Neg

## **Shell**

#### **A.** **Counter-interp: Debaters must only disclose evidence read in the constructive speech on their 2024-2025 PF NDCA OpenCaselist wiki**

#### **B.** **We-meet, they violate**

#### **C.** **Standards:**

#### **1] Critical Thinking – Being able to see every team’s responses to every argument decks thinking on your feet and incentivizes debaters to script interactions from start-to-finish. That kills in-round education which is the most portable skill.**

#### **2] Small Schools – There are only so many constructive cases – but rebuttals allow small schools to innovate and come up with the best strategies to excel. Forcing them to disclose their evidence takes away their one strategic advantage. Accessibility is an independent voter because if you can’t engage you can’t debate.**

#### **3] Incentivizes Lying - Encourages debaters to lie about the amount of evidence they read by only disclosing one or two pieces of evidence and gatekeeping the rest just to meet the shell – 99% of the time you won’t have email chains to verify and will only be able to rely on crossfire and their wiki – outweighs all of your standards, it’s literal cheating, educationally bankrupt and encourages debaters to be deceptive to get ahead in their future careers.**

#### **4] Incentivizes Stealing – Rebuttal disclosure destroys research incentives because people will just steal the best block off the wiki for any given argument. It’s uniquely worse with rebuttals – debaters get to know stolen constructives because they read them every round, but you don’t hit the same arguments every round.**

#### **5] Nit-picking – Any disclosure beyond constructive open-sourcing is a slippery-slope to infinitely more frivolous disclosure violations which creates a proliferation of educationally bankrupt debates and outweighs their shell on scope. Also means people just stop disclosing all-together because they think whatever they do will never be good enough.**

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## **Case is Terror**

#### **Al-Shabaab terrorism is on the decline.**

Nyaboga **Kiage 11/11**, November 11th, 20**24 – Nairobi News** “Al Shabaab activities in North Eastern on decline – Report” https://nairobinews.nation.africa/al-shabaab-activities-in-north-eastern-on-decline-report/ // accessed 12/27/24 AARON

**There has been a decline in** the **activities** of members **of** the **terrorist group Al Shabaab**. The decline has been seen in the vast northeastern region, where members of the militant group used to carry out a series of attacks on non-locals and the police. **Horizon Analysts and Researchers Network**(HARN), an organization that conducts research in the northeastern region, has **linked** the decline in such attacks **to cooperation between security forces and local communities**. The North Eastern region consists of Lamu, Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa counties. “From September last year to August 2024, there has been a significant **improvement in** the **deterrence, interception, and disruption of potential terrorist attacks** as part of the **fight against extremism and insurgency activities** along the areas bordering Somalia compared to the same period last year,” the organization said in a statement. HARN said **there had been a 60 percent reduction in attacks** in the four countries. This, the organization said, had been made possible by a newfound camaraderie between locals and security agencies. It also said that **propaganda** **material, which is** also **shared to recruit young people** into the militia group, has also **decreased** on both online and offline platforms. Even in Somalia, HARN said there had been a serious operation carried out by officers attached to the Somali National Army (SNA) targeting terrorists and terror-related activities. According to the organization, the security services have been receiving timely information that is helping to counter the activities of the extremist group. These activities include disrupting planned attacks, countering insurgent propaganda, and pre-empting their new recruitment tactics. Kenya, especially the vast northeastern region and Wajir County in particular, has been a playground for the militants. However, things seem to have changed with almost weekly reports of attacks. The Al Shabaab attacks are not only synonymous with the Eastern region as the terror group has also caused havoc in other parts of the country including the capital Nairobi. At least 67 people died in the assault by al-Shabab in 2013 on the Westgate shopping complex in the capital. Four militants who carried out the attack were found dead in the shopping center’s rubble. The militants occupied the mall for four days, in one of the deadliest jihadi attacks in Kenya. In September 2020, a judge sentenced two men Hussein Hassan Mustafa and Mohammed Ahmed Abdi to 18 and 33 years in jail after they were found guilty of helping the Islamist militants attack the Westgate mall.

#### **Recognition enables a resurgence in terrorism in two ways:**

#### **1st - Affirming expels Ethiopian troops present now – recognition empirics prove.**

Giulia **Paravicini** is a Sub-Saharan Africa Senior Correspondent with a masters in journalism from Columbia, June 3, 20**24**, Reuters “Somalia to expel Ethiopian troops unless Somaliland port deal scrapped, official says” https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-expel-ethiopian-troops-unless-somaliland-port-deal-scrapped-official-2024-06-03/ // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

NAIROBI, June 3 (Reuters) - Somalia will expel thousands of Ethiopian troops stationed in the country to help with security by the end of the year unless Addis Ababa scraps a disputed port deal with the breakaway region of Somaliland, a senior Somali official said on Monday. Security experts and foreign diplomats said the move risks further destabilising Somalia as local forces would be unable to fill the security vacuum, which would likely be exploited by fighters from al Shabaab, an affiliate of al Qaeda. At least **3,000 Ethiopian soldiers are stationed in the Horn of Africa country as part of an African Union peacekeeping mission (ATMIS) fighting al Shabaab**, which controls large portions of Somalia, while an estimated 5,000-7,000 are stationed in several regions under a bilateral agreement. **Relations between Mogadishu and Addis Ababa** [**nosedived**](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-sends-away-ethiopian-ambassador-over-port-deal-officials-2024-04-04/) **earlier this year** **after** landlocked **Ethiopia agreed to lease** 20 km (12 miles) of **coastline from Somaliland** - a part of Somalia which claims independence and has had effective autonomy since 1991, but has failed to win international recognition. **Ethiopia offered Somaliland possible recognition in exchange for being allowed to set up a naval base and commercial port** – a move **Mogadishu has called illegal**. "If they do not repeal the (agreement) before the end of June, or when the new mandate of the mission is decided, **all Ethiopian troops, ATMIS and bilateral, will have to go**," Somalia's national security adviser Hussein Sheikh-Ali told Reuters by phone. "Ethiopia cannot be an ally and at the same time an aggressor." Spokespeople for the Ethiopian government and the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) did not respond to requests for comment. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which is mandated by the U.N. Security Council, is due to fully withdraw and hand over security responsibilities to the Somali state by the end of 2024. But the Somali government has requested several times for the withdrawal of troops to be slowed down, [citing setbacks](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-asks-un-delay-peacekeeper-drawdown-after-significant-setbacks-2023-09-22/) on the battlefield. The troops come from Burundi, Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. A new, smaller peacekeeping mission is expected to be announced by the end of June, with Somalia requesting that Ethiopia not be among the troop contributing countries, according to AU and African diplomats familiar with the plan. "Given the current political climate, it will not possible to have ENDF be part of AU-led mission," Somalia's state minister for foreign affairs Ali Omar told Reuters.

#### **That’s devastating – Ethiopian troops are key to counter-terrorism.**

Corrado **Čok** is a visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, 7 November 20**24** “Three’s a crowd: Why Egypt’s and Somalia’s row with Ethiopia can embolden al-Shabaab” https://ecfr.eu/article/threes-a-crowd-why-egypts-and-somalias-row-with-ethiopia-can-embolden-al-shabaab/#:~:text=Ethiopia%20forms%20the%20backbone%20of,in%20central%20and%20southern%20Somalia. // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

**Despite** some **progress** **in the** federal **government’s** **military campaign against al-Shabaab** in recent years, **it has never gained the upper hand**. The group remains in control of large swathes of the centre and south of the country. And due to infighting in the anti-al-Shabaab coalition – comprising federal, state, and international partners – this area could soon expand. Somalia desperately needs to build a cohesive political and military response. But a new [defence pact](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/23/egypt-delivers-second-stockpile-of-weapons-to-somalia-amid-ethiopia-tension) between Mogadishu and Cairo may threaten the country’s stability by further straining relations with Ethiopia. These tensions could undermine the future of the AU’s peacekeeping mission in the country, ATMIS, of which Ethiopia is the main contributor. The pact could also pit Somalia’s federal government against its states, widening a power vacuum that al-Shabaab and other armed groups in the country are primed to exploit. Somalia’s security quagmire Since 2007, successive AU peacekeeping missions have led combat operations against al-Shabaab on the ground, working with US and Turkish air support to help hold liberated areas. At the end of this year, however, the ATMIS’s [mandate](https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2024/07/30/the-post-african-union-transition-mission-in-somalia-and-its-regional-security-implications/) will expire. Diplomats are working around the clock to ensure a new, downsized AU mission takes over in 2025, but issues over funding and staffing cast a shadow on Somalia’s security for the foreseeable future. Ethiopia forms the backbone of the military effort against al-Shabaab. Partly through ATMIS, and partly through bilateral agreements with Somalia’s federal government, **Ethiopia has** 8,000-**10,000 troops deployed in** central and southern **Somalia**. These efforts are also key for Ethiopia to protect its own border from al-Shabaab incursions. Now, however, the Egypt-Somalia [defence pact](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/egypt-somalia-ethiopia-gerd/) risks damaging the fragile political and military balance by openly challenging Addis Ababa. Egypt’s and Somalia’s respective relations with Ethiopia have soured in recent years, bringing their own security [cooperation](https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/somalia-uae-egypt-recruit-train-secret-forces)closer together. For Cairo, its rivalry with Addis Ababa stems from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Nile River which threatens Egypt’s water security. For Mogadishu, **Ethiopia’s signing of a** [**memorandum of understanding**](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-67858566) with the authorities of the breakaway region of Somaliland **was seen to undermine Somalia’s sovereignty**. In response, **Somalia publicly** [**called**](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-expel-ethiopian-troops-unless-somaliland-port-deal-scrapped-official-2024-06-03/) **on the Ethiopian army to leave the country**. To fill that vacuum and put more pressure on their common adversary, Ethiopia, the defence pact calls on Egypt to deploy some troops to Somalia – half through the next AU mission and half bilaterally. But Cairo is unlikely to deploy this many troops. It has not put boots on foreign soil for decades, has little knowledge of the Somali context, and is facing a deep [financial crisis](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/03/18/egypt-mired-in-economic-crisis-sells-off-its-land-and-infrastructure-to-gulf-countries_6629364_19.html). Besides this, the AU will not [endorse](https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/2/14/addis-summit-raises-questions-about-ethiopias-many-conflicts) a plan that blatantly antagonises Addis Ababa. And yet, Egypt has sent two weapons shipments into Somalia, much to the neighbouring Ethiopian government’s alarm. The consequences of brinkmanship Egypt’s and Somalia’s deteriorating relations with Ethiopia could have two dangerous ramifications for the fight against al-Shabaab. First, the Somali attempt to sideline Ethiopian troops and replace them with Egypt’s is hindering the planning for ATMIS’s new mandate. This is because **Addis Ababa remains the major troop contributor** of the current mission, **with no realistic replacement and deep security interests in Somalia** that it is reluctant to give up. **If** the next AU mission does not materialise, **the resulting security vacuum could create the conditions for al-Shabaab to conquer key areas of the country and destabilise the entire region**. The second issue concerns the political stability of Somalia. The country’s fraught state-building process already suffers from division between the federal and state governments. Now, Egypt-Ethiopia tensions are further splintering the country. In June, top officials from Jubaland and South West state [opposed](https://hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Jun/196550/jubaland_and_south_west_oppose_ethiopian_troop_withdrawal_from_somalia.aspx) the federal government’s call for **Ethiopian troops to withdraw as this would have left parts of their states undefended.** South West state, where Ethiopia’s military presence and influence is particularly strong, also [criticised](https://www.africa-confidential.com/article/id/15153/Middle_powers_line_up_behind_Addis_and_Mogadishu) the deal with Egypt. These intra-Somali frictions could be the final blow to the country’s state-building process, **further fragmenting political** and **military action** which **al-Shabaab is set to exploit**. The risk of this could be heightened if, once deployed, Ethiopian or Egyptian troops support opposing Somali clans. Either scenario – **a hindered AU mission** and a splintering Somali state – **could pave the way to a new al-Shabaab expansion**, with sweeping, disruptive consequences. **Ethiopia would be dragged deeper into a conflict with the terrorist group along its borders,** destabilising its own fragile equilibrium. It **would** also **disrupt Europeanhumanitarian** [**programmes**](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/somalia_en) and risk the lives of European military staff stationed in Somalia. **Kenya**, a key Western ally and investment partner for Europe, **may** also **suffer from spillover** **effects** as al-Shabaab already has a robust [foothold](https://acleddata.com/2023/09/01/special-report-kenya-somalia-border-rising-al-shabaab-threat-in-the-wake-of-atmis-drawdown/) in the country’s north-east. Lastly, **a stronger al-Shabaab would embolden other groups** such as [Islamic State’s](https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/somalia/islamic-state-somalia-responding-evolving-threat) new Somali branch and arms smuggling [networks](https://issafrica.org/iss-today/an-ocean-of-weapons-arms-smuggling-to-somalia), creating chaos for pirate groups to exploit, as they recently did during [Houthi attacks](https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/piracy-back-horn-africa-whats-behind-its-return) in the Red Sea. Such instability would **pose** yet **another serious threat to maritime routes** in the western Indian Ocean which are vital to Europe.

#### **Terrorism expands to the whole region.**

Dalia **Al-Aqidi** is a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy, January 9th 20**23** “Defeating Al-Shabab should be a global priority” https://www.arabnews.com/node/2229356 // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

Al-Shabab militants have escalated their terrorist activities in response to Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s pledge to fight and defeat the radical movement and cut off its financial sources. When Mohamud was elected in 2022, he declared an “all-out war” on the radical group by adopting a new security strategy with regional and international support.¶ The recent escalation reminds the international community that the war on terrorism is far from over and sparks renewed concerns about an expansion of the movement’s activity in the Horn of Africa.¶ From a mosque in the country’s capital, Mogadishu, the determined president called on young Somalis, who, as he said, were brainwashed by the radicals, to surrender to the security forces. He pleaded with the militants to denounce the terrorist ideology before it is too late.¶ **Al-Shabab has always aimed to extend its operations beyond the borders of Somalia to destabilize the whole region. It has carried out terrorist attacks in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia**. In 2020, Al-Shabab killed three Americans at a Kenyan military base used by US forces.¶ Following the defeat of Daesh in Iraq and Syria and the failure of its ideological mission, it is natural for Al-Qaeda and its affiliate terrorist organizations to think about a geographical area that would be easier to terrorize and control.¶ The world is preoccupied with the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy sources and several other challenges, but the UN Security Council remains concerned about the continued presence of terrorist groups in the Horn of Africa.¶ But **the Somali government cannot confront and defeat Al-Shabab alone — it needs a global commitment** to continue supporting the war-torn country.

#### **That goes nuclear.**

Connor **Finnegan** is a state department reporter at ABC news with a bachelors from Georgetown, December 31st 20**20** “Hot spots to watch: What crises could explode in 2021” https://abcnews.go.com/International/hot-spots-watch-crises-explode-2021/story?id=74607383 // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

The world was on lockdown for most of 2020. But **from the Caucasus to** the Horn of **Africa** to the Himalayas, **several** **conflicts**, some frozen for decades, **erupted in violence.**¶ **With the coronavirus** **pandemic and** the ensuing **economic** **crisis**, **tensions** that have simmered **are threatening to flare up further** in 2021, especially as humanitarian need skyrockets, governments and aid groups face budget shortfalls, and climate change increasingly forces folks to flee or fight over resources.¶ Here are the top conflicts or issues that could burst **into all-out crises** in 2021.¶ Nuclear arms race: From rogue states to regional tensions¶ At the start of 2020, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists made a dramatic announcement -- its famed Doomsday Clock was the closest to midnight it's ever been, with the threats of **nuclear** **war** and climate change growing ever more acute.¶ "National **leaders** have **ended** or undermined several **major arms control treaties and negotiations** during the last year, **creating an environment conducive to a renewed nuclear arms race, to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to lowered barriers to nuclear war**," the group said in January.¶ Twelve months later, the last nuclear arms control pact between the U.S. and Russia is weeks from expiry, with no plans to extend it in sight. China continues to develop its nuclear arsenal, possibly even doubling it in the next decade, according to the Pentagon. It's also clashed high in the Himalayas with its nuclear-armed neighbor India, which in turn spilled blood with nuclear-armed rival Pakistan over the disputed territory Kashmir.¶ As the global infrastructure to constrain nuclear weapons wanes, **any one of these could turn into a flashpoint** next year, and that's without even mentioning the rogue nuclear power states North Korea and Iran -- both of which are likely to test the incoming Biden administration.¶ After four years of President Donald Trump's policies, North Korea has more nuclear weapons and enhanced ballistic missile capability, which it may show off with a test launch early in President-elect Joe Biden's term to try to garner some attention and leverage, according to analysts. While the likelihood of a "fire and fury" response will diminish after Trump's departure, the risk of a skirmish spiraling into all-out war remains real, according to analysts.¶ Iran doesn't have nuclear weapons and says it won't pursue them, but it once again has a stockpile of enriched uranium and a host of spinning centrifuges that decrease its so-called "breakout time" to potentially develop the bomb, according to nuclear experts. Analysts expect its forces, under disguise or through proxies, could resume attacks in the Persian Gulf region to build leverage ahead of possible negotiations with Biden's team, risking conflict with U.S., Israeli, or Arab forces.¶ **Terrorism threat expands, seizing instability across Africa**¶ On the campaign trail, Trump and his senior advisers repeatedly celebrated the defeat of ISIS's so-called caliphate in Iraq and Syria. But since then, the terror threat has dispersed, with fighters and weapons flowing out of shrinking ISIS territory to new pockets around the world.¶ Across Africa in particular, the world's youngest and fastest-growing continent, **ISIS affiliates are now gaining strength**, especially in Nigeria, Mozambique and the Congo -- although a few terrorism experts caution some claim to be more powerful than they are in reality.¶ In the Democratic Republic of Congo, sub-Saharan Africa's largest country, the Allied Democratic Forces, a decades-old militant group, has traded claims of responsibility for deadly attacks with a local ISIS affiliate. The fighting compounds the deep hunger crisis there, with more than 19 million people in need, according to the International Rescue Committee, which reported that DRC now has "more people facing a severe hunger crisis... than has ever been recorded in any country."¶ In Mozambique, Islamist militants linked to ISIS have conducted brutal attacks in the northernmost province Cabo Delgado, including beheading more than 50 civilians in November and temporarily seizing control of a port in August. The deteriorating security situation has displaced more than half a million people, according to the U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR), with continued violence likely to bring more acute humanitarian need next year.¶ The situation is perhaps worst, however, in **the Sahel,** the semi-arid region that spans northern Africa just south of the Sahara Desert and that has **seen a sharp rise in extremist groups and fighting**. In Mali and Niger, the security situation is at best shaky, with a military junta trying to stabilize Mali amid inter-communal and jihadist violence and tense elections this week in Niger leaving the path ahead uncertain, but hopeful.¶ But **Burkina** **Faso**, the landlocked country twice the size of New York, has become the world's fastest growing crisis. **Over 1 million people have been internally displaced** in just two years, according to UNHCR, a**nd there is no end in sight of fighting between the** government, militia groups **and terrorist organizations**, boosting the risk of famine for its 20 million people.¶ Nigeria, the region's powerhouse and Africa's most populous country, is facing all the same trends, **with** even **deeper implications for global security. Its northeastern corner has been a hotspot for over a decade, with jihadist group Boko Haram and criminal violence terrorizing and displacing millions of civilians**. But Nigerian armed forces' response has been cast as failing, and the government also faced sharp criticism for its heavy crackdown on anti-police brutality protests -- signs that **the state itself is increasingly unstable, which could create more chaos in 2021**.¶ Peace efforts fail, crises worsen in Afghanistan, Yemen¶ Afghanistan and Yemen have been torn apart by conflict for years now, but 2021 could bring even deeper suffering for civilians in both countries.¶ In recent months, while Afghan government and Taliban delegations sit in luxury hotels in Doha, Qatar, for peace negotiations, there has been a spike in car bombings, rocket fire, targeted attacks on police and security forces, botched Afghan Air Force bombings, and assassinations of government officials, activists and journalists. Compounded by coronavirus, that has kept Afghanistan's already victimized civilian population in continued danger, even after decades of humanitarian need.¶ The peace negotiations were supposed to aim for a nationwide ceasefire as soon as possible, according to the U.S.-Taliban deal signed in February, but the militant group has resisted so far, using violence as leverage in talks. But if the violence is sustained into 2021, it could imperil negotiations and ignite into all-out conflict, just as U.S. troops draw down out of the country and the ISIS franchise claims more deadly attacks more frequently, according to Afghan officials and U.S. analysts.¶ Yemen has similarly faced years of stop-and-start peace efforts, but with coronavirus raging through the country with no health care system to track it, let alone treat it, the world's worst humanitarian crisis is expected to descend even deeper in 2021.¶ After five years of endless fighting, humanitarian funding is drying up, leaving approximately 80% of the population in need, according to aid groups. The U.N.-mediated effort has stalled, with the Saudi and Emirati-led coalition fighting in its own ranks as much as with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, and neither side has shown real interest in protecting civilians, let alone peace talks.¶ One other near decade-old conflict to mention is Syria, where murderous strongman Bashar al Assad, backed by Russia and Iran, could test the incoming Biden administration by trying to finally seize control of the last pocket of rebels and jihadists in Idlib province, causing a bloodbath and pushing masses of packed Syrians fleeing into Turkey and beyond to Europe.¶ East Africa erupting as violence spills over borders¶ In the final few months of 2020, **the** greater **Horn of Africa experienced a flash of violence, often spilling over borders and threatening to suck in the whole region** in the coming months.¶ At the heart of it is Ethiopia, whose government went to war with well-armed political forces in its Tigray region, a conflict that continues to see sporadic fighting and claims of mass killings and that could worsen ahead of 2021 elections. It may also suck in neighboring Eritrea, long at war with Tigrayan leaders and now partnering with federal forces against them, leading to cross-border rocket fire and aerial bombardment.¶ Further endangering the region is the fact that the fighting sent tens of thousands of refugees scrambling into Sudan, itself on a rocky transitional road to democracy after decades of oppressive rule. The two neighbors are already locked in a dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and occasional clashes along the border could enflame into another frontline.¶ Elsewhere in East Africa, Kenya and Somalia have cut diplomatic ties over Kenya's support for breakaway region Somaliland, heightening regional tension further. The move also means Kenya will likely pull its peacekeeping troops in Somalia, just as U.S. forces withdraw, leaving Somalia more vulnerable to al-Shabab, a powerful al-Qaida affiliate that will continue to plot attacks and increasingly conduct them abroad.¶ In the midst of it all, the fragile semi-peace in South Sudan, the world's youngest country still emerging from civil war, faces "catastrophic levels of hunger," according to the U.N.¶ "**If left unchecked** much longer, **a strategic region could devolve into war -- with itself and others -- imperiling U.S. interests from the Red Sea to Europe**," warned Cameron Hudson, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Africa Center.

#### **Extinction.**

**Starr 14** (Steven Starr: Director, Clinical Laboratory Science Program at the U of Missouri. Senior scientist for Physicians for Social Responsibility. 5/30/14, “The Lethality of Nuclear Weapons: Nuclear War has No Winner”, Centre for Research on Globalization, http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-lethality-of-nuclear-weapons-nuclear-war-has-no-winner/5385611 // DOA: 9/6/2024

**They concluded that the consequences of even a “small”** **nuclear war would include catastrophic disruptions of global climate**[i] and massive destruction of Earth’s protective ozone layer[ii]. These and more recent studies predict that global agriculture would be so negatively affected by such a war, a global famine would result, which would cause up to 2 billion people to starve to death. [iii] These peer-reviewed studies – which were analyzed by the best scientists in the world and found to be without error – also predict that a war fought with less than half of US or Russian strategic nuclear weapons would destroy the human race.[iv] In other words, a US-Russian nuclear war would create such extreme long-term damage to the global environment that it **would leave the Earth uninhabitable for humans and most animal forms of life**. A recent article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, “Self-assured destruction: The climate impacts of nuclear war”,[v] begins by stating: “A nuclear war between Russia and the United States, even after the arsenal reductions planned under New START, **could produce a nuclear winter**. Hence, an attack by either side could be suicidal, resulting in self-assured destruction.” In 2009, I wrote an article[vi] for the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament that summarizes the findings of these studies. It explains that nuclear firestorms would **produce millions of tons of smoke, which would rise above cloud level and form a global stratospheric smoke layer that would rapidly encircle the Earth**. The smoke layer would remain for at least a decade, and it would act to destroy the protective ozone layer (vastly increasing the UV-B reaching Earth[vii]) as well as block warming sunlight, thus creating Ice Age weather conditions that would last 10 years or longer. Following a US-Russian nuclear war, temperatures in the central US and Eurasia would fall below freezing every day for one to three years; the intense cold would completely eliminate growing seasons for a decade or longer. **No crops could be grown, leading to a famine that would kill most humans and large animal populations.** Electromagnetic pulse from high-altitude nuclear detonations would destroy the integrated circuits in all modern electronic devices[viii], including those in commercial nuclear power plants. Every nuclear reactor would almost instantly meltdown; every nuclear spent fuel pool (which contain many times more radioactivity than found in the reactors) would boil-off, releasing vast amounts of long-lived radioactivity.

Tab 2

#### **A.** **Counter-interp: Debaters must only disclose evidence read in the constructive speech on their 2024-2025 PF NDCA OpenCaselist wiki**

#### **B.** **We-meet/violation: You disclose rebuttals and we don’t ;)**

#### **C.** **Standards:**

#### **2] Small Schools – There are only so many constructive cases – but rebuttals allow small schools to innovate and come up with the best strategies to excel. Forcing them to disclose their evidence takes away their one strategic advantage. Accessibility is an independent voter because if you can’t engage you can’t debate.**

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#### **We get new responses to standards in rebuttal: it’s the constitutive purpose of the rebuttal speech and reciprocal because we read counter standards and they read standards**

#### **On Small Schools: 1] They’ll just get they’re rebuttals prepped out now – 2] Pre-tournament prep for small schools is irrelevant if they can’t even win rounds in the world of your interp – 6] Reciprocal access to rebuttal evidence means the only factor that comes into play is resources – big schools will just brute-force every interaction – 7] Small schools will never win because it’ll just become ten coaches prepping out each small-schools rebuttal for thirty-minutes –**

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#### **On Clash: 1] We o/w on portability – no academic forum hands you all your opponent’s prep on a silver platter – i.e. in a courtroom you might have your opponent’s main positions and basic objections at most – 3] You can compare on the fly, it’s how it happens every debate – 30 minutes is impossible to check every context and unethical representation –**

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#### **\*\*\*On Argument Depth: 1] Your model means debaters steal blocks arbitrarily which means we have less argument depth – 3] Cases can only get so good, same with rebuttals which means the standard is impossible – 4] Breadth o/w Depth – it will just become 4 minutes of one true arg v another true arg because every even slightly questionable arg gets weeded out – Breadth encourages wide range of education and more strategic thinking which distinguishes debate from a history class**

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#### **On Hiding Evidence: 1] Our lying argument straight turns this which was above – 2] Double-bind, either A] You disclose everything in which case it becomes impossible to sift through constructive and rebuttal or B] You strategically disclose only some because you know it’s enough to meet the shell in which case you can’t check back**

### **And we get RVIS, doesn’t matter cus its an OCI**

1] reciprocity - we should get equal access to the theory layer

**2] substantive education - discourages no risk shells**

**3] norming - it encourages only the best shells to be read which creates a race to the top for the best norms of debate**

**AT Baiting - [1] Turn - people bait shells with good CIs not true shells [2] Its good to bait shells that are wrong since it sets a good norm. [3] Impact turns and other models mean its non-unique**

**AT Logic – [1] Wrong – You can think of it like ev ethics where you stake the round on the interp [2] Its not saying I should win for being fair but you should lose for reading a bad interp and skewing the aff.**

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### **Contention 1 is Terror**

#### **Al-Shabaab terrorism is on the decline.**

Nyaboga **Kiage 11/11**, November 11th, 20**24 – Nairobi News** “Al Shabaab activities in North Eastern on decline – Report” https://nairobinews.nation.africa/al-shabaab-activities-in-north-eastern-on-decline-report/ // accessed 12/27/24 AARON

**There has been a decline in** the **activities** of members **of** the **terrorist group Al Shabaab**. The decline has been seen in the vast northeastern region, where members of the militant group used to carry out a series of attacks on non-locals and the police. **Horizon Analysts and Researchers Network**(HARN), an organization that conducts research in the northeastern region, has **linked** the decline in such attacks **to cooperation between security forces and local communities**. The North Eastern region consists of Lamu, Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa counties. “From September last year to August 2024, there has been a significant **improvement in** the **deterrence, interception, and disruption of potential terrorist attacks** as part of the **fight against extremism and insurgency activities** along the areas bordering Somalia compared to the same period last year,” the organization said in a statement. HARN said **there had been a 60 percent reduction in attacks** in the four countries. This, the organization said, had been made possible by a newfound camaraderie between locals and security agencies. It also said that **propaganda** **material, which is** also **shared to recruit young people** into the militia group, has also **decreased** on both online and offline platforms. Even in Somalia, HARN said there had been a serious operation carried out by officers attached to the Somali National Army (SNA) targeting terrorists and terror-related activities. According to the organization, the security services have been receiving timely information that is helping to counter the activities of the extremist group. These activities include disrupting planned attacks, countering insurgent propaganda, and pre-empting their new recruitment tactics. Kenya, especially the vast northeastern region and Wajir County in particular, has been a playground for the militants. However, things seem to have changed with almost weekly reports of attacks. The Al Shabaab attacks are not only synonymous with the Eastern region as the terror group has also caused havoc in other parts of the country including the capital Nairobi. At least 67 people died in the assault by al-Shabab in 2013 on the Westgate shopping complex in the capital. Four militants who carried out the attack were found dead in the shopping center’s rubble. The militants occupied the mall for four days, in one of the deadliest jihadi attacks in Kenya. In September 2020, a judge sentenced two men Hussein Hassan Mustafa and Mohammed Ahmed Abdi to 18 and 33 years in jail after they were found guilty of helping the Islamist militants attack the Westgate mall.

#### **Recognition enables a resurgence in terrorism in two ways:**

#### **1st - Affirming expels Ethiopian troops present now – recognition empirics prove.**

Giulia **Paravicini** is a Sub-Saharan Africa Senior Correspondent with a masters in journalism from Columbia, June 3, 20**24**, Reuters “Somalia to expel Ethiopian troops unless Somaliland port deal scrapped, official says” https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-expel-ethiopian-troops-unless-somaliland-port-deal-scrapped-official-2024-06-03/ // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

NAIROBI, June 3 (Reuters) - Somalia will expel thousands of Ethiopian troops stationed in the country to help with security by the end of the year unless Addis Ababa scraps a disputed port deal with the breakaway region of Somaliland, a senior Somali official said on Monday. Security experts and foreign diplomats said the move risks further destabilising Somalia as local forces would be unable to fill the security vacuum, which would likely be exploited by fighters from al Shabaab, an affiliate of al Qaeda. At least **3,000 Ethiopian soldiers are stationed in the Horn of Africa country as part of an African Union peacekeeping mission (ATMIS) fighting al Shabaab**, which controls large portions of Somalia, while an estimated 5,000-7,000 are stationed in several regions under a bilateral agreement. **Relations between Mogadishu and Addis Ababa** [**nosedived**](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-sends-away-ethiopian-ambassador-over-port-deal-officials-2024-04-04/) **earlier this year** **after** landlocked **Ethiopia agreed to lease** 20 km (12 miles) of **coastline from Somaliland** - a part of Somalia which claims independence and has had effective autonomy since 1991, but has failed to win international recognition. **Ethiopia offered Somaliland possible recognition in exchange for being allowed to set up a naval base and commercial port** – a move **Mogadishu has called illegal**. "If they do not repeal the (agreement) before the end of June, or when the new mandate of the mission is decided, **all Ethiopian troops, ATMIS and bilateral, will have to go**," Somalia's national security adviser Hussein Sheikh-Ali told Reuters by phone. "Ethiopia cannot be an ally and at the same time an aggressor." Spokespeople for the Ethiopian government and the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) did not respond to requests for comment. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which is mandated by the U.N. Security Council, is due to fully withdraw and hand over security responsibilities to the Somali state by the end of 2024. But the Somali government has requested several times for the withdrawal of troops to be slowed down, [citing setbacks](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-asks-un-delay-peacekeeper-drawdown-after-significant-setbacks-2023-09-22/) on the battlefield. The troops come from Burundi, Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. A new, smaller peacekeeping mission is expected to be announced by the end of June, with Somalia requesting that Ethiopia not be among the troop contributing countries, according to AU and African diplomats familiar with the plan. "Given the current political climate, it will not possible to have ENDF be part of AU-led mission," Somalia's state minister for foreign affairs Ali Omar told Reuters.

#### **That’s devastating – Ethiopian troops are key to counter-terrorism.**

Corrado **Čok** is a visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, 7 November 20**24** “Three’s a crowd: Why Egypt’s and Somalia’s row with Ethiopia can embolden al-Shabaab” https://ecfr.eu/article/threes-a-crowd-why-egypts-and-somalias-row-with-ethiopia-can-embolden-al-shabaab/#:~:text=Ethiopia%20forms%20the%20backbone%20of,in%20central%20and%20southern%20Somalia. // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

**Despite** some **progress** **in the** federal **government’s** **military campaign against al-Shabaab** in recent years, **it has never gained the upper hand**. The group remains in control of large swathes of the centre and south of the country. And due to infighting in the anti-al-Shabaab coalition – comprising federal, state, and international partners – this area could soon expand. Somalia desperately needs to build a cohesive political and military response. But a new [defence pact](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/23/egypt-delivers-second-stockpile-of-weapons-to-somalia-amid-ethiopia-tension) between Mogadishu and Cairo may threaten the country’s stability by further straining relations with Ethiopia. These tensions could undermine the future of the AU’s peacekeeping mission in the country, ATMIS, of which Ethiopia is the main contributor. The pact could also pit Somalia’s federal government against its states, widening a power vacuum that al-Shabaab and other armed groups in the country are primed to exploit. Somalia’s security quagmire Since 2007, successive AU peacekeeping missions have led combat operations against al-Shabaab on the ground, working with US and Turkish air support to help hold liberated areas. At the end of this year, however, the ATMIS’s [mandate](https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2024/07/30/the-post-african-union-transition-mission-in-somalia-and-its-regional-security-implications/) will expire. Diplomats are working around the clock to ensure a new, downsized AU mission takes over in 2025, but issues over funding and staffing cast a shadow on Somalia’s security for the foreseeable future. Ethiopia forms the backbone of the military effort against al-Shabaab. Partly through ATMIS, and partly through bilateral agreements with Somalia’s federal government, **Ethiopia has** 8,000-**10,000 troops deployed in** central and southern **Somalia**. These efforts are also key for Ethiopia to protect its own border from al-Shabaab incursions. Now, however, the Egypt-Somalia [defence pact](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/egypt-somalia-ethiopia-gerd/) risks damaging the fragile political and military balance by openly challenging Addis Ababa. Egypt’s and Somalia’s respective relations with Ethiopia have soured in recent years, bringing their own security [cooperation](https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/somalia-uae-egypt-recruit-train-secret-forces)closer together. For Cairo, its rivalry with Addis Ababa stems from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Nile River which threatens Egypt’s water security. For Mogadishu, **Ethiopia’s signing of a** [**memorandum of understanding**](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-67858566) with the authorities of the breakaway region of Somaliland **was seen to undermine Somalia’s sovereignty**. In response, **Somalia publicly** [**called**](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somalia-expel-ethiopian-troops-unless-somaliland-port-deal-scrapped-official-2024-06-03/) **on the Ethiopian army to leave the country**. To fill that vacuum and put more pressure on their common adversary, Ethiopia, the defence pact calls on Egypt to deploy some troops to Somalia – half through the next AU mission and half bilaterally. But Cairo is unlikely to deploy this many troops. It has not put boots on foreign soil for decades, has little knowledge of the Somali context, and is facing a deep [financial crisis](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/03/18/egypt-mired-in-economic-crisis-sells-off-its-land-and-infrastructure-to-gulf-countries_6629364_19.html). Besides this, the AU will not [endorse](https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/2/14/addis-summit-raises-questions-about-ethiopias-many-conflicts) a plan that blatantly antagonises Addis Ababa. And yet, Egypt has sent two weapons shipments into Somalia, much to the neighbouring Ethiopian government’s alarm. The consequences of brinkmanship Egypt’s and Somalia’s deteriorating relations with Ethiopia could have two dangerous ramifications for the fight against al-Shabaab. First, the Somali attempt to sideline Ethiopian troops and replace them with Egypt’s is hindering the planning for ATMIS’s new mandate. This is because **Addis Ababa remains the major troop contributor** of the current mission, **with no realistic replacement and deep security interests in Somalia** that it is reluctant to give up. **If** the next AU mission does not materialise, **the resulting security vacuum could create the conditions for al-Shabaab to conquer key areas of the country and destabilise the entire region**. The second issue concerns the political stability of Somalia. The country’s fraught state-building process already suffers from division between the federal and state governments. Now, Egypt-Ethiopia tensions are further splintering the country. In June, top officials from Jubaland and South West state [opposed](https://hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Jun/196550/jubaland_and_south_west_oppose_ethiopian_troop_withdrawal_from_somalia.aspx) the federal government’s call for **Ethiopian troops to withdraw as this would have left parts of their states undefended.** South West state, where Ethiopia’s military presence and influence is particularly strong, also [criticised](https://www.africa-confidential.com/article/id/15153/Middle_powers_line_up_behind_Addis_and_Mogadishu) the deal with Egypt. These intra-Somali frictions could be the final blow to the country’s state-building process, **further fragmenting political** and **military action** which **al-Shabaab is set to exploit**. The risk of this could be heightened if, once deployed, Ethiopian or Egyptian troops support opposing Somali clans. Either scenario – **a hindered AU mission** and a splintering Somali state – **could pave the way to a new al-Shabaab expansion**, with sweeping, disruptive consequences. **Ethiopia would be dragged deeper into a conflict with the terrorist group along its borders,** destabilising its own fragile equilibrium. It **would** also **disrupt Europeanhumanitarian** [**programmes**](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/somalia_en) and risk the lives of European military staff stationed in Somalia. **Kenya**, a key Western ally and investment partner for Europe, **may** also **suffer from spillover** **effects** as al-Shabaab already has a robust [foothold](https://acleddata.com/2023/09/01/special-report-kenya-somalia-border-rising-al-shabaab-threat-in-the-wake-of-atmis-drawdown/) in the country’s north-east. Lastly, **a stronger al-Shabaab would embolden other groups** such as [Islamic State’s](https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/somalia/islamic-state-somalia-responding-evolving-threat) new Somali branch and arms smuggling [networks](https://issafrica.org/iss-today/an-ocean-of-weapons-arms-smuggling-to-somalia), creating chaos for pirate groups to exploit, as they recently did during [Houthi attacks](https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/piracy-back-horn-africa-whats-behind-its-return) in the Red Sea. Such instability would **pose** yet **another serious threat to maritime routes** in the western Indian Ocean which are vital to Europe.

#### **Terrorism expands to the whole region.**

Dalia **Al-Aqidi** is a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy, January 9th 20**23** “Defeating Al-Shabab should be a global priority” https://www.arabnews.com/node/2229356 // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

Al-Shabab militants have escalated their terrorist activities in response to Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s pledge to fight and defeat the radical movement and cut off its financial sources. When Mohamud was elected in 2022, he declared an “all-out war” on the radical group by adopting a new security strategy with regional and international support.¶ The recent escalation reminds the international community that the war on terrorism is far from over and sparks renewed concerns about an expansion of the movement’s activity in the Horn of Africa.¶ From a mosque in the country’s capital, Mogadishu, the determined president called on young Somalis, who, as he said, were brainwashed by the radicals, to surrender to the security forces. He pleaded with the militants to denounce the terrorist ideology before it is too late.¶ **Al-Shabab has always aimed to extend its operations beyond the borders of Somalia to destabilize the whole region. It has carried out terrorist attacks in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia**. In 2020, Al-Shabab killed three Americans at a Kenyan military base used by US forces.¶ Following the defeat of Daesh in Iraq and Syria and the failure of its ideological mission, it is natural for Al-Qaeda and its affiliate terrorist organizations to think about a geographical area that would be easier to terrorize and control.¶ The world is preoccupied with the war in Ukraine, inflation, energy sources and several other challenges, but the UN Security Council remains concerned about the continued presence of terrorist groups in the Horn of Africa.¶ But **the Somali government cannot confront and defeat Al-Shabab alone — it needs a global commitment** to continue supporting the war-torn country.

#### **That goes nuclear.**

Connor **Finnegan** is a state department reporter at ABC news with a bachelors from Georgetown, December 31st 20**20** “Hot spots to watch: What crises could explode in 2021” https://abcnews.go.com/International/hot-spots-watch-crises-explode-2021/story?id=74607383 // accessed 1/1/25 AARON

The world was on lockdown for most of 2020. But **from the Caucasus to** the Horn of **Africa** to the Himalayas, **several** **conflicts**, some frozen for decades, **erupted in violence.**¶ **With the coronavirus** **pandemic and** the ensuing **economic** **crisis**, **tensions** that have simmered **are threatening to flare up further** in 2021, especially as humanitarian need skyrockets, governments and aid groups face budget shortfalls, and climate change increasingly forces folks to flee or fight over resources.¶ Here are the top conflicts or issues that could burst **into all-out crises** in 2021.¶ Nuclear arms race: From rogue states to regional tensions¶ At the start of 2020, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists made a dramatic announcement -- its famed Doomsday Clock was the closest to midnight it's ever been, with the threats of **nuclear** **war** and climate change growing ever more acute.¶ "National **leaders** have **ended** or undermined several **major arms control treaties and negotiations** during the last year, **creating an environment conducive to a renewed nuclear arms race, to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to lowered barriers to nuclear war**," the group said in January.¶ Twelve months later, the last nuclear arms control pact between the U.S. and Russia is weeks from expiry, with no plans to extend it in sight. China continues to develop its nuclear arsenal, possibly even doubling it in the next decade, according to the Pentagon. It's also clashed high in the Himalayas with its nuclear-armed neighbor India, which in turn spilled blood with nuclear-armed rival Pakistan over the disputed territory Kashmir.¶ As the global infrastructure to constrain nuclear weapons wanes, **any one of these could turn into a flashpoint** next year, and that's without even mentioning the rogue nuclear power states North Korea and Iran -- both of which are likely to test the incoming Biden administration.¶ After four years of President Donald Trump's policies, North Korea has more nuclear weapons and enhanced ballistic missile capability, which it may show off with a test launch early in President-elect Joe Biden's term to try to garner some attention and leverage, according to analysts. While the likelihood of a "fire and fury" response will diminish after Trump's departure, the risk of a skirmish spiraling into all-out war remains real, according to analysts.¶ Iran doesn't have nuclear weapons and says it won't pursue them, but it once again has a stockpile of enriched uranium and a host of spinning centrifuges that decrease its so-called "breakout time" to potentially develop the bomb, according to nuclear experts. Analysts expect its forces, under disguise or through proxies, could resume attacks in the Persian Gulf region to build leverage ahead of possible negotiations with Biden's team, risking conflict with U.S., Israeli, or Arab forces.¶ **Terrorism threat expands, seizing instability across Africa**¶ On the campaign trail, Trump and his senior advisers repeatedly celebrated the defeat of ISIS's so-called caliphate in Iraq and Syria. But since then, the terror threat has dispersed, with fighters and weapons flowing out of shrinking ISIS territory to new pockets around the world.¶ Across Africa in particular, the world's youngest and fastest-growing continent, **ISIS affiliates are now gaining strength**, especially in Nigeria, Mozambique and the Congo -- although a few terrorism experts caution some claim to be more powerful than they are in reality.¶ In the Democratic Republic of Congo, sub-Saharan Africa's largest country, the Allied Democratic Forces, a decades-old militant group, has traded claims of responsibility for deadly attacks with a local ISIS affiliate. The fighting compounds the deep hunger crisis there, with more than 19 million people in need, according to the International Rescue Committee, which reported that DRC now has "more people facing a severe hunger crisis... than has ever been recorded in any country."¶ In Mozambique, Islamist militants linked to ISIS have conducted brutal attacks in the northernmost province Cabo Delgado, including beheading more than 50 civilians in November and temporarily seizing control of a port in August. The deteriorating security situation has displaced more than half a million people, according to the U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR), with continued violence likely to bring more acute humanitarian need next year.¶ The situation is perhaps worst, however, in **the Sahel,** the semi-arid region that spans northern Africa just south of the Sahara Desert and that has **seen a sharp rise in extremist groups and fighting**. In Mali and Niger, the security situation is at best shaky, with a military junta trying to stabilize Mali amid inter-communal and jihadist violence and tense elections this week in Niger leaving the path ahead uncertain, but hopeful.¶ But **Burkina** **Faso**, the landlocked country twice the size of New York, has become the world's fastest growing crisis. **Over 1 million people have been internally displaced** in just two years, according to UNHCR, a**nd there is no end in sight of fighting between the** government, militia groups **and terrorist organizations**, boosting the risk of famine for its 20 million people.¶ Nigeria, the region's powerhouse and Africa's most populous country, is facing all the same trends, **with** even **deeper implications for global security. Its northeastern corner has been a hotspot for over a decade, with jihadist group Boko Haram and criminal violence terrorizing and displacing millions of civilians**. But Nigerian armed forces' response has been cast as failing, and the government also faced sharp criticism for its heavy crackdown on anti-police brutality protests -- signs that **the state itself is increasingly unstable, which could create more chaos in 2021**.¶ Peace efforts fail, crises worsen in Afghanistan, Yemen¶ Afghanistan and Yemen have been torn apart by conflict for years now, but 2021 could bring even deeper suffering for civilians in both countries.¶ In recent months, while Afghan government and Taliban delegations sit in luxury hotels in Doha, Qatar, for peace negotiations, there has been a spike in car bombings, rocket fire, targeted attacks on police and security forces, botched Afghan Air Force bombings, and assassinations of government officials, activists and journalists. Compounded by coronavirus, that has kept Afghanistan's already victimized civilian population in continued danger, even after decades of humanitarian need.¶ The peace negotiations were supposed to aim for a nationwide ceasefire as soon as possible, according to the U.S.-Taliban deal signed in February, but the militant group has resisted so far, using violence as leverage in talks. But if the violence is sustained into 2021, it could imperil negotiations and ignite into all-out conflict, just as U.S. troops draw down out of the country and the ISIS franchise claims more deadly attacks more frequently, according to Afghan officials and U.S. analysts.¶ Yemen has similarly faced years of stop-and-start peace efforts, but with coronavirus raging through the country with no health care system to track it, let alone treat it, the world's worst humanitarian crisis is expected to descend even deeper in 2021.¶ After five years of endless fighting, humanitarian funding is drying up, leaving approximately 80% of the population in need, according to aid groups. The U.N.-mediated effort has stalled, with the Saudi and Emirati-led coalition fighting in its own ranks as much as with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, and neither side has shown real interest in protecting civilians, let alone peace talks.¶ One other near decade-old conflict to mention is Syria, where murderous strongman Bashar al Assad, backed by Russia and Iran, could test the incoming Biden administration by trying to finally seize control of the last pocket of rebels and jihadists in Idlib province, causing a bloodbath and pushing masses of packed Syrians fleeing into Turkey and beyond to Europe.¶ East Africa erupting as violence spills over borders¶ In the final few months of 2020, **the** greater **Horn of Africa experienced a flash of violence, often spilling over borders and threatening to suck in the whole region** in the coming months.¶ At the heart of it is Ethiopia, whose government went to war with well-armed political forces in its Tigray region, a conflict that continues to see sporadic fighting and claims of mass killings and that could worsen ahead of 2021 elections. It may also suck in neighboring Eritrea, long at war with Tigrayan leaders and now partnering with federal forces against them, leading to cross-border rocket fire and aerial bombardment.¶ Further endangering the region is the fact that the fighting sent tens of thousands of refugees scrambling into Sudan, itself on a rocky transitional road to democracy after decades of oppressive rule. The two neighbors are already locked in a dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and occasional clashes along the border could enflame into another frontline.¶ Elsewhere in East Africa, Kenya and Somalia have cut diplomatic ties over Kenya's support for breakaway region Somaliland, heightening regional tension further. The move also means Kenya will likely pull its peacekeeping troops in Somalia, just as U.S. forces withdraw, leaving Somalia more vulnerable to al-Shabab, a powerful al-Qaida affiliate that will continue to plot attacks and increasingly conduct them abroad.¶ In the midst of it all, the fragile semi-peace in South Sudan, the world's youngest country still emerging from civil war, faces "catastrophic levels of hunger," according to the U.N.¶ "**If left unchecked** much longer, **a strategic region could devolve into war -- with itself and others -- imperiling U.S. interests from the Red Sea to Europe**," warned Cameron Hudson, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Africa Center.

#### **Extinction.**

**Starr 14** (Steven Starr: Director, Clinical Laboratory Science Program at the U of Missouri. Senior scientist for Physicians for Social Responsibility. 5/30/14, “The Lethality of Nuclear Weapons: Nuclear War has No Winner”, Centre for Research on Globalization, http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-lethality-of-nuclear-weapons-nuclear-war-has-no-winner/5385611 // DOA: 9/6/2024

**They concluded that the consequences of even a “small”** **nuclear war would include catastrophic disruptions of global climate**[i] and massive destruction of Earth’s protective ozone layer[ii]. These and more recent studies predict that global agriculture would be so negatively affected by such a war, a global famine would result, which would cause up to 2 billion people to starve to death. [iii] These peer-reviewed studies – which were analyzed by the best scientists in the world and found to be without error – also predict that a war fought with less than half of US or Russian strategic nuclear weapons would destroy the human race.[iv] In other words, a US-Russian nuclear war would create such extreme long-term damage to the global environment that it **would leave the Earth uninhabitable for humans and most animal forms of life**. A recent article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, “Self-assured destruction: The climate impacts of nuclear war”,[v] begins by stating: “A nuclear war between Russia and the United States, even after the arsenal reductions planned under New START, **could produce a nuclear winter**. Hence, an attack by either side could be suicidal, resulting in self-assured destruction.” In 2009, I wrote an article[vi] for the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament that summarizes the findings of these studies. It explains that nuclear firestorms would **produce millions of tons of smoke, which would rise above cloud level and form a global stratospheric smoke layer that would rapidly encircle the Earth**. The smoke layer would remain for at least a decade, and it would act to destroy the protective ozone layer (vastly increasing the UV-B reaching Earth[vii]) as well as block warming sunlight, thus creating Ice Age weather conditions that would last 10 years or longer. Following a US-Russian nuclear war, temperatures in the central US and Eurasia would fall below freezing every day for one to three years; the intense cold would completely eliminate growing seasons for a decade or longer. **No crops could be grown, leading to a famine that would kill most humans and large animal populations.** Electromagnetic pulse from high-altitude nuclear detonations would destroy the integrated circuits in all modern electronic devices[viii], including those in commercial nuclear power plants. Every nuclear reactor would almost instantly meltdown; every nuclear spent fuel pool (which contain many times more radioactivity than found in the reactors) would boil-off, releasing vast amounts of long-lived radioactivity.