



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 28 June 2016

Who is in control of Bardhere/Bardera/Baardheere

In April 2016 the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of 2015 notes that:

“During the year AMISOM and Somali forces pushed al-Shabaab out of major towns and villages, including Taraka, Jungal, Duraned, Eel-elaan, Habakhaluul, Meyon, Magalay, Bardhere, Buur-dhuhunle, Kulun-jareer, Moragabey, Legaly, Gelewoyni, Ufurow, Eesow, Hasanow-Mumin, Llidaale, Makoon, Dhargo, and Manaas, forcing the organization to relinquish homes and land it had previously confiscated” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015, Somalia*).

In February 2016 a document issued by the *European Asylum Support Office* notes that:

“Throughout 2015, Al-Shabaab has lost control over a number of strategic towns such as Baardheere and Diinsoor...” (European Asylum Support Office (February 2016) *EASO Country of Origin Information Report. Somalia Security Situation*, p.20).

In January 2016 the *United Nations Security Council* in January 2016 states:

“The presence of Al-Shabaab on roads between Diinsoor and Ufurow, in the Bay region, and Baardheere, in the Gedo region, is a concern” (United Nations Security Council (8 January 2016) *Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia*, p.13).

The *United States Department of State* in June 2016 states that:

“Despite the success of coordinated African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operations that drove al-Shabaab from former strongholds in Baardheere and Dinsoor, the terrorist organization managed to establish new safe havens from where it planned and launched attacks against government officials, AMISOM bases, and soft targets in Kenya and other parts of the region” (United States Department of State (2 June 2016) *Country Reports on Terrorism 2015 - Terrorist Safe Havens: Africa*).

In May 2016 *Xinhua* states:

“At least two Al-Shabaab militants were killed and two government soldiers injured after the insurgents attacked a local administrator of Bardhere town in Gedo region, southwest Somalia...Somali National Army backed by AMISOM captured Bardhere town from Al-Shabaab in 2015, however the group still stages attacks in the town” (Xinhua (7 May 2016) *At least 2 Al-Shabaab fighters killed in SW Somalia*).

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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