

Somalian troops close Shabelle Radio

by UPI

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Armed troops forced Somalia's independent Shabelle Radio network off the air amid the government's renewed crackdown against an insurgency. Monday's closure marked the eighth time Shabelle has been closed since Ethiopian troops invaded Somalia in December 2006 to quell an Islamic insurgency and restore the U.N.-backed transitional government, CNN reported Tuesday. Soldiers forced journalists from Shabelle's headquarters in Mogadishu and briefly detained the news director and acting manager, Shabelle reported on its Web Site. The raid came days after intense fighting between insurgents and Ethiopian forces killed between 60 and 80 people, many of them civilians, CNN said. Nearly 100,000 people have fled Mogadishu in recent weeks, joining more than 700,000 others displaced from other areas in Somalia, CNN reported.

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