

## AL SHABAAB 'S ACTIVITY IN SOMALIA

Between 14-16 December, Al-Shabaab executed a series of coordinated attacks across Somalia and parts of Kenya, targeting Somali National Army (SNA), National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), African Union forces (Ethiopian, Ugandan troops), and civilian infrastructure. The group also announced the expansion of its ideological infrastructure through the opening of a new university branch.

### ***Incident Report:***

#### **14 December**

- Kismayo: Al-Shabaab claims to have injured 5 SNA soldiers with two artillery shell explosions.
- Hawadley: A foot patrol was targeted with one explosion, resulting in multiple SNA casualties (killed and injured).
- Dharkenley District, Mogadishu:
  - Initial claim: 1 NISA member injured at a checkpoint.
  - Update (15 December): 1 killed, 1 injured from NISA ranks.
- Bulumer, Bardale, and Kilometer 60: Al-Shabaab attacked military bases belonging to Ugandan and Ethiopian forces.

#### **15 December**

- Wajir County, Kenya: Al-Shabaab claims to have killed and injured 24 Kenyan soldiers after targeting a military convoy with an explosion en route to Mandera City.
- Janale, Lower Shabelle: 1 NISA operative injured in an explosion targeting a gathering.
- Tabilha, Mogadishu: Explosion targeting a foot patrol; casualties unconfirmed.
- Bulu Haji: Al-Shabaab shelled a military base, claiming to injure 15+ SNA soldiers.
- Dalbianka, Qoryooley: Al-Shabaab claims to have killed 2 SNA soldiers and seized their weapons during a checkpoint raid.
- Baidoa, Hudur, Wajid, and Qoryooley: Al-Shabaab raided military bases of:
  - Ethiopian and SNA forces (Baidoa, Hudur, Wajid).
  - Ugandan forces (Qoryooley).
- Janale to Bufo Route: 2 SNA soldiers and 1 officer injured in an explosion.

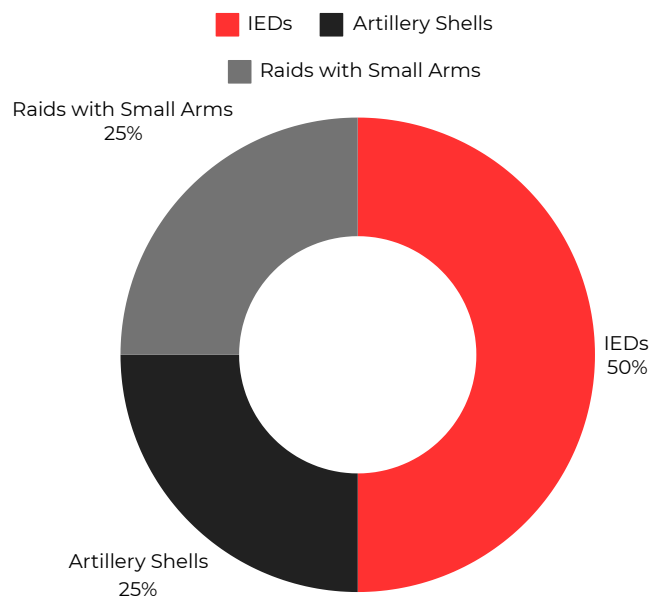
#### **16 December**

- Baidoa, Qoryooley, Udiinle: Raids on bases, casualties among Ugandan and SNA.
- Hawadile: Two SNA soldiers injured by an explosion.
- Garasbaaleey, Mogadishu: Civilian casualties from multiple IED attacks on homes with CCTV.

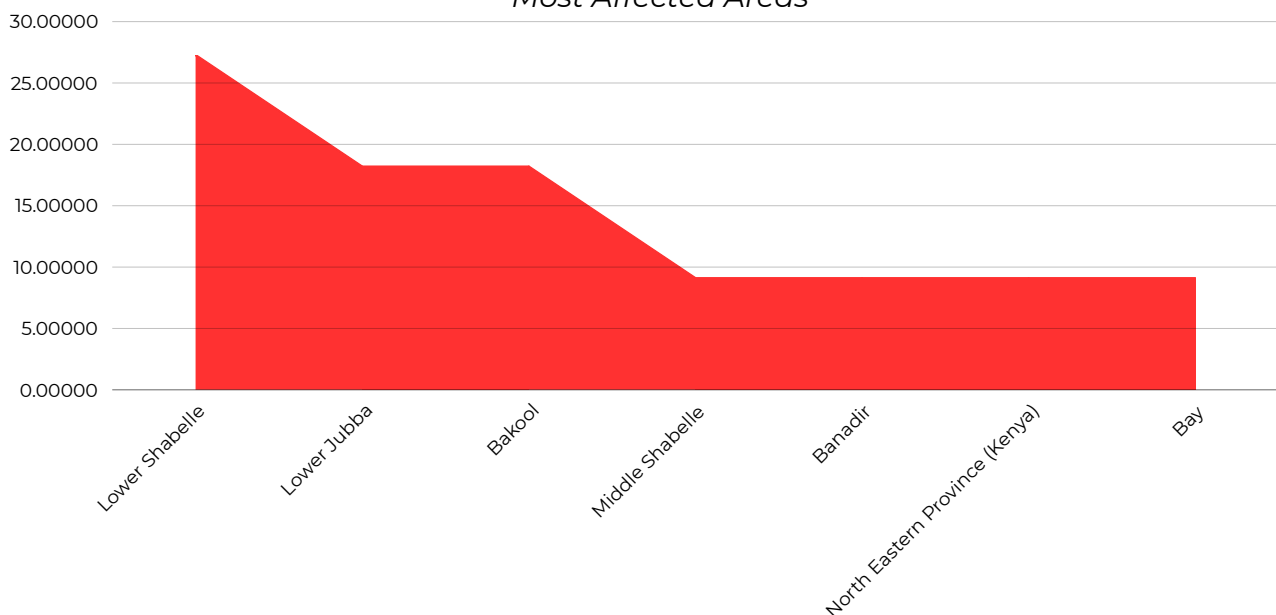
## Al Qimmah University

- The opening of the Al-Qimmah University branch in Kuunyo Barrow by Al-Shabaab is a strategic effort to embed governance and educational influence in regions under its control. This initiative, highlighted by speeches from key figures like Sheikh Farah Ali Hussein, Nabadoon Mohamed Ahmed Guuleed, and Sheikh Sultan Mohamed Ala-Mohamed, aims not only at providing education but also at indoctrinating the youth with Al-Shabaab's ideology, thereby legitimizing its administration and potentially reducing local opposition through social services, showcasing the group's attempt to establish a sustainable governance model in contested areas.

*Weapons used by Al Shabaab between 14-16 December*



*Most Affected Areas*



## AQAP ACTIVITY IN YEMEN

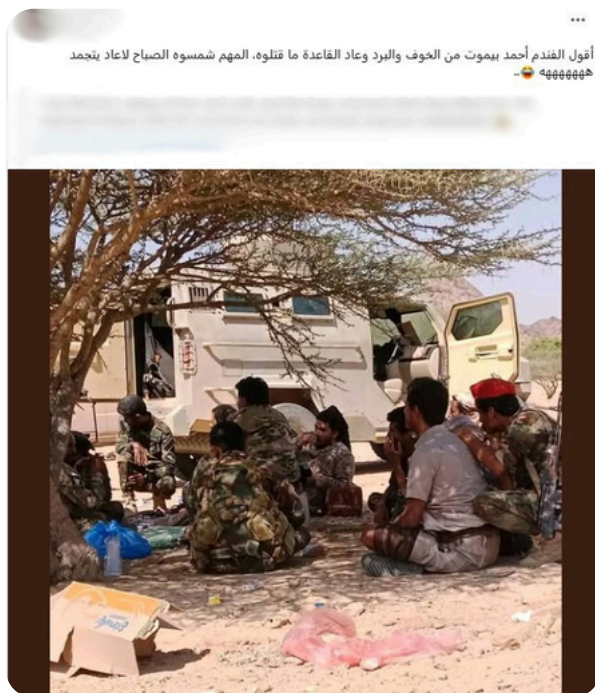
On 13 December 2024, Shabwa Defense Forces (SDF) intercepted a shipment of smuggled weapons and ammunition hidden in a transport vehicle near Atiq, Shabwa. The shipment was likely destined for Abyan or Mukalla, where it would be handed over to AQAP or sent onward to Al-Shabaab in Somalia. The weapons were reportedly supplied by the Houthis, who are increasingly cooperating with both AQAP and Al-Shabaab, underscoring a growing nexus between these groups to destabilize the region.

On 14 December, an AQAP-supporting social media profile released images from inside a Shabwa Forces military gathering. The photos included threatening messages directed at the Shabwa Forces, particularly their commander, and suggested a security breach. The content implied AQAP had gained insider access or surveillance capabilities. The images were deleted the following day, likely to avoid prolonged exposure while delivering a psychological message of intimidation.

On 16 December, AQAP (Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula) targeted Shabwa Forces in a sniper attack at the Al Kawara site in Abyan province.



*WEAPONS SEIZED BY SHABWA FORCES / SOURCE: SHABWA FORCES*



IMAGES OF SHABWA FORCES GATHERINGS SHARED BY PRO AQAP PROFILE IN SOCIAL MEDIA

## SOURCES

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

### Shahada News Agency

"14-15-16 /12/2024 Publications"

### Al Malaheem

"16/12/2024 Publications"

### Shabwa Forces

"<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15hc2QyqRA/>"

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