

Somalia bomb kills 5 African peacekeepers

by UPI

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Five Ugandan peacekeepers were killed in a bomb attack Wednesday in the Somali capital of Mogadishu and another ambush in Somalia caused eight other deaths.

African Union spokesman Paddy Ankunda told the Shabelle Media Network no one claimed responsibility for the bombing that targeted a convoy of AU peacekeepers near the Finance Ministry in the capital.

Two children were reportedly injured by the blast, officials said.

It marked the first time AU peacekeepers have come under direct attack in the city, Shabelle reported.

Elsewhere in the south-central Middle Shabelle province, gunmen ambushed a convoy carrying government officials and journalists.

Shabelle correspondent Nour Bukhari said security forces exchanged gunfire for almost an hour with the gunmen. Eight people, including two journalists and five armed guards, were killed and six others were wounded in the exchange, he said.

Somali and AU forces are trying to oust militant Muslims who controlled the country from last June through December.

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