

ISSUE: Measures to strengthen the transitional federal government of Somalia in order to guarantee economic and social security in the country and the region

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Somalia has been in a civil war since 1991 when the former British Somaliland declared unilateral independence. Recent problems have been caused by extremist groups attacking and disrupting peacekeeping efforts implied by the current Transitional Federal Government (TFG) founded in 2004.

Especially Islamist groups aim to overthrow the government since the end of the ICU in 2007.

Disarmament actions were implied but not taken seriously by the TFG and several neighbouring countries such as Eritrea and Egypt which leads to the escalation of the situation in Somalia due to the availability of weapons.



#### DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

##### **Transitional Federal Government (TFG)**

The TFG is the current governing body in Somalia, established in 2004. The TFG is no democratic nor liberal institution which consists mostly of warlords, supported by the UN, the African Union and the United States of America.

The head of government is the President of Somalia who is elected by the Transitional Federal Parliament, representing minor and major Somali clans.

##### **Islamic Courts Union (ICU)**

Union of Sharia Courts founded to moderate between clans and warlords. Extreme interpretation of the Sharia led to the violation of human rights.

In 2007 the ICU was split of and partly integrated into the TFG. The non-integrated parts formed radical groups trying to take down the TFG. They are the main cause for chaos and draw their supplies of weapons and ammunition especially from Eritrea and major Islamist terrorist organisations such as Al Qaida.

##### **Al-Shabaab and Hisbul Islam**

Radical Islamist groups, formerly part of the ICU, sabotaging the all governmental effort in stabilising the country and implementing a stable government.

#### TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

**1969** - Muhammad Siad Barre assumes power in coup and declares Somalia a socialist state in 1970.

**1991** - Mohamed Siad Barre is ousted. Power struggle between clan warlords kills or wounds thousands of civilians.

**1991** - Former British protectorate of Somaliland declares unilateral independence.

**1992** - US Marines land near Mogadishu ahead of a UN peacekeeping force sent to restore order and safeguard relief supplies. (UNISOM I)

**1993** October – First battle of Mogadishu

**1995** - UN peacekeepers leave, having failed to achieve their mission.

**2000** August - Abdulkassim Salat Hassan president of Somalia.

**2000** October – first government in the country since 1991.

**2001** August - UN appeals for food aid for half a million people in the drought-hit south.

**2004** August - In 14th attempt since 1991 to restore central government, TGF is found

**2004** December - Tsunami waves generated by an undersea earthquake off Indonesia hit the Somali coast and kills hundreds, thousands are displaced.

**2005** February - June - Somali government begins returning home from exile

**2006** March and May - Scores of people are killed and hundreds are injured during fierce fighting between rival militias in Mogadishu. It is the worst violence in almost a decade. [Second battle of Mogadishu]

**2006** June-July - Militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts take control of Mogadishu and other parts of the south after defeating clan warlords.

Ethiopian troops reported in Somalia.

**2006** July-August - Mogadishu's air and seaports are re-opened for the first time since 1995.

**2006** September - Transitional government and the Union of Islamic Courts begin peace talks in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

**2006** October - About 35,000 Somalis escaping drought, strict Islamist rule and the possibility of war have fled to Kenya refugee since the start of 2006, the UN reports.

**2006** December - UN Security Council resolution endorses African peacekeepers, specifies that neighbouring states should not deploy troops. Islamist leaders react by saying they will tackle foreign forces as invaders.

Ethiopian and transitional government engage the Islamists in battle and soon put them to flight.

**2007** January - Islamists abandon their last stronghold, the port town of Kismayo.

US carries out air strikes in southern Somalia which it says targetted al-Qaeda figures, supposedly killing civilians; first known direct US military intervention in Somalia since 1993.

Interim government imposes three-month state of emergency.

**2007** February - UN Security Council authorises a six-month African Union peacekeeping mission for Somalia.

**2007** March - African Union peacekeepers land at Mogadishu amid pitched battles between insurgents and government forces backed by Ethiopian troops. The Red Cross says it is the worst fighting in 15 years.

**2007** May - The World Food Programme says a resurgence of piracy is threatening food supplies.

**2007** July - National reconciliation conference opens in Mogadishu and comes under mortar attack. Islamist leaders stay away from the talks.

**2007** August - Human Rights Watch accuses Ethiopian, Somali and insurgent forces of war crimes, and the UN Security Council of indifference during the recent conflict.

**2007** October -

Heaviest fighting in Mogadishu reported since April. Ethiopians move reinforcements into the city; aid agencies warn a catastrophe is unfolding in Somalia.

**2007** November - Government shuts down several radio stations

Somalia's humanitarian crisis described the worst in Africa, it is suggested using international justice to curb the violence.

Number of Somali refugees hits one million, with nearly 200,000 fleeing the capital in the past two weeks, the UN reports.

**2008** January – AU-member Burundi sends 440 soldiers to Mogadishu.

**2008** April - EU calls for international efforts to tackle piracy off the Somali coast.

**2008** October - Nato agrees to despatch a naval force to patrol to waters off Somalia by the end of 2008, in an effort to control piracy.

**2009** January - Ethiopia completes the withdrawal of its troops.

**2009** May - Islamist insurgents launch onslaught on Mogadishu.

**2009** June - Somali officials appeal to neighbouring countries to send troops to Somalia, as government forces continue to battle Islamist insurgents.

**2009** September - Al-Shabaab, Islamic insurgency group, proclaims allegiance to Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

**2009** December - Al-Shabaab denies being behind suicide attack that killed 22 people in Mogadishu, including three ministers.

**2010** January - Al-Shabaab declares it is ready to send fighters to support Islamist rebels in Yemen.

**2010** February - Al-Shabaab formally declares alliance with al-Qaeda, begins to concentrate troops in southern Mogadishu for a major offensive to capture the capital.

From: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1072611.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1072611.stm) (shortened+completed)

## RELEVANT TREATIES, UN RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

### UNSC RES 794

#### **African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM)**

Recent “Peace Support Operation” aiming to improve security in Somalia. AMISOM supports the disarmament and monitors the security situation.

Basis for AMISOM is the SC/RES/1744 (2007) stating: “Decides to authorise member states of the African Union to establish for a period of six months a mission in Somalia, which shall be authorised to take all necessary measures as appropriate to carry out the following mandates [...]”

#### **United Task Force/Operation Restore Hope (UNITAF)**

UNITAF is a mission led by the United States of America, encouraged by SC/RES/749 (1992), which states: “Welcomes the offer of a member state [...] concerning the establishment of an operation to create such a secure environment”

It was successfully fulfilling its task to secure the delivery of humanitarian aid and was therefore put forward into UNOSOM II

#### **United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II)**

UNOSOM basically had the same goals as UNITAF had but was limited due to reduction of budget, troop withdrawal and military actions by Somali factions.

The involvement of further groups such as UNDP, UNPOS and IGAD is based on the following resolutions:

- Security Council Resolution 1872, 26th May 2009 (S/RES/1872(2009))
- Security Council Resolution 1863, 16th January 2009 (S/RES/1863(2009))
- Security Council Resolution 1744, 21st February 2007 (S/RES/1744(2007))
- Security Council Resolution 794, 2nd December 1992 (S/RES/794(1992))

## POSITIONS OF MAJOR COUNTRIES AND PARTIES INVOLVED

### **United States of America**

The US has contributed a significant amount of soldiers since 1992 in order to protect humanitarian aid projects. Though established as a “peacekeeping” mission, support among the people decreased because of civilians harmed in military actions against extremists. Therefore the US will be carefully reviewing their actions taken in order not to promote anti-US sentiments.

### **African Union (AU)**

The AU has made a great effort in stabilizing Somalia by founding AMISOM, which shows progress but is clearly not strong enough without further international support.

Major opponents are radical groups, especially Islamic insurgents left over from the ICU.

### **Ethiopia**

Contributing a major amount of peacekeeping troops in order to aid Somalia’s government with its recovery. Islamic insurgency groups declared the “jihad” against Ethiopia since they regard their soldiers as foreign invaders.

### **Eritrea and Egypt**

Both Eritrea and Egypt have an interest in destabilising Somalia as Eritrea hopes to gain control over Somali resources and Egypt would profit from negative effects on Ethiopia due to issues concerning the Nile water.

### **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

Founded in 1965 in order to implement democratic governance, reduce poverty, prevent crisis and recover after such, reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS as well as to promote sustainability.

### **United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)**

Founded by the UN Secretary General in 1995 after both UNOSOM I and II failed in order to support initiatives promoting peace and stability in Somalia.

### **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

Political Union of countries in the Horn of Africa region, founded in 1986. In 2005 IGAD put the mission IGASOM into practice in order to support a stabilisation of Somalia, but actions taken were not very effective.

Members: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda; formerly: Eritrea (resigned in 2007)

## USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.un-somalia.org/>

Official website for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

<http://www.un.org/sc/committees/751/resolutions.shtml>

Security Council resolutions related to the work of the committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/so.html>

The CIA World Fact Book for Somalia

Map:

[http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/regionscountries/countries/maps/map\\_somalia\\_large.jpg](http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/regionscountries/countries/maps/map_somalia_large.jpg)