



UNSC

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The Climate of Somalia

The Federal Republic of Somalia, bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest, is located in Eastern Africa, specifically in the Horn of Africa. Somalia is in the process of building a federated parliamentary republic, the current President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mahamud, has been in power since 10 September 2012. Somalia continues to rebuild after its civil war in 1989 and famine in 2011 which left many internally displaced persons.

The majority of Somalia's economy comes from agriculture and the 50 percent of its exports comes from agricultures. Somalia's main export partners are the United Arab Emirates (51 percent), Yemen (19 percent), and Oman (13 percent). Its main exports include livestock, bananas, hides, fish, charcoal, and scrap metal.

Piracy and current U.N. Actions

"Piracy is a multi-million dollar transnational threat with Somali youth ready to commit acts of piracy as far South as Mozambique and Madagascar according to UNODC chief at press conference in Garowe, Puntland"

There have been many incidents of pirates ravaging merchant ships or attacking civilian ships off the coast of the Horn of Africa. One study indicates that pirates have made over \$400 million since 2005 and have been using some of that money to invest in businesses in Somalia. Recently, attacks on merchant ships have seen a drop in frequency as new

measures have been enacted by governments in the area. Despite this, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) has received information from the U.N. Monitoring Group on Somalia claiming that Pirates leaders were receiving shelter by the Somali President, Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed. Without the support of nearby countries, limiting piracy is nearly impossible.

President Ahmed is putting international security at risk by issuing "diplomatic passport" to these pirates leaders being sheltered. However, Ahmed has spoken to the Security Council claiming that these allegations against him are unfounded and ridiculous. The Somali President insists that the allegations were one-sided and that the President's goal was aiming to dismantle the pirate network of the leader, Mohamed Abdi Hassan.

"In November of this year, UNSC is likely to consider adoption of two resolutions on Somalia: one reauthorizing international anti-piracy measures, which are due to expire on 21 November, and another revising the mandate of the A.U. Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), reauthorized on 6 March until 28 February 2014." The African Union Mission in Somalia currently aims to stabilize Somalia in its reconstruction and help foster political reconciliation.

On May 2, 2013, the U.N. unanimously adopted Resolution 2102 that established the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and on 12 November 2013, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2124, which increases the number of troops in Somalia.

Issues

- Reducing transnational disputes; Militant groups, clan disputes
- Improving overall security in Somalia / Reducing Piracy in Somalia
- Creating measures for future issues involving dangerous operations (ex. piracy)
- Researching the impact of implications of the Somali president's relationship with pirates

Members of the United Nations Security Council

Africa (Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia)

Most of these pirate attacks happen on the eastern coast of Africa. Africa's economy is heavily impacted by these attacks since the economics of each country are intertwined. Most of the export partners of each African country are other African countries.

China

China and Somalia have a signed agreement for a five-year recovery plan to rebuild Somalia.

India

"The Indian Navy has been involved in anti-piracy patrolling in the Gulf of Aden since 2008."

South Korea

Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) is the chair of the 751/1907 Somalia-Eritrea Sanctions Committee. Additionally, South Korea has diplomatic ties with Somalia,

having a South Korean Ambassador to Somalia.

Russian Federation

"Russia has circulated a draft resolution that would commit the U.N. Security Council to 'urgently' begin talks on creation of three courts for piracy cases."

Australia

"Australia has a frigate as part of a multinational naval armada protecting shipping from Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa."

Europe (France, United Kingdom)

The British Embassy reopened in Somalia this year, making it the first Western nation to resume a permanent diplomatic presence in Somalia in 22 years. France supports the Somali government in its reconstruction efforts in order to enhance its capacity to offer basic services to its population.

South America (Argentina, Guatemala)

South American countries on the coast are at risk for piracy.

United States

Somalian Pirates recently received life in prison after shooting four Americans in 2011.

Questions to Consider:

- What other measures are necessary to limit the amount of piracy?
- Regarding Somalia, should the UN focus its efforts on Somalia's

reconstruction or on efforts to limit crime (piracy)?

- What sort of action should the UNSC when piracy occurs?
- Should there be legal action taken to countries harboring pirates?
- Are President Ahmed's actions dismantling networks? Can the Security Council place sanctions on a rumor?

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The Effect of Rwanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo

As the March 23 Movement retreats into the depths of Uganda to avoid any further defeat, the world is only watching on. Rebel forces had been stopped in the Democratic Republic of Congo before any serious harm had been done to the government. Allegations are flying around the scene like never before. Uganda is holding the now defunct rebel movement within their border to keep them from any further attacks. Rwanda has been silent after accusations of providing military leadership to the failing revolutionary forces. The U.N., in support of the current government in Congo and stabilizing Eastern Africa as soon as possible, used its soldiers to help end the uprising.

The timing of all of these events could not be any more controversial. With Rwanda slated to join the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) in January of 2014, many are doubting the ability to trust the country on a two year term on the council. Some view this as a monumental step in the country's development. Just 20 years after genocide leaving nearly a million innocent people dead, Rwanda is going to become tasked with ensuring peace and security around the globe. Despite all of this, many doubt whether or not they can promote peace next door, never mind across the continent.

Ethnic Divide

The conflict has ties that date back as far as the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. At that time, Rwanda was run by a Hutu government and targeted the Tutsis, leaving nearly a million innocent people dead in what is now known

as the Rwandan Genocide. Currently, Rwanda is run by a Tutsi President, President Paul Kagame, while the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo is run by Joseph Kabila, a man who generally aligns with Hutu endeavors. The Tutsis in both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo still feel the ethnic divide between Hutus and Tutsis.

The Rebellion

The March 23 Movement, commonly known as the M23 had been ravaging the Congolese countryside for nearly nineteen months citing mistreatment from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) government as motivation. On March 23, 2009, a peace agreement was signed between the DRC and a group known as the National Congress for the Defense of the People, or the CNDP. This agreement allowed the CNDP to integrate as a political party in the DRC system, including the integration of CNDP forces into the standing army of the DRC. However, these troops, mostly comprised of Congolese Tutsis, felt they were given poor conditions and a general lack of implementation of the terms of the March 23 Peace Treaty. Calling upon these problems, the Tutsi led coalition began a rebellion against the Hutu led Democratic Republic of Congo.

For much of the rebellion, the M23 forces surprised many with military strength and expertise. They were able to take key cities in the DRC while building their manpower through many DRC desertions. After much

internal struggle, the DRC army went on the offensive against the rebel forces. In October of 2013, nearly a year after the M23 had taken Goma, the movement had effectively been destroyed. The rebel forces had been pushed by the DRC almost to the border of Rwanda as the Congolese Army recaptured many cities the M23 had controlled for over a year. After U.N.-backed Congolese soldiers had driven the M23 into Ugandan land in retreat, the rebellion issued a ceasefire, claiming that the rebellion had been destroyed and fighting over. The U.N.-Congo offensive had driven the rebel forces to a surrender while being hidden away in the depths of Uganda.

The Effect of Rwanda

Military Involvement

Reports of Rwandan involvement in the rebellion are beginning to surface. As more and more members of the M23 Rebellion begin to surrender, the number of Rwandan citizens and officials included in the rebellion continues to rise. In addition to manpower, it is rumored that Rwanda had been providing military leadership for parts of the rebellion, as well as materials for the battles. Rwanda has motivation for this, as many cite the mineral rich areas of Congo as reason for Rwanda to hope to gain control of the land.

In addition, there is speculation that Rwanda tried manufacturing a reason to enter war against the DRC. In November of 2012, the Rwandan government went on record, claiming that should the DRC continue to shell the Rwandan countryside that there would be brutal retaliation against the Congolese army. The DRC went on to counter this claim, explaining that Rwanda was attacking its own country, disguising it as

DRC attacks, in order to provide itself a ground for entering the conflict to ensure its own goals are achieved.

Early Reactions

Countries have already started taking actions against Rwanda despite the reports being only allegations. The U.S. cut military aid to Rwanda, citing the war crimes as reason. The U.S. officials claim Rwanda responsible for not only aiding the M23, but employing children as soldiers in the struggle. In addition, the U.K. refused to send Rwanda a multimillion dollar aid package based on the allegations that Rwanda had been supporting the M23 rebels financially and through military power.

Bloc Positions

Resistance

Countries have already set a precedence of resistance against welcoming Rwanda and their government onto the Security Council. The U.S. and U.K. have both cut aid to the country of Rwanda as a result of allegations. Expect the other European countries to continue to side with these decisions. These include France, Germany, Australia, Luxembourg. Also expect Russia and Azerbaijan, both Eastern Europe, to side with the mineral rich DRC.

Support

By virtue of politics, countries will come out in support of Rwanda. Naturally, Rwanda will be joined in support by Togo, Kenya and Morocco as they look to stabilize the African countryside. In defiance of the Western

Culture, expect Pakistan, China and South Korea to support the role of Rwanda.

Raised Questions

Skepticism and the Media

Much of this argument is built upon allegations by various U.N. experts and media outlets. How much investment should world leaders be putting into the words of the media? Skepticism is something every leader must deal with, but where do you draw the line between rumor and evidence?

Committee Goals

The committee must meet together on the future of the Security Council. Rwanda is slated to join the Security Council in January of 2014. Many questions need to be answered in determining how to handle this situation.

In one situation, the allegations against Rwanda could hold true and the country was truly supporting the revolution in hopes of gaining mineral rich areas of Congo. How would the Security Council handle a nation like this? Would Rwanda deserve to remain on the Council? Would there be repercussions against the country and its leaders? How would you ensure peace against any potential backlash against the country from DRC supporters?

On the other hand, what if the allegations end up false? Does the DRC deserve any repercussions for the military action they took against Rwanda during the rebellion?

In addition, Uganda has mentioned that the M23 Rebellion may not be complete. What then, should the Security Council be doing to ensure that peace and stability remain in

Africa? Does the U.N. serve a role, should the rebellion restart?

It will be the job of this committee to have provisional plans ready for action, should any of any of these situations pan out. The Security Council is tasked with ensuring the peacekeeping around the globe, one crisis at a time. This committee must ensure that there is a plan to keep peace in Africa throughout the development of this crisis.

Further Reading

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