

AL SHABAAB 'S ACTIVITY IN SOUTH SOMALIA

Amid escalating tensions between the Somali Federal Government and Jubbaland, marked by disputes over authority and the defection of Jubbaland forces to the Somali National Army, Al-Shabaab exploited the instability by orchestrating three coordinated terrorist attacks in Jubbaland State and Bay State on December 9, 2024.

- Kismayo Port Attack: The police station at Kismayo Port was targeted by an explosion.
- Buula Xaaji Shelling: Two military bases in Buula Xaaji were shelled by Al-Shabaab.
- Raids in Wajid and El Berde: Al-Shabaab fighters raided two military bases in Wajid and El Berde towns.

Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attacks, asserting they inflicted heavy losses on Somali forces but did not specify the number of casualties.

These events highlight a fragile security landscape, worsened by internal political divisions and the calculated exploitation of instability by extremist groups seeking to deepen regional discord.

IS-SOMALIA ACTIVITY

IS-Somalia based in Puntland has intensified its activities, reportedly funding operations through gold mining in Bari's remote mountainous areas, while leveraging local labor under coercion. On the other side Puntland's administration, under President Said Abdullahi Deni, has bolstered troop deployments to counter the group's growing threat. Simultaneously, IS-Somalia supporters have taken to social media with direct threats against intervention, signaling their readiness to escalate operationally.

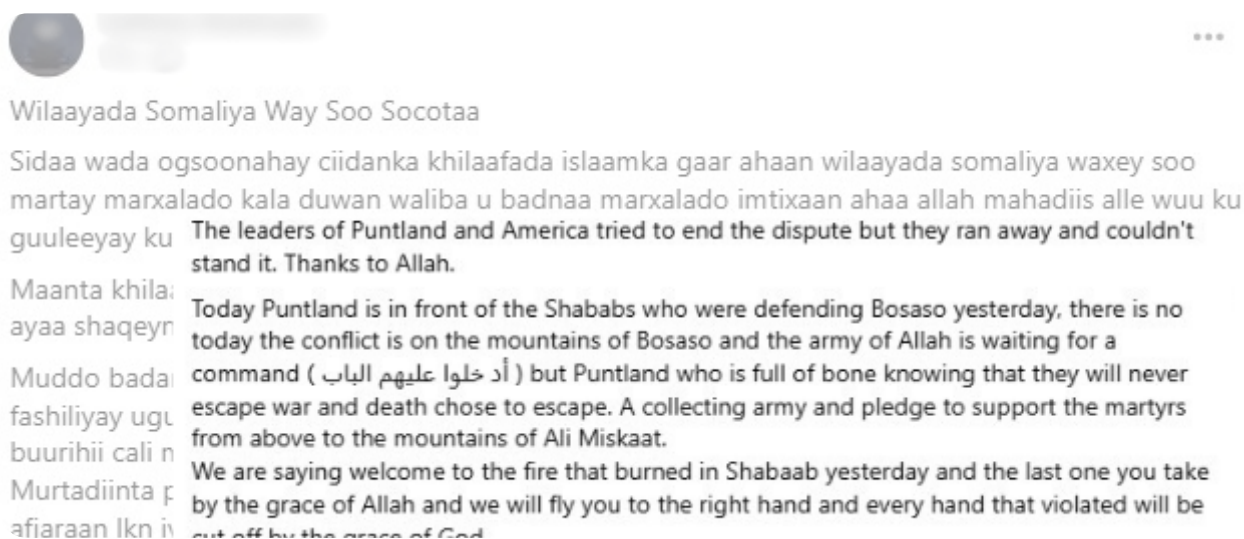


IMAGE TAKEN FROM A SUPPORTER'S PROFILE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

AQAP ACTIVITY IN YEMEN

On December 9, 2024, AQAP conducted a precision sniper operation in Abyan Governorate, targeting Shabwa Force personnel stationed near Al-Baqira and Al-Surra, resulting in one confirmed casualty.

This operation aligns with AQAP's ongoing asymmetric warfare strategy, as highlighted in a recent Al-Malahem media release.

In a 21-minute video, the prominent jihadist Khabib Al-Sudani, while praising the Syrian revolution, urged jihadists to prepare for prolonged guerrilla warfare by stockpiling critical equipment, constructing defensive tunnels, and countering infiltration, citing Hamas' Al Qassam Brigades in Gaza as a model of resilience.

In a comparable manner, Al-Shabaab has taken advantage of the political instability in Somalia to intensify its operations, executing coordinated strikes in Jubbaland and Bay State. The parallel strategies highlight the common approaches employed by jihadist groups in navigating governance gaps and instability throughout East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

In addition, the recent triumph of Syrian rebels and the extensive release of captives from Sednaya jail have enhanced morale inside jihadist factions. Communications on extremist forums have characterized these events as operational achievements, with explicit demands to imitate similar activities, including possible offensives aimed at critical locations like Aden and its prison.



IMAGE FEATURING Khabib Al-Sudani FROM THE RECENT CLIP RELEASED BY AQAP.

HOUTHI STRATEGIC CONCERNS

The recent events in Syria have significantly alarmed the Houthis, leading to a succession of strategic statements from prominent members of their organization.

Brigadier General Abdullah bin Amer condemned Syria's reluctance to confront Israel militarily, despite its possession of sophisticated capabilities, such as missile systems, armored divisions, and an air force.

This perceived inaction has been framed by the Houthis as a critical shortfall in regional resistance, amplifying their rhetoric of defiance and resilience.

The Houthis have escalated their attention towards internal opponents, delivering pointed speeches against political factions like Islah, with the intent of diminishing their influence and establishing the organization as the exclusive authority in disputed areas.

They have implemented ground-level strategies to solidify power, instructing their operatives to monitor and report on tribal leaders and significant societal figures.



*ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE OF HOUTHI MILITARY AND POLITICAL
COMMAND/SOURCE:LONG WAR JOURNAL*

SOURCES

SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence provides actionable, land-based intelligence on Somali piracy and other emerging threats in the region.

Shahada News Agency

"09/12/2024 Publications"

Al Malaheem

"07/12 -09/12/2024 Publications"

Yemen News Portal

"<https://yemnews.net/index.php/news/hjwm-lsn-a-ly-alaslah-wrsalt>"

Hiiran Online

"https://www.hiiraan.com/news/2024/Dec/wararka_maanta5-188602.htm "

Al Mashhad

"<https://www.almashhadnews.com/297610>"

X (Twitter)

"<https://x.com/Puntlandmirror/status/1859877068261261752>"

RESTRICTED

This document is strictly intended for the designated recipient(s) only and is not to be shared with any third parties without prior written authorisation from SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the content, it is subject to updates or revisions at any time. Recipients use the information at their own discretion and risk. SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence disclaims any responsibility or liability for any products or services mentioned or recommended in this document.