

Al-Shabab is Not the Only Culprit of Somalia's Ills.

As Al-Shabab ebbs away of Mogadishu, it is a sigh of relief for the Transitional Government (TFG), the AMISOM troops and the war-weary inhabitants of Mogadishu, but this is not the end of Somalia's problems. Al-Shabab has just been one of many insuperable problems that had been agonizing the unfortunate country and its people. Al-Shabab's rise was part but not necessarily the end of a chain of events that denied Somalia the chance to stand on its feet after a two decade-long devastating civil war. The new development puts many other armed groups on their toes to fill in the vacuum and try to establish their reign of terror if not checked. Diehard warlords and their militias who now pass as government troops or alliances will become turncoats and get organized on the other side of the fence, thereby trying to pose a new threat, before they vanish in the thin air only to be replaced by another. This needs to be aborted and steps need to be taken to prevent it.



Currently, the TFG is rejoicing the change, but that will short live if TFG and AMISOM troops don't act fast to deny a new treacherous twist of events. It was just a day before Al-Shabab's retreat that government troops tried to loot the relief aid for the drought-displaced people in Badbaado camp, prompting the armed escorts to open fire and kill ten of famine-displace people. This forewarns that clan militias and freelance gunmen which now pass as contingents of government troops will soon be a serious challenge.

Unless the clan militias posing as *government troops* are disarmed by AMISOM troops and a proper government troops across clans are formed, trained, organized and seamlessly integrated, anarchy will prevail and what is now called *government troops* will turn on each along clan lines and perpetuate the existing state of affairs. Warlords on the sidelines will jump into the scene and re-organize their troops under whatever name.

Now the factionalized Al-Shabab groups are regrouping in Bay, Lower Jubba, Lower Shabeelle and Central regions. They are now weak, divided and lost the credibility and the sympathy of the Somali mainstream, but any new political deadlock brought about by other armed factions and the warlord-infested parliament will play into their hands and lend Al-Shabab a new lease of life.

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