administrative and political repercussions Kenya's northeastern officials will experience based on inaccurate census counts, Kenyan herders moving into Somalia will spark territorial skirmishes with Somali herders and provoke an armed al-Shabaab response. Radical Somali Islamists will not only try to indoctrinate/recruit herders before sending them home in hopes of sparking violence within Kenya but will also abduct some of them and publicize their executions as Kenyan spies, events that will elicit angry anti-Somali demonstrations in Nairobi and Kenya's northeastern border provinces where Somali refugees number in the hundreds of thousands. The humanitarian consequences of both the migration and demonstrations will be that malnourished people will be exposed to harsh elements and require medical assistance while traveling or moving into camps, increasing mortality rates in both countries. Kenyan herders unfamiliar with the Somali rivers and pastures risk being caught in flash floods when/if rains occur.

Sources: Daily Nation, Reuters, 29 Jun 09 - earlier media reporting

Kenyan's Unusual Migration To Somalia

Source: Daily Nation, 29 Jun 09 (The Daily Nation is an English

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language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Nation Media Group Limited NMG, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the Kibaki government, no religious affiliation, and a bias towards the USG or US **military**. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, job seekers, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis, and entertainment. The Daily Nation's estimated circulation/audience reach is 190,000 reaching audiences in Kenya and the surrounding regions.)

Hundreds of herders in North Eastern province are crossing the Somali border in search of water and pasture for their livestock, even as the security situation in the war-torn country worsens. The unusual migration to Somalia is coming at a time when escalating violence is forcing hundreds of Somalis to flee their country and seek refuge in Kenya. And this development could derail this year's national population census as herders are expected to remain in the insecurity-plagued country for months. The herders, who have been watching their herd succumb to death as the drought bites, have embarked on the exodus to the unlikely destination: Somalia. And they are unlikely to return to the country before August when the Kenya **2009** Population and Housing Census is to be conducted. Speaking to Nation, Dadaab district officer Evans Kyule expressed concern that the tide of pastoralist migration in the northern parts of the country is unlikely to end soon as drought persists. "Herders are moving with their livestock into Somalia. The census might be conducted before they are back," Mr Kyule said, adding that unless it rains before then, herders were unlikely to return. At Alikune village in Lagdera District, only women and children remain as men have deserted the area in search of pasture. The movement to Somalia continues despite rising insecurity threats posed by the Al-Shabaab militia fighting to topple President Sheikh Shariff's Transitional Federal Government.

But the lure of available pasture and water is pushing Kenyan

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 15 *****/

pastoralists from the northern districts of Fafi, Lagdera, Ijara, among others to risk their lives rather than watch as their livestock die. "They have no choice but to cross the border. Pasture is available on the Somalia side," explained Yasin Farah, a drought management officer based at Garissa. The Somali militants have threatened to attack Kenya if the **military** patrols

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on the common border are not halted. Prime Minister Raila Odinga has called for **military** action against the militants to secure the country and the region. As evidence of the plenty pasture in Somalia, flood water have swept across Fafi plains, enticing residents to relocate to the lawless country. Worst affected divisions of Dadaab and Jarajilla in Lagdera and Fafi districts, respectively, has seen boreholes dry up and the few remaining are strained as huge number of people and animals flock them. One such borehole is Welmerer in Jarajilla where people have to queue for days for their turn to draw water. "The drought is devastating and unfortunately it could get worse. Remains are expected around September and October, by which time census will have been concluded," said Mr Kyule. The situation is likely to disadvantage pastoralist communities considering the significance attached to the census. Already, independent monitors are expected to take part in the national exercise to prevent cases of rigging.

Kenyans Blame Somalis For Property Price Hikes

Source: Reuters, 29 Jun 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

The bustling Eastleigh suburb in Kenya's capital Nairobi has been the hub of business for Kenyan-Somalis and thousands of refugees escaping civil war in neighbouring Somalia for decades. In the district east of downtown Nairobi, shops and houses built soon after independence from Britain have been razed and shopping malls have been built by businessmen from the Horn of Africa country. But as people flee the continuing conflict in Somalia, the population is outgrowing Eastleigh's "Little Mogadishu" and Somalis are venturing into other parts of the city. This has caused friction with some Nairobi residents who suspect the expansion of Somali business is financed by piracy, and accuse them of causing hikes in property prices in the areas they have moved to since the first big influx in 1991 after Somalia plunged into war. "In the areas where they dominate, you can say they have contributed to the spike in property prices, in fact in such areas, prices have tripled, such as Eastleigh, and the entire

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landscape has changed," property manager William Kimani said. "But in cases where one wants to buy land in an upmarket area of Nairobi, they will offer a premium price," he added. This distorts the market as new prices are pegged on the premium price. Last month, Kenyan traders were beaten and teargassed by police after they refused to heed a government notice to leave a market that had been sold to Somali businessmen. The displaced traders blamed foreigners, rich with the proceeds of buccaneering, of taking over their livelihoods.

"A substantial part of the money is local, and the rest of this money is from the Somali diaspora who are not confident investing in Somalia because of the instability there," Adan Issack, a Kenyan-Somali hotel manager told Reuters. One of the displaced traders, Rashid Ngugi, is now rebuilding his shop in a less lucrative location between two sewage canals. "Somalis are well known for piracy and this cash influx is destroying our small business. We are Kenyan citizens but ... Somalis are extremely rich and the government needs the money." For many Somalis, investing at home is not an option. An insurgent group known as al Shabaab now controls most of south Somalia and all but a few blocks of the capital Mogadishu. Robert Yawe, an investor and consultant at the Kenyan Property Investors' Forum said he was doubtful piracy plays a major role in Somali investments in Nairobi. Such rumours were passed on by people who regard the success of the Somali businesses as a threat, he said. "The Somali trade is substantially larger than the ransoms paid in the last five years, and I do not think that any person can prove that this money comes from piracy," Yawe said. Many Somalis in Eastleigh say their capital is often from family living in the west. Awil, a 28 year old pirate in Hobyo said he did not make enough money from hijacking to invest abroad.

"We do not have business in Kenya. But there are investors, these men have a say on attacks, they offer mother **ships, boats** and supplies before hijacks," he said. "They get a cut of the ransom and these businessmen **may** have properties in many cities like Dubai and Nairobi." Analysts say it is easy for such people to make money legal by investing it in Kenya, which has no anti-laundering laws. Kenyan government spokesman Alfred Mutua told reporters: "We are trying to ensure that Kenya is not used to launder money, some of that could be piracy money. We are monitoring such activities very closely and we will take action." But most Eastleigh residents are hesitant to use banks that have

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set up shop there and prefer to use informal money transfer.

"People are very scared to deal with banks, and everyone holds their cash in hand," said Bare Sheikh, a shop owner. "They are afraid the government may freeze their accounts, suspecting their money is from piracy, which is a false accusation."

Police Deny Kenya Torture Claims

Source: BBC, 29 Jun 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

Kenya's police have denied claims of torture and rape when they disarmed rival clan militias last year.

Human Rights Watch says there should be an inquiry into the "collective punishment" of civilians in Mandera. The US-based organisation said its research showed thousands of people had been tortured and women had been raped. But police spokesman Eric /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 16 *****/

Kiraithe told the BBC there had been no torture or beatings and asked HRW to produce evidence to back up its findings. "Certainly we should look into the laws in this country which allow any street boy to come here and publish very disparaging lies about our internal security forces," he told the BBC's Network Africa programme. Earlier this year a UN investigator into allegations of extrajudicial killings elsewhere in Kenya, Philip Alston, said the police were a "law unto themselves". According to Human Rights Watch, a joint police and military operation to disarm the warring militias in the north-eastern town of Mandera took place between 25 October and 28 October 2008. It followed deadly clashes between the local Garre and Murulle clans, which had killed 21 people earlier in the year. "Unfortunately, that joint operation pursued a brutal strategy of basically rounding up all of the civilians in various villages and then, in a sense, collectively punishing them," the report's author Ben Rawlence told the BBC. "Requiring them to turn over weapons, to disclose the whereabouts of the militias who've been fighting, torturing thousands of people and raping some women... destroying property and causing between 20,000 and 30,000 people to flee the area." In February, Human Rights Watch researchers visited five of the

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towns and say they documented consistent accounts from more than 90 victims. The interviewees said security forces entered early in the morning and rounded up all of the men they could find. They were made to lie on the ground for hours and were beaten with rifle butts, sticks, canes and iron rods. "In front of the police station, they made us lie down. They were beating us with sticks, rungs (-ILLEGAL-CHARACTER-)anything. They weren't saying anything except beating us and then: 'Bring the gun or you'll die,'" a victim in El Wak said. Other said the security forces twisted, crushed or ripped open their testicles. "This is not a question of a few bad apples disobeying orders," Kenneth Roth, Human Rights Watch's executive director said. "This operation was the result of a strategy devised by senior officials to use brutal force against Kenyan citizens." Mr Kiraithe has denied previous accusations of police brutality and said if Human Rights Watch had evidence of torture in the Mandera district, the organisation should hand it over. "We have well over five institutions in this country prepared to carry out public prosecutions and ensure that justice is done," Mr Kiraithe said. The region around Mandera is prone to conflicts between rival clans, often for control of scarce water and pastures. The area is largely inhabited by Somali-speaking nomads.

Hundreds Of Families Displaced After Clashes In North

Source: IRIN, 29 Jun 09 (Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) is a multi language new agency run by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA. With a general degree of credibility, the typical audience demography consists of: the humanitarian aid community and others who are seeking information on complex emergencies. Most reporting focuses on: news relevant to those responding to and affected by complex emergencies, such as conflict-induced forced migration, and natural disasters. IRIN reaches audiences world-wide.)

Five people were killed and hundreds of families displaced in fighting over pasture land on 27-28 June in Isiolo and Laikipia districts, northern Kenya, aid agencies and local officials have said.

Most of the fighting was between the pastoralist Pokot community and farming communities in the two districts. Francis Wambua, a coordinator of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), told IRIN on 29 June that hundreds of families in Sipili, Laikipia West District, had fled after the killing of the five - a herder, three farmers and a chief. He said Wangwashe Primary school had closed after

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all the pupils fled with their families. Transport and the livestock trade in the area had also been disrupted, the KRCS's Wambua said. "Tension is still high; many families have stopped working on their farms; they have moved to areas where they feel safe; some are being hosted by family friends or relatives," Wambua said. "I am afraid the crisis, which has affected farming activities, will worsen food insecurity as it will mean that most of these people will require food assistance because they will have nothing to harvest."

Conflict between different nomadic groups in the region has increased since the beginning of 2009 and observers fear the situation could worsen as the drought continues. A local farmer, Daniel Kamau King'ori, said herders from Samburu and Isiolo districts had caused insecurity by invading their farms in search of pasture. "We sympathize with them, but they should respect us and stop destroying our crops... The government must expel and arrest all herders with guns," King'ori said. In Isiolo, three herders were injured on 28 June and 87 camels stolen during fighting between Somali and Turkana herders in Gottu area, 30km north of Isiolo town. Sporadic fighting over pasture has been going on in the region since early 2008, with at least 20 people reported dead by June. "The government is not serious about stopping this fighting. Every day animals are stolen and the killing of people has been going on for several months now," Yussuf Geley, a local herder, told IRIN on 29 June.

Kenyan Security Forces Accused Of Torture

Source: AP, 29 Jun 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

Kenyan security forces tortured hundreds of civilians and raped at least a dozen women during a three-day operation to disarm militias in the country's remote northeast last year, a right group claimed Monday.

New York-based Human Rights Watch urged an inquiry into the operation in the Mandera region, a desolate and violent area near the borders of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. "Instead of

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protecting Mandera's residents, the **military** and police systematically beat and tortured them," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. Kenya's government spokesman, Alfred Mutua, dismissed the allegations. "They never come to us for our side of the story," Mutua said. "We don't know
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 17 *****/

where they get this information from." In its 51-page report, called "Bring the Gun or You'll Die," Human Rights Watch said it interviewed victims who "fainted, vomited blood, and endured continued beating after suffering broken limbs." "Some men had their genitals pulled with pliers, tied with wire, or beaten with sticks as a method of torture designed to make them confess and turn over guns," the report added. Inter-clan fighting and cross-border raids kill dozens of people every year in Mandera, which suffers from poverty, unemployment, drought and competition over grazing land. The region's proximity to Somalia means there has been a proliferation of weapons flowing into villages. Human Rights Watch called on the government to prosecute those responsible for the Mandera operation, "including the commanding officers who supervised the operation and did nothing to stem abuses by subordinates."

Kenya Confirms First Case Of H1N1 Flu Virus

Source: Reuters, 29 Jun 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Kenya has detected its first case of the new H1N1 influenza virus in a 20-year-old British student, Public Health Minister Beth Mugo said on Monday.

"This is the first confirmed case of H1N1 in Kenya," she told a news conference. A group of 30 students has been quarantined in a hotel in city of Kisumu in western Kenya. The student's condition did not require hospitalisation, Mugo said. Other African countries that have confirmed having swine flu patients are South Africa, Ethiopia and Ivory Coast. The World Health Organisation is now reporting more than 67,000 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu and some 300 deaths worldwide.

Tanzania Burundian Refugees In Tanzania Intimidated Into Returning

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Source: Amnesty International, 29 Jun 09 (Amnesty International is an English, Spanish, French, and Arabic language organization campaigning for internationally recognized human rights; located in the UK. Founded by Peter Benenson, it has a general degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: the impartial protection of human rights. Amnesty International's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 108 per 1 million reaching audiences in United States 10(-PERCENT-), Spain 6(-PERCENT-), Egypt 4(-PERCENT-), Saudi Arabia 4(-PERCENT-) and the United Kingdom 4(-PERCENT-).) Burundian refugees living in the Mbatila refugee camp in Tanzania are being coerced into returning home, according to reports received by Amnesty International, from refugees and organizations working in Tanzania.

More than 36,000 refugees have stayed at Mbatila camp since the early 1990s, after fleeing from the conflict in Burundi. The camp is to close by 30 June 2009 as part of a repatriation programme that will see all refugees returned to Burundi. "We are worried about reports of refugees being pressured to leave the Mbatila camp where some of their homes have been burned in order for them to leave the camp," said Godfrey Odongo, Amnesty International's East Africa researcher. "It is all the more worrying that some of the refugees have had their homes set on fire - and others threatened with arson - by individuals said to be acting under direct the instructions of the Tanzanian authorities." Refugee leaders who have attempted to organize affected refugees to advocate for the voluntariness of the repatriation process have been arrested and detained. The repatriation programme is being implemented in terms of a tripartite agreement agreed to by the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in April 2002.

In a December 2008 joint communiqu(-VERTICAL-BAR-), the programme was described as "voluntary" and justified on the basis of "recent developments galvanizing the peace and reconciliation process in Burundi." Amnesty International said that it understands that, contrary to international and regional law, to date and even as the deadline date for the camp closure looms close, there is no procedure in place to assess any individual claims by refugees and asylum-seekers of well-founded fears of persecution. "Both Burundi and Tanzania must make it clear to the

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refugees that any repatriation programme is voluntary and offer the refugees alternative and durable solutions such as local integration," said Godfrey Odongo. "Any coercion of refugees to return to their original country would be a breach of international and regional law." "Any repatriation must respect the relevant principles of refugee protection," said Godfrey Odongo. "Voluntary returns must be based on a free and informed decision taken in safety and dignity. Intimidation, removing assistance or closing camps can amount to coercion which means repatriations would be involuntary and potentially unlawful."

Tanzania Opens Alternative Route

Source: New Vision, 29 Jun 09 (New Vision is an English and Swahili language daily newspaper. Owned by the State, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the government of President Museveni. New Vision's estimated circulation/audience reach is 35,000 reaching audiences throughout Uganda.)

The Tanzania Ports Authority has announced the opening of an alternative route to the sea through Dar es Salaam for goods from and to Uganda and the rest of the region.

At a press conference in Kampala yesterday, the port officials said they would discuss the issue of taxes with the Uganda Revenue Authority. The new route, called the central corridor, consists of a rail, lake and road network. "Cargo will be delivered to Kampala from Dar es Salaam through Morogoro, Dodoma, Manyoni, Singida, Nzega, Kahama, Biharamulo, Muleba, Bukoba, Mutukula and Masaka," said Flavian Kinunda, the marketing director of the Tanzania Ports Authority. Kinunda, who led the Tanzanian delegation, said Uganda was for them a very important market and transit route. He said they had the capacity to handle the

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Ugandan cargo traffic to the coast, currently standing at four million tonnes, which was hitherto primarily going through Mombasa. Dar es Salaam Port, that has a capacity of 11 million tonnes, is handling only seven million, he explained, adding that they were planning to increase the port's capacity. "We are here to strengthen our efforts in the Ugandan market. We closed the route some time back because of problems. We want to come back to recapture the market." Kinunda said there was a misconception that the Tanzanian route was more expensive than the Mombasa one. Besides distance, the issue of import taxes also needs to be taken into consideration, he noted. He said import taxes are

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based on the cost, insurance and freight value but the issue was negotiable with URA.

Ugandan businesses suffered last year when transport was disrupted during the post-election violence in Kenya. Ugandan transporters, who tried to pass through the mayhem, were beaten up and their trucks burnt. The disruption led to acute fuel shortages in Uganda and other land-locked countries in the region. Imports and exports were blocked again earlier this year when youth in Kibera slum uprooted the railway line in protest over what they called Uganda's continued occupation of Migingo Island in Lake Victoria. But Kinunda said the Tanzania Port Authority was not competing with Mombasa for the Ugandan market. Instead, he stressed, Dar es Salaam should be regarded as a second route to the coast. He said they were also liaising with the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments for the construction of a railway line from Arusha to Musoma. The route, he said, would open up Tanga port for goods to Uganda and Southern Sudan. The opening of alternative routes will speed up the delivery of goods to Uganda, which had been suffering from bureaucratic delays and manpower shortages at Mombasa port. It will also bring down the cost of doing business in Uganda as competition will set in.

Govt To Open Dar Port

Source: All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (All Africa.com is an English language online new aggregator, located in Washington D.C. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: African news and information through a diversity of opinions from more than 130 international media organizations. All Africa.com reaches audiences world-wide.)

In a bid to reduce risks resulting from the fragile political climate in Kenya, the Tanzania government announced yesterday that it had opened Dar es Salaam port to handle extra four million tonnes of goods coming to Uganda.

Mr Flavian Kinunda, the director of marketing for the Tanzanian Port Authority, told a news conference in Kampala yesterday that the two governments of Uganda and Tanzania reached an agreement to construct the Arusha-Mushoma Railway line which will also open up Tanga Port for use by Uganda and Southern Sudan. Mr Kinunda said that Uganda is an important market segment and that the Tanzanian government was renewing its presence in the country with a big focus on port services and rehabilitation of the

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central Corridor transport option known to Ugandans as the Southern route. "The Uganda market is very important to us and we are back to re-capture our lost market," Mr Kinunda said, adding: "Dar es salaam has a capacity of over 12m tonnes yet Tanzania alone uses seven tonnes and because of this Uganda will get four million tones daily." The central railway line also extends to Mwanza Port which is located on Lake Victoria and operates as a 'hub' connecting Port Bell and Jinja ports in Uganda. The lake link between Mwanza and Uganda is served by a fully operational wagon ferry, MV Umoja, which makes three sailings per week.

The new development in the transport sectors between the two countries means that that cargo will be delivered to Kampala from Dar es salaam port through Morogoro-dodoma-Singinda-Nzega-Kahama-Biharamulo-Muleba-Bukoba-Mutukula-Masaka route covering a distance of about 1,700 kilometres and will achieve a cargo transit time of four days from Dar es Salaam to Kampala. The Tanzania Ports Authority, which has hired a local public relations company, TERP, to carry out marketing of the new transport route among Ugandans, was established in April 2005 and is an autonomous umbrella organisation that manages and operates the ports on the eastern coast of the Indian Ocean in Tanzania and all lake ports, including Mwanza Port on Lake Victoria, which is linked to Port Bell and Jinja ports by wagon ferries. "There is a strong feeling among the business community in Uganda that Mombasa is cheaper than Dar-es-Salaam Port but that is not true. Using Dar -es- Salaam is \$10 cheaper on average than using Mombasa," he said when asked to explain the economic sense of using Dar es Salaam.

Uganda'Security Will Question Otunnu Upon Return'

Source: Daily Monitor, 29 Jun 09 (Daily Monitor is an English language independent daily, located in Kampala, Uganda. Owned by the Kenya-based Nation Media Group, it shows a political bias against the government and President Yoweri Museveni. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis, entertainment, business, and gossip. Daily Monitor's estimated circulation/audience reach is 25,000 reaching audiences in Uganda.)

The Government yesterday said that it would grant a passport to Mr Otunnu but he might have to answer charges relating to seditious statements he made in 2006 against the government over the war with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

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In an interview with Daily Monitor yesterday, Internal Affairs Minister Kirunda Kivejinja said under the dual citizenship Bill, which was passed by Parliament last month but still awaits signing by the President, Otunnu can legally re-acquire Ugandan citizenship if he is not considered a security risk by the National Citizenship and Immigration Board. Later at a press conference at State House, Entebbe, President Museveni said Mr Otunnu was free to return to Uganda, but with a disclaimer that only the Police was in position to comment on whether he had a case to answer or not. "Olara Otunnu is a Ugandan although I heard he had gotten a Namibian passport (Otunnu is said to have attained Ivory Coast citizenship after Uganda declined to support his bid for the UN secretary generalship-Ed). However, he can throw it away and come back. He is welcome," Mr Museveni said. "If he made a mistake, you could ask the police and as you very

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 19 *****/

well know, I am not a policeman - I don't work in the CID. So if he has a case to answer, that is a question of the police." Mr Kivejinja said the new duo citizenship Bill could be a big opportunity to Mr Otunnu, giving him a lifeline to return and play a part in Ugandan politics, if he so wishes. "Our laws were rigid against people with two citizenships," Mr Kivejinja said. "But the reality emerged that we have a big group of Ugandans who are living abroad and contributing tremendously to our national economy. We realised that we cannot alienate these people from their mother country. We come up with the idea of duo citizenship. So, Mr Otunnu has a right to acquire a Ugandan citizenship."

Mr Kivejinja, however, said Mr Otunnu should be brought to book over what he called 'exceeding the limit'. It is reported that, in a speech in Australia in June 2006, Mr Otunnu accused the Ugandan Government and President Museveni personally of carrying out a "methodical and comprehensive genocide" against the Acholi people of northern Uganda. He also accused Mr Museveni of leading a "campaign of ethnic racism and dehumanisation" in the north, using HIV/AIDS as a "deliberate weapon of mass destruction" and sabotaging all efforts to end the war. Mr Kivejinja said: "Let him come. What matters is that we have laws. When you go beyond your talking limit we can also see how to react. It is not my job as a minister but we have a department of criminal investigation if there is a case, he will be prosecuted." Mr Kivejinja said Mr Otunnu must first renounce his Ivorian citizenship before

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contesting against President Museveni or else he will be technically kicked out of the race because the Ugandan laws do not allow people with duo citizenship to occupy 'sensitive offices'. "There are sensitive positions which we emphasised that they should be a reserve for people who only have Ugandan citizenship because someone can come here and mess us and then go away," Mr Kivejinja said. According to the new duo citizenship Bill, no person holding a duo citizenship can qualify to hold the office of President, Vice-President, Prime Minister or be appointed a minister. But Mr Otunnu has been quoted denying that he applied for and was granted Ivorian passport. "I have never switched my citizenship; this is vintage Museveni disinformation, designed to conceal the dark deed of his own hand," Mr Otunnu was quoted by a local paper last week. "It is Museveni himself who, for over 20 years, has rendered me a stateless person by robbing me of my Ugandan passport."

Mao Confirms New Rebel Group

Source: New Vision, 29 Jun 09 (New Vision is an English and Swahili language daily newspaper. Owned by the State, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the government of President Museveni. New Vision's estimated circulation/audience reach is 35,000 reaching audiences throughout Uganda.)

Gulu district chairman Norbert Mao has acknowledged that some Acholi in the diaspora planned to form a new rebel group to topple President Yoweri Museveni's government.

According to Mao in his column 'Letter from Gulu' in The New Vision today, he got to know about the plan in early 2008 from a student in the UK. He said the student, who attended a seminar on peace-building in Juba, gave him a 53-page document on his memory stick which called for the removal of the Government, by force if necessary. The group, initially called the Uganda People's Front (UPF), "will instigate an internal grassroots popular movement against the Museveni dictatorship that is also effectively supported by Ugandans in the diaspora and their friends worldwide," Mao quoted from the document. "The UPF is prepared to remove the Museveni dictatorship by force, if necessary. The UPF shall establish a transitional government as soon as Kampala falls. The transitional government will immediately proceed with assurance of civilian safety and seek recognition by foreign governments." Mao acknowledges forgetting his memory stick in a computer at the Sheraton business centre in April, which ended up

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in the hands of security operatives. But he denies involvement in the plan and says he wants to clear his name after media reports hinted that, as the owner of the memory stick, he faces arrest over subversive activities, along with six Acholi MPs. At the same time, he expressed anger at the Sheraton staff, whom he suspects of working for State security.

According to Mao, the name UPF was being retained for purposes of drafting and the final name would be agreed upon by a general meeting of all members. Mao quoted the student as saying that "a section of our people in the diaspora thought that the whole Juba process was a hoax and that the Government of Uganda had no interest in peace." He further said the group, in its document, declared: "The people of northern Uganda are of peripheral concern to the real powers behind the peace talks. UPF is clear on this point: a perceived success in Juba is worse than a perceived failure. A success in Juba is an outcome planned and calculated to replicate and multiply the cycle of insecurity." Once in power, the group, according to Mao, plans to suspend the Constitution of Uganda and re-organise the make-up of Parliament under an Interim Legislative Council. "However, the UPF government shall uphold, respect, protect, promote and enforce all applicable provisions of all preceding constitutions of Uganda," the document reportedly says. Mao in his column denies media reports that the political leaders in Acholi want to discourage the displaced people from returning to their villages. "This is utter nonsense. The political leaders of northern Uganda, especially Acholiland, have been at the forefront of the campaign urging IDPs to leave the concentration camps and go home."

Earlier this month, 11 men, including a Pader-based freelance journalist and two former LRA rebels, were charged with treason in a Kampala court. The State said they had formed a rebel group, the Popular Patriotic Front (PPF), and were recruiting and training people to overthrow the Government. They had allegedly mobilised logistical support for their rebellion, which included fire-arms, satellite phones, solar panels, Global Positioning System (GPS) machines, gum boots and walkie talkies. The suspects, according to the charge sheet presented on June 16, committed the offence between 2006 and **May 2009** in eight districts, including Masindi and Kampala. The other districts are Gulu, Pader, Kitgum, Nebbi, Apac and Amuru. The new rebel group, according to army spokesman Maj. Felix Kulayigye, was formed by Acholi in the

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diaspora with the help of local people in a bid to replace the LRA.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 20 *****/

Jie Warriors Kill 8 In Kaabong

Source: New Vision, 29 Jun 09 (New Vision is an English and Swahili language daily newspaper. Owned by the State, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the government of President Museveni. New Vision's estimated circulation/audience reach is 35,000 reaching audiences throughout Uganda.)

Eight people were recently shot dead by Jie warriors in Kaabong district. According to the district Police commander, Auruk Maruk, **six** of the residents were killed in Luwakuj village in Kapedo sub-county after the army foiled the warriors' attempts to raid protected kraals.

Another two residents were shot dead in Lukwakaramoi village in Kalapata sub-county while travelling from Kamioni village via Morungole hills to Kaabong town. Kaabong resident district commissioner Godfrey Kiwanda said: "We are still carrying out investigations and it is too early to tell why the warriors killed innocent people," he said. Kiwanda said the deceased had walked from their villages to Kaabong town to do shopping. He said the warriors first abducted the residents, but decided to kill them when the army trailed them. The army found the bodies riddled with bullet wounds. Kiwanda encouraged the army to lay ambushes in the jungles to deal with the perpetrators of insecurity. "Such problems are likely to escalate as the army stops protecting kraals." The attack came a week after five people died in similar incidents in Moroto district. The 3rd Division army spokesperson, Capt. Henry Obbo, promised that the army would continue hunting for warriors till the Karamoja jungles are rid of these people. "We shall not allow the warriors to turn their anger on innocent people." Obbo advised local leaders to discourage the communities from raiding cattle and urge them to surrender illegal guns. "Let them hand over the guns voluntarily before we start using force."

Bugiri Sensitised About Uganda-Kenya Border

Source: New Vision, 29 Jun 09 (New Vision is an English and Swahili language daily newspaper. Owned by the State, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the government of President Museveni. New Vision's estimated circulation/audience reach is 35,000 reaching audiences

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throughout Uganda.)

The Ministry of Lands and authorities in Bugiri district are sensitising residents near the Uganda-Kenya border about the demarcation exercise.

The district community development officer, Stephen Magero, said the residents would also be involved in the demarcation process. Magero was addressing community development workers after a three-day sensitisation exercise on Thursday. He said the involvement of residents was meant to end the myth that pillars used to demarcate boundaries contained valuable minerals such as mercury and gold. "The residents will clear the water hyacinth before the pillars are erected and also help in the construction," he added. A statement from the lands ministry noted that the exercise, being done by Uganda and Kenya, was expected to end by July.

Ugandan President Welcomes U. S. Support To Somalia, Calls For More Help

Source: Xinhua, 29 Jun 09 (Xinhua is a Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Arabic language news agency, located in Beijing, China. Controlled by the Communist party of China's Propaganda Department, it has a limited degree of credibility and shows a political affiliation/bias towards the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Most reporting focuses on: local and international news, politics, business, culture, and education. Xinhua reaches audiences world-wide.)

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Monday welcomed the U. S. arms support to Somalia and urged other countries to help stabilize the war-torn country.

Museveni told reporters here that he had held talks with some American officials on provision of support to the UN backed Somali transitional government. "Any member of the UN is free to give support and should have done so earlier than now," he said. The United States last week confirmed that it had sent weapons to Somali following an urgent call for **military** help from the transitional government. Uganda's troops make up the bulk of the African Union (AU) peace keeping force deployed in the Somali capital Mogadishu, where Islamic militants have increased their attacks on the government. Museveni dismissed concerns that the U. S. action **may** increase the militants' attack on the Somali government. "If it was a unilateral action by the U.S. outside the framework of the AU and the UN, then that would be a problem. But this one is not because it is within the framework of the AU and

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the UN," he said. He advised those fighting the Somali government to allow peace to prevail and then demand a timetable for general elections. "Just fighting against a government which is supported by the AU, UN is really not correct; I think they are on the wrong side," he said. Somalia has been plagued by civil strife since the overthrow of **military** strongman Siad Barre in 1991.

Piracy NATO Renews Anti-Piracy Mission In Somali Waters

Synopsis: NATO has replaced the flotilla conducting anti-piracy patrols off Somalia for the past three months with a new force that will continue the operation "indefinitely," a spokesman said. Last month, NATO defense ministers met in Brussels to consider ways of tackling the problem of combating piracy in one of the world's busiest **shipping** lanes. They ordered the long-term deployment of a naval squadron - known as Standing Naval Maritime Group 2 - to the region. The new force will continue to operate in the **Gulf of Aden** and the Indian Ocean, where international patrols involving warships from NATO, the European Union and other nations have been working to reduce attacks on merchant **ships** by Somali pirates. "The transition was seamless and clearly demonstrates NATO's resolve to combat the evils of 21st-century piracy," said Chris Davis, spokesman for NATO's anti-piracy effort. The new task force will consist of five warships from Britain, the United States, Greece, Italy and Turkey. It will be commanded by a British officer, Commodore Steve Chick, from his flagship, HMS Cornwall. "By rotating the (naval forces) through the region, a powerful NATO presence can be maintained in the **Gulf of Aden** and around the Horn of Africa indefinitely," Davis

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 21 *****/

said in a telephone interview from NATO's anti-piracy headquarters in Northwood, near London.

Analysis/Road Ahead: NATO renewed its anti-piracy deployment to the **Gulf of Aden**, Red Sea and Indian Ocean to protect civilian vessels transiting Somali waters. The small number of warships compared to the patrol area will continue to thwart coverage of all traffic despite expanding communications and cooperation links with other anti-piracy patrols, including Russia's **warship** in the region and Yemen's coastguard. With NATO and other anti-piracy contingents displaying difficulty prosecuting detained pirates and with the Somali government lacking judicial structures, pirates will exploit their own information networks to target vessels flagged in countries with no warships in the region, forcing warships successfully foiling attacks to hand

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pirates over to Kenya or Puntland or release them. The introduction of Kenyan and Tanzanian patrols in more southerly waters will press pirates further north and east again, keeping them from picking off coastal trade there and possibly energizing Arabian Peninsula countries to increase their participation.

Sources: AP, ITAR-TASS, The East African, SABA, 29 Jun 09

NATO Invites Russia To Participate In Anti-Piracy Operation

Source: ITAR-TASS, 29 Jun 09 (ITAR-TASS is an English language news agency, located in Moscow, Russia. Funded by the State, it has a general degree of credibility. The typical audience demography consists of: anyone who is interested, both within and outside Russia; the mass media, academic institutions, organizations and private individuals. Most reporting focuses on: distributing political, financial, economic, trade and other information of public interest within the country and abroad. ITAR TASS reaches audiences throughout Russia.)

Rogozin offered proposal to include Russian warships in Allied Protector mission.

NATO sent an official invitation to Russia to participate in the NATO operation "Allied Protector" for the struggle with piracy off the Somali coast, Russian permanent representative at NATO Dmitry Rogozin said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass on Monday.

"Russia actually participates in international anti-piracy efforts, just our participation is not under any "umbrella", neither under "the EU umbrella" nor "the NATO umbrella". Captains of our warships cooperate directly with commanders of the fleets from Western countries," Rogozin said. According to him, Russia "is not allergic" to the participation in the NATO operation.

"The Russian political leadership will decide on the issue taking into account all factors. There is a clear-cut position that any decisions should be conditioned by necessary security of our warships and are thoroughly calculated in financial terms," he said.

Rogozin also noted that Russia had received an official invitation from NATO to resume its participation in the NATO anti-terrorist operation "Active Endeavor" in the Mediterranean Sea. Russia's participation in this operation was actually blocked last September, because **military** partnership was suspended. The Russian permanent representative recalled that the warships participating in this operation "can stop and examine suspicious vessels, and investigate whether they are involved in the smuggling of weapons or explosives for terrorist acts." "In

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fact, there are no such threats in the Mediterranean Sea now. However, a massive inflow of illegal migrants in Europe poses a threat," Rogozin said. According to him, if the operation will be retargeted for the struggle with illegal immigration this year, "our participation requires an additional analysis."

New NATO Flotilla Takes Over Anti-Piracy Patrols

Source: AP, 29 Jun 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.) Standing Naval Maritime Group 2 begins operations.

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"By rotating the (naval forces) through the region, a powerful NATO presence can be maintained in the **Gulf of Aden** and around the Horn of Africa indefinitely," Davis said in a telephone interview from NATO's anti-piracy headquarters in Northwood, near London. Despite the presence of about two dozen foreign warships backed up by maritime patrol planes off Somalia, the number of hijackings has not dropped noticeably in recent months. Experts say the seagoing gangs have evolved new tactics to beat the patrols, including expanding their area of operations and

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targeting slow-sailing vessels riding very low in the water. On Sunday, the pirates released the crew of a Belgian ship seized 10 weeks ago after a ransom was paid. The 10-member crew of the Pompei dredger was in good health and sailing the ship to an unidentified harbor where it will arrive in a few days, the Belgian government said. Defense Minister Pieter De Crem told a news conference in Brussels that the ship's owners paid a ransom to release the ship and crew. He declined to say how much, but said pirates had demanded \$8 million. A plane dropped the money into the sea near the Belgian vessel Saturday, De Crem said.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 22 *****/

Yemen Affirms Readiness To Cooperate In Combating Piracy
Source: SABA Online, 29 June 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News. SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

Yemen affirmed on Monday its readiness to cooperate with the Arab countries overlooking the Red Sea and Aden Gulf for combating piracy and organized crime.

This came in Yemen's speech delivered by Head of Yemeni Coastguard Authority Ali Rase'a in the joint meeting of Navy Leaders and Foreign Ministries' experts of the Arab countries overlooking the Red Sea and the states of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. Rase'a stressed that Yemen is ready to offer all facilities for Arab ships to take part in combating piracy as well as exchanging information and conducting joint exercises within the security agreements. Since five years, as the Somali piracy has soared in Gulf of Aden, Yemen has called on the countries overlooking Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea to play a positive role in fighting against piracy, Rase'a said. "We believe in that if our countries unite their efforts and potentials, they will be able more than others to play more effective roles in combating not only piracy but also the illegal migration and smuggling drugs", he said. Rase'a pointed out that such problems do not negatively affect only a certain country but all the region's countries. A country, whatever its potentials, can not encounter piracy alone. Western countries realized that and formed a coalition to combat such phenomenon. In his speech, Rase'a reviewed Yemen's efforts in combating piracy, saying "Believing in the importance of marine security, Yemen established before six years a coastguard

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authority as a specialized security unit in addition to several monitoring centres will be operated by the end of 2009." The priority was given to Aden Gulf and Bab al-Mandab areas due to they are closer to Africa and because of their importance for the international navigation routes. Rase'a urged the participants on availing from the European Union's experience in combating piracy, illegal migration and drugs smuggling.

Kenya, Tanzania Sign Agreement To Safeguard Indian Ocean Against Pirates

Source: The East African Online, 29 June 09 (The East African is an English language weekly newspaper, located in Kenya. Owned by the Nation Media Group, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: in-depth analysis and objective coverage of events in East Africa. The East African reaches audiences in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.)

Somali pirates marauding the East African coastline will now find it hard to hijack ships sailing along the Indian Ocean waters following a new agreement between Tanzania and Kenya to safeguard a greater area of the continental shelf.

The two neighbouring East African states are at the same time finalising joint regulations and procedures that will go to the depository at the United Nations to tame illegal trading and piracy. The move comes as plans to have the two states extend their nautical miles of the sea are expected to bear fruits soon. Tanzania and Kenya have registered with the UN to extend their continental shelf, which would make it possible for the two states to tackle cases of piracy and illegal trade much more effectively. Under the agreement, the two countries would be able to monitor the environment so that cases of dumping of waste or pesticides or any other chemicals that degrade the environment, would be kept in check. However, similar agreements between Tanzania and the Comoros, Mauritius and Mozambique and Comoros have delayed to take off due to lack of resources to implement the agreements. Kenya High Commissioner to Tanzania Mutinda Mutiso, told The EastAfrican that the memorandum of understanding between the two states has already been signed to enhance security and secure waters, while envisaging the enormous resources coming along with territorial extension sought by the two countries.

Mr Mutiso said that the area that previously covered the

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mandatory 200 nautical miles would now be extended by an extra 150 nautical miles giving the two states more leeway in terms of surveillance. "The signing of the agreement between the two countries comes at a time when insurgencies in the territory are on the increase, with Somali pirates often seizing **ships** and demanding ransom," he said. In **May** this year, Somali pirates hijacked a **ship** carrying electric wires from Europe meant for a huge power project in Southern Tanzania. The two East African countries are also pondering ways to have the Law of Sea changed to address the current situation, whereby countries like Somalia without a functional government still have the mandatory 200 nautical miles under their jurisdiction, thus making it difficult to pursue the pirates into the country's waters. Kenya has so far provided a place where pirates could be held and prosecuted although what should normally happen is for them to be tried in their own country or taken to the International Criminal Court at the Hague.

"Trying them in their own country is next to impossible, thus the increased area to be under our two countries' surveillance decreases their operating area, which is currently notorious for piracy as well as illegal fishing or illegal trade in the high seas," said Mr Mutiso. The new agreement defines the maritime boundary from the limits of the territorial water as defined in the 1976 Maritime Boundary Agreement. It also says that the basis of maritime boundary delimitation shall be parallel of latitude as established in the 1976 Maritime Boundary Agreement. The two states met the **May 13** deadline to apply to the UN for the extension of the territorial waters by 150 nautical miles, to the current 200 nautical miles of its Exclusive Economic Zone. The extension would give the two states the right to explore and exploit living, non-living and mineral resources on the seabed and sub-soil of the extended continental shelf adjacent to the EEZ Exclusive Economic Zone. The potential resources of the extended continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical miles include petroleum and gas, iron-manganese nodules and crusts (manganese, copper, cobalt and nickel), polymetallic sulphides, and placer
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 23 *****/

deposits. Nations were allowed to enter preliminary data awaiting comprehensive submissions, if they lacked the resources to make full application. The submission, according to officials, cost Kenya Ksh700 million (about \$9 million).

There have been several seizure of **ship** by Somali pirates in the

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Horn of Africa, some with relief food, oil or **military** equipment. On March 8, **2009**, Somali pirates captured their first US-flagged **ship** at some point between 240 and 400 nautical miles off the coast of that country's Puntland region. On January 9, five Somali pirates drowned and their share of a \$3-million US ransom was lost at sea. Three others in the **boat**, which sank during a storm on January 7, managed to reach shore after swimming for several hours. The vessel overturned shortly after the pirates released the Sirius Star, a Saudi-owned oil tanker, following a two-month standoff in the **Gulf of Aden**. The hijacked **ship**, Liberian-flagged, is owned by Vela International Marine Ltd., a subsidiary of Saudi oil company Aramco. Dozens of pirates were involved in the November 15, 2008 hijacking of the oil-laden vessel. The ransom was delivered by airdrop, parachuted close to the **ship** in a waterproof case for the pirates to collect. They were then allowed to make their escape. The pirate-infested **Gulf of Aden**, which separates Somalia on the African continent from Yemen, is one of the world's busiest **shipping** routes. A new international naval force under U.S. command began patrolling the area later to stem the growing problem of pirates. In the past year alone, pirates from Somalia carried out 165 attacks. The French **military** reported that the number was up from 58 hijackings in 2007.

All-Arab Red Sea Anti-Piracy Force Proposed In Riyadh
Source: AFP, 29 Jun 09 (Agence France-Presse is an English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic language news agency. AFP has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards, the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis. AFP reaches audiences in thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets.)
Arab states of the Gulf and Red Sea said on Monday that they are planning a joint anti-piracy force, insisting defence of the crucial Red Sea waterway was the "primary responsibility" of littoral states.

Saying it was necessary to prevent the spread of piracy to the Red Sea or the Gulf, 11 regional states agreed to set up an all-Arab **Navy** Task Force, to be led at the outset by the Saudis, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The delegates to the conference in the Saudi capital stressed the "importance of the exclusion of the Red Sea from any international arrangements, especially the fight against sea piracy." Royal Saudi **Navy**

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commander Lieutenant General Prince Fahd bin Abdullah told journalists: "This subject is now under negotiation and we are hoping to reach an agreement to form this force." Joining the talks were representatives from Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Fahd said part of the effort would be to design ways of cooperating with the flotillas from some 20 foreign countries now patrolling sea lanes in the **Gulf of Aden** and off the Horn of Africa to stop pirate attacks. "One of the objectives of the meeting is to discuss joint Arab coordination with multinational forces operating in the region to combat piracy and to agree on the mechanisms of the Arab contribution" to these efforts, he said.

He said that the Gulf states were involved in the proposed task force because of the danger posed to their **shipping**, particularly vital oil and gas exports which pass via the Red Sea to the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean. A joint statement said the Saudi **navy** will coordinate efforts by the other Arab naval commands on the Red Sea and Gulf for a period of one year and then review the results. Another meeting on the issue will be scheduled in two months, it said. More than 70 vessels, including a fully-laden Saudi oil supertanker, have been hijacked for ransom by Somali pirates in the past two years. Despite patrols by a raft of foreign navies, attacks are still frequently reported. Saudi Arabia has said in recent months that it has stepped up its high-seas patrols for pirates. The International Maritime Bureau has reported a handful of attempted pirate attacks, none successful, at the southern end of the Red Sea this year, mostly in the strategically important Bab al-Mandab strait linking to the **Gulf of Aden**. The bureau recorded no attacks in the Red Sea last year. But the Saudi push for an all-Arab naval task force could also be related to what diplomats say are Riyadh's growing worries over the security not only of Red Sea **shipping** but also of its essential infrastructure in the area, including oil facilities, power generation and desalinisation plants.

Kenya Wins Praise For Piracy War

Source: The Standard, 29 Jun 09 (The Standard is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Standard Group, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias against Kenyan President Kibaki's government. The Standard's estimated circulation/audience reach is 54,000 reaching audiences across Kenya.)

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The international community has praised Kenya's role in the fight against piracy.

Speaking at the sidelines of a workshop on strategies to combat piracy in Eastern Africa at a Mombasa hotel at the weekend, Hans Seidel Foundation's regional representative Wolf Krug said Kenya had taken its role seriously. "There is no reason to complain so far on the way Kenyan authorities have collaborated with global players in the fight against piracy off the Horn of Africa," he said. Suspected pirates arrested by international naval units off the Somalia coast have been brought to Mombasa for prosecution. This follows the signing of an agreement between Kenya, the European Union and the US. So far, there are 120 pirates in Kenya's custody. Last Thursday, the Italian Navy handed over 9 suspected Somali pirates to Kenya Police. They were arrested last month in the **Gulf of Aden**. Ten have been convicted and are serving a seven-year jail term while other are on trial.

The workshop was organised by the East African Police Chiefs Co-operation with the support of the Hans Seidel Foundation and the Institute for Security Studies. Defence Assistant Minister Joseph Nkaiserry told journalists that recommendations reached at /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 24 *****/

the workshop would be presented to the United Nations for adoption. "We are not above the hill when it comes to wining the war against piracy but so much has been achieved," he said. Nkaiserry added the workshop aims to present effective resolutions that could help tackle the vice. He, however, conceded a stabilised Somalia nation would help stem piracy. There has been anarchy in the Horn of Africa country following a standoff between the transitional federal government and militia. "Lack of law and order in Somali has made it easy for pirates to conduct business with impunity. A working government there would ensure there is law and order," Nkaiserry said.

Somalia Ransom Payments Soar To \$3m

Source: Lloyd's List, 29 Jun 09 (Lloyd's List (of London) is an English language daily newspaper, located in London, UK. Owned by Informa plc, it has a strong degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on the maritime industry covering all sectors of the **shipping** world including Tankers, Containers, Ports and Dry Bulk.)

Ransom payments for **ships** hijacked off Somalia have hit a new high of \$3m and prices are expected to continue rising as third party agents acting on behalf of both **shipowners** and pirate gangs

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manipulate negotiations.

The release of the Belgian-flagged dredger Pompei over the weekend is understood to have cost the vessels' owners Jan de Nul a record \$3m payout via third party specialist negotiators.

Belgium defence minister Pieter De Crem confirmed today that 10 pirates had abandoned the ship on Sunday, a day after a private plane dropped the ransom cash into the sea near Pompei. Neither the vessels owners nor the Belgian Crisis Response Centre, which had been liaising with the government during the negotiations, would confirm the amount paid. However, the special anti-piracy envoy for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Ismail Haji Noor told Lloyd's List that the payment had hit a new ceiling and predicted that the average price of demands would be increased as a result. According to Mr Haji Noor, who has been in regular contact with pirate gangs and Somali officials from Galmudug state throughout the negotiations, the sums being demanded and paid out were being heavily influenced by third party mediators based in neighbouring African countries. Mr Haji Noor also alleged that the same mediators were feeding information regarding the whereabouts of anti-piracy warships to the pirates and had helped them identify possible target vessels. "When there is a threat, they advise both sides. It is in their interest to push up the prices," he told Lloyd's List.

When fishing vessels became targets for Somali pirates in the mid 1990s the average price of a ransom was understood to be around \$50,000 for each vessel taken. Until the Pompei release on Sunday, the highest known ransom payment had been \$2.3m while the average settlement was thought to be closer to \$1.8m. According to Mr Haji Noor, mediators largely based in Kenya but often backed by European finance, were playing owners and pirate gangs off each other to achieve the highest price in each set of negotiations. Negotiated cash was then being channelled via accounts in Dubai with handsome profits for the mediators, he claimed. The release of the Pompei brings the number of vessels currently being held by pirates off Somalia to 12, with a total of about 200 crew onboard the vessels. While industry security sources were unprepared to discuss the issue of ransom escalations or specific costs, several questioned whether the dwindling number of vessels being held might better explain the increasing sums being demanded. Others also questioned whether the appearance of specific 'kidnap and ransom' insurance policies was also playing a role in pushing the prices upwards.

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The rate of attempted pirate attacks has significantly dropped off in recent weeks however experts suggest that this has largely been down to the monsoon weather in the region. According to Mr Haji Noor the lull is being used to actively recruit new young pirates displaced by the growing violence in the country. Aid agencies warned last week that fighting between government forces and the Islamist-led insurgency in Somalia's capital Mogadishu was taking a heavy toll on civilians, with more than 250 killed and 160,000 forced to flee their homes over the past seven weeks. In the absence of many other options, Mr Haji Noor warned that more young men would be prepared to join pirate gangs and suggested that the autumn end of the monsoon season would see a significant up tick in the rate of pirate attacks off Somalia.

Iran Saves Oil Tanker From Somali Pirates

Source: Press TV, 29 Jun 09 (Press TV is an English language 24 hour news channel, located in Iran. Press TV's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 26 per 1 million reaching audiences in the United States 37(-PERCENT-), Iran 14(-PERCENT-), the United Kingdom 7(-PERCENT-), Canada 5(-PERCENT-) and India 4(-PERCENT-).)

An **Iranian Navy warship** patrolling the volatile **Gulf of Aden** has managed to save one of the country's giant oil tankers from the clutches of Somali pirates.

Somali pirates attempted to capture the **Iranian** oil tanker 'Hadi', but were scared off by the **Iranian navy's** 'quick response' to the oil tanker's distress call on Sunday. The rescue mission comes as Iran has sent at least **six** vessels to join international efforts to create a defensive front against piracy in the key **shipping-lanes** off the coast of Somalia. "**Six** warships and support vessels have been dispatched to the pirate-infested **Gulf of Aden** and **international waters** in its vicinity," said commander of the **Iranian Navy** Real-Admiral Habibollah **Sayyari** on June 27. The **Iranian Navy** has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the **Gulf of Aden** since November when Somali raiders hijacked the **Iranian-chartered cargo ship**, Delight, off the coast of Yemen. The Hong Kong-registered **ship** with 25 crew aboard was loaded with 36,000 tons of wheat bound for the Islamic Republic. In an earlier move on August 21, some 40 pirates armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades attacked Iran's Diyanat, shortly after the merchant **ship** passed the Horn of Africa. The **Gulf of Aden** —which links the Indian Ocean with the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea—is the quickest transit point for more than

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20,000 **ships** going from Asia to Europe and the Americas every year. According to the International Maritime Bureau, pirates have attacked more than 220 **ships** in the waters leading to and from the Suez Canal this year, and have earned tens of millions

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of dollars in ransom. In a report published on Dec. 15, the Time reasoned that the West's age-old policy of marginalizing Somalia's endemic poverty is the main reason behind the sudden increase in piracy off Somalia's coast.

Shippers, Insurers Fear Somali Piracy May Escalate

Source: Reuters via FOCUS News Agency, 29 Jun 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Pirate attacks on vessels sailing off Somalia could get worse, pushing up insurance and **shipping** costs and possibly forcing companies to use longer sea routes, industry officials say, cited by Reuters.

Piracy has flourished in recent months off the busy **Gulf of Aden** and Indian Ocean **shipping** lanes and seaborne gangs have seized several cargo **ships** and collected tens of millions of dollars in ransom for the safe release of crews and cargoes. Last week the Group of Eight powers said it was "seriously concerned" about the increasing threat.

EA States In Joint Bid To Secure Coastline

Source: The East African, 29 Jun 09 (The East African is an English language weekly newspaper, located in Kenya. Owned by the Nation Media Group, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: in-depth analysis and objective coverage of events in East Africa. The East African reaches audiences in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.)

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The two neighbouring East African states are at the same time

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finalising joint regulations and procedures that will go to the depository at the United Nations to tame illegal trading and piracy. The move comes as plans to have the two states extend their nautical miles of the sea are expected to bear fruits soon. Tanzania and Kenya have registered with the UN to extend their continental shelf, which would make it possible for the two states to tackle cases of piracy and illegal trade much more effectively. Under the agreement, the two countries would be able to monitor the environment so that cases of dumping of waste or pesticides or any other chemicals that degrade the environment, would be kept in check. However, similar agreements between Tanzania and the Comoros, Mauritius and Mozambique and Comoros have delayed to take off due to lack of resources to implement the agreements. Kenya High Commissioner to Tanzania Mutinda Mutiso, told The EastAfrican that the memorandum of understanding between the two states has already been signed to enhance security and secure waters, while envisaging the enormous resources coming along with territorial extension sought by the two countries. Mr Mutiso said that the area that previously covered the mandatory 200 nautical miles would now be extended by an extra 150 nautical miles giving the two states more leeway in terms of surveillance.

"The signing of the agreement between the two countries comes at a time when insurgencies in the territory are on the increase, with Somali pirates often seizing ships and demanding ransom," he said. In May this year, Somali pirates hijacked a ship carrying electric wires from Europe meant for a huge power project in Southern Tanzania. The two East African countries are also pondering ways to have the Law of Sea changed to address the current situation, whereby countries like Somalia without a functional government still have the mandatory 200 nautical miles under their jurisdiction, thus making it difficult to pursue the pirates into the country's waters. Kenya has so far provided a place where pirates could be held and prosecuted although what should normally happen is for them to be tried in their own country or taken to the International Criminal Court at the Hague. "Trying them in their own country is next to impossible, thus the increased area to be under our two countries' surveillance decreases their operating area, which is currently notorious for piracy as well as illegal fishing or illegal trade in the high seas," said Mr Mutiso. The new agreement defines the maritime boundary from the limits of the territorial water as

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defined in the 1976 Maritime Boundary Agreement. It also says that the basis of maritime boundary delimitation shall be parallel of latitude as established in the 1976 Maritime Boundary Agreement.

The two states met the **May 13** deadline to apply to the UN for the extension of the territorial waters by 150 nautical miles, to the current 200 nautical miles of its Exclusive Economic Zone. The extension would give the two states the right to explore and exploit living, non-living and mineral resources on the seabed and sub-soil of the extended continental shelf adjacent to the EEZ. The potential resources of the extended continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical miles include petroleum and gas, iron-manganese nodules and crusts (manganese, copper, cobalt and nickel), polymetallic sulphides, and placer deposits. Nations were allowed to enter preliminary data awaiting comprehensive submissions, if they lacked the resources to make full application. The submission, according to officials, cost Kenya Ksh700 million (about \$9 million). There have been several seizure of **ship** by Somali pirates in the Horn of Africa, some with relief food, oil or **military** equipment. On **March 8, 2009**, Somali pirates captured their first US-flagged **ship** at some point between 240 and 400 nautical miles off the coast of that country's Puntland region. On January 9, five **Somalian** pirates drowned and their share of a \$3-million US ransom was lost at sea. Three others in the **boat**, which sank during a storm on January 7, managed to reach shore after swimming for several hours. The vessel overturned shortly after the pirates released the **Sirius Star**, a Saudi-owned oil tanker, following a two-month standoff in the **Gulf of Aden**.

The hijacked **ship**, Liberian-flagged, is owned by Vela
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International Marine Ltd., a subsidiary of Saudi oil company Aramco. Dozens of pirates were involved in the November 15, 2008 hijacking of the oil-laden vessel. The ransom was delivered by airdrop, parachuted close to the **ship** in a waterproof case for the pirates to collect. They were then allowed to make their escape. The pirate-infested **Gulf of Aden**, which separates Somalia on the African continent from Yemen, is one of the world's busiest **shipping** routes. A new international naval force under U.S. command began patrolling the area later to stem the growing problem of pirates. In the past year alone, pirates from Somalia carried out 165 attacks. The French **military** reported that the

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number was up from 58 hijackings in 2007.

Areas of Interest Burundi Historic Nationwide Weapons Survey
Supports Security

Source: Mines Advisory Group, 29 Jun 09 (TBD)

MAG has completed an evaluation of every police weapons storage site in Burundi, aimed at improving the security and management of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

This is the first time MAG has conducted such a systematic and detailed nationwide survey of a country's police armouries. A comprehensive report containing recommendations for safer management and storage of SALW was officially handed to the Director General of the Police Nationale Burundaise (PNB) at a ceremony in which he thanked MAG for its support. This work will help prevent accidents and limit the risks of Government weapons stocks falling into civilian or rebel hands, so decreasing the level of violence in the run-up to next year's elections - which the Burundian population and international community fear might be held in a context of instability and violence. The survey lasted five months and was conducted by two teams, each composed of a MAG Technical Field Manager and a PNB Liaison Officer.

Over the next year, MAG Burundi will be implementing a comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management project with the PNB, addressing most of the recommendations made in the report: To remove and destroy surplus and obsolete SALW; improve the physical security of the PNB armouries; Train the PNB armourers to safely manage SALW. MAG's recommendations were all made in the framework of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. This survey was funded by the Conflict Prevention Pool, UK, and the Swiss Government, which has also contributed funds to improve the security of armouries in the Police Region South.

Mozambique Crime, Corruption Hinder Mozambique Business: W Bank
Source: Reuters, 29 Jun 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

A failure by government to combat crime and corruption and

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difficulties accessing finance are constraining growth of the private sector in Mozambique, the World Bank said in a report on Monday.

The World Bank's Investment Climate Assessment report said while large-scale projects had driven economic growth, they had failed to create sustainable jobs. Official unemployment in Mozambique is at 60 percent and many people live in rural areas and work in agriculture. "Informal tendering, crime, corruption, difficult access to finance, taxes, energy and transport are largely the consequences of challenges in the regulating of the economic activity and the quality of governance in Mozambique," the report said. The World Bank did the study among 599 companies last year and urged the southern Africa nation to fast-track reforms.

"Mozambique must continue to reform its legislation for private economic activity, particularly the small and medium enterprises." "It must increase productivity and simplify the licensing of businesses as well as establishing trade tribunals including the simplification of fiscal obligations and customs duties for smaller investors." Kekobad Patel, President of the Customs, Fiscal and International Trade Policy Committee of the Confederation of Business Associations of Mozambique told Reuters reform had been of little benefit to the business sector in the country. "Government is making the changes (in business sector) and reforms needed but the reality is that we are not sufficiently speeding the reforms. While other countries do three steps (in reforms) in Mozambique we are on one step," said Patel.

Rwanda Trial Against **Military** Officers Wraps Up At UN-Backed Tribunal

Source: All Africa, 29 Jun 09 (All Africa.com is an English language online new aggregator, located in Washington D.C. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US **military**. Most reporting focuses on: African news and information through a diversity of opinions from more than 130 international media organizations. All Africa.com reaches audiences world-wide.)

BOTH the prosecution and defense have wrapped up their cases against four former **military** officers charged with genocide and other war crimes by the United Nations tribunal set up to deal with the mass killings that engulfed Rwanda in 1994.

April of that year saw the beginning of a slaughter in the tiny

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East African country in which more than 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and Hutu moderates died, mostly by machete, during a period of less than 100 days. The four men - General Augustin Bizimungu, former Rwandan Army Chief of Staff; General Augustine Nindiliyimana, former Chief of Staff of the military police; Francois-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, former Commander in the army; and Innocent Sagahutu, former second-in-command of the Reconnaissance Battalion - are jointly accused of conspiracy to commit genocide, genocide or complicity in genocide; crimes against humanity; and other war crimes. At the end of the trial last week in Arusha, Tanzania, where the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) is based, the prosecution called for the conviction of the accused and sentences of life imprisonment. The evidence they have

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presented, they said, prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the four men ordered, encouraged and supported the massacres of Tutsis and moderate Hutus. No date has been set yet for the verdict in the trial, which began in September 2004 and heard the testimonies of over 200 witnesses. Last week, the ICTR found a former Government minister guilty of genocide, sentencing him to 30 years in prison. On 23 April 2004, Callixte Kalimanzira, former Acting Minister of Interior, lured thousands of Tutsi refugees to Kabuye hill in Butare prefecture, where they were attacked and killed, according to the Tribunal.

Threat Development Algerian Security Forces Destroy 20 'Terror' Hideouts

Source: El-Khabar, in Arabic, 29 Jun 09 - Translated by OSC (TBD)
Security forces also found large quantities of supplies during recent raids.

The joint security forces found on 27 June during a search operation in the mountains, located in the municipalities of Mourad and Menasser in the south of Tipaza Province and exactly in the border adjacent to the mountains of Ain Defla, 16 backpacks filled with supplies which the terrorists left behind in the region of Al-Djababara, not far from the municipality of Boumedafaa in Ain Defla province. The same forces were able during the large scale search operation in the mountains of Takrara and its siege of a terrorist group to destroy 20 hideouts of terrorists where important quantities of damaged food items were stored. The joint security forces discovered another hideout on the edge of Benhadj in Murad municipality where they found a quantity of supplies, books inciting to jihad and hallucinogenic

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tablets. In addition to air raids by helicopters, the joint security forces used machinery and bulldozers to destroy the hideouts of terrorists. It must be pointed out that the search operation has resulted in the elimination of two terrorists in the clashes that took place at the end of last week.

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