



# Weekly Report

## Federal Republic of Somalia

Aarondeep S. Bains

**MARCH 7–14,  
2014**

- 1** African Union and Somali army launch major offensive against al-Shabaab.
- 2** President Hassan Sheikh's aura has faded, as economic and political problems remain unanswered
- 3** Al-Shabaab has lost some economic strength but remains a real threat to stability

### ***African Union and Somali Army launch major offensive against al-Shabaab***

- Although al-Shabaab was pushed out of Mogadishu in 2011, the al-Qaeda-linked group remained able to attack in the capital and retain hold of several towns and many rural areas.
- The offensive follows inroads made by the Ethiopian forces to recapture several towns in the Bakool and Gedo region near the Ethiopian border.
- The offensive will include UN medical, ration, transport and tent support along with new logistical support for the SNA (Somali National Army).
- Source: Reuters  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/12/us-somalia-un-idUSBREA2B1ST20140312>

### ***President Hassan Sheikh's aura has faded as economic and political problems remain unanswered***

- The Economist details the inability of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Somalia's President to bring economic or political stability since his election.
- In the space of two months two central bank governors have left, with one citing pressures to sign deals that put frozen assets at risk and left "open the door to corruption".
- The optimism of the election and international donor support has faded as the country's future remains unclear and al-Shabaab is able to carry out deadly attacks on the presidential compound.
- Source: The Economist  
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2014/03/new-offensive-somalia>

---

*"U.N. Special Representative Nick Kay said, al-Shabaab had to be pushed out of territory where it was training more insurgents, taxing business, and importing arms".*

---

### ***Al-Shabaab has lost some economic strength but remains a real threat to stability***

- In a podcast interview with the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, BBC's Somalia editor Mary Harper tells of al-Shabaab's continued ability to carry out indiscriminate violence in Somalia.
- The group has lost control of commercial regions in Mogadishu and Kismayo, an important port town south of the capital, from which it previously made millions in revenue.
- Source: The Bureau of Investigative Journalism  
<http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2014/03/14/al-shabaab-remains-a-potent-threat-bbcs-somalia-editor-mary-harper-tells-the-bureau/>