

# **The Massacre of medical students in Shamo Hotel: The TFG bears the brunt of the blame**

**By Abdikarim H. Abdi Buh**

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Somalia is no stranger to suicide bombing, unexplained targeted chain of assassinations, mysterious disappearance of young people, toxic waste dumping, counterfeit currencies, pirates, unaccountable criminal warlords, hired hands of the CIA, Ethiopian intelligence operatives, mass starvation and endemic famine but the suicide Bombing of the graduation ceremony for the medical students for the first time shocked the war hardened Somali people and the world alike. Two of the killed graduates were brothers and were the only surviving members of their family as their father and three brothers and a sister died earlier as the result of the violence of Mogadishu. I, for one, couldn't stand to watch the gruesome video footages put on our screens- cutting the bud of the hope of Somalia.

The young graduates who spent the last six years ducking from artillery shells, narrowly missing roadside bombing and just whiffing off the whistle sound of the bullets from their ears on their daily journey to their faculty were looking forward to make a difference for a nation that buried hope in the sand. The young graduates and their teachers endured harassments from government militia and ultimatums from the various Islamists who are hostages to their Wahabi fiery brand of Islam which stands against all forms of modernization and established to become expert in destabilising even the most powerful states. What is left of the once mighty state of Pakistan? Daily bombardment of markets, universities, mosques – even the Islamic university wasn't spared and the same goes in Iraq and in other Islamic countries.

The young graduates worked hard to help treat the daily Mogadishu casualties during their time in studies in makeshift hospitals which was a target for the warring factions. Doctors, military elite, elders, journalists and the educated people were for a long time at the top of the shopping list of the flourishing assassination conglomerates that sprang out recently in Mogadishu. The latest atrocity involved a doctor who was killed by an Islamists for smoking a piece of cigarette during his lunch break in Afgoye – a bag of tomatoes carry more respect then a human being in the eyes of the Wahabis and



the TFG militias not mentioning the AMISOM forces who are paid to bombard the Bakara market and the civilian residential areas of the city with impunity.

My heart goes to the survivals of the bombing, their parents who steadfastly supported the children in an impossible and hostile environment, their friends and acquaintances and all those whose hopes were ruined by a lone bomber (disowned by all factions) disguised as a women – could we say the bomber and his handlers killed the youngsters because their graduation uniform sinned as they look like the uniform of the Christian clergy.

This dark Thursday puts four the death toll of the TFG ministers assassinated by way of suicide bombing which bears the hallmark of Al Shabab although they vehemently denied their involvement in this one alone which can be attributed to the gravity of the horrendous deed and the emotional out pour of the Somalis where ever they are. Funeral prayer in absentia were prayed in Jigiga, the capital city of the Somali regional state in Ethiopia and amazingly president faroole of Puntland became the first to send condolence on behalf of Puntland state and as such this act touched all without exception.

The Ex - Minister of security was killed in Baladweyne by an Islamist suicide bomber on the excuse to stop him from waging attacks sponsored by Ethiopia on them. Minister of higher education, Minister of Education and the Minister of health were confirmed dead on site while the Minister of Youth and Sports is struggling for his life in hospital.



### ***Who is the culprit this time? TFG or Islamists***

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Accusations and counter accusations are flying all over the media since the fateful blast went off on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. The Al Shabab faction is pointing its finger at the TFG security chiefs especially on General Abdi Qaybdiid, the chief of the Police, who was relieved from his responsibilities an hour ago along with the army chief General Dhumaal. The two newly appointed Chiefs for the police and the army are respectively General Ali Mohamed Looyaan and Major General Mohamed Geelle Kaahiye. Their appointment has nothing to do with the Shamo carnage but was an overdue follow up of TFG government revamping exercise of which Mogadishu Municipality reorganisation preceded a month ago. The question is would changes make any difference on the ground? President Sharif's earlier reshuffle of the municipality of Mogadishu by appointing a new team for the ghost job had no effect on the ground because of the fact that such thing as Mogadishu municipality doesn't exist in the first place - Mogadishu is run and controlled by the Islamist Al Shabab and they have their functional team on the ground. Today's change of the top brass of the security forces will add no

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value to his bleeding, weak and ill disciplined militias – unless sent out of the country Gen Abdi Qaybdiid will either strike Galmudug which is in a state of confusion engendered by the struggle between the two heads of states on one side and Ethiopian paid Ahlu Suna Wal Jama on the other side or start a bandit brigade (Brigato Roso) in Mogadishu.

The TFG is accusing the Islamist Al Shabab to have carried out this ugly butchery of innocent civilians and politicians (see [Somali Political Cartoonist](#)). The TFG is in no fit state even to investigate a daily petty crime because it has neither the specialized work force nor the institutions in the country and AMISOM's mandate has nothing to do with criminal investigation but to kill everyone including camels in the name of the protection of the Sharif and his government. The Al Shabab are the only force that run the southern Somalia including Mogadishu and some parts of the central regions and as such we can't rationally expect them to incriminate themselves.

I am of the opinion that this bombing could have been prevented if the TFG security forces were up to their job. The venue and the date was known to the public for over a month so the TFG had as much as necessary time to secure the place and if in doubt had the option to switch venue at the last minute – element of surprise. Some sources are saying that some of the TFG invited dignitaries abstained for fear of their life and also it is known that the secretariat and the staff of the three murdered Ministers didn't show up at the venue – be it coincidence or flagged up by a source.

This case which is a disappointment of the highest order might drive us to lend a favourable ear to the conspiracy theory which teaches the populace that some of the TFG security apparatus were aware about this premeditated killing but chose to ignore it to use the ensuing chaos to their advantage – as a fall out of this massacre the security chiefs who were about to be shown the door might hang around for a while which in reality didn't materialize as they certainly lost their respective portfolios an hour ago.

Al Shabab showed time and again that they are formidable force capable of striking the impossible and impregnable targets with ease and to envisage that this over publicized venue at Shamo would have escaped the attention of their secretive intelligence arm is foolhardy. The Al Shabab or in this case who ever was involved was also banking that the TFG faction leader and his Prime Minister will show up for the event.

The suicide bomber was escorted to the hotel masquerading as a guest from Qoryooley three days before the event. An unknown man, from Qoryooley, registering as a guest in Hotel Shamo which is at the top of the nation should have raised alarm bells in the first place as such a guest fits the cheaper end of the hotel market. In the famine stricken and war weary nation only pirates, money launderers, warlords, TFG officials and the likes can afford to buy accommodation at Hotel Shamo.

The perpetrator's plan of operation was meticulous and spotless; they knew before hand, in the likely event, the president and his prime minister or for the same token some important Ministers come to the venue they will surely come in the armoured vehicles of AMISON and that AMISOM will

as usual curtail traffic and put a security cordon around the hotel which technically dwarfs any Islamist frontal attack of the hotel.

To circumvent the above security instrument they put their suicide bomber in the midst of the unsuspecting graduation ceremony attendees cheaply and in a stress free condition so as to lie in Wait until everyone took his seat to get the maximum yield out of their explosives. There is no evidence that the TFG did directly collaborate with executers but there is an ample indications that support the scheme that the TFG facilitated the execution of the plan by not putting appropriate security checks on the ground and so are to be blamed for this barbaric act – the young graduates were TFG guests and their protection manifestly rests with the host.

Knowing Mogadishu is the most dangerous place on earth and that the Islamist head hunters of the TFG are at large and in force in the city; it is unacceptable that The TFG who put the youth in harms way through negligence from their part can wash its hands off this massacre. The TFG should have hosted the graduation ceremony at the presidential palace, the Airport or at the sea port where the strong contingent of AMISOM are based.

The TFG faction Boss (Sh. Sharif) for the best part of the last four months was grousing that some members of his phoney government are working closely with the Islamists without producing any evidence to support his allegations. It is an open secret that TFG Asmara wing works with the Islamists and it is also known that their loyalty is in Lukewarm. The man to investigate this carnage is Sharif but his mental state turned out to become a cause of concern for many except Sharif Sakin(finance Minister) and professor Abdirahman Ibbi(fishery Minister) who are milking the system at a rate not seen before. The Sharif is condemning every faction for petty issues – He labelled Ahlu –Sunna wal Jama, Ethiopian sponsored Militias, as the same league as Al Shabab and Puntland state, another Ethiopian sponsored enclave, as challenging his authority when they only asked for fair distribution of development funds received in the name of Somalia.



His behaviour these days is akin to witch-hunt which is a classic symptom of an acute paranoia induced by his 11 month incarceration in the presidential palace. His doctor prescribed foreign trips as his only way to beat the solitude and in exercising his prescription he clocked enough air - miles to take him to the moon or to qualify him to train as a pilot. The guy is completely unaware of what is going on in the country and is lost in his dreams – he thinks he is president Barre [The last lion of Somalia](#).

Having said so the TFG does only exist on paper but has no functional control in any part of Mogadishu and by slip-up the media portrays that it controls three Kilometres in Mogadishu when the facts on the ground stands against the claim. The area is controlled by AMISOM forces but not the TFG and the government ministers have no staff or offices to work in because AMISON can't put a tank under each and every tree. TFG is confined to few blocks guarded not by the TFG militia but by the foreign legionnaires in Mogadishu and the legionnaires (AMISOM) are also indispensable to

interfere and to stop the daily in fights among the TFG militias - A fortnight ago the Prime minister's militias and the militias of rival minister fought inside the premises of the presidential palace as it is the norm that each has his own militias drafted from his own tribe as body guards.

### Conclusions: - the *remedy for whom who has no remedy is patience*

When the Ex- Minister of security was assassinated in Hotel Medina in Baladweyne the Sharif's reaction was to go public and ask for international foreign intervention to save his seat. The international community turned a deaf ear to his plea - even the Ethiopian regime that he works for declined to send a token army to help.

According to Sharif , the most suitable way to address this heinous attack is just to go public again and read the same message once more "“We are asking the world powers and neighbouring countries to intervene and stop extremists from taking over Somalia,”. When ever any thing testing takes place he just runs to the Microphone to cry for international help like a child shouting for help from his parents. It never occurs to him to take the responsibility and tackle the problem head on. In the wonderful mind of Sharif the problem is swiftly dealt with, dusted and shelved by uttering the above few words at the site of the mass grave of the deceased – the smart boss of the TFG's wisdom knows no limits.

Having seen how feeble the TFG is let us take time to look in to the etiquette of the other side of the coin – Islamists. These two anecdotes which happened in Balad and afgoi during the short time I was penning this article will show how the two Islamists have unequivocal contempt for human life.

At the time of this writing I learned that **four** men were killed and scores of others wounded by the forces of AlShabab at Basra, a village 15 miles, away from Balacad as confirmed by the Al Shabab Governor of Middle Shabeele region sheikh Abdirahman Hassan Husein. The crime of the local people was that they were paying traditional homage to the grave yard or mausoleum of their famous Mufti Sheikh Hassan Ma'alín. The animals and other food stuffs put in place for the sacrifice were confiscated by Al Shabab and some of the clergy were put behind bars. In the book of Wahabis such practices constitute a major sin which could attract heavy penalty.

In a separate incident Hisbul Islam soldier killed **two** youngsters and injuries scores of others in Hawo Taako district last night. Stone was thrown at oops the soldier that narrowly missed him from the direction where the youngsters were congregating and without even asking he started showering them with bullets. This soldier is from the same regiment that killed the doctor a month ago in Afgoi. Mujahid know the best – a bag of tomato attracts more respect than human life in the book of Wahabis.

Truth must be upheld at all costs, and by all, especially the learned. Truth must be upheld even if it hurts a friend and benefits a foe.

We shouldn't blame the messengers, Islamists, but rightly the message – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the source of the fiery Wahabia sect that ruined the Muslim nations and antagonised all other human beings. Saudi universities churn out thousands of indoctrinated graduates every year for export to the Muslim world to challenge the values of their societies and through force to install their uncompromising creed. This current Wahabi hold of the world to ransom is not an accident but a result of thirty years of investment by the kingdom. This is a global problem that is calling for a global solution which is beyond the capability of a puppet TFG and its likes.

Whether we love or loath, the truth is that Al Shabab and its likes will stay and will consolidate its grip on the country for the foreseeable future until a secular, native and unifying leader who stands for the values we dream to enjoy emerges – most probably the awaited Mahdi will save Somalia as the west's hands are full at the moment and as the Somalis refused to grow out of tribalism which has become the Achilles heel of the nation.

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