

Somalia: Ethiopian military reportedly burns 'multiple towns' in Southwest

Somali NetRadio

July 23, 2007

Ogaden Online -Reports reaching Ogaden online service desk from Doolo province [near bodrder with Kenya and Ethiopia] confirm the burning down of multiple towns and hamlets by the Ethiopian military and its associated militias in and around the province. The burning down of towns took place on 17/07/2007. It is reported that all property was lost in the burnt down towns and hamlets.

The Ethiopian military is reported to have ordered all town and hamlet dwellers to move to unspecified places. Some of the burned down town and hamlets in Doolo include the following:

The town of Wacdi, which is fifteen kilometres west of the city of Wardheer;

The hamlet of Jinnoolle, which is seventeen kilometres west of Wardheer city;

The town of Caado (not verified), which is forty-two kilometres north west of the city of Wardheer;

The town of Balli-garabey, which is exactly fourteen kilometres south of the city of Dannood;

The towns of Xodayo, Taalloole and Dundumo-cad are reported to have been gutted by a fire deliberately started by the Ethiopian military in the vicinity of these towns;

The areas between Ceel-Cade and Wardheer are said to be have been cleared of any settlement with the use of deliberately started fire;

And the hamlet of Arraweelo, which is around the same vicinity.

All our on the ground reports indicate that many of the displaced civilians are squatting in the vicinity of the burnt down towns and hamlets. At the time of publishing this report, there has been no emergency aid given to these displaced people by anyone.

The blockade in Ogaden is reported to have prevented these displaced people from receiving any help especially from few aid agencies still working in Ogaden.

In related news showing the continuation of the extra-judicial killings and

misappropriation of the Ogaden property by the Ethiopian army, eyewitnesses report the looting of the cities of Qorile and Marsin on 17/07/2007.

Three men are also reported to have been extra judicially killed in the Balliga Xodayo area. The names of the three deceased men are Qaanbi Dige, Dalab Maxamed Sulub, and

Cabdi Faarax Gaacood. All three men are said to be septuagenarians.