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COI QUERY RESPONSE

SOMALIA – OPPOSITION TO AL SHABAAB

In January 2025 *Human Rights Watch* states, commenting on events of 2024, that: “Al-Shabab's attacks, using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), suicide bombings, and shelling, as well as targeted assassinations, resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths and injuries in 2024.”¹

In March 2025 by the *Associated Press* states that: “Al-Shabab, which opposes Somalia’s federal government, frequently carries out bombings and assaults targeting government officials and military personnel in the Horn of Africa nation. The group controls parts of rural Somalia and poses a significant threat despite sustained military operations by government troops and African Union peacekeepers.”²

A report issued in March 2025 by *France 24* states that: “Somalia's Al-Shabaab jihadist militia shows signs of resurgence after making gains in strategic regions and coming close to assassinating the president with a roadside bomb last week...The group has seized key locations in Middle and Lower Shabelle, coastal regions on either side of the capital Mogadishu.”³

In March 2025 the *Africa Centre for Strategic Studies* notes that: “...al Shabaab...remains a potent force and has regularly proved its capability to...reach into areas ostensibly under government control.”⁴

A report issued in March 2025 by the *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* includes commentary on “...arbitrary arrests, assault and intimidation of journalists reporting on terrorism and counter-terrorism, as well as threats and attacks from Al- Shabaab, which have chilling and self-censoring effects on media freedom.”⁵

¹ Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) World Report 2025: Somalia, p.2

² Associated Press (19 March 2025) A roadside bomb in Mogadishu targeted the president's convoy, Somali government says

³ France 24 (27 March 2025) Fears mount over resurgence of Al-Shabaab jihadists in Somalia

⁴ Africa Centre for Strategic Studies (31 March 2025) Practical Lessons to Improve Stabilization Operations in Somalia, p.1

⁵ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (21 May 2025) Country Visit to Somalia: End of Mission Statement, p.9

In April 2025 the *Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs* states that: “Al-Shabab was...responsible for attacks on journalists...”⁶

A report issued in May 2025 by the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “Potential targets of Al-Shabaab frequent attacks are: people officially representing or de facto associated with the FGS or the FMS administrations, including civilians; people working, formally or informally, to support their institutions, including civilians; the national and the federal security forces as well as other opposed darwish or clan militias; the international community; people opposing or perceived as opposing Al-Shabaab, including collaborators and informers of the above mentioned bodies and institutions...”⁷

This document also states that: “...Al-Shabaab abducted numerous civilians on various grounds, such as for collaborating with the government security forces or for refusing to collaborate with the group, for seeking or facilitating humanitarian assistance in the local context beyond the group’s control, for breaching the groups’ rules, as well as for other reasons, including unknown or unspecified motives.”⁸

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⁶ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (4 April 2025) *General Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia*, p.106

⁷ European Union Agency for Asylum (26 May 2025) *Somalia: Country Focus*, p.70

⁸ *ibid*, p.79

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