

SMS Africa– Kenya – July 2017--Report 1

Al Shabaab in Kenya

The discovery of bodies in shallow grave was perhaps an indicator that the security services were stepping up their pursuit and punishment of Al Shabaab:

Herder In Mandera discover 5 bodies of reportedly missing persons, four men and a woman, buried in a shallow grave at Bambo, Lafey (Suemc_phee, 2017)

KDF, Police Launch Joint Operation to Hunt Al-Shabaab Terrorists in Lamu (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

----Why do you have to be reactive instead of proactive,i heard locals had reported the presence of this criminals earlier,though am not a security expert i would like assurance (Kariuki Warui, 2017)

----dont waste our precious bullets!! slaughter them with blunt knives. skin them a live (Mohamednoor Maalim Dore, 2017)

----What about those people who killed your people in Mandera and buried them alive (Abdullahi O Abdi, 2017)

----who killed them? (Abdullahi O Abdi, 2017)

----Security agents killed them. (Abdiazeez Hussain A, 2017)

---- you are very wrong to say so! if so,they must have had a "link" somewhere. no bullet lands on a true patriot's body (Abdullahi O Abdi, 2017)

----those are your people from lafey nd gari. nothing like links, they are not animals ..there is law (Abdiazeez Hussain A, 2017)

WANTED: Police release names of 6 Al Shabaab suspects recruiting Kenyan youth #EpukaUgaidi <https://epukaugaidi.com/2017/07/12/police-unearth-six-terror-suspects-linked-to-recruitment-in-kenya/> ... (EpukaUgaidi, 2017)

This did not prevent them from conducting almost daily attacks in Lamu:

PANDANGUO, LAMU COUNTY SITUATION REPORT. Following the Al Shabaab attack at Pandanguo in Lamu County, Lamu Police Post reports that out of the 19 officers on duty during the attack early this morning at about 5:30 AM, 3 officers are confirmed dead, 1 seriously injured and 14 were unhurt. The injured have been taken to hospital. All other officers have been accounted for except 1 who is still missing. The attackers used RPGs and other small arms in the attack in which several tents were destroyed. Reinforcements sent to engage the enemy have killed several terrorists and further clearance and patrol is ongoing to establish the numbers. The operation is on and more information to follow as the incident unfolds. GEORGE KINOTI (AIG) For:INSPECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE (National Police Service, 2017)

#Alshabaab beheads 9 people in a rare attack in #Jima, in Kenya's #Lamu Count, where militants engaged #KDF in a day-long battle 3 days ago (Radiogarowe, 2017)

Militants who raided #Pandanguo police post, killing three in #Lamu believed to be part of a 150 member gang that launched the dawn raid (AbdulBillowAli, 2017)

#youtube Lamu Panda Nguo attack survivor and others recall experiences [VIDEO]
(Tulyahabwe_deo, 2017)

SUSPECTED Al-SHABAAB militia kill four in an attack at Jima village, Lamu West Friday night, officials say (NationBreaking, 2017)

The attackers of #pandanguo in #Lamu first cut off mobile communication by destroying a Safaricom mast. (Oloojl, 2017)

KDF RECOVERS police Landcruiser seized by Shabaab during raid on Pandanguo Police Camp on July 5; G3 rifle and 5 bullets also found (NationBreaking, 2017)

A firefight between Al Shabaab and the Kenya security agencies lasted for several hours:

A firefight in Lamu County, #Kenya raged for 10 hours today between Kenyan military and police and #Shabaab (Weissenberg7, 2017)

Based on pattern of Al-Shabab attacks in Kenya in the last 3 years, indications are that Lamu attacks could escalate this time of year. (HarunMaruf, 2017)

For months, communities living along the border have been reporting to Kenya security agencies that Al-Shabab is sending more men to Lamu (HarunMaruf, 2017)

The fact that Al-Shabab held on for seven hours against Kenya forces suggests they have significant numbers in Lamu county (HarunMaruf, 2017)

Frustration on social media was palpable:

More that 10 Al Shabaab ugus killed by US airstrike in Northern Kismayu (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

----We expect to see something like this in the BONI forest...what are the KDF doing along the Kenyan border?...how comes alshaabab can cross the border finish the mission and went back to Somalia safely...KDF plz up your game we are so bored on how you are handling your operations...your strategies it's not doing well and you have to do something as soon as possible (Jairus Koech, 2017)

It's always saddening to hear of vulnerable poorly equipped patriots when those infidels appear better equipped. Let Marwa bomb that damn Boni forest as he threatened (Ndungata Ya Ngai Matiang'i, 2017)

----MARWA should stop being more vocal. War against crime can not be won on media (Agaro Jumba, 2017)

----Marwa atabomb Na nini? Mdomo ndio kazi yake [What will Marwa bomb with? He is all talk] (Ndungata Ya Ngai Matiang'i, 2017)

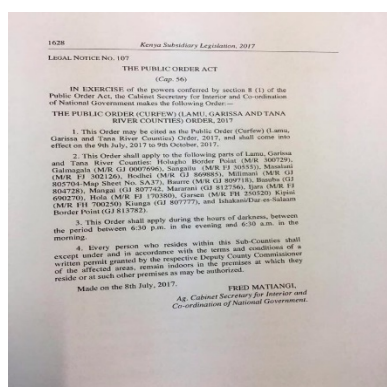
----Don't talk of marwa, think about what marwa undergoes, no natives are ready to help him push for eradication of bandits, remember what weeded out matakwei in Mt Elgon¹? Why can't it be done on boni forest. We have alot of heavy bombs waiting to expire (Illan Ramon Chege, 2017)

¹ Reference to an operation to quell an insurgency by the Sabaot Land Defence Force during the Kibaki presidency.

Some of the solutions that had been floated were put into action:

#Operation Linda Boni Forest Intensifies KDF Launches Air Strikes against Al-Shabaab in Boni Forest (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

Curfew in Lamu, Garissa and Tana River counties issued by acting CS @FredMatiangi #SecureKE (Interior KE, 2017)



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/CTNSIS/photos/a.434764626564157.102330.160015394039083/1812735358767070/?type=3&theater>

As is it is election season, the dusk-to-dawn curfew was criticised by the opposition but the abduction and rescue of a government official underscored that Lamu was indeed insecure and that Al Shabaab did not worry too much about having to operate in the daylight. Since it was daylight, the vehicle was spotted as it crashed through the bushes attempting to make an escapee:

3 DEAD, Lands PS Mariamu El Maawy shot in the shoulder and leg as Al-Shabaab attempts to hijack Prado with 6 occupants at Milihoi, Lamu (NationBreaking, 2017)

Public Works PS Maryam Elmaawy and six other GoK officials, who had been abducted by suspected Al Shabaab militants in Lamu, rescued by KDF (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

Public Works PS Maryam Elmaawy Rescued by KDF After Kidnap by Al-Shabaab
<https://www.kahawatungu.com/2017/07/13/public-works-ps-maryam-elmaawy-rescued-by-kdf/>
... (RobertAlai, 2017)

Digital Kenyan Corps always has the details, including images:

Lamu County Lamu West division Milihoi at the border Mokowe and Mpeketoni police station. Unknown number of attackers suspected to be AS militants who were heavily armed appeared on the road from the bush and stopped a land cruiser Registration no. Kbt 331q which was heading towards Mpeketoni direction. They also stopped a canter Registration no. kbx 458h belonging to Mokowe supplies and which was being driven by Edward Karisa of phone no. 0716301202 and a turn boy namely Mr. Karume of no. 0717901453. Karume was placed in the land cruiser but managed to escape. They also stopped a probox Registration number not known and released it

immediately. The land cruiser Was driven towards the bush on the right hand side of the road where it got stuck a distance of about one kilometer in the forest. Immediately KDF officers from Mkunumbi who were along the same road heading towards Mkunumbi saw a land cruiser emerging from the bush heading towards Mpeketoni at a very high speed and as they followed it, it rolled and immediately and caught fire. They managed to rescue a lady who was later identified as Mrs Mariam Elmawia a PS for public works .She was rushed to Mpeketoni sub county hospital for treatment where it was confirmed to have sustained gunshot injuries on the upper left side of the chest, fractured hand and severe burns on both legs. She was air lifted to Manda Navy base hospital awaiting evacuation to Nairobi for further treatment. Scene Was visited by County Police Commander, Mr Perminus Kioi CP, OCPD Lamu West Mr. Zachary Kimani, SSP, DAPC Mr. Joseph Kigen, SSP and also Linda Boni team led by Mr. Muivanda, AIG. One body of Godana was taken to Mpeketoni sub county hospital mortuary awaiting post mortem. Area is being combed by KDF, GSU and QRT personnel. Case P. U. I. Progress report to follow.... [IMAGE] (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

Nkaissery Fades Away

The passing of CS Nkaissery came as a shock. There was some talk of it being an assassination but that gave way to feelings of collective national mourning. The general feeling seemed to be that he had been stern but effective. News of his passing diverted attention away from the situation in Lamu for a moment. Education Secretary Matiang'i was named as acting Secretary of the Interior. Matiang'i does not have a background in security but is thought to be 'hard working'.

Fare thee well general. We loved your stern leadership but GOD needed it more
#FarewellNkaissery (Njuguna254, 2017)

9 people beheaded in Lamu but it's not the top story in Kenya. Maybe those lives are worth less than others. Shocking! (Atawakal, 2017)

By all means let's mourn the loss of a cabinet secretary but also realize there was a terror attack last night and 9 beheaded #Lamuattack (Atawakal, 2017)

CS MATIANGI : NKAISSEREY used to call us civilians, it's hard to come into terms with reality . He taught us how to behave before president (ItsNjokiKelvin, 2017)

Digital Kenya Corps

Given the intensity of security related news, I was interested in the sentiments that would emerge on Digital Kenya Corps, given how unguarded the conversation there tends to be.

When it came to the CS Nkaissery, the feeling of the admin seemed to be that his death should not matter more than the deaths of others. In the post, the admin provides a rundown of the casualties, by his count, of various security situations. Not everyone

shared his opinion that Nkaiserry did not deserve special recognition, which led the admin to admonish those who were attempting to 'police' others' expression.

As we mourn our CS, let's now guess what we expect and what we expect not. All national flags will be at half mast for one week, just for one person yet when we lost over 200 KDF, over 8 AP's in landmine, Over 42 AP's in baragoi, the flags were blazing even higher than ever. Now let's ask this question coz now it's happened to one of our own in higher office's. What is the difference in death btwn a CS and a mere constable living in a tent? Did death ask for permission before knocking Mheshimiwa? Listen to radio citizen they are playing Remmy Ongalas song "Kifo hakina Huruma" Does it mean that the song is not worthy a police officer? Please let's value life to all and be prepared for any eventuality at all times. Just days ago we lost officers in Linda boni operation from an IED but even before their burial they have been forgotten. Rest In Eternal Peace Hon. Nkaiserry. The security fraternity prays that your family gets Hope and comfort in the Lord. Kwaheri babaa (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

If you feel so sad about Nkaiserry's death please don't lecture us on your bulcrap. Different people have different things to worry about. I have seen elites mourn on social media about the death of their dog. Do you mourn with them? If your kin dies today, will a politician's family send condolences? I was alive when known individuals passed away: Mohammed Ali, Ali Mazrui, Mandela, George Saitoti, Orwa Ojode, fellow #COPS whom I can't mention their names due to the pain in my heart. Never at one point has somebody made it obligatory for me to mourn. You mourn only when you feel the deceased had an impact on you as an individual, not family, not ethnic nor political. In Kisii we've seen residents kill old women as WITCHES but to some people those are grandmothers. So why don't you mourn Nkaiserry as your Godfather silently as we view him as just an ordinary Kenyan gone? Do not force us to grieve over somebody whose actions in the past one year we so much detested. Omboleza polepole na uwache sisi pia tungoje siku yetu ya kufa. Tuko pamoja? (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

The situation in Laikipia is of particular concern at DKC. More so than Lamu which may suggest that that operation is led by security outfits that DKC does not necessarily view as proximal:

When will these killings end. Mr. IG, let's face the situation head on. We are brothers, sister, fathers, uncles, sons, grandsons, grandparents and even bread winners to our families. Let no one say my people are being targeted yet you remain silent without saying my comrades are targets. We need a quick solution to all these dangerous practices towards us in the form of insecurity. We are tired of running up and down during distress. Let us hit the ground in full force till they come out begging for mercy. Any plans to invade their territory should be done in a silent message form that when they wake up we have taken positions. We can't continue seeing our comrades being killed like dogs. Even a dog has its owner. #tumechoka (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

Also found on DKC is a list apparently showing Facebook groups currently being monitored by the NCIC:

#DKC IS CLEAN AND NON RATIONAL!!! @ The following are the list of Facebook groups that NCIC is monitoring ahead of 2017 General elections: 1. Uasin Gishu County Forum. 2. Kapseret Constituency forum. 3. Uasin Gishu County discussion forum. 4. The New Marsabit County for all.

5. Bunge la Busia. 6. Migori Revisionists Council. 7. Meru economic and political Facebook forum. 8. Jubilee Party supporters. 9. NASA politics and citizens. 10. Langas Yetu. 11. Voices of Change. 12. Manderla Tribune. 13. Kenya political forum. #SHARE_THIS! (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

Opinions on the Sharing of Images

The feelings around images depicting dead Al Shabaab continue to split opinion. What people seem to desire is ‘evidence’ in order to have trust in claims made by government:

14 Al-Shabaab Terror Operatives Killed, 17 Others Injured in Southern Somalia (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

----Why post bodies of dead people? as much they are full of wickedness they still are human too (Willy Ngahu, 2017)

----Ever seen them beheading guys?? N post it for guys to see (Paps' Maina, 2017)

---- Yes I have .. but doesn't mean we behave like animals too and we are a civilised society (Willy Ngahu, 2017)

----Pictures speak louder than words. Thanks for keeping the World aware of the difficulties the Alshabaab terrorists are going through in their useless struggle against Somali National Army & AMISOM troops. Somalia need peace not Alshabaab. Bravo to the soldiers and their commanders who made this wonderful achievement!!!! (Patrick Obal Otema, 2017)

----Every time you post this things unapea hizi nyangau morale ya revenge [you give these creatures morale for revenge]. They are not worth attention even dead (Abu Zuma Salas, 2017)

----Patrick Lifuleze, (2017), But this is a file picture,I have seen it before many months ago.But bravo to kdf.It's hard in a foreign land.

Updates and Miscellaneous

There have been arrests in connection with the anti-outsider leaflets in Likoni:

#Kenya: 3 arrested in connection to radicalization leaflets in Likoni, Mombasa
<http://ow.ly/QGML30dejmc> (Vatescorp, 2017)

Police Spokesperson Owino is philosophical about police merely reflecting the societal condition—a perspective that was very popular on Digital Cops:

*Kenya Police spokesman Charles Owino has said corruption is not an isolated problem among traffic officers.**He said in Kenya, graft is a societal problem that has permeated almost all institutions, and cannot be taken as an issue affecting a particular organisation or a department.**Owinosaid the challenge is that as law enforcers, police, who are few in number, are expected to tame corruption, which is embraced by the whole society, and this further entrenches the rot.**“We have been put in a situation where if you don’t embrace corruption you will die,” Owino* *says.**He said society must lead the onslaught against corruption and cease

blaming police because law enforcers are just a small fraction that has embraced the vice, adding they are a product of a corrupt society.**“If people are born to corrupt parents, grow up seeing corruption, go to a school where the principal did not merit to lead, then get employed as police, can they be expected to fight corruption?” Owino said.**“How can you blame corruption in the whole country on police, while there are governors and other leaders required to be holders of university degrees, but are elected even though it is difficult to tell where and how they got the degrees?”**Owino said it is difficult to fight graft in Kenya as long as the people do not see anything wrong with it.**“If a PSV driver knows the capacity of his car is 14 or 28, then overloads and decides to have Sh200, Sh100 or Sh50 on hand to bribe the policeman on the road, how do you blame the policeman alone?” Owino said.**“They only complain when an officer demands more than they are ready to offer. If they declined [to bribe] and allowed police to arrest them and take them to court, pay fines and that continues, the officers using arrests to intimidate them would realise there is nothing they will get and would start doing the right thing.”**Owino said police liaise with DCI officers to conduct sting operations on the highways where bribery is rampant to arrest officers caught in the act. “We also liaise with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission because that is largely their mandate and arrest some of them on our request,” he said.* (Digital Kenyan Corps-COPS, 2017)

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