



FORWARD-LEARNING Global Security Report



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PROPRIETARY CLASSIFICATION: BUSINESS-IN-CONFIDENCE

INDICATOR: CANADIAN HOSTAGE AMANDA LINDHOUT IN SOMALIA MAY HAVE GIVEN BIRTH

We received an indication late tonight that Miss Amanda Lindhout, held captive in Mogadishu for 11 months, may have given birth to a child. The infant, a girl we believe, was said to have been born on Saturday.

Assessment and cautionary note: this is from a *single* source, but the short report is flush with details, so we assess it is a reasonably strong indication.

What we received in part: *Amanda Lindhout oo ah gabar wariye ah oo u dhalatay Canada ee lagu afduubtay wadada Afgooye bishii August ee sanadkii 2008 ... ayaa maalintii sabtiga ahayd ku umushay magaalada Muqdisho.*

What we believe this means: “Amanda Lindhout is a female journalist [literally, “girl journalist”] born in Canada, abducted in the month of August the year 2008 near Afgooye. Per day Saturday she gave birth in Mogadishu.”



This photograph of Miss Lindhout was not taken from her FACEBOOK or one of the many volunteer sites demanding her freedom and that of Mr. Brennan. **This image was obtained from an icon on a Somali news chat site.** Either Miss Lindhout is using her image (doubtful) or someone commandeered it.

Keeping in mind our cautionary note above, there was an indication of a medical problem: *Xoogaga Islaamiyiinta ah qaarkood ayaa aaminsan in gabdhaha ... banaysanayo dhiigooda.* We take that to mean that there was “bleeding,” but “trustworthy Muslim women” tended to her.

A ransom of 2.5 million dollars (*furasbo gaaraysa 2.5 Milyan dollar*) was also mentioned.

We regret to report that we have not detected any new word about Miss Lindhout’s colleague, Nigel Brennan of Australia. The two journalists were kidnapped 23 August 2008 on the Afgooye-Mogadishu corridor after covering the Afgooye camp for Internally Displaced

Persons. In April, we received an indication that one of her kidnapers had raped her.¹ We believe they have been kept apart from each other for months and restrained in shackles in windowless rooms. Both are in poor health. OSEN-HUNTER GLOBAL SECURITY has maintained a vigil for both journalists and filed more than 20 intelligence reports on their status since their abduction.



In a phone call Sunday 24 May 2009 to AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE arranged by the kidnapers and placed by an intermediary, Australian Nigel Brennan and Canadiane Amanda Lindhout sounded drained, distraught and desperate. *Mr. Brennan*: “I’ve been shackled for the last four months... My health is extremely poor and deteriorating rapidly due to extreme fever ... I implore that my government help me as a citizen of Australia (inaudible) [and ask] for the help of my family in every way possible so that the ransom can be paid for my release.” *Miss Lindhout*: “I have been sick for months. Unless my government, the people of Canada, all my family and friends can get one million dollars, I will die here, OK that is certain ... The situation here is very dire and very serious. I’ve been a hostage for nine months, the conditions are very bad, I don’t drink clean water, I am fed at most once a day.” When the reporter asked Miss Lindhout further details on her health, she responded, “I cannot answer any question that you have. What I just said, that’s all I can say.” [Video grab from TV coverage of the duo aired in September 2008, their second month of captivity. Note the masked man on the left is wearing a Cimaamad (Somali for Keffiyeh). From FORWARD-LEANING 09-024, 29 May 2009. Available on the Osen-Hunter website.]

We continue to believe strongly that a fruitful line of inquiry lies with Osman Hassan Cali (*Caato*). *Caato* is Somali for “Skinny.” Skinny is the “entrepreneur” who “owns” the road between Mogadishu and the refugee camp in Afgoooye on which Miss Lindhout and Mr. Brennan were abducted.² A member of the *Habar-Gedir* sub-clan along with Islamist kingpin Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, **Skinny is the fat cat in the litter box.** He earned an eye-popping \$4.3 million just from the Afgoooye corridor in 2005. **Skinny has been photographed with Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. It is frankly shocking that no pressure has been brought to bear on President Sharif by the West to call this man on the carpet..³**

As we observed late June, if this heart-wrenching audio doesn’t make you grab a bag, pack the necessary accessories and free these people, nothing will.

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TURN TIGHTER, GO FASTER, LOOK FURTHER™

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¹ “Hostage Update.” FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER 09-089, 9 April 2009.

² For a germane study of Skinny and other warlords who “own” various roads and airports in and around Mogadishu, see “Islamist Weapons Smuggling: Not Online but on the Flight Line.” FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER 09-107, 20 May 2009.

³ “A Second Phone Call from a Desperate Hostage.” FORWARD-LEANING INSIDER 09-124, 11 June 2009.