

12) MP Dahir Jesow and Administration of El Ali Speak about Fighting that occurred in the district.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Viy4tYIDSLs>

Member of Parliament Hon. Dahir Amin Jesow and the local administration of El Ali in Hiiraan region discussed a conflict between Al Shabaab and locals as described in this report by Hajir Abdulqadir Nur.

Hajir: In a press conference held in Mogadishu by MP Dahir Amin Jesow, he discussed clashes in El Ali between Al Shabaab and the local people. The MP stated that the clashes occurred following a rock that was recently found in El Ali where Al Shabaab brought to the Hiiraan region some foreigners to mine and explore rocks. The MP said that Al Shabaab soldiers and armed officers were killed in the fighting.

MP Jesow: “Do not try to ride two horses at the same time, O Galje’el. Ride on one horse. Either go to Al Shabaab and let us fight you. Or stand with our sons who are fighting and aid them. I was told that last night, many people including the commander of the local Ma’awisley forces and Commissioner of El Ali district came to Mogadishu to follow the rock that was looted from them. They have not yet given up on their fight for the rock. The men who took the rock are freely walking in this city. That is not right.

Hajir: MP Jesow has also stated that the Commissioner of El Ali and the commander of the local Ma’awisley forces arrived in Mogadishu to follow the rock that was taken from El Ali. Civilians were killed in the process.

MP Jesow: A very fierce fight took place in El Ali last night. The fight continued through 10am this morning. Ma’awisley fighters from the area, who are very good people, who were fighting against Al Shabaab for a long time, attacked them. As you may know, when the rock was taken from El Ali, Al Shabaab brought foreigners, who are experts in the mining of minerals, who are mercenaries, with plans to provide security for them. They brought them.

Hajir: The commissioner of El Ali, Mr. Aden Ali Sidow and commander of Ma’awisley forces Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Minlawe also spoke about the fighting that took place and their trip to Mogadishu to find out about the rock for which locals lost their lives.

Commissioner: I came yesterday from Hiiraan region. I am the commissioner of El Ali district. I was following the rock that was recently taken from El Ali district in Hiiraan region. That rock was forcibly taken by Al Shabaab. To go further, I heard that some businessmen said they bought it from Al Shabaab. I would like to clarify that these men did not buy the rock. Al Shabaab transported that rock without any brokers. I am told there were two brokers.

Commander: Last night, a planned attack was launched at El Ali where Al Shabaab were present. Four people were killed in that conflict last night. Some of them were leaders. Following this, the Ma’awisley forces withdrew. They took the bodies of Al Shabaab to Baladweyne. Al Shabaab set

up an ambush on the road and there was a second fighting. Government forces came to their aid and they are still continuing to defeat them.

Hajir Abdulqadir, RTN TV, Mogadishu.