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Security Review (1st November-30th November 2017)

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INTRODUCTION

A sizable number of Al-Shabaab militants have been killed by Kenyan security forces since the start of Operation Linda Boni in 2015. Militants of the 300-man Jeysh Ayman, an Al-Shabaab cell, used the vast Boni forest as an operational base for recruiting and waging terror attacks in the Coast region. Most of the militants who had infiltrated the forest have abandoned the camps and fled to Somalia, according to military and police sources.

In Mogadishu eight Al-Shabaab militants died in an IED explosion. The eight were planning to execute an attack in the capital, a National Intelligence and Security Agency(NISA) official told Radio Dalsan. The incident occurred in Danida village where they were reportedly planting the bomb.

The US military has killed over 100 islamist militants in Somalia when it launched an airstrike against Al Shabaab, an al Qaeda -linked insurgent group. The strike was carried out on a camp 201 km northwest of the capital, Mogadishu and the united states said they would continue to target militants.

Ethiopia has recently had to deal with renewed clashes happening in the country. The clashes have been attributed to the two most significant ethnic groups in the country. The reasons for the fighting is still yet unknown but revolves around the Somali and Oromo people of the country. These ethnic tensions have flared after past events caused the displacement of thousands of individuals from the region. The deaths have totalled 20, as reported by the state media of the country. This highlights a significant security concern within the country.ⁱ

Tanzania received facial matching systems which would be used in the Immigration services department. The objective of these donations is to strengthen the technical capacity of the immigration officers at both land and air entry points to combat irregular migration and enhance border security.

The UN Human Rights Commission accuses the Eritrean government of committing human rights violations and crimes against humanity. It strongly denies the allegations, and insists that it treats its citizens well. Protests broke out on 1st November 2017staged by students angered by Government interference in the affairs of a community funded Muslim school.

MONTHLY SECURITY DETAILS

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The Kenyan government on 27th November 2017 declared riot fears over the impending inauguration of the president-elect. The country had to deal with dozens of deaths over the election period which was marred by violence and accusations of voter fraud and rigging. The inauguration event was slated for the 28th November 2017 of the same month. The Prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed his attendance to the eventⁱⁱ. He was expected to attend a public ceremony before meeting with other dignitaries in a luncheon held by the president-elect. The problem has been due to the controversial election that was held in October when the incumbent president won the contested event. The opposition in the country had planned to hold a parallel rally to honour the lives of citizens who had lost their lives during the election period. This followed the ruling of the Supreme Court of Kenya that overturned the results of the first election and called for a re-election to be held within sixty days.

LAMU, 27TH November 2017, Kenya's security forces destroyed six Al-Shabaab training camps in an ongoing operation to flush out militants from the vast Boni forest in the coastal town of Lamu. Director of Operation Linda Boni Joseph Kanyiri said weapons including AK-47 rifles, bomb-making materials, food and medicine were recovered during the operation in the forest that lies along the border with Somalia. Many Al Shabaab terrorists were killed and several others fled with gunshot wounds but they were followed to ensure that at least none of them managed to escape to cause havoc later. Kanyiri urged Al-Shabaab returnees who had secretly slipped back into Kenya to voluntarily avail themselves for rehabilitation so that they would not be treated as suspects.ⁱⁱⁱ

On 22nd November 2017 Ahmed Iman alias Kimanthi, who appeared in numerous Al-Shabaab propaganda videos taunting Kenyan troops fighting in Somalia, the group's stronghold, is now seeking to surrender to Kenyan forces and get amnesty. He rose through Al-Shabaab ranks to become the poster boy for the terrorist organization and is now on the run after a falling-out with other commanders who want him executed. Until the row, he was close to the current Al-Shabaab supremo Ahmed Diriye and Mahad Karate, also known as Abdirahim Mohamed Warsame, who commanded Shabaab's Amniyat, its intelligence wing, when gunmen stormed Garissa University College and killed 147 students in April 2015.^{iv}

At least three Somali soldiers have been killed on 25th November 2017 in a grenade explosion in Afgoye, outside Somali's capital Mogadishu according to Radio Shabelle. The attackers managed to escape and no one has claimed responsibility, although in the area operates the Islamist group Al Shabaab, akin to Al Qaeda. Military officers have launched a search operation to locate those responsible^v

On November 3, 2017, The US conducted a pair of drone strikes against Daesh in Somalia, being the first time to hit extremists there. The pentagon has provided few details about the strikes, spokesman Col. Rob Manning said the US forces had killed 40 Al Shabaab and Daesh terrorists in a series of five strikes on Somalia between 9th and 12th November.^{vi} The US military said to have killed more than 100 islamist militants in Somalia on 21st November 2017 when it launched

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an airstrike against Al Shabaab, an al Qaeda -linked insurgent group. The strike was carried out on a camp 201 km northwest of the capital, Mogadishu and the united states said they would continue to target militants. The strike was done in coordination with Somalia's federal government.^{vii}

12th November 2017 Government security forces detained two Al Shabaab members over suspected bomb attack in Luuq, Somalia. They were captured during an operation after a tip-off from local residents. The officer who spoke to Garowe Online over the phone on conditions of anonymity said the suspects were carrying explosive materials related to acts of terror and accused them of planning attacks against military personnel.^{viii}

On 5th November 2017, The Somali troops captured al Shabaab's strongholds in Lower and Middle Shabelle regions in the south of Africa country following offensive, Garowe Online reports. The militants fled from the villages ahead of the troops' advance with no major resistance as they wrested for control of Barsa, Bulo-Kuto, Daniga Balow, and Jabalul by the Somali National Army (SNA). The SNA soldiers are conducting mine clearing operations in the liberated areas as they prepare for an all-out assault aimed at driving Al Shabaab fighters out of their remaining positions in Somalia. Somali president Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo announced that the truck bombing at Zoobe junction in Mogadishu on 14th October 2017 that left more than 377 people dead will be avenged by the government.^{ix}

On 27th November 2017 more than 10,000 residents reported displaced due to an ongoing conflict in Middle and Lower Shabelle region in Somalia's south. The displacement of people has been triggered by recent fierce fighting between al-Shabaab militants and government forces in the region, reported by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The double shock to people fleeing both conflict and drought means that they have to endure multiple crises at once, and this can push them over the brink. The statement said that more than a million people have been internally displaced in the war-torn country since January due to conflict, insecurity and flooding.

Somalia's capital Mogadishu's administration on 1st November 2017 banned tankers and overloaded trucks from accessing the city two weeks after two terror attacks killed at least 427 people. Mayor Thabit Mohamed issued the directive saying that trucks and tankers will not be allowed in the city during day time. The ban is from 07:00am to 8:00 p.m. penalty of \$1,000 will be slapped on the owner of the vehicle if the ban is flouted. The administration is positive that the ban will improve security in the capital that has continued to be a target of militant group Al-Shabaab's attacks.^x

1st November 2017 At least eight Al-Shabaab militants died in an IED explosion in north of the Somali capital Mogadishu. The eight were part of a Mogadishu based Al-Shabaab cell that were planning to execute an attack in the capital, a NISA official told Radio Dalsan. Mogadishu has

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this year experienced a surge in IED explosions and assassinations by the insurgent Islamist group. The incident occurred in Danida village where they were reportedly planting the bomb.^{xi}

On 27th November 2017 Ethiopia, more than 20 people had been killed in a renewed clash between the Oromos and Somali ethnic group in Eastern Ethiopia. Government spokesperson, Negeri Lenco said 98 people were arrested in the Oromia region and five arrested in the Somali region. A long-standing border dispute and an increased military presence in the regions triggered the recent fighting, according to the Associated Press. Officials agreed to reconcile differences in April and troops were deployed to major roads, but clashes had continued. Fighting in September killed several dozen people and displaced tens of thousands of Oromos. Heavy clashes along the Oromia-Somali boundary in September spilled into ethnic violence which left scores of people dead and tens of thousands displaced.^{xii}

On 26th November 2017, Oromia and Somali regional states have been locked in a dispute over the delineation of their common boundary for almost two decades. The Ethiopian government has further pointed to competition to control illegal Khat trade as another reason for the conflict. Khat, a mild stimulant leaf grown across Ethiopia, is chewed by millions of Ethiopians, who use it to help them conduct work, undertake home studies or use it for recreational purposes. Oromia regional state is the largest Khat producing area in Ethiopia while Somali regional state borders Somalia and Djibouti, the main foreign destinations for Ethiopia's Khat exports.^{xiii}

On 27th November 2017 South Sudan, it has been two years since the family have been living in the settlement. They are some of the 223,000 refugees seeking shelter in the Adjumani district. Like many, Scovia said the dream is to one day return to Sudan to reclaim her family's land. But for now, it seems a long way off. For more than two years now, South Sudanese refugee Norrah Scovia has not seen or heard from her husband. In 2015, she was forced to flee her home in South Sudan because of the ongoing conflicts. She did so for the safety of her children.^{xiv}

On 22nd November 2017, Tanzania received donations of four facial matching systems to the Tanzania Immigration Services Department from IOM, the UN Migration Agency, through its African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Moshi and the other three systems donated to Kilimanjaro International Airport and the Holili Taveta One Stop Border Post at the land border between Tanzania and Kenya. The facial matching systems can identify fraudulent travel documents such as passport, visas, and other identity documents as well as detect identity fraud by travellers who would try to enter or stay in the country illegally.^{xv}

Authorities on November 1, 2017 in Eritrea's capital, Asmara cut internet services in the wake of unrest of protesters staged by students who were angered by government interference in the affairs of a community-funded Muslim school. The US embassy in Asmara said it had received reports of gunfire in several locations. The protests were staged by students of Diae Al Islam following reports that its chairman 90-year-old Hajj Musa Mohammed Nur and other members

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of the school board were arrested after fiercely resisting government efforts to regulate the school. Mr. Musa said that the school which offers both secular and Islamic education, drop religious teachings, ban the hijab and stop the separation of sexes. Anti-government demonstrations in Eritrea are extremely rare because of restrictions imposed by President Isaias Afwerki's government, which has been in power for 26 years. Eritrea does not have a constitution that guarantees the rights of citizens, including the right to protest.^{xvi}

CONCLUSION

This month alone, 23 people have lost their lives including three Somali soldiers, 10,000 residents have been displaced, six Al-Shabaab training camps destroyed, 148 Al Shabaab militants killed through drone strikes in the region. There has been a decrease in the number of deaths of civilians whereas an increase in deaths of the Al Shabaab militants.

Due to the elimination of the AL Shabaab by the US military has seen changes in the trends of attacks caused by them as it has significantly reduced in the month of November hence less casualties recorded.

One of the main problems of South Sudanese is lack of patience and inability to analyze problems and devise appropriate solutions accordingly. Trivial as the problem might be, people are too prone to political and tribal polarization engendered by power hungry politicians. What the people do not seem to comprehend is that, war (conflict) is part of human nature that arises from such human emotional attributes such as anger, revenge, selfishness, and greed for power. All people share in this phenomenon regardless of tribes, gender and religious or political affiliations. It is, therefore, a pertinent duty and responsibility of the people, within which a situation of conflict have risen, to collectively seek solution. They can only do this by transcending egocentric tendencies.^{xvii}

Somalia vows to intensify military operations against Islamist State (IS) and Al-Shabaab militants to stabilize the Horn of Africa nation. Information Minister Abdurahman Osman said the government will use all available resources, including foreign military support from international partners, to flush out terrorists from Somalia. The government will continue the military operations, including the use of airstrikes, against Al-Shabaab in response to the cowardly attacks against civilians, as well as on Somali security forces and African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM peacekeeping mission is operated by the AU with the approval of the UN Security Council.^{xviii}

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