



PROPRIETARY CLASSIFICATION: BUSINESS-IN-CONFIDENCE

## **WAR DEG DEG AH!** EXPLOSION KILLS AT LEAST 19 AT MOGADISHU GRADUATION

A ceremony in Mogadishu today honoring graduates of a health care program was torn apart by an explosion that killed at least 19, according to Western media. The Somali *diaspora* with kin in the city are saying the death toll may be much higher.



Outside the *HOTEELKA SHAAMOOW* (SHAAMOOW HOTEL) today in Mogadishu. (Un-marked photo from a Somali source.)

Among the known dead are 9 students, 2 journalists, 5 people whose affiliations are not known at present and 3 members of the TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (TFG) and the Sharif cabinet – the Ministers of Health, of Education and of Higher Education. The graduation ceremony was held at the SHAAMOOW HOTEL – the same hotel that furnished the “guards” to protect journalists Amanda Lindhout and Nigel Brennan during a road trip to the Afgooye refugee camp 23 August 2008 that concluded with their abduction (“guards” who without question conspired with the duo’s kidnappers).

*Gudoomiyaha BAARLAMANKA SOMALIA Shiikh Aadan Madoobe ayaa tacsii u diray dadkii ku geeriyooday iyo kuwii ku dhaawacmay qarax maanta Ka dhacay HOTEELKA SHAAMOOW ee magaalada Muqdisho, kuwaasoo iskugu jiray wasiiro ka tirsan dowlada weriyeyaal, aqoonyahano iyo arday, xili ay ka qeyb galayeen munaabad qelin jebin ah oo halkaasi ka dhaceysay, isagoo cambaareeyey qaraxaasi kuna eedeeyey kooxda AL-SHABAAB iney ka dambaysay ...*

In essence, with emphasis added: Somalia is mourning the loss of Sheikh Aadan [Maxamed Nuur] Madoobe,<sup>2</sup> Chairman of the SOMALI PARLIAMENT, and the other dead and wounded in the explosion today at the SHAAMOOW HOTEL in Mogadishu, among its other victims children, reporters, scholars and students ... and **condemns the bomber and accuses AL SHABAAB as being behind the attack ...**

<sup>1</sup> “Breaking news” in Somali. (Literally, “News Hurry Hurry Being!”)

Near the bombing site (and probably unrelated) was a demonstration protesting Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's recent dismissal of Somalia's Army commander, GEN Youssef Xassan Thomal and National Police chief Cabdul Xassan Qaybdiid. This is the second time in 7 months the president has sacked the Army's chief of staff.

**The explosion occurred inside the hotel.** In the wake of such mayhem, eyewitness accounts naturally vary. One employee of the SHAAMOOW said the bomber was a student who wore a "suicide belt." Still another person on the scene said the bomber was no student at all but a man inside the hotel *watay dharka haweenka sida* – dressed like a woman.



Aadan Maxamed Nuur (*Madoobe*) was the leading jurist and Ibrahim Xasan Cadoow (pictured) foreign affairs minister for the ISLAMIC COURTS UNION when ICU ran the roost in 2006. Cadoow (spelled by Westerners "Addow" – bad form to eliminate the phlegm-clearing, guttural "c" from the original Somali) was a Somali-American who lived in the U.S. and served as an administrator at AMERICAN UNIVERSITY before returning to Somalia in 1999. It is worth noting that it was ICU that created the "Movement of Warrior-Youth" in 2004 as ICU began crumbling. That movement's first injection of manpower consisted of former ICU fighters who went underground by the thousands. **That movement – formally HARAKAT AL-SHABAAB AL-MUJAHIDEEN or simply AL SHABAAB – has now claimed two of its creators as its latest victims.** (*Un-marked photo from a Somali source.*)

AL SHABAAB posted this brief note on its website:

انفجار يسيستهدف فندق بال عاصمة مقديشو  
إصابة عدد من الأشخاص بيمينهم وزراء  
الله أكبر

"Explosion targeted a hotel in Mogadishu. Wounded a number of people, including ministers. God is greatest."

A video was being shot of the ceremony. When the bomb detonated: **sheer pandemonium.**

<sup>2</sup> Parliamentary Chairman Sheikh Aadan Maxamed Nuur (*Madoobe*) (who we'd call "House Speaker") is not to be confused with Sheikh Axmed Maxamed (*Madoobe*) of HIZBUL ISLAM fame, considered the "agitator" by AL SHABAAB in the long-running feud in Kismayo between the two insurgencies. (See "Battle in Kismayo between Islamists Largely Clan-Based," *FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER* 09-189 5 October 2009.) Same honorific – *Madoobe*, meaning "Blackie" – two totally different guys.



Among the dead was Dr. Qamar Adan Cali, *Wasiiradda Caafimaad dowladda KMG*, or Minister of Health for the TFG government.  
(Un-marked photo from a Somali source.)

**Assessment:** As of 1200 EST, outlets with known connections to AL SHABAAB were referring to today's explosion as the work of a *geeriyooden qaraxaasi* – suicide bomber (literally, death-maker bomber). It is certainly plausible that a student plant was responsible, but another possibility should be considered as well.

In September, Somali officials said the suicide bomber who struck the AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN SOMALIA (AMISOM) base in Mogadishu 17 September may have been one of Minnesota's missing men. It was not the first time. In addition to Somali-American Shirwa Ahmed's suicide attack last year, another Somali-American likely mounted the failed 24 January attack on an AMISOM checkpoint near Villa Somalia, the presidential palace. That bomb did detonate but nowhere near the intended target – a sign of youth, inexperience and panic, we suspect.

With veterans of prolonged Mogadishu street-fighting in their ranks, plus fighters with combat experience in Afghanistan, AL SHABAAB will continue to keep its front-line *jihadis* in front, we assessed in September,<sup>3</sup> using brain-washed American and European kids as suicide cannon fodder until, of course, their recruiting outrage is buried along with the barbarians themselves.

**If the past is prologue – and with “The Lads,” it usually is – the *geeriyooden qaraxaasi* who killed ministers and medical students today was more than likely foreign-born and quite possibly an American.**

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<sup>3</sup> “FBI Front Page News in Somalia.” *FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER* 09-182 24 September 2009.