



Forum: UNSC
Issue: Conflict in Somalia
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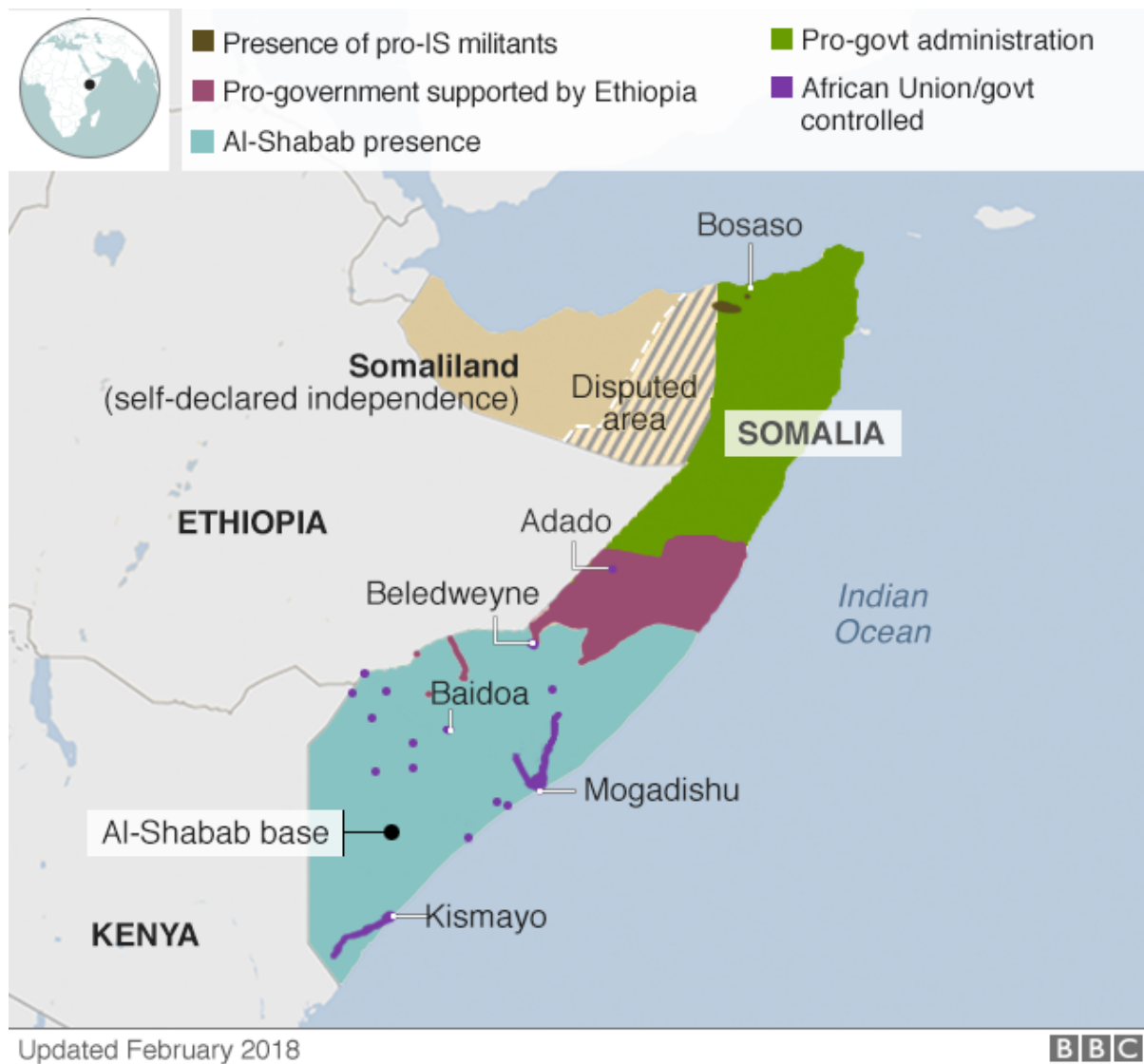
Overview

Somalia, lies on the easternmost part of the Africa, is a country that suffers from instability and chaos for several decades. One of the major issue is that Somalia has been lacking an official domestic government after 1991 for a long while. In the meantime, terrorism is ongoing in many parts of Somalia. Furthermore, a famine and drought plagued Somalia multiple times, including the ongoing one since 2017, which is described as the worst in Somali history.

The main aim of solving the conflict of Somalia is to anti-tribal disputes, warlords and the Humanitarian crisis in Somalia. The civil war in Somalia is one of the foremost issues in this issue. It refers to the armed conflict erupted in the Federal Republic of Somalia in Africa, which began in 1991 and continues to this day. The area of Somalia stayed under the control of Italy and Britain until 1960. The two parts united and become an independent country. In 1969 the president of Somalia was murdered by one of his bodyguards. A few days after his funeral the Somali Army took over the country. The Army controlled the country for the next 22 years. In 1991, the president of the time was overthrown by an anti-government organization. After that, the state is in anarchy. Political parties and organization occupied different parts of Somalia. The northern part of Somalia said it was independent and called itself Somaliland. It controls its borders and is more peaceful than the south. It has a democratic government. Another northern region declared its independence in 1998. This area is called Puntland. It is also a democracy. It is important to note that no countries view these areas as states. The international community sees them as independent regions until



Somalia becomes safe enough to become united again. Al-Qaeda's Islamic rebel group, Al-Shabaab, controls most of the southern and central regions, while the United Nations-backed government operates only the capital, Mogadishu, and a few small areas. To compete for water and land, armed clashes often occur among tribes, causing casualties. Through the efforts of the international community, Somalia established the transitional government in 2004, but it did not have the trust of the internal forces of the country and the support of big businessmen. Since the transitional government entered Mogadishu with the help of the Ethiopian army, it has been frequently attacked by remnants of clan armed and sectarian armed forces. Kidnapping, murder and other threats to foreigners occur unpredictably in many regions. Since 1991, an estimated 350,000 to 1,000,000 Somalis had died because of the conflict.



As if all those problems were not enough, one of the most serious issues Somalia has to face is al-Shabab, which is one of the deadliest terrorist organizations worldwide. Al-Shabab's aim is to establish an Islamic government ruled by the Sharia Law, and they consider to attack anyone who does not fit the standards they have set, especially individuals advocating a western secular ideology. Al-Shabab is not only active in Somalia, but they also have some active departments in Kenya and Ethiopia, along with their borders with Somalia.

The casualties caused by al-Shabab has not been stopped, judging by the fact that their "Double suicide bombing" in Baidoa, which kills at least 16 people and 50 other wonders, in 13th Oct 2018. Although a coalition of the African Union and US forces, as well as Somali



government troops, are at play fending off al-Shabab, their efforts have not yet been met with success. A major problem with the situation in Somalia is the fact that due to the government's instability and the multiple areas controlled by al-Shabab is the fact that Somalia could easily become a terrorist haven.

In addition, since the instability of Somalia, from the 1990s, poverty and desperation have troubled Somalia. This caused an incredible amount of piracy. International ships have been constantly attacked, but this has decreased thanks to security measures on the trade ships. Besides the political issue, this has long been a major Somalia problem.

Key Terms

Al-Shabab

Literal translation is “the youth” in Arabic. Islamist militant group that is openly aligned with Al- Qaeda and in 2012 announced its merger with the global Islamist terrorist group. Al-Shabab, other smaller warlords and the transitional government fought over territory until 2012 when the government regained control over all of it. Al-Shabab remains the biggest threat and enemy to the Somalian state. It is banned as a terrorist group by the United States of America and the United Kingdom, and is estimated to have about 8,000 fighters.

Horn of Africa



The easternmost projection of the African continent, including Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and sometimes Sudan and Kenya.

Piracy

The practice of attacking a ship at sea to take control of said ship and steal the contents of it from its rightful owner. This has been a major problem in Somalia due to the political instability.

Terrorism

the systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective. Thus, it is clear that terrorist groups can use multiple methods and techniques to cause terror, which often leads to injuries, in order to establish a specific political regime.

Transitional Period

The time period from 2004 to 2012 in Somalia, when a transitional government was in power until a new government was established in in 2012.



Important Events/Timelines

Date	Event
1991	The president of Somalia Mohammed Siad Barre has been overthrown
1992	US Marines land near Mogadishu ahead of a UN peacekeeping force sent to restore order and safeguard relief supplies.
1995	UN peacekeepers leave, having failed to achieve their mission.
1998	Puntland region declares autonomy.
2002	Clan leaders and senior figures meeting in Djibouti elect Abdulkassim Salat Hassan president of Somalia.
2004	In 14th attempt since 1991 to restore central government, a new transitional parliament inaugurated at ceremony in Kenya. In October the body elects Abdullahi Yusuf as president.
2006	Scores of people are killed and hundreds are injured during fierce fighting between rival militias in Mogadishu. Worst violence in almost decade.
2006	Militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts take Mogadishu and other parts of south after defeating clan warlords.
2006	Ethiopian troops enter Somalia.



2006	Ethiopian and transitional government put Islamists to flight, capturing Mogadishu.
2007	African Union troops land in Mogadishu amid pitched battles between Islamist insurgents and government forces backed by Ethiopian troops, after UN Security Council authorised six-month peacekeeping mission.
2009	Ethiopia completes withdrawal of troops, announced the previous year, and Al-Shabab capture Baidoa, formerly a key government stronghold.
2009	Al-Shabab recaptures the southern port of Kismayo after defeating the rival Hizbul-Islam militia.
2011	Pirate attacks on ships worldwide hit seven-year high in 2010, with Somali pirates accounting for 49 of 52 ships seized.
2011	UN formally declares famine in three regions of Somalia. Al-Shabab partially lifts ban on foreign aid agencies in south, and UN airlifts its first aid consignment in five years to Mogadishu.
2011	Kenyan troops enter Somalia to attack rebels they accuse of being behind several kidnappings of foreigners on Kenyan soil.
2012	Al-Shabab loses key towns of Baidoa and Afgoye to Kenyan, African Union and Somali government forces.



2012	Somalia's first formal parliament in more than 20 years is sworn in at Mogadishu airport, ending eight-year transitional period. Pro-government forces capture the port of Merca south of Mogadishu from Al-Shabab.
2013	International donors promise 2.4 billion dollars in reconstruction aid in three-year "New Deal".
2013	African Union and government forces recapture Kismayo, the last major city held by Al-Shabab and the country's second-largest port, and the town of Wanla Weyn northwest of Mogadishu.
2013	Al-Shabab seize shopping centre and kill 60 people in Kenyan capital Nairobi, saying it is retaliation for Kenya's military involvement in Somalia.
2015	Al-Shabab claim responsibility for killing 148 people, mainly Christian students, at Garissa University College in northern Kenya. Kenya carries out air raids on Al-Shabab bases in Somalia in retaliation.
2016	African Union leaders agree on need for more funding and support for their military presence in Somalia after weeks of increased Al-Shabab attacks on public spaces and pro-government troops. Government and African Union troops recapture southern port of Merca that Al-Shabab briefly seized.



Major Nations/Organizations involved

United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

UNPOS was established by the Secretary-General on April 15th 1995. It was created to aid in the development of long lasting peace. Its mandate included stabilizing the regional economy and re- establishing national security forces, including a police and military, funded by national and international donors and other interest parties. Another main goal of this organization was to help create a working political system to bring order back in to the lives of Somali citizens. With the completion of their ultimatum of setting up a new Somalia Parliament by August 2012, UNPOS had successfully completed their mission in Somalia.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)

By the recommendation of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Security Council created UNSOM on June 3rd, 2013 when UNPOS handed them over a new mission. Their principal mandate is to support the Federal Government's reconciliation and peace process through strategic policy advice. The other main objective is to help the government spread respect for human rights and women's empowerment, which have presented major issues in the past. It is also supposed to help in investigating and reporting violations or abuses of human rights, especially abuses committed against children or women, or of international humanitarian law committed in Somalia and reporting these cases to the Security Council.

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON)

AMISON is a multidimensional Peace Support Operation that was developed in Mogadishu in April of 2007. At present, it consists of nearly 6,000 peacekeepers and roughly of a total



authorized strength 8,000. Their peacekeeping troops helped immensely in seizing back the power from Al-Shabab.

The countries that are contributing to the police forces in Somalia are Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

Important Documents/Passed Solutions

2007- the UNDP draft country program document for Somalia

(<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Somalia%20DPDCPSOM%20Rev1.pdf>)

2015- The resolution on assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights.

(https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/a_hrc_res_30_20.pdf)

2017- The conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on children and armed conflict in Somalia.

(https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_ac_51_2017_2.pdf)

2017- The report on Eritrea of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea

(https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_925.pdf)



2018- A statement in UNSC condemning in the strongest terms the 1 April attack perpetrated by Al-Shabaab in Lower Shabelle, in which a number of AMISOM soldiers were killed and injured. (<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13277.doc.htm>

2018- UNSC resolution renewing the mandate of AMISOM until 31 May 2019.

(https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2431.pdf)

Possible Solutions

First off, providing military support through international cooperation to fight against al-Shabab is crucial. The international community has the responsibility to help the states that their government are not about to protect their people.

In addition, Somalia needs to improve its economy. Having a poor economy, Somalia would not be about to employ competent military forces so as to create a genuine security force. Such an export to improve Somali economy could either aim at international support or the Somali resources themselves, including the people and its natural resources.

Last but not least, basic education is necessary for Somalis, especially the youth, so that they do not fall to the al-Shabab propaganda. This is a long-term way of addressing the issue totally. The former Somali president of the Transitional National Government stated himself that education is key to the resolution of the terrorism issue in Somalia.

It is true and obvious that military solution plays an important role in this issue.

Notwithstanding, addressing the issue from its root is also worth considering as it could eventually eradicate the problem.



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