

Five killed in Mogadishu violence

Agence France Presse -- English

July 27, 2007

MOGADISHU

Four Somali civilians and a government official were killed overnight in insurgent attacks in Mogadishu, witnesses and officials told AFP Friday.

In one incident, attackers hurled a hand grenade at a coffee shop in a southern neighbourhood of the capital, killing four civilians.

"I was having tea inside the shop when a hand grenade struck," said Bashir Alasow Sadik, who suffered minor injuries from the explosion.

He said two other people were lightly wounded by the blast.

It was not immediately clear whom the attackers were targeting.

In the northern neighbourhood of Yakshid, gunmen shot and killed Hasan Iro, assistant to the district commissioner.

His supervisor Haji Ali Fido told AFP he was gunned on his way home and died on the spot.

The transitional Somali government claims its forces -- supported by Ethiopian and African Union troops -- have dealt a fatal blow to the insurgency, but sporadic hit-and-run attacks have continued in Mogadishu.

The violence comes amid a massive security deployment to secure the city as more than 1,000 delegates are gathered for a clan reconciliation conference.

The meeting is boycotted by the main Islamist opposition, which was defeated earlier this year after briefly taking control of large parts of the troubled Horn-of-Africa country.