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DAILY
**SECURITY
UPDATE**

Somalia, August 27, 2023

DAILY SITUATION UPDATE

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As operations against Al-Shabaab in rural areas intensify, the extremist group typically carries out more frequent attacks in the capital city of Mogadishu to make up for their losses.

The political and security situation in Somalia remains challenging and volatile. In terms of politics, the conflict between breakaway Somaliland and local clans in Laascaanood has intensified, leading to violence, casualties, and displacement. Numerous countries and international organizations have condemned the situation, calling for an immediate ceasefire and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The United Kingdom specifically urged President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland to declare a ceasefire and engage in talks with the SSC-Khatumo Administration, emphasizing the importance of international humanitarian law and access to aid. Meanwhile, within Somalia, political disagreements have emerged among newly established political parties regarding election leadership.

Former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has called for an independent investigation into a deadly attack by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab, while also acknowledging progress in liberating other areas from their control. The Pakistani diaspora community in Somaliland celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day, expressing gratitude and highlighting investment opportunities. They also requested improvements in the ease of doing business and consular services.

Turning to security matters, the Federal Government of Somalia sought support from the U.S. Africa Command for an airstrike against Al-Shabaab terrorists near Seiera, resulting in the successful elimination of 13 fighters while minimizing civilian casualties. However, Somalia is facing challenges related to the black market for weapons. There are concerns about the misappropriation of arms by government forces and the involvement of high-ranking officials and tribal militias in the arms trade. This has led to a drop in weapon prices, attracting arms dealers and individuals seeking self-defence, primarily benefiting local militias and people in central and southern regions.

Several security incidents have occurred, underscoring the ongoing security challenges in Somalia. An attack on politician Siidow left him severely injured, prompting investigations into the motive behind the assault. Reports indicated that certain shops in Hamarweyne were ordered to contribute funds to support the army stationed at the front lines of an ongoing war. An incident involving an individual carrying a sack believed to contain a human head resulted in an attack on a man inside a restaurant. The re-entry of Al-Shabaab militants into the village of Budbud after government troop withdrawal highlights the persisting security challenges. In order to maintain peace and order, the government deployed additional troops, leading to the delayed planned protest in Mogadishu.

Despite the security challenges, there have been positive developments in terms of justice. A court in the Galkayo district sentenced two men to death for their involvement in the murder of a 16-year-old girl, indicating a commitment to administer justice and protect vulnerable

individuals. However, incidents such as the injuries sustained by three individuals from the same family due to mortars fired by ATMIS forces in the Awdheegle district continue to pose security threats. The expansion of the Ga'an Libaah militia into the village of Adadley further adds to the security challenges faced by the Hargeisa government following their recent ousting of Somaliland forces from the Gooja'adde base and other advancements towards the Ethiopian border.

SUMMARY

Politics: The conflict between breakaway Somaliland and local clans in Laascaanood has escalated, resulting in violence, casualties, and displacement. Numerous countries and international organisations have condemned the situation and called for an immediate ceasefire and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The United Kingdom specifically urged President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland to declare a ceasefire and engage in talks with the SSC-Khatumo Administration, expressing deep concern for the Sool region and emphasising the importance of international humanitarian law and access to aid. The Somali Ministry of Information highlighted its role in combating the terrorist group Al-Shabaab and called for intensified efforts to counter their misinformation. Additionally, a generous donation of medicine and medical equipment was made to support residents in recently liberated areas affected by terrorism. Political disagreements have arisen among newly established political parties regarding election leadership, raising concerns about unity before the upcoming general elections. Former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed called for an independent investigation into a deadly attack by Al-Shabaab while acknowledging progress in liberating other areas. The Pakistani diaspora community in Somaliland celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day, expressing gratitude and highlighting investment opportunities while also requesting improvements in ease of doing business and consular services. Adam Smith International, a UK consultancy firm, expanded its operations in Mogadishu to aid the Office of the Auditor General of Somalia in combating corruption. Discussions between the African Union and Somalia revolved around offensive actions against Al-Shabaab, troop withdrawal plans, and a joint technical assessment. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia is progressing with the troop drawdown, aiming to withdraw 3,000 troops by September 30, 2023. The CES provided technical support to address security concerns and conflicts in the Mudug region, with a focus on facilitating the peaceful resettlement of affected individuals.

Key Takeaways:

1. Escalation of fighting in Somaliland: The conflict between breakaway Somaliland and local clans in Laascaanood has led to significant violence, casualties, and displacement. Over 20 countries and international organizations have issued a condemnation, urging an immediate ceasefire and adherence to human rights and international humanitarian law.
2. UK calls for ceasefire and dialogue: The United Kingdom has called upon President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland to declare a ceasefire and initiate talks with the SSC-Khatumo

Administration. The UK expressed deep concern about the situation in the Sool region and stressed the importance of international humanitarian law and access to aid.

3. **Ministry of Information's role in combating Al-Shabaab:** The Somali Ministry of Information emphasized its significant role in fighting against the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. They called upon staff members to intensify their efforts and oppose the group's misinformation through various means, including social media and television broadcasts.
4. **Donation of medicine and medical equipment:** The Health Department of the Somali Disaster Management Agency received a generous donation of medicine and medical equipment from donor agencies. The aid aims to support residents of recently liberated areas and ensure essential support reaches all regions affected by terrorism.
5. **Political disagreement over election leadership:** Six newly established political parties in Somaliland rejected the decision made by the traditional elders committee regarding the election leadership of the Habarjeelo clan. This disagreement raises questions about unity among political factions before the general elections scheduled for November 13, 2024.
6. **Former president calls for investigation:** Former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed called for an independent investigation into a deadly attack by Al-Shabaab in Cowswayne, near Elbur. He urged a thorough probe into the circumstances and responsibility for the security of the affected area, while acknowledging the success of liberating other areas from the group.
7. **Pakistani diaspora's Independence Day celebration:** The Pakistani diaspora community in Somaliland celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day, expressing gratitude to the people of Somaliland and highlighting the peaceful environment and investment opportunities in the country. They also requested improvements in ease of doing business and the opening of consular services.
8. **UK consultancy firm aiding anti-corruption efforts:** Adam Smith International, a UK consultancy firm, expanded its operations in Mogadishu to assist the Office of the Auditor General of Somalia in combating corruption. They will support the office in implementing reforms and enhancing work processes.
9. **African Union's engagement and withdrawal plans:** The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia met with the President of Somalia. Discussions revolved around African Union Transition Mission in Somalia's support for offensives against Al-Shabaab, troop drawdown plans, and the joint technical assessment.
10. **Progress in African Union Transition Mission in Somalia's drawdown:** The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia is progressing with the joint technical assessment and planning for troop drawdown. The first phase assessment is near completion, and the second phase aims to withdraw 3,000 troops by September 30, 2023.

11. CES support for security and resettlement: The CES provided technical support to the Ministry of Interior of Puntland, focusing on addressing security concerns and conflicts in the Mudug region. The CES aimed to establish a conducive environment for the peaceful resettlement of affected individuals, but specific details were not provided.

Security: In Somalia, recent events have highlighted the ongoing security challenges faced by the country. Firstly, the Federal Government of Somalia requested support from the U.S. Africa Command for an airstrike against al-Shabaab terrorists near Seiera, resulting in the successful elimination of 13 fighters while minimising civilian casualties. However, Somalia is grappling with a surge in the black market for weapons, leading to concerns about the misappropriation of arms by government forces and the involvement of high-ranking officials and tribal militias in the arms trade. The repercussions of this include a drop in weapon prices, attracting arms dealers and individuals seeking self-defence, primarily benefiting local militias and people in central and southern regions. Meanwhile, an incident involving an attack on politician Siidow has left him severely injured, prompting investigations into the motive behind the assault. Additionally, reports suggest that certain shops in Hamarweyne have been ordered to contribute \$70 to fund the army stationed at the front lines of an ongoing war. In a separate incident, an individual carrying a sack believed to contain a human head escaped from army personnel, wielding a knife, and later attacked a man inside a restaurant, though authorities apprehended the perpetrator. Furthermore, the re-entry of AS militants into the village of Budbud after government troop withdrawal indicates ongoing security challenges. Plans for a protest in Mogadishu were delayed due to the government deploying additional troops to maintain peace and order. In another development, a group of nomad families captured 30 Somaliland soldiers who sought refuge after their defeat, further reflecting the region's ongoing conflict. However, there have also been positive steps towards justice, with a court in the Galkayo district sentencing two men to death for their involvement in the murder of a 16-year-old girl, demonstrating the commitment to administer justice and protect vulnerable individuals. Lastly, an incident in the Awdheegle district resulted in three individuals from the same family being injured by mortars fired by ATMIS forces. The expansion of the Ga'an Libaah militia into the village of Adadley poses security challenges for the Hargeisa government following their recent ousting of Somaliland forces from the Gooja'adde base and other advancements towards the Ethiopian border.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Federal Government of Somalia requested U.S. Africa Command's support for an airstrike against al-Shabaab terrorists near Seiera, Somalia. The airstrike successfully targeted and killed 13 al-Shabaab fighters while avoiding civilian casualties.
2. Somalia is experiencing a surge in the black market for weapons, leading to a significant drop in prices. Increased availability of arms and ammunition has attracted arms dealers and individuals seeking self-defense, primarily benefiting local militias and individuals in central and southern regions. However, there are concerns about misappropriation of

arms by government forces and involvement of high-ranking officials and tribal militias in the arms trade.

3. A politician named Siidow was attacked by unidentified assailants. Siidow sustained severe injuries, and investigations are underway to determine the motive behind the assault.
4. Shops in Hamarweyne, Somalia, were allegedly ordered to pay \$70 to fund the army stationed at the front lines of an ongoing war.
5. An individual carrying a sack believed to contain a human head fled from army personnel, brandishing a knife, and later attacked a man inside a restaurant. The authorities were able to apprehend the perpetrator.
6. AS militants successfully re-entered the village of Budbud in the Galgadud region after government troop withdrawal, highlighting ongoing security challenges.
7. A planned protest in Mogadishu by the Jareerweyne community was postponed after the government deployed additional troops to maintain peace and order.
8. A group of nomad families captured 30 Somaliland soldiers who sought refuge after defeat by SSC-Khatumo forces. These soldiers were merged with a previously captured group of 200 soldiers, reflecting the ongoing conflict in the region.
9. A court in the Galkayo district sentenced two men to death for their involvement in the murder of a 16-year-old girl, demonstrating the commitment to administer justice and protect vulnerable individuals.
10. In an incident in Awdheegle district, three individuals from the same family were injured by mortars fired by ATMIS forces.
11. The Ga'an Libaah militia, affiliated with the Garhajis clan, entered the village of Adadley near Hargeisa, indicating their expansion into the Marodi Jeh region. This follows their recent expulsion of Somaliland forces from the Gooja'adde base and other advancements towards the Ethiopian border. The militia's control poses security challenges for the Hargeisa government.

EVENTS LISTED

Politics

On August 27, 2023, **an escalation in fighting between northern breakaway Somaliland and local clans prompted over 20 countries and various international organizations to issue a strong condemnation.** The conflict, centered in the city of Laascaanood, involved armed Somaliland forces and clan militias referred to as SSC-Khatumo. Concerns are growing

about the potential spill over of violence into surrounding areas. The international partners expressed deep concern over reports of numerous detainees and emphasized the need for all involved parties to adhere to human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. They called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, cessation of mobilization and provision of supplies and arms. The statement was endorsed by signatories including the UN, US, Türkiye, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, various European countries, regional organizations like IGAD, and several Arab and African nations. Additionally, the importance of unhindered humanitarian access and delivery of assistance was reiterated, and all parties were urged to resolve grievances and tensions peacefully through dialogue, refraining from divisive statements. The conflict in Las Anod, the administrative capital of Somaliland's Sool region, has resulted in significant casualties, injuries, and displacement of numerous families. The violence was sparked by the refusal of local leaders, civil society groups, and religious leaders to recognize the Somaliland government. While the Somaliland administration has labeled the local forces as "terrorists" and held them responsible for the violence, the Sool and Sanaag regions have long been contested areas with both Somaliland and Puntland state claiming ownership prior to the current uprising.

On August 27, 2023, **the United Kingdom called upon President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland to declare a ceasefire and initiate talks with the SSC-Khatumo Administration.** UK Ambassador to Somalia, Mike Nithavrianakis, expressed deep concern about the deteriorating situation in the disputed Sool region, particularly in the town of Las Anod. Stressing the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law and allowing access to humanitarian aid, the UK urged all parties involved to exercise restraint. This appeal follows President Bihi's acknowledgment of defeat in the battle for control over Gooja'adde, an important Somaliland base recently captured by SSC-Khatumo forces. Despite previous international calls for withdrawal, Somaliland has continued its shelling of Las Anod, drawing concern from the international community. The escalating conflict raises concerns about potential destabilization in the Horn of Africa, prompting the UK to emphasize the immediate cessation of hostilities and the pursuit of peaceful dialogue to address the political status of Sool.

On August 27, 2023, **the Director General of the Ministry of Information of the Federal Government of Somalia, Abdullahi Hayir Duale, emphasized the significant role that the Ministry will play in combating the Al-Shabaab terrorists.** During a meeting held at the ministry, Director General Abdullahi Hayir called upon all staff members to intensify their efforts and be prepared to contribute to the fight. Various department directors also spoke, urging the staff to speak out against the terrorists' misinformation and directly oppose them through all available means, including social media and television broadcasts. Ismael Mukhtar Omar, the Director of the Somali National News Agency (SONNA), expressed readiness of the entire ministry personnel, from directors to staff, to participate actively in the battle against the terrorists.

On August 27, 2023, **Dr. Abdullahi Muse Ahmed, the Director of the Health Department of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), received a generous donation of medicine and medical equipment from various donor agencies.** The purpose of this

donation is to provide support to the residents of recently liberated areas. This timely assistance arrives as the Somali army and local forces near the completion of the initial phase in their fight against the Al-Shabaab terrorists. The aid is expected to soon reach the villages that have been cleared of the militant group. In addition to its vital role in providing relief to disaster-stricken areas, SoDMA is actively engaged in the mission of liberating the country from terrorist militants and ensuring that all regions receive essential support from the government.

On August 27, 2023, **a coalition of six newly established political parties rejected the decision made by the traditional elders committee regarding the election leadership of the Habarjeclo clan.** The coalition, consisting of the Rajo, Talowadaag, Waabari, and Hilaac parties, deemed the decision as incompatible with their understanding of the relevant laws and regulations governing the electoral and leadership selection processes. The rejection aims to influence and advocate for the implementation of electoral and leadership mechanisms that are deemed fair and just by all parties involved. This move has caused some concerns and raised questions about the unity of the various political factions in Somaliland. The outcome of this disagreement will unfold in the upcoming months before the general elections scheduled for November 13, 2024.

On August 27, 2023, **the former president of Somalia, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, expressed his concern and called for an independent investigation into the deadly attack carried out by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab.** The attack took place in Cowswayne, approximately 20 kilometers away from Elbur, a city recently captured from Al-Shabaab by the Somali army. Ahmed urged the parliament's defence committee to conduct a thorough probe into the circumstances surrounding the attack and the individuals responsible for the security of the affected area. While acknowledging the success of the Somali forces in liberating Elbur and other areas in Galmudug state, Ahmed extended his condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives and wished a swift recovery to those injured in the Al-Shabaab gun and bomb attack. The attack resulted in substantial casualties among the Somali National Army (SNA) personnel and also led to the capture of a significant number of weapons and military vehicles by the militant group. Critics of the government raised concerns about potential mistakes made during the operation against Al-Shabaab.

On August 27, 2023, **the Pakistani diaspora community residing in Somaliland celebrated their country's Independence Day at Kaah Hotel in Hargeisa.** The event, organized by the community association committee, was attended by 150 members from various professional backgrounds including doctors, teachers, engineers, business owners, and skilled workers. During the ceremony, congratulatory messages were shared with fellow citizens and the Government of Pakistan for their Independence Day celebrated on August 14th, 2023. Dr. Anmol Asghar, Chairman of the Pakistani Community in Somaliland, along with his deputy, Mr. Share Mohammed Khan, and other community representatives delivered speeches expressing gratitude to the people of Somaliland for their warm welcome and hospitality. They also expressed their desire to continue living and investing in Somaliland, emphasizing the country's peaceful environment and its enabling conditions for investors. The community leaders highlighted the challenges faced by investors and foreign workers regarding vital document acquisition, sponsorships, and visa processes. They

requested the Government of Somaliland to address these hindrances and improve the ease of doing business in the country. Additionally, the Pakistani Community called upon their government to open consular services in Somaliland.

On August 27, 2023, **UK consultancy firm Adam Smith International expanded its operations in Mogadishu, Somalia.** Having already established a strong presence in the region, the company secured a new contract worth €5.3 million. The objective of the contract is to provide assistance to the Office of the Auditor General of Somalia, helping them initiate reforms and combat widespread corruption within the government. Adam Smith International's role will involve supporting the office in improving its work processes and establishing more effective systems. This development highlights the ongoing efforts to address endemic corruption in Somalia while strengthening the partnership between the UK firm and the Somali government.

On August 27, 2023, **Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), along with ATMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, met with the President of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.** The purpose of the meeting was to update President Mohamud on several important matters. Ambassador Souef commended the President and the Federal Government of Somalia for their successful ongoing offensives against the militant group Al Shabaab. The discussions also focused on ATMIS's support for these offensives, the upcoming drawdown of ATMIS troops, and the progress of the joint technical assessment requested by the UN Security Council. Ambassador Souef expressed contentment with the preparations for withdrawing an additional 3,000 ATMIS troops by the end of September. He noted that the joint technical assessment team was already on the ground in Somalia, engaging with various stakeholders. The discussions were positive, and President Mohamud expressed confidence in meeting the agreed timelines. The President expressed his gratitude for ATMIS's assistance and acknowledged the significant progress made with their support. He also appealed for further assistance to strengthen the capacity of the Somali Security Forces. In addition to the meeting, Ambassador Souef and the Force Commander visited the ATMIS Djibouti National Defence Forces (DNDF) Forward Operating Base in Dhusamareb, where they discussed troop welfare and readiness with the base commander. They encouraged the troops to remain committed to providing security for the airport, which plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of Galmuduug.

On August 27, 2023, **Ambassador Mohammed El-Amine Souef, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, and Head of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), announced that the joint technical assessment for the first phase of ATMIS drawdown and planning for the second phase are progressing steadily.** Accompanied by Dr. Aisa Kacyira, the Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia, and members of the Joint Technical Team led by Zinurine Alghali, the Acting Head of the Peace Support Operations Division of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Souef expressed the commitment of ATMIS to meet the tight deadlines imposed for the technical assessment and planning for the second phase of drawdown. In compliance with the current mandate of ATMIS as outlined in the United

Nations Security Council Resolution 2687, a joint technical assessment is required by August 31, 2023, to evaluate the first phase drawdown of 2000 troops and identify lessons learned, along with implications of the revised National Security Architecture and force generation. This assessment will inform the planning for the remaining phases of ATMIS drawdown. The resolution also requests a drawdown of 3000 uniformed personnel by September 30, 2023, reducing the military personnel from 17,626 to 14,626. Mr. Zinurine Alghali, the acting Head of the AU Peace Support Operations Division, emphasized the African Union's commitment to ensuring Somalia takes over full security responsibility and urged stakeholders to safeguard the progress achieved thus far. Dr. Kacyira from UNSOS praised the success of the first phase of ATMIS troop drawdown and reiterated the United Nations' dedication to facilitating a smooth transition. Major General Muteti, the ATMIS Deputy Force Commander in charge of Logistics and Support, confirmed that preparations were progressing well for the drawdown of 3000 ATMIS troops during the second phase. The technical team involved in the assessment has returned to Addis Ababa, and their report will be submitted to the UN Security Council by September 15, 2023.

On August 27, 2023, **the CES played a vital role in providing technical support to the Ministry of Interior of Puntland.** The primary objective was to facilitate a congregation involving Elders, Regional Authorities, and Police, aimed at addressing security concerns and conflicts prevalent in the Mudug region. The CES focused on achieving four primary goals related to resettlement efforts. The exact details of these goals were not provided in the given information. However, it can be inferred that the CES sought to establish a conducive environment for the peaceful resettlement of individuals affected by the ongoing conflicts in the Mudug region.

Security

On August 26, 2023, **the Federal Government of Somalia requested support from U.S. Africa Command for a collective self-defence airstrike against al-Shabaab terrorists near Seiera, Somalia.** The airstrike, conducted in the early morning hours of August 26, aimed to assist the Somali National Army forces who were engaged in combat with the terrorist organisation. According to the initial assessment by U.S. Africa Command, the airstrike successfully targeted and killed 13 al-Shabaab fighters without any reported civilian casualties. Due to operational security concerns, specific details about the units involved and assets used have not been disclosed. Al-Shabaab, recognised as the largest al-Qaeda network with significant activity, has demonstrated its intent and capability to target partner and U.S. forces, posing a regional security threat. The ongoing efforts to strengthen Somalia's security involve training, advising, and equipping partner forces to effectively counter al-Shabaab's terrorist operations. U.S. Africa Command prioritises the protection of civilians and takes extensive measures to minimize harm to non-combatants, striving towards a more secure and stable Africa.

On August 27, 2023, **it was reported that the black market for weapons in Somalia is experiencing a surge in supply, leading to a significant drop in prices.** Interviews with

various sources and visits to the arms market in Mogadishu revealed that the increased availability of arms and ammunition has attracted arms dealers and individuals looking to strengthen their arsenals. The primary beneficiaries of this surplus weaponry are the local militias in Mogadishu and individuals from the central and southern regions of the country. The demand for weapons is driven by the fear of intertribal conflicts and the desire for self-defence. Tribal leaders, government-affiliated politicians, independent political figures, and businessmen were identified as some of the diverse clientele involved in purchasing firearms. The clandestine arms market in Mogadishu's Hodan district is witnessing a rise in demand, with buyers engaging in swift cash transactions for firearms. This surge in weapons supply is attributed to various channels, with government soldiers being the most reliable source due to their trustworthiness. Prices of firearms and ammunition have notably dropped, indicating increased availability and accessibility. However, the influx of weapons is accompanied by disturbing aspects, including misappropriation of arms and ammunition by parts of the government forces and the involvement of high-ranking officials and tribal militias in the arms trade. Efforts to establish a fortified system of weapon registration face significant obstacles due to the lack of effective regulation and accurate statistics on illegal weaponry circulating within the country.

On August 27, 2023, **a politician named Siidow was reportedly attacked by unidentified assailants**. The attack resulted in severe injuries, leaving Siidow in a stable condition in the hospital. The motive behind the assault remains unknown at this time. Siidow made a statement following the incident, expressing gratitude for surviving the attack and emphasising the need for thorough investigations to bring the perpetrators to justice. The incident has raised concerns about the safety and security of political figures in the region. Authorities are actively investigating the matter to determine the circumstances surrounding the attack.

On August 27, 2023, **reports emerged stating that shops in Hamarweyne were allegedly ordered to pay \$70**. The purpose of collecting this money was said to be to fund the army stationed at the front lines of an ongoing war.

On August 27, 2023, **at the Al-Gaba intersection, the security forces became suspicious of a man carrying a sack, which appeared to contain a human head**. Subsequently, the man fled from the army personnel, brandishing a knife, and sought refuge in a nearby restaurant. Inside the restaurant, he attacked and stabbed a man who was present. The authorities were able to apprehend the perpetrator.

On August 27, 2023, **AS militants successfully re-entered the village of Buddud in the Galgadud region, following the withdrawal of government troops on Sunday afternoon**.

On August 27, 2023, **a planned protest organised by the Jareerweyne community in Mogadishu to express their discontent over the arrest of army officer Shegow was postponed**. This decision came after the government responded by deploying hundreds of fresh troops to the streets of the capital on Sunday. The deployment of additional troops aimed to maintain peace and order and ensure the safety of the city and its residents during the demonstration.

On August 27, 2023, **a group of nomad families apprehended 30 Somaliland soldiers who had sought refuge in the bush following their defeat by SSC-Khatumo forces.** These captured soldiers were subsequently transported to Lasanod, where they were merged with the existing group of 200 soldiers already captured during the same battle. The circumstances leading to their capture and subsequent events reflect the dynamic situation on the ground and the ongoing conflict in the region.

On August 27, 2023, **a court in the Galkayo district of the Mudug region handed down a solemn verdict, sentencing two men to death for their involvement in the brutal murder of 16-year-old Na'imo Abdiweli Osman earlier in the year.** The court found 22-year-old Liban Mohamed Yusuf, the victim's husband, guilty of committing the heinous crime, with assistance from 20-year-old Jama Mohamed Yusuf. This verdict highlights the firm commitment of the Mudug judicial system to administer justice and safeguard the vulnerable, serving as a clear message that acts of violence of this nature will not be accepted within the region.

On August 27, 2023, **in Awdheegle district, located in the Lower Shabelle region, an incident occurred where three individuals were injured as a result of mortars fired by the ATMIS forces in the Malable neighborhood.** The injured individuals belong to the same family and were subsequently transported to Mogadishu for medical treatment.

On August 27, 2023, **the Ga'an Libaah militia, associated with the Garhajis clan, entered the village of Adadley, located approximately 70 km from Hargeisa, the capital city of the self-proclaimed Somaliland.** Residents reported gunshots originating from the village, which is situated near the main highway connecting Hargeisa and Berbera. This incursion follows the recent expulsion of the Somaliland army from the Gooja'adde base near Las Anod by the SSC-Khatumo forces. Notably, this marks one of the first instances of the Ga'an Libaah militia infiltrating the Marodi Jeh region, where Hargeisa is located. Earlier this month, the rebel group ambushed Somaliland officers in Go'da Yar, a village about 120 km from the capital. Furthermore, reports indicate that the commander of Somaliland's 7th division, Mahad Ambaashe, and ten vehicles have gone missing near Hingalol in the Sanaag region. The Ga'an Libaah rebels have also made advancements towards the Ethiopian border, capturing Dabogoryaale village and disarming local officers. They have reportedly stolen vehicles belonging to the HALO Trust, an NGO operating in the area. The militia's control may be expanding to cover a 100 km stretch from Iskudar to the Ethiopian border, potentially posing serious security challenges for the Hargeisa government in addition to those in the Sool region. The capture of the Gooja'adde base has been a significant setback for the self-proclaimed government since the conflict over Las Anod began, as evidenced by images and videos shared on social media depicting SSC-Khatumo fighters detaining Somaliland soldiers and showcasing the base's facilities, including a medical center.



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