

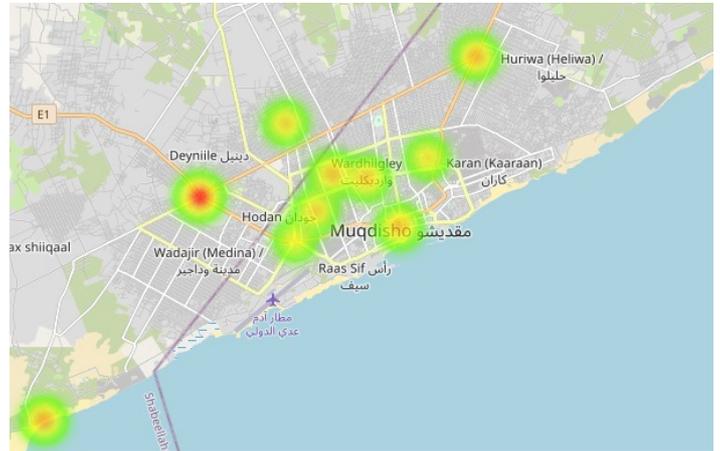


Mogadishu
Weekly SitRep
11th – 17th June 2021

DILIGENCE | DISCRETION | ADAPTABILITY

ST
GROUP

Weekly Overview



- Protest (2)
- PBIED (1)
- Gov. sec. response (1)
- Assassination (1)



x15

...Killed in PBIED attack in Wadajir.



x27

...Suspected human traffickers arrested in citywide operation.



x48

...New COVID-19 cases confirmed.

Executive Summary

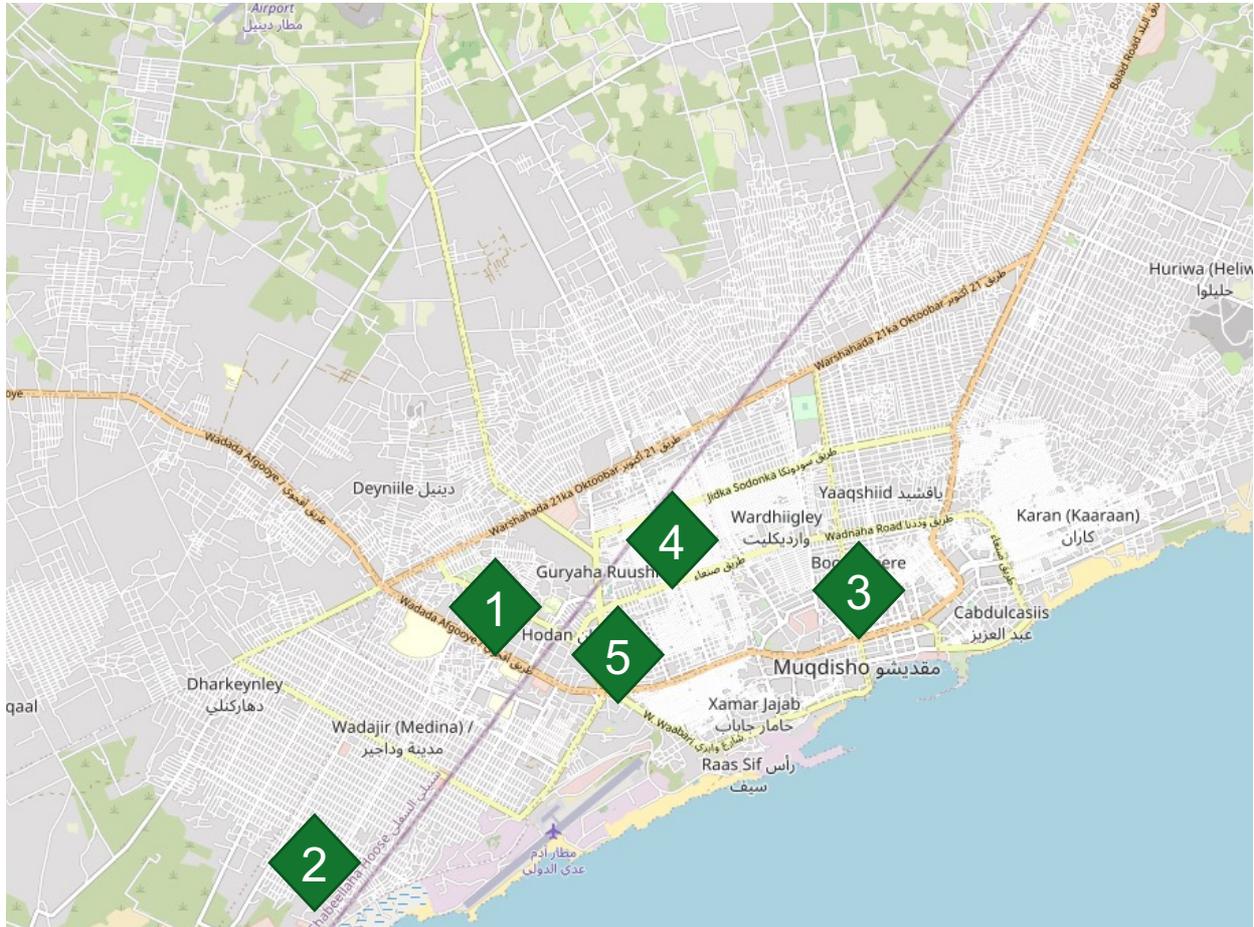
Incident Overview

- On 15th June, a person-borne improvised explosive device (PBIED) targeted the General Dhagabadan Military Base of the Somali National Army (SNA) in Wadajir. Local reports confirmed that at least 15 individuals were killed and 22 others injured in the attack.
- Security forces announced the conclusion of an operation targeting a human trafficking syndicate in an unconfirmed location in Mogadishu on 13th June. Twenty-seven suspects were arrested during the operation.
- A small group of individuals held a peaceful protest calling for an investigation into reports of an alleged deployment of SNA soldiers in Northern Ethiopia at KM4 on 11th June. Temporary traffic disruptions were reported in the area as a result.
- A group of tuk-tuk drivers protested over poor road conditions and road closures enforced by local authorities near Daljirka Dahsoon on 15th June. No violence was reported, however, adjacent roads experienced increased traffic congestion as a result of the protest.
- Unverified reports stated that al Shabaab militants shot dead an SNA soldier in Seybiano, Hodan, and stole his firearm before escaping on 16th June.

Politics & Miscellany

- As demonstrated by the two PBIED attacks recorded over the past two weeks, al Shabaab maintain the ability to conduct high-impact attacks on security forces targets. Similar attacks remain a possibility over the coming reporting period, with security forces installations as well as government offices likely to remain primary targets for such attacks. Although foreign entities remain a prime target, it is currently assessed that there is no specific threat against AAIA.
- Over the reporting period, 48 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) were recorded in Somalia, with the total number of confirmed cases standing at 14,827 and 775 related deaths having been officially confirmed at the time of writing.
- A group of Members Parliament (MPs) and Senators, led by First Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Abshir Ahmad, met with parents of SNA soldiers deployed for training to Eritrea at the Jazeera Hotel on 14th June, in order to address their concerns over reports of combat deaths among the deployed contingent.
- On 16th June, the Foreign Ministers from Somalia and Kenya held an official phone conversation regarding the normalisation of bilateral relations between the two countries.
- James Swan, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Somalia (SRSG), met with Hirshabelle State President Ali Abdullahi Hussein (“Gudlaawe”) in Mogadishu on 15th June and Galmudug State President Ahmed Abdi Karie (“Qoor Qoor”) in Dhuusamareeb on 16th June.

Incidents - Banadiir



Banadiir

1. 16/06/2021 – Assassination, Seybiano
2. 15/06/2021 – PBIED attack, Wadajir
3. 15/06/2021 – Tuk-tuk drivers protest, Daljirka Dahsoon
4. 13/06/2021 – Security forces operation, Citywide
5. 11/06/2021 – Parents protest, KM4

Analysis

- **On 15th June, a PBIED targeted the General Dhagabadan Military Base of the SNA in Wadajir. Local reports confirmed that at least 15 individuals were killed and 22 others injured in the attack.**
- **Security forces announced the conclusion of an operation targeting a human trafficking syndicate in an unconfirmed location in Mogadishu on 13th June. Twenty-seven suspects were arrested during the operation.**

The reporting period was marked by the 15th June person-borne improvised explosive device (PBIED) attack targeting the General Dhagabadan Military Base, believed to be located between Wadajir and Jazeera on the Southwestern outskirts of Mogadishu. The attack marked the ninth high-impact attack recorded in the capital thus far in 2021, marking a substantial increase compared to the same time period in 2020, which had only recorded two high-impact attacks by 17th June. Furthermore, the 15th June attack occurred ten days after the 05th June PBIED attack against a bus carrying Somali National Army (SNA) soldiers near Ex-Control Afgooye, which resulted in at least three fatalities and 21 injuries. This short time period between two high-impact attacks serves to further illustrate the robust capabilities of al Shabaab and the relative freedom of movement the group continues to enjoy within Mogadishu. Moreover, it is assessed as conceivable that the period of politically-motivated unrest observed in Mogadishu in April 2021 facilitated the infiltration of additional al Shabaab assets – including easily concealable PBIEDs and other explosive materials – into Mogadishu, enabling the group to conduct two-high impact PBIED attacks in less than two weeks.

According to security officials, during the 15th June

attack, a single assailant had joined a crowd of potential SNA recruits waiting to be admitted outside the base before detonating his device. The high casualty count resulting from the attack – with between 15 and 20 individuals reportedly killed and over 20 others injured – supports this reported modus operandi, although it remains unclear whether all victims were attempting to enter the base at the time of the incident or whether other civilian bystanders were also affected. Notably, the 15th June incident closely mirrors a similar PBIED attack conducted on 23rd June 2020 at the entrance gate of Camp TURKSOM, which is also located in Jazeera and believed to be in close proximity to the General Dhagabadan Military Base. At the time, local reports had also indicated that the lone assailant had attempted to blend in with potential recruits seeking to join the Turkish-trained “Gorgor” unit of the SNA before detonating his device, killing three individuals and injuring several others. As such, it is assessed as likely that al Shabaab specifically targeted the recruitment drive for the SNA, thereby discouraging potential recruits from joining the security forces.

As demonstrated by the two PBIED attacks recorded over the past two weeks, al Shabaab maintain the ability to conduct high-impact attacks on security forces targets. Similar attacks remain a possibility over the coming reporting period, with security forces installations as well as government offices – in particular District Commissions Headquarters – likely to remain high-priority targets for such attacks, with PBIEDs remaining the group’s primary tactic for high-impact attacks.

Politics & Miscellaneous

Update on COVID-19

Over the reporting period, 48 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) were recorded in Somalia, with the total number of confirmed cases standing at 14,827 and 775 related deaths having been officially confirmed at the time of writing. This continues the downward trend in additional confirmed cases of the disease observed during the previous week, which saw a 24 per cent decrease in new cases, with the week under review seeing a further decrease of 45 per cent, falling from 88 new cases during the previous reporting period. Similarly, the increment of fatalities related to COVID-19 saw a further reduction, falling from four new deaths during the previous week to only one additional fatality over the current reporting period.

However, it is noted that, despite this apparent continued lack of adequate monitoring and tracing capabilities on the part of the authorities, the Federal Ministry of Health has thus far maintained its regular bulletin updates on the state of the pandemic, which resumed in May. Notably, these updates also feature the number of tests conducted over the preceding 24-hour period, with the latest update issued on 16th June indicating four positive cases – all confirmed in Puntland – from a sample of 610.

Parliamentary group holds meeting over SNA recruits in Eritrea

A group of Members Parliament (MPs) and Senators, led by First Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Abshir Ahmad, met with parents of SNA soldiers deployed for training to Eritrea at the Jazeera Hotel on 14th June, in order to address their concerns over reports of combat deaths among the deployed contingent. The meeting followed an earlier announcement by the Office of

Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble that it would launch an inquiry into the complaints of parents claiming that their sons had been injured or killed after being deployed into active combat missions in Tigray Region, as a means to support the Eritrean and Ethiopian campaign against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in northern Ethiopia. The Council of Presidential Candidates had called on the Prime Minister in a statement on 13th June to address the concerns raised by civil society representatives and institute a commission with "neutral non-governmental members".

While these allegations had previously surfaced already earlier in 2021, they came to the forefront again following the publishing of the report by the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on human rights in Eritrea, Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker, which was circulated in early June. Within the report, the Special Rapporteur notes that he had "received information and reports that Somali soldiers were moved (...) to the front line in Tigray" and that it was "also reported" that SNA soldiers were deployed near the town of Aksum. Despite the vague character of the findings of the Special Rapporteur, the impact on the issue of the training of SNA soldiers in Eritrea has been significant, with several related protests recorded in Mogadishu and Guriceel in Galgaduud region over the reporting period. Meanwhile, after the meeting at the Jazeera Hotel, the joint Parliamentary group under Seputy Speaker Ahmad announced the formation of a new, dedicated task force to investigate the received reports regarding SNA recruits deployed to Eritrea.

Image of the Week



Waberi District (Source: SF Archive)

Threat Rating Key

“Last period’s status” provides a comparative from which this period’s status can be understood.



The overall security situation underwent notable improvements during the previous reporting period.



The security situation remained constant in the previous reporting period, undergoing little change.



There was a decline in the situation over the previous reporting period.

‘This period’s status’ is decided by monitoring trends in comparison to the previous reporting period



There has been an improvement in the overall security situation over the reporting period



The overall security situation has remained broadly unchanged over the reporting period



The overall security situation has worsened over the reporting period

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