

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

|                                 |                                                                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>               | <b>459</b>                                                                    |
| Land:                           | Somalia                                                                       |
| Kilde:                          | AMISO                                                                         |
| Titel:                          | Somali National Army and AMISOM Forces liberate Bullo Marer in Lower Shabelle |
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AFRICAN UNION

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**PRESS RELEASE**

*(For Immediate Release)*

**Somali National Army and AMISOM Forces liberate Bullo Marer in Lower Shabelle.**

**Mogadishu 30th August 2014:** Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia today liberated the strategic town of Bullo Marer in Lower Shabelle region. The forces also captured two other small towns of Goolweyn and Jerlio as they advanced towards Bullo Marer.

During the early morning operation in the latest attack dubbed Operation Indian Ocean which is aimed at liberating more towns from the militants group, al Shabaab militant mounted resistance against Somali Forces supported by AMISOM but they were overrun. The forces are currently consolidating the town.

Located 115 kilometers Southwest of Mogadishu, Bullo Marer has been under Al Shabaab for years. The town is a getaway to the port city of Baraawe and was used as an Al Shabaab recruitment center. The group also used the town as a Tax collection.

The Acting Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Honorable Lydia Wanyoto Mutende welcomed the capture of the town saying this serves as major victory for the SNA, AMISOM forces and the Somali population.

"The capture of the towns by our heroic forces provides a major boost to our efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia," said Lydia Wanyoto adding that the new offensive will facilitate for the extension of the Somali government control over its territory and enable people to leave freely from Al Shabaab tyranny.

Honorable Wanyoto said that the capture of Bullo Marer is also critical for operations to liberate the port city of Baraawe, one of the remaining sources of illicit revenue for extremist group.

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