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Shabaab Claims IED Strike on U.S.-Trained Alpha Group in Somalia, Attacks in Kenya's Mandera and Wajir Counties



The Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement, al-Qaeda's (AQ) branch in Somalia, claimed bombing a vehicle carrying U.S.-trained Somali Special Forces called "Alpha Group" near the capital, and also clashing with enemy forces in Kenya's Wajir County. The group's Shahada News Agency reported on January 8, 2018, that fighters detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) on a vehicle carrying Alpha Group elements in Elasha, killing an unspecified number. It posted ten other reports on January 3-7, stating that fighters mounted an attack on Kenyan governmental headquarters in Wajir County, and killed and wounded dozens of Kenyan policemen in an IED blast in Mandera, and in Somalia, killing Djiboutian and Ethiopian forces under AMISOM and Somali soldiers in attacks in Bay, Hiran, Mogadishu, and Puntland.

Following is a translation of the reports:

January 3, 2018

- The Islamic Court of the Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement implemented the punishment for apostasy on 5 spies working for the Ethiopian, Kenyan, and Somali intelligence agencies in the city of Kurtunwarey in Lower Shabelle province in southern Somalia.
- Killing an explosive expert in the Puntland administration's militia and destroying a military truck of theirs in the detonation of two explosive devices planted by Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters between the city of Bosaso and town of Galgala in northeastern Somalia.

January 4, 2018

- Shortly before: Assassination of an officer holding the rank of second lieutenant in the Puntland administration's militia named "Hassan Hayr" at the hands of Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters in the city of Bosaso in northeastern Somalia.
- Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters mounted an attack on military barracks of the governmental militia in Huriwa district in the capital, Mogadishu.

January 5, 2018

- Killing of a Djiboutian soldier and wounding two elements from the governmental militia after they were targeted with an explosive device planted by Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters in the airport of Bullo Burde city in Hiran province in central Somalia.
- Deaths and wounds in the ranks of the Ethiopian forces and the destruction of a military truck carrying them, after they were targeted with an explosive device planted by Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters between the cities of Baidoa and Burhakaba in Bay and Bakool province in southwestern Somalia.
- Shortly before: Assassination of two officers in the Somali government's security and intelligence agency at the hands of Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters in Hamar-Weyne district in the capital, Mogadishu.

January 6, 2018

- Killing and wounding of dozens of Kenyan policemen after targeting a large truck carrying them with an explosive device planted by Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters near Kotulo district in Mandera County in northeastern Kenya.

January 7, 2018

- Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters fired mortar shells at military barracks of the Puntland administration's militia in the town of Galgala, on the outskirts of the city of Bosaso, in northeastern Somalia.
- Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters mounted an attack on Wajir County in northeastern Kenya and destroyed governmental headquarters after clashing with Kenyan forces.

January 8, 2018

- Killing of a number of U.S.-trained Somali Special Forces from what is called "Alpha" and the destruction of a military car in which they were traveling, after they were targeted with an explosive device planted by Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement fighters in the Elasha area on the outskirts of the capital, Mogadishu.