

SMA Africa– Kenya – February 2017--Report 1

Kulbiyow Follow Up

In the aftermath of Kulbiyow, news and opinion continued to be shared on social media.

Ex Kenyan footballer from humble background among Al Shabab fighters killed in Kulbiyow
#Epukaugaidi @CTNSIS @NPSOfficial_KE @InteriorKE (EpukaUgaidi, 2016)

Radicalisation challenge is real and present @WabalaDominic remain alert remain vigilant
(Suemc_phee, 2017)

Al Shabaab also released the multimedia presentation that usually accompanies one of their attacks.

#AlShabaab releases details of deadly raid on #Kenya army Camp in #Kulbiyow where dozens of
#KDF soldiers killed: <http://bit.ly/2jtVe09>, (Harar24, 2017)

Al-shabaab pushing the propaganda-release images allegedly from attack on KDF camp in #Kulbiyow
-KE govt handling (like el-adde) isn't great (Samirasawlani, 2017)

Photos released by Al-Shabab purportedly show militants inside #Kulbiyow military camp even tho
the Kenyan government deny this (Janatulnaeem0, 2017)

Al Shabaab always proving their actions with pictures & videos though after sometimes. AMISOM
r always on denial mode. #Somalia #Kulbiyow (Biegon2, 2016)

Apparently, the Kenyan military had the same idea. Information was made available to the mainstream media, including interviews with surviving service members and drone footage taken from the night of the attack. Detailed accounts of the attack were produced. For the most part, the public seemed appreciative of the coverage. Although, apparently there was a discrepancy in the accounts provided by the Major and Corporal who were interviewed, which generated some controversy.

1/ Just watched "On Foot in #Kulbiyow": 10mins video by @ntvkenya @DennisOkari on #KDF
#AMISOM battle vs #AlShabaab (PDWilliamsGWU, 2017)

8/ So far, this account from Cpl Ramadhan appears more compelling & also talks of unarmed
#AlShabaab fighters (PDWilliamsGWU, 2017)

@EvansMachuka It's interesting that relatively so many more survivors of #Kulbiyow battle are
talking openly to media compared to #ElAdde (PDWilliamsGWU, 2017)

<http://mobile.nation.co.ke/news/1950946-3800246-qej24m/index.html>
...<http://www.nation.co.ke/news/1056-3792144-3qeruoz/index.html> ...Two vastly different
#Kulbiyow reports citing KDF survivors, both published in @dailynation (Gathara, 2017)

@DennisOkari thanks for the exclusive #kulbiyow footage....lets ashame those bad guys. Kudos
to#kdf for the battle won. Cc @ntvkenya (Mmimms, 2017)

#Kulbiyow @ntvkenya that is good Journalism puts off all busy bodies castigating their own
sons&daughters instead of celebrating them (Ranjagi, 2017)

On the whole, there seemed to a ramp up of information related to Al Shabaab's activities. It all of a sudden felt 'busier' in the sense that pre-emptive and reactive actions were being undertaken by the security apparatus.

Moktar Daddah Street, closed Nairobi , after object suspected to be bomb found at the gate of Technical Institute of Kenya (Suemc_phee, 2017)

DISGRACE TO HUMANITY: 32 people mostly women&children die in Baidoa after drinking water from a well poisoned by Al Shabaab ugus #EpukaUgaidi (EpukaUgaidi, 2017)

BE AWARE: Al shabab tactical strategy is changing as militants dressed in security forces uniforms attack a bus at a road block in Wajir (EpukaUgaidi, 2017)

INTEL_REPORT. Other information from close ops operatives on 04 Feb at around 1500hrs indicates that AS are smuggling weapons and ammos into Mombasa County through Bothai and Mboni forest. They are also reportedly on high gear to attack buses plying the route while to / from Mandera and Nairobi during these highly movement of civilians due to political activities. Information also indicates that Al Shabaab are planning to lay an IED on routes mostly operated by KDF pers (e.g route from camps heading to town) other infor received today 5 Feb 17 indicates that AS are on the process of using a civilian VEHICLE (make Noah) to conduct a SVBIED attack in unknown Sy camp within Kenya. Other INFORMATION indicates that today our troops from Rangers regiment Unit encountered an IED in Sarira near Kolbiyo, no injuries reported and in the process they disarmed 5 more IEDS on that Main Supply Route. Other unconfirmed but credible report indicates that AS are targeting safaricom mast at sankuri within kiunga subcouty. Always remain vigilance CREWs (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

WANTED TERROR SUSPECTS (NPSofficial_KE, 2017)

Twitter for Politics

The release of the wanted posters of terror suspects triggered a response from the opposition who felt that the government was unfairly targeting the Somali community. The comment made by Raila Odinga was delivered on the modern medium of choice for politicians, Twitter. CS Nkaiserry attempted to shame Odinga for politicking in the long-form format of a letter, posted on Twitter.

Statement by CS @GenNkaiserry on allegations by Raila Odinga that security agencies are part of a campaign to criminalize Somali community (InteriorKE, 2017)

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
STATEMENT BY CABINET SECRETARY MAL-GEN (DITD) JOSEPH NKAISERRY
ON ALARMING AND FALSE STATEMENTS BY HON. RAILA ODINGA IN
GARISSA
My attention has been drawn to the alarming and false comments
regarding our national war against terrorist organizations by Hon.
Raila Odinga on Thursday 10 February 2017, in Garissa. Hon.
Odinga went ahead to charge on his verified Twitter account that
**"Jubilee has betrayed the Somali and Muslim community in
Kenya by treating them as suspects and criminals in the name
of fighting terrorism."**
I take issue with the view represented by such a statement and do
not believe it furthers the collective security of our nation and
citizens.
In about two months, it will be two years since terrorists attacked
Garissa University College killing 148 young Kenyans, most of them
students. The pain of that heinous action is still fresh in the hearts

of the Kenyan people. It is therefore crucial that all leaders, and
particularly those of the stature of Mr. Odinga speak and act in
ways that honor the victims and add value to the fight against
terrorism.

In the first place, the fight against terrorist groups and their
supporters does not belong to any one political party. It is a
national calling. Jubilee won the 2013 election and its leaders
therefore run the government.

But that does not mean that our work in transforming Counter
Terrorism belong to the party. It is for the benefit of all, including
Hon. Raila Odinga.

To allege that the brave men and women serving in our security
services, who have lost their companions to terrorists, are part of a
campaign to criminalize the Muslim community is wrong and it is
shameful. Many of our officers are themselves Muslims who are
patriots working hard to protect their communities and our nation.

To label their efforts as Odinga did is to take the same position as *Al Shabaab*, *Al Qaeda* and other terrorist groups do when they characterize Muslims in security as betrayers of their people.

This administration has fought terrorist groups with determination, principle and legality. We have also initiated innovative strategies, such as preventive and counter radicalisation efforts, that are leading the continent and many parts of the world.

None of these strategies and initiatives would succeed if we unfairly targeted entire communities and identities. That terrorist attacks have sharply reduced, while citizens provide us with ever more information to detect and disrupt plots, is evidence that we are walking hand and hand with the vast majority of Muslims and Somalis.

We also note with regret that Odinga for the sake of cheap political gains and winning propaganda points, seems unable to take ownership of his past actions. It was he who as Prime Minister and co-principal authorized the deployment of troops to the frontline of the war against *Al Shabaab* in Somalia. If his logic today is correct

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and consistent, then he should accept that it was he who was part of the leadership to victimize the Somali and Muslim communities.

He knows that this is not the case. Furthermore he knows, more than most, that the biggest victims of terrorism globally have been Muslims. *Al Shabaab's* great bulk of victims have been innocent Somalis.

He knows that just recently, *Al Shabaab* unsuccessfully tried to stop Somalia's march to democracy with repeated attacks at the venue of the Presidential elections. And that Kenya is fighting hard as part of an African Union mission to provide Somalia the same democratic rights and privileges that Odinga enjoys here at home.

It is a pity that Odinga is willing to overlook his own knowledge and even our national security for the sake of short-term political interests. I urge him to rethink this approach, to stand with other Kenyans against terrorism and terrorists, and to cease the irresponsible and divisive statements such as those he made in Garissa.

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Source: <https://twitter.com/InteriorKE/status/830082856709976065>

The use of Twitter for political purposes is likely here to stay, until another platform that reaches a wider audience comes along. Kenyan legislators have not yet determined the parameters of what might be deemed unacceptable or 'malicious' and how to regulate it. For now, all the police can do is issue warnings, until a legal precedent is set or a law is passed in parliament.

PRESS RELEASE: MALICIOUS SOCIAL MEDIA POST., (NPSOfficial_KE, 2017)



Mandera Arabia Police Post Attack

While the security apparatus, endeavoured to evoke a sense of competence when it comes to dealing with Al Shabaab. Al Shabaab was also busy. On February 2nd, 100 of their militia made an incursion within Kenya's borders, destroying communications masts and attacking a police post in Arabia, Mandera.

The official tweet-letter from the police is below.

PRESS RELEASE:MANDERA-ARABIA POLICE CAMP ATTACK (NPSOfficial_KE, 2017)



Digital Kenya Corps also reported on the attack on their Facebook forum, seeming to lift from an internal report or the 'Occurrence Book', thus providing much more detail. The general feeling on the forum was that the police had done well. They were lauded by their peers for their strategic retreat, given the odds of survival.

Mandera county. Mandera East Division. Mandera police station. Subject: Terror incident attack report. Occurred today 2/2/17 at about 0120hrs. At Arabia Ap camp situated at about 60 kms south of Mandera police station. Reported by Ap Cpl Ibrahim Shile c/o 0722556007 that about 100 suspected AS attacked the camp. Seventeen officers were at the camp. The attackers were armed with sophisticated weapons first bombed the adjacent Safaricom mast destroying it. Other attackers further attacked the station where they engaged the officers in a fierce gun fight and overpowered the officers. They eventually overrun the camp. The officers tactically withdrew and took cover in the nearby Arabia boy's secondary school. The AS militants managed to rob the following: 1. G3 rifle s/n J42496 loaded with 40 rounds 7.62 mm. 2. HK 21 s/n 100 rounds 7.62 mm. 3. FN s/n 1949 with 59 rounds 7.62 mm. 4. Ammunition 1,200 of 7.62 mm. 5. Post motor vehicle Reg.no. GK 860H TOYOTA Land cruiser. 6. A motorcycle make Yamaha 175 Reg. No. GK A585X allocated to Arabia Dispensary. 7. BVR biometric registration kits BVR a. Arabia primary center b. Oljab/Kamor bahawa center c. Igalo center 8. Assorted ap police kits a. Seven ballistic

helmets b. Fifteen bullet proof clothing. c. Assorted clothes belonging to officer. The armoury was apparently broken into by the militants who stole the above ammunitions and the fire arms. Three accommodation tents and semi permanent structures within the camp were set ablaze. They later proceed to the safaricom mast situated at about 30 meters from the camp. They further drove away the police vehicle towards the the Kenya Somali border situated at about 7 kms at about 0430hrs. During the exchange, no officer was injured. However one OSMAN ABDI MAALIM a s/m/j was hit by stray bullet on his head. He was rushed to Mandera Teaching and Referral hospital in serious condition. Investigations launched (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

Hiyo ujanja APS wa Arabia walitumia ni A+ ya matiangi! Ingia nyasi wacha alshabaab wafanye shughuli zao waende Na ubaki hai urudi kwa familia. Hao APS wangejiweka kifua mbele wangekufa Na akuna MTU angeshugulikia famili zao! Hiyo akili hao askari walitumia inafaa wapewe next rank with immediate effect! IG Boinet, shughulikia HII story faster!, [The APS of Arabia receive an A+ in cunning. Hide in the grass let Al Shabaab finish their activities and go and you stay alive to return to your family. Had those APS gone in chest out they would have died and no one would have looked after their families! The smarts that those officers used should get them next rank with immediate effect (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

Sir Kavulundi the gallant AP officers who responded to the Friday's attack and the 21 who tactically won the fight surviving the Al Shaabab bombings should be appreciated. Media have not talked of this and they have not given it the attention it deserves. It is needs courage patriotism and sacrifice to get into a battle field and this officers have challenged us that they have enough training they are skilled well prepared what is remaining is your part Human resource management . Motivation recognition and appreciation. I suggest that you surprise this officers and initiate this award that is in other Countries like US where they honor their officers. Medal of Honor Awarded for "gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty"Needs to be given to our officers. This should be a special award or medal for disciplined services. Do have a blessed day Sir. Your Francis E. Kooli,OGW(CP)., (Digital Kenyan Corps, 2017)

The tactical retreat does seem wise given the circumstances, but the comments also revealed general sentiments regarding the danger of police work and the lack reward. An unrelated post about the lack of appreciation underscores this feeling:

Dear lord we look up to you. We have been neglected by our masters. Its only you father who can come to our aid. The society we care for is not appreciating us. They are thankless lot. Lord we come to you...in Jesus name i pray.. Amen!!!! (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

----OMG...So sad indeed,may the LORD protect you guys.You are not only soldiers but our brothers,sons,uncles,etc...we do appreciate your works.Nivile tu baadhi ya wenzenu huwaharibia jina [It just that there is a number of you who spoil your good name] But we do love you guys (Jonny Lossa, 2017)

-----Pamoja in prayer brother, we really love and care but the is nothing we can do, it really pain us a lot (Catherine Sigunyi, 2017)

Spectating on Protesters and Police

What at first was an industrial dispute transitioned into a familiar tableau of protesters engaging with heavily armed police. Police—of the paramilitary GSU variety—were deployed to engage Kenya’s striking doctors as they held a meeting at the Railway Club. In

this day and age, this standoff is destined to play out on social media, especially when certain actors become involved:

So Uhuru Kenya is now in a state of emergency or what? Why send GSU to go beat doctors? Are you insane Mr President? #HealthCrisisKE, (RobertAlai, (2017)

We are living in a failed state. Railways club is private grounds but we have been kicked out by armed GSU terming the gathering "illegal" (Bonifacemwangi, 2017)

Either the government forgets about the existence of smart phones or does not care about the optics. Ory Okolloh provided a visual of the scene:

How Kenyan taxpayers wish those looting our money would be met (Kenyanpundit, 2017)



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