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AFRICA/SOMALIA - Bombings and renewed fighting in the south, Kenyan and Ethiopian troops involved

Mogadishu (Agenzia Fides) - From Somalia reports of clashes and bombings continue. A car bomb exploded this morning in the center of the capital, Mogadishu, near the presidential palace, injuring a bystander. The same area was hit on March 19 by mortar fire that killed five civilians.
Today's attack comes just after the warning issued by a spokesman of the Shabab militia to the people to stay away from government buildings and those of AMISOM (the African Union force in Somalia) that supports the troops of the government of transition.
Instead, in the south, fighting between the Shabab and the Kenyan military continue. According to Radio Shabelle, three Air Force aircraft in Nairobi attacked on March 20 some of the Shabab training camps in the Diif area and in the Lower Juba region.
In Baidoa, 250 km south of Mogadishu, Ethiopian troops were instead, along with those of the Somali transitional government, fighting hard with the Shabab.
The army of Nairobi intervened in Somalia officially to hunt down the kidnappers of some Western tourists committed by Somali bandits in the Kenyan territory. Among them was the British Judith Tebbutt, who was released in the last hour, it seems after the payment of a ransom. (L.M.) (Agenzia Fides 21/3/2012)

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