

UPDATE ON TERRORIST ATTACK ON GARISSA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

1. On Thursday April 2, 2015, Garissa University College, in Garissa, was attacked by Al Shabaab, the worst such attack on Kenya soil since the 1998 US Embassy bombing in Nairobi. The whole university with a population of 800 students was taken hostage by the terrorists and the lethal attack left 152 dead.
2. Security operation which was undertaken immediately managed to rescue over 500 students and in the process four terrorists were killed and 5 arrested. The security forces lost two gallant soldiers who paid the ultimate price while trying to rescue the students.
3. Garissa University is approximately 118 kilometres from the Somali Border and also in close proximity to Jubaland. A significant part of Al-Shabaab operations have been centred around Jubaland in towns of Jilib, Bualle, Bardhera all in Somalia.
4. The University became a soft target due to its close proximity to the Dadaab Refugee camp which, as previously evidence indicates, has been infiltrated by Al Shabaab and its sympathizers. The camp is home to approximately 600,000 refugees. The Government last month embarked on repatriation of the refugees and so far over 1,000 have been resettled back in their Somalia.
5. The Government has undertaken appropriate deployment to the affected area, and is fully seized of the situation. The Government has deployed additional security forces including a Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU). This is a specialised inter-agency security team specially trained to quickly deal with emergency situations.
6. The President has directed the Inspector-General of Police to ensure that the 10,000 recruits whose enrolment is pending, promptly report for training at the Kenya Police College, Kiganjo.

7. The Supreme Council Kenya Muslims and Muslim leadership has condemned the attack. They said these were not Muslims but murderers, killers and terrorists. They pledged to support the families of the deceased and the injured through whatever resources at their disposal.
8. Terrorism is a phenomenon that traverses countries, continents world over. Terrorists kill indiscriminately; Christians and Muslims alike without an iota of conscience. Terrorism has the hallmark of violence and hatred leaving a trail of death and destruction in all corners of the world.
9. Kenya is committed to stopping them at all costs. This is why the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) are in AU AMISOM's forces working at restoring the dignity and freedoms of both the Kenyan and Somali people.
10. Kenya will never shy away from being on the front line of defending its people within its borders and beyond. As such, Kenya continues to bear the brunt of terror. But we shall neither fear nor back down. We shall not stop until we win this war.

**Public Affairs and Communication,
Ministry of Foreign affairs & International Trade .**