



Puntland State of Somalia  
Garowe

## **Somalia: Puntland Seizes Boatload of Explosives from Yemen**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

20 October 2012

On Oct. 17, 2012, a fiberglass dhow of the type renowned to originate in Yemen came to the shores of Qandala district, in Bari region of Puntland State of Somalia. Local witnesses informed Puntland authorities that a dhow with 4 to 5 foreign males on board came ashore briefly and unloaded a huge consignment of ammunitions and explosives materials along a natural bay in Qandala district, known locally as 'Butiyalo'. Qandala is located at an enclave along the northern Somali coast adjacent Yemen that is extremely difficult to access by land.

Puntland Government dispatched regional officials and security forces who arrived by sea in Qandala. Puntland security forces, including the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF), led by Bari Governor and PMPF Commander seized 37 sacks apparently intended to be collected by Al Shabaab elements. The sacks contained diversified and sophisticated explosives materials and ammunitions, including:

- 1 Canon 73mm
- 500 Detonators
- 5 Rolls of Detonating Cord (1250m)
- 220 Rockets of RPG-7
- 304 Boosters for Rocket
- 137kg of explosives materials
- 210 Hand Grenade Detonators
- 2 Sacks of Ammonium Nitrate

Subsequent investigation into this seizure has revealed that the shipment was destined for Al Shabaab terror group in Somalia and the wider region, including those in the mountain hideouts of Golis Range, stretching along the northern coast of Somalia, mainly from west of Bossaso to Erigavo. This consignment was shipped by Al Qaeda groups based in Yemen to Somalia, underlining the growing terror network in the wider region.

Puntland Government is proud of local communities and the government's security forces for inflicting this big blow to Al Shabaab terrorism operations in Somalia and the wider region. The terrorists were frustrated as demonstrated by their continuous and cowardly death threat messages sent to commanders of Puntland security forces who participated in the Qandala operation. **--- END ---**