

SCRIPT AL-SHABAAB RECRUITING YOUTH WORLD WIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Horn of Africa Analyst Abdi Rashid of the International Crisis Group about the Somali extremist group Al Shabaab recruits young Muslims world wide.
'They promise them martyrdom in Jihad.'
For that purpose Al Shabaab extensively uses extensive propaganda via the Internet.

BETA LENGTH 2'06"

SOUNDBITE LOGO AL SHABAAB

Al Shabaab circulates propaganda videos like this.
Here we see how the fighters target a Western cargo plane with mortar grenades.

EXPLODING GRENADE, SOUNDBITE KORAN VERSE

Battle is routine in Somalia for 18 years.
The country is almost destroyed.
The population is shattered, and survives on scarce food aid.

SOUNDBITE MOTHER WITH CRYING BABY

In this chaos Al Shabaab could grow.
It now controls a large part of the country.
And after a call of Bin Laden fighters world wide travel to Somalia to support Al Shabaab.

SOUNDBITE FIRING MORTAR

And now also Dutch boys would have been recruited.
AbdiRashid of the influential International Crisis Group analyses Somalia for 15 years.
According to him Al Shabaab can attract Dutch young Muslims by offering them a goal of life.

QUOTE ABDI RASHID, International Crisis Group

They are told look you are a Muslim boy. You are finding it difficult to adjust to life in the West.

Instead of living this kind of ruthlessness, why don't you give martyrdom.

Why don't you come and join the Jihad.

The Jihad is a sort of an honor in how Al Shabaab is conducting this campaign.

This Jihad goes beyond creating an Islamic state in Somalia.

Led by Al Qaeda Al Shabaab would want to operate world wide.

Some youngsters are trained to do assaults in their home countries.

SOUNDBITE FIRING MORTAR

Rashid doesn't think Holland is a designated target for Al Shabaab.

But says it's crucial these young people are released of their extremist sympathies.

A big responsibility for that lies in the Muslim community itself.

QUOTE ABDI RASHID, International Crisis Group

Muslims themselves, moderate Muslims, have to start a campaign to deradicalize them.

From the mosques, the internet, anything. In other words a counter campaign has to be done.

Only that seems a long way to go.

The situation in Somalia is not likely to change over night, and it will remain a promised land for extremist youths.