

Schnellrecherche der SFH-Länderanalyse vom 31. Januar 2017 zu Somalia: Sicherheitssituation in Middle Shabelle, Balcad

Frage an die SFH-Länderanalyse:

- Wie ist die Sicherheitssituation in Middle Shabelle, Balcad, seit 2012?

Die Informationen beruhen auf einer zeitlich begrenzten Recherche (Schnellrecherche) in öffentlich zugänglichen Dokumenten, die uns derzeit zur Verfügung stehen.

1 Wie ist die Sicherheitssituation in Middle Shabelle, Balcad, seit 2012?

Ländliche Gebiete immer noch in den Händen der al-Shabaab. Seit 2012 haben somalische Truppen und Einheiten der AMISOM (*African Union Mission in Somalia*) die wichtigsten Städte in Middle Shabelle aus den Händen der al-Shabaab befreit; am 26. Juni 2012 wurden die al-Shabaab aus Balcad vertrieben. Die al-Shabaab behielten jedoch die Kontrolle in ländlichen Gebieten. In Middle Shabelle kam es seither immer wieder zu Angriffen der al-Shabaab und Regierungstruppen gingen im Rahmen verschiedener Operationen gegen al-Shabaab vor. Neben den Angriffen der al-Shabaab kommt es in Middle Shabelle auch zu gewalttätigen Klankonflikten um Ressourcen zwischen den Milizen der Abgal und der Shiidle; es kommt auch zu intra-Abgal-Kämpfen (EASO, 2016)

Gemäss der Sicherheitsanalyse der *BFA Staatendokumentation* wurden im September 2015 in Middle Shabelle alle Regional- und Bezirkshauptstädte ausser Adan Yabaal von somalischen Truppen und Truppen der AMISOM gehalten. In der Regel seien alle diese Städte gleichzeitig auch Garnisonsstädte der AMISOM. Die Reichweite der jeweiligen Garnison sei unterschiedlich und könne im Einzelnen nicht bewertet werden. Der effektive Einfluss von AMISOM und den somalischen Verbündeten bliebe jedoch in vielen Fällen auf das jeweilige Stadtgebiet konzentriert und die al-Shabaab beherrsche weite Teile des ländlichen Raumes. Im Distrikt Balcad teilten sich im September 2015 die Truppen der AMISOM immer noch die Kontrolle mit der al-Shabaab (Vgl. Karte BFA).

Auch im Januar 2017 wird über Kämpfe zwischen den somalischen Truppen und Einheiten der AMISOM mit al-Shabaab berichtet. Ende Januar 2017 explodierte eine Bombe in einem Restaurant in Burane, einem Dorf, das etwas ausserhalb von Mahaday liegt. Fünf Zivilisten und zwei Soldaten wurden verletzt, es wurde vermutet, dass al-Shabaab für den Anschlag verantwortlich war (*AMISOM Media Monitoring*). *Garowonline* berichtet über zwei Kämpfe zwischen al-Shabaab und Truppen der AMISOM ausserhalb der Stadt Mahaday in Middle Shabelle. Vorher soll al-Shabaab mit einem Granatenangriff einen Polizeikommandanten in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle, getötet haben. Bereits im Dezember 2016 griffen al-Shabaab Mahaday an und besetzten kurzfristig die Stadt (*Shabellenews*, *Garowonline*). Im Januar starben bei Klankonflikten in den Dörfern Mir-Tugo und el-Baraf in der Nähe von Mahaday mindestens zwei Personen. In früheren heftigen Kämpfen zwischen den Klanmilizen sind bereits

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Dutzende Menschen ums Leben gekommen oder wurden verletzt (AMISOM Media Monitoring).

Gemäss *BBC Monitoring Africa* vom 5. Januar 2017 kamen zwei somalische Soldaten ums Leben und drei wurden bei der Explosion einer Landmine in der Nähe von Mahaday getötet. Seit November und Dezember 2016 sei die Anzahl der Anschläge gegen somalische Truppen und gegen die Truppen der AMISOM in Middle Shabelle angestiegen.

Gefühl der Unsicherheit. In einer Untersuchung von REACH (Juni 2015) zur Sicherheitslage ihrer Gemeinschaft in Middle Shabelle berichteten 64 Prozent der befragten Haushalte über Unsicherheit, 26 Prozent stellten keine Quellen von Unsicherheit fest. Als Hauptquellen von Unsicherheit wurden «Community Leaders» (20 Prozent), Klan-konflikte (14 Prozent) und lokale Milizen benannt (12 Prozent). Für Frauen und Mädchen gilt die Gefahr, auf Reisen überfallen zu werden als gross (42 Prozent), je 23 Prozent nannten sexuelle Gewalt und Missbrauch und die Gefahr keinen Zugang zu Dienstleistungen und Ressourcen zu haben (EASO).

EASO, Somalia Security Situation, Februar 2016

«2.8.2. Violence

In the reporting period, clan clashes repeatedly occurred in towns in Middle Shabelle region in Somalia, allegedly mainly due to land grabbing. Clashes of clan militias were reported in Jowhar (452) in August 2014, in Warsheikh (453) and Rage Ceelle (454) in June 2015. Renewed clan fighting occurred again in Warsheikh in July 2015 (455). Another clan battle broke out in Baaley and Ali-Muumin areas near Balcad town (456).

In March 2015 a bomb attack was carried out on government soldiers in Hantiwadag village in Jowhar district, injuring at least four people. Jowhar forces with AMISOM support made several arrests after the onslaught. No group has officially claimed responsibility for the attack, although government officials pointed at Al-Shabaab. The Jowhar administration imposed a night curfew and limited vehicle and people movements (457).

On 13 July 2015 heavily armed militants from Al-Shabaab attacked a military base in Rage Ceelle town killing at least four soldiers and two civilians. However, the military chief of the area claimed the attack was repulsed (458).

The Jowhar police station was attacked by a grenade bomb blast on 15 October 2015, allegedly by Al-Shabaab (459).

SNA forces and AMISOM troops took control of Cadale district in Middle Shabelle region on 1 October 2014, a day after capturing the Rage Ceelle district from Al-Shabaab. The allied forces faced no resistance from Al-Shabaab before taking over the two districts, where they arrested dozens of Al-Shabaab members (460).

An operation aiming to improve security in Jowhar was conducted in November 2014 and led to the arrest of several suspected Al-Shabaab militants (461). Another operation by government troops was launched in September 2015 in order to prevent attacks by Al-Shabaab (462). In addition, government forces conducted operations to restore security, e.g. in Jowhar in May 2015 (463) and August 2015 (464) and in Mahadaay town also in August 2015 (465).

2.8.3. Actors in the conflict

In Middle Shabelle, Burundi National Defence Forces are deployed within AMISOM along with the Somali National Army. Since 2012, AMISOM/SNA have successfully liberated major towns within the region. Al-Shabaab remains in rural areas outside the cities. On 3 February 2015, Somali authorities announced the capture of a senior Al-Shabaab commander in Middle Shabelle region (466).

Besides these actors, clan militias are active. Land-related conflicts in Middle Shabelle region between the dominant Abgaal (Hawiye) clan and minority Shiidle (Bantu) communities appear to have been superseded by intra-Abgaal clashes in 2015 (467). Al-Shabaab uses these power struggles between clans in the area to its advantage (468).

2.8.4. Areas of control/influence

Al-Shabaab had been driven out of Balcad on 26 June 2012 and from the town of Jowhar on 9 December 2012. AMISOM and SNAF liberated the city of Warshiiq from Al-Shabaab on 16 March 2014. Two days later the insurgents were driven away from Fiidow. During Operation Indian Ocean, Al-Shabaab was removed from Rage Ceelle on 30 September 2014 and from Cadale on 1 October 2014. On 10 March 2015, after a brief battle with Al-Shabaab fighters, Somali troops together with AMISOM captured the area of Masjid Ali Gadud, which is an important transit hub for vehicles near Jowhar (469). Al-Shabaab is still present in rural areas outside the cities (470).

AMISOM/Burundi maintains garrisons in Jowhar, Balcad, Cadale, Warsheikh and smaller garrisons in Rage Ceelle and Mahadaay. Jowhar is Abgaal heartland and there is no backing for Al-Shabaab from the local population. Balcad and Warsheikh are important garrisons securing the outskirts of Mogadishu (471).

According to reports of 13 November 2015, the African Union troops in Somalia withdrew from Fiidow, a strategic town in Middle Shabelle region, giving Al-Shabaab militants full access to retake it without force. Government officials in the region have described the withdrawal from Fiidow as 'military tactics' and vowed to recapture the city and the remaining Al-Shabaab strongholds in Middle Shabelle region (472).

2.8.5. Impact of the violence

In an Assessment by REACH (June 2015) on insecurity within their communities, 64 % of the assessed households reported sources of insecurity, while 36 % did not. The main sources of insecurity reported were actions by community leaders (20 %), inter-clan conflict (14 %), and local militia (12 %). The most significant safety concerns that women and girls were facing in their community were the risk of attacks when

travelling outside the community (42 %), sexual violence and abuse (23 %), and inability to access services and resources (23 %)473.

Transport and food security

According to a news article (March 2015) people in towns of the Middle Shabelle region have faced acute food shortages (474). The federal government, following the liberation of Warsheikh and Adale, provided food aid to families in these towns (475).

Middle Shabelle accounts for the highest number of displacements due to floods, with more than 11,000 people displaced, mostly in Jowhar, Mahaday and Balcad districts (476).

The below-average Gu harvest in August/September 2015 put poor households in these riverine areas in crisis (IPC Phase 3) (477).» Quelle: European Asylum Support Office, Somalia Security Situation, Februar 2016, S. 55-57: www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1457606427_easo-somalia-security-feb-2016.pdf.

BFA, Oktober 2015

«Für die restlichen Teile von Süd/Zentralsomalia kann folgendes festgehalten werden:

J) Die Regionalhauptstadt Buale (Middle Juba) sowie die Bezirkshauptstädte Saakow, Jilib (Middle Juba), Jamaame (Lower Juba), Sablaale (Lower Shabelle), Adan Yabaal (Middle Shabelle) und Ceel Dhere (Galgaduud) befinden sich unter Kontrolle der al Shabaab.

K) Alle anderen Regional- und Bezirkshauptstädte werden von somalischen bzw. mit der somalischen Regierung verbündeten Truppen gehalten (v.a. AMISOM; ASWJ Süd; Jubaland Interim Administration – JIA). **In der Regel sind alle diese Städte gleichzeitig auch Garnisonsstädte der AMISOM, welche nach dem Vorfall von Leego ihre Stützpunkte auf ein Minimum von zwei Kompanien ausgebaut hat.**

L) Zu dieser Regel gibt es allerdings Ausnahmen, wo nach dem Rückzug exponierter Kompanien die Sicherung einer Stadt alleine den somalischen Verbündeten übertragen worden ist. Unklar ist diesbezüglich etwa der Stand in Qoryooley oder Kurtunwaarey.

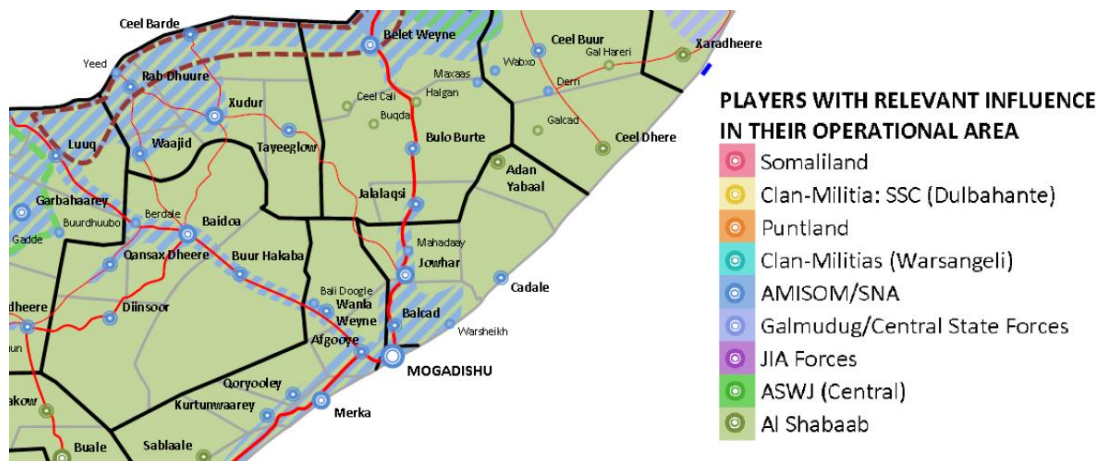
M) Auf der Karte zu sehen sind auch vorgeschobenen Positionen in kleineren Ortschaften sowie Sicherungspositionen entlang wichtiger Versorgungsrouten, welche ebenfalls mit einer Garnison der AMISOM ausgestattet wurden. Im Gegensatz zu den o.g. Städten können derartige Garnisonen aber nicht als permanent bezeichnet werden und können diese jederzeit abgezogen werden. Nach dem Vorfall von Leego hat AMISOM alle exponierten Kompaniestützpunkte geräumt (z.B. Janaale in Lower Shabelle, Fiidow in Middle Shabelle, Tuulo Barwaqo in Gedo oder Waabxo in Galgaduud).

N) Die Reichweite der jeweiligen Garnison ist unterschiedlich und kann im Einzelnen nicht bewertet werden. Der effektive Einfluss von AMISOM und den somalischen Verbündeten bleibt jedoch in vielen Fällen auf das jeweilige Stadtgebiet konzentriert.

O) Die al Shabaab beherrscht weite Teile des ländlichen Raumes und isoliert durch Guerilla-Aktivitäten mehrere der o.g. Städte, die teils als Inseln im Gebiet der al Shabaab aufscheinen.

P) Infiltration der Städte mittels größerer Kampfverbände der al Shabaab kommt in seltenen Fällen vor. I.d.R. wird die Penetration innert Stunden durch AMISOM und somalische Verbündete beendet.

Q) Infiltration der Städte durch verdeckte Akteure der al Shabaab kommt in allen o.g. Städten vor. Teilweise – etwa in den in Abschnitt 14 schraffierten Gebieten von Mogadischu – kommt es je nach Tageszeit zu unterschiedlich starkem Einfluss; etwa wenn sich Sicherheitskräfte in der Nacht zurückziehen.



Quelle: BFA Staatendokumentation, Analyse zu Somalia: Lagekarten zur Sicherheitslage, 20. Oktober 2015: www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1729_1445329638_soma-analyse-lagekarten-2015-10-12-endversion.pdf. (nicht öffentlich verfügbar)

AMISON Media Monitoring, Goobjoog News, 30. Januar 2017

«An explosion ripped through a restaurant in Burane village Middle Shabelle region on Saturday night, injuring at least 7 people including government soldiers. A resident in Burane village, Osman Ali Mohamed said that 5 civilians and two soldier were wounded in the explosion in restaurant frequented by Somali soldiers. “A bomb planted inside the restaurant exploded while several people were inside. We can confirm that 5 civilians and one Somali soldier injured in the blast,” he said.

Muse Bihi, another local resident living nearby said that he heard huge blast at the restaurant. “I was sitting close to the restaurant when the bomb exploded, after a few minutes I saw 6 people including Somali soldier brought with injuries” he said. Witness Mahad Sheikh said a huge explosion was heard followed by a large plume of smoke rising from the area. He said the area was cordoned off by Somali soldiers in the village. “I saw heavily armed Somali troops arriving on the scene to enhance the security after the incident. The situation now is stable,” said Sheikh. **No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Somalia’s Al-Shabaab often carries out similar attacks in the country. Burane village is located few kilometres**

in the outskirts of Mahaday town in Middle Shabelle region.» Quelle: Goobjoog News, Restaurant Explosion Injures 7 People In Middle Shabelle. 30. Januar 2017: <http://somaliamedia-monitoring.org/january-30-2017-daily-monitoring-report/>.

Garoweonline, 23. Januar 2017

«MAHADAY, Somalia- At least two people were killed, and several injured in a fierce battle between Somali National Army (SNA) backed by African Union forces and Al shabaab militants in southern Somalia, Garowe Online reports.

The fighting broke out after the allied troops launched an offensive against an Al Shabaab base in El-Baraf village, about 45 km west of Mahaday district in Middle Shabelle region. Local residents reported heavy exchange of gunfire and explosions during the combat in El-Baraf Al Shabaab is reportedly repulsed the attack and remained control of the vicinity. Two people from both sides have been killed in Sunday's clashes in El-Baraf.

This is the second major attack this year by Somali government and AU forces against bases controlled by militant group Al Shabaab outside Mahaday town in Middle Shabelle region. The militants have killed a senior Somali Police commander in a grenade bomb explosion at Police station in Jowhar district, 90 km north of Mogadishu on Saturday night. Al Shabaab has intensified its terror attacks on SNA and AMISOM forces in Southern Somalia, including the capital aimed to disrupt the ongoing election in Somalia.» Quelle: Garoweonline.com, Somalia: Two killed, several injured in heavy fighting in Southern Somalia, 23. Januar 2017 www.garoweonline.com/en/news/somalia/somalia-two-killed-several-injured-in-heavy-fighting-in-southern-somalia.

AMISON Media Monitoring, Goobjoog News, 23. Januar 2017

«Three people including Somali soldiers and suspected Al-Shabaab fighters have been killed in firefight at El-Baraf village, about 45 km west of Mahaday town in Middle Shabelle region, a government official has said. The fighting broke out after Somali National Army (SNA) soldiers backed by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) soldiers attacked Al-Shabaab base prompting hours of fighting. Kadar Mohamed Abdi, local administrator said the fighting took place on Monday morning in the outskirts of Mahaday town where the group had training camps. "The attack was successful as planned. During the firefight, two Al-Shabaab fighters were neutralized. Several others fled with injuries towards the forest and hot pursuit is currently under way," he said.

Mentioning the casualties on allied forces, Abdi said one soldier was killed during the fighting. Abdi added the operation to annihilate the fighters will continue until the insurgents are eliminated from the whole region. Somali National Army backed by the African Union Peacekeeping forces liberated key towns in central Somalia in the past two years. However the group occasionally carries out attacks at government installations and hotels in Mogadishu and other city in the country.» Quelle: Goobjoog News, Three Killed In Fighting Between SNA And Al-Shabaab In Middle Shabelle, 23. Januar 2017: <http://somaliamedia-monitoring.org/january-24-2017-morning-headlines/>.

AMISON Media Monitoring, Shabelle News 22. Januar 2017

«A according to reports by resident, at least two people have been killed in a deadly inter-clan fighting in the rural areas near Mahaday district in Middle Shabelle region on Sunday. The fighting which started in Mir-Tugo and El Baraf villages in the early hours of Sunday has intensified after the two sides received reinforcements which spanned out the standoff. The warring sides are reportedly clashed over land dispute. **Previous heavy intra-clan fighting between the two militia groups has left dozens of people dead and many others injured.** Local elders are yet to begin mediation efforts to bring an end to the ongoing clan fighting.» Quelle: Shabelle News, Heavy Inter-clan Clashes Near Mahaday Kills Two, 22. Januar 2017: <http://somaliamediamonitoring.org/january-23-2017-morning-headlines/>.

AMISON Media Monitoring, VOA, 21. Januar 2017

«The commander of police forces in Somalia's Middle Shebelle region was killed in a grenade attack at police headquarters in Jowhar town, officials told VOA. Major Khalif Abdulle Arfaye was fatally wounded in the blast, which left two other people wounded. Police station chief Mohamed Siyad Ali told VOA's Somali service that the commander had succumbed to his injuries after arriving at the town's hospital. "Just before 7 p.m. a grenade was hurled at the station.

*The commander sustained serious injuries. I took him to the hospital, where he died," Ali told VOA Somali. **No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Ali said he suspected Al-Shabaab militants had carried out the attack.** "He was targeted and attacked because of the responsibility he had, it's clear," Ali said. Ali said the assailant or assailants had fled the scene, and that a manhunt was underway. Jowhar is 90 kilometers north of Mogadishu and is a town surrounded by farmland.»* Quelle: VOA, Police Commander Killed In Attack In Somalia's Middle Shebelle Region, 21. Januar 2017: <http://somaliamediamonitoring.org/january-23-2017-morning-headlines/>.

AMISON Media Monitoring, Shabelle News, 12. Januar 2017

«Four people were injured after Al-Shabaab militants opened fire on a civilian minibus near Mahaday district in Middle Shabelle region on Wednesday, residents said. A local resident, who requested to be anonymous, told Radio Shabelle over the phone that the bus came under ambush attack by Al-Shabaab as it was ferrying Khat from Jowhar city.

The exact reason behind the shooting of the civilian bus remains unclear, but the militant group frequently targets vehicles ferrying the stimulant drug.» Quelle: Four Injured As Al-Shabaab Opens Fire On Civilian Bus, 12. Januar 2017: <http://somaliamediamonitoring.org/january-13-2017-morning-headlines/>.

Shabellenews, 17. Dezember 2016

«Heavily armed Al shabaab fighters have retaken briefly the control of the strategic city of Mahaday in middle Shabelle region on Friday night following a deadly attack, residents said. According to residents, Mahaday has been attacked from several direction by truckloaded Al shabaab militants who seized the city's police

station and the administrative headquarters. Somali government troops have pulled out of the town after they were overpowered during the overnight battle by Al shabaab fighters. At least two people killed in the attack. The government forces backed by AMISOM soldiers are reported to have recaptured the district on Saturday morning peacefully after Al shabaab militants' withdrawal.» Quelle:Shabellenews, Al shabaab briefly seizes Mahady town from troops, 17. Dezember 2016: www.shabellenews.com/2016/12/al-shabaab-briefly-seizes-mahady-town/.