

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Terrorism and extremism in the Horn of Africa

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Introduction

The security council is one of the official United Nations committees. The SC is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. During ARMUN 2018, we will be working to find solutions against the terrorism and extremism in the Horn of Africa. This year's theme for the conference is *resisting injustice*. The horn of Africa has long been known to be a troubled place, with a lot of news stations reporting on the ongoing terrorism and extremism in the area. Parts of the Horn of Africa, such as Somalia, also suffer from droughts and food insecurity; which have caused the tackling of the terrorism to be a problematic task. Combinations of political actions and terrorism cause the area to be persistent in the presence of injustice.

Definition of key terms

Extremism; the holding of extreme political or religious views

Terrorism; the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims

Horn of Africa; the easternmost extension of African land, defined as the region that is home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia

African Union; a continental union consisting of all 55 countries on the African continent with aims to promote peace, security, and stability on the continent.

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM); an active, regional peacekeeping mission operated by the African Union with the approval of the United Nations in Somalia

Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen; a jihadist fundamentalist group based in East Africa.

Operation Linda Nchi; the codename for a co-ordinated military operation between the Kenyan military and the Somali military that began on 16 October 2011, when troops from Kenya crossed the border into the conflict zones of southern Somalia in pursuit of Al-Shahaab militants who kidnaped several foreign tourists and aid workers.

General overview

Al-shabaab (meaning “youth” in Arabic) is a Somali Islamic terrorist group that strictly follows Sharia law. With their interpretation of Sharia law they endorse beheading, amputations and stoning one to death to any who violate Sharia law. Al-shabaab claims to have ties with other Islamic terrorist groups. Al-shabaab demands an Islamic state that will encompass the whole horn of Africa. Al-Shabab controls much of the southern Somalia region and small pockets in Kenya and Ethiopia along the Somali border. The group predominantly conducts attacks targeting the Somali government and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). They do this by using violent measures and terrorist attacks to intimidate civilians and governments. The rise of terrorism and extremism in the horn of Africa has resulted in death, instability of governments and insecurity in African communities. This instability makes countries unable to catch up to modern measures such as laws and infrastructure.

The UN has been taking measures such as:

Addressing the deficit in international counter-terrorism cooperation at the global, regional and national levels. The first ever UN Summit of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies has been set up;

Enhanced ratification of existing legal counter-terrorism instruments, conventions and protocols;

Tackling the root causes and underlying conditions, including the lack of economic opportunities, extreme poverty, marginalization, exclusion and discrimination; and

Placing a special focus on expanding opportunities for young people – especially since youth under the age of 25 form the largest demographic group in most developing countries and they are often the ones most at risk of being recruited and radicalized by terrorists.

Timeline of key events

June 2004, Islamic Courts Union Emerges

A coalition of eleven sharia courts form the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), naming Sharif Sheikh Ahmed its leader.

October 2004, Transitional Federal Government formed

Somalia's internationally backed Transitional Federal Government (TFG), comprising representatives of the country's largest clans, is formed in exile in Nairobi. Abdullahi Yusuf is elected president of the interim body.

June 2006, Mogadishu falls

Backed by al-Shabaab militants, the ICU wrests control of Mogadishu after clashing with a coalition of warlords.

December 6 2006, Ethiopia Invades

Ethiopia, a nation consisting mostly of Christians, invades and takes Mogadishu with little ICU opposition.

2007, a turning point for Al-shabaab

Galvanized by the invasion, al-Shabaab transforms into the most powerful Somali guerrilla group, well funded and thousands strong.

February 2007, regional peacekeepers arrive

The United Nations approves a regional peacekeeping force known as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to support the TFG in its battle against al-Shabab.

February 2008. U.S. designates Al-Shabab

The U.S. State Department officially recognizes al-Shabab as a foreign terrorist organization, blocking anyone in the United States from providing financial support to the group.

January 13 2009. Ethiopia pulls out

Ethiopian troops withdrew from Somalia after a series of setbacks and were replaced by AMISOM forces. The country did not re-deploy troops to Somalia until 2014, when it became a contributor to the regional force.

July 11 2010. A transnational terrorist threat

Al-Shabab, in its first foreign terrorist attack, carries out multiple suicide bombings in Kampala, Uganda, killing seventy-four.

October 16 2011. Kenya marches in

Kenya invades southern Somalia in Operation Linda Nchi, following kidnappings claimed by the militant group. The country's forces are integrated into AMISOM in February 2012.

February 2012. Tying the knot with Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri announces al-Shabab's affiliation with the jihadi network.

October 2012. The fall of Kismayo

Backed by local Somali forces, Kenyan troops sweep into Kismayo, ousting al-Shabab from its last major stronghold and cutting off a major source of the militant group's funding.

January 17 2013, A new Beginning

The United States recognizes the government of Somalia after a hiatus of more than twenty years. "There is still a long way to go and many challenges to confront, but we have seen a new foundation for that better future being laid," says Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

September 21-24 2013, terror in Nairobi

In a multiday raid on a Nairobi mall, al-Shabab militants kill sixty-seven people. It is the deadliest terrorist attack in Kenya in fifteen years.

December 2013, U.S. deploys ground troops

The U.S. military sends a small team of advisors to Mogadishu to assist AMISOM forces. It is the first U.S. deployment since eighteen soldiers were killed in the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu.

September 1 2014, Al-Shabaab leader killed

Ahmed Umar, also known as Abu Ubaidah, becomes al-Shabab's leader after Ahmed Abdi Godane, one of the group's founders, is killed in a U.S. air strike.

October 5 2014, Port city liberated

Somali and AMISOM troops retake the southern coastal city of Barawe nearly six years after al-Shabab gained control of the area.

April 2 2015, Kenya again under attack

Al-Shabab militants in central Kenya kill 148 people at Garissa University College. The fifteen-hour siege, in which gunmen hold more than seven hundred students hostage, exceeds the 2013 mall raid as the group's deadliest attack in the country.

November 21 2017, U.S. escalates strikes

More than one hundred militants affiliated with al-Shabab are killed in a single U.S. air strike northwest of Mogadishu, according to the Pentagon. The strike is one of more than two dozen in Somalia authorized by the Trump administration in its first year.

September 30 2017 AMISOM begins drawdown

The UN Security Council approves the withdrawal of a thousand AMISOM troops by the end of 2017, the first time it has cut peacekeeper numbers in Somalia, as part of a transition of security responsibilities to the Somali government. Another reduction of a thousand troops is set to take place in 2018.

Majorly involved parties

African Union

The African Union set up a mission that sent 22,000 troops to Somalia to combat Al-Shabaab. This drove Al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu

Al-Qaeda

Partner terrorist organisation of Al-Shabaab in the Jihadi network. Al-Shabaab has pledged obedience to Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda has become the “father” organisation for Al-Shabaab.

UN

Has attempted to defeat Al-Shabaab in legislative measures, but also allow non-legislative measures as well. The UN is actively trying to defeat the Somali based terrorist group.

US

The US has regularly been deploying troops in Somalia to allow tougher actions against Al-Shabaab.

UK

Has a handful of troops in Somalia.

Turkey

Has opened a vast military academy to help train the Somali army.

Kenya

Has had multiple attacks by Al-Shabaab and is a neighbouring country of Somalia with a thin line of AMISOM troops dividing Al-Shabaab territory and Kenya.

Somalia

Has been destabilised by Al-Shabaab. Somalia was not able to deal with this problem by itself before it was too late and therefore caused a lot of havoc in the country.

Uganda

Has a handful of troops in Somalia. Uganda is involved because of the fact that they are part of the horn of Africa, which Al-Shabaab wants to take over.

Ethiopia

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Previous attempts to resolve conflict

Three interventions were set up between the span of 1990 and 1995. The three UN interventions were set up to secure environment for humanitarian operations in the then lawless and famine-stricken Somalia.

UNOSOM I (United Nations Operation in Somalia I) was the first United Nations sponsored effort to help secure and provide humanitarian relief in Somalia. The UNOSOM I was also called into action to monitor the very first ceasefire brokered by the UN in the Somali Civil war in the 1990s.

UNOSOM I was in operation from April 1992 until it was assumed by UNITAF (the United Task Force) in December 1992. UNITAF was then dissolved in May 1993 and the UN mission in Somalia was then called UNOSOM II.

Though the UN put a lot of effort into the ceasefire, it was mainly ignored in Somalia and fighting still continued which put a lot of the relief operations at risk. The two main parties of the ceasefire didn't put their changes behind them and continued to have political unrest between the two.

By the end of 1992, the situation in Somalia grew worse. The troops which were supposed to be sent by the Security council were never dispatched and rations were splintered into very small fractions. The distribution of food did not work because the transport of food through enemy lines did not succeed.

The general restrictions opposing the UNOSOM were that troops were actively being shot at, aid ships were attacked and cargo aircrafts were shot at when carrying aid or subjects. At the same time, the population of Somalia was dying due to starvation and suffering from poverty due to droughts.

By the end of 1992, General Mohamed Farrah Aidid had grown his power to a level in which he was formally allowed to demand the withdrawal of the peace keepers, and by doing so defied the Security Council.

At this point the United States of America set up a multinational force under its own leadership to ensure the humanitarian operation. The security council approved and this force was officially called the Unified Task Force (UNITAF), which was authorized to use any means necessary to ensure protection for the

relief efforts. After the UNITAF was set up, UNISOM was disused. The UNITAF ran from December 1992 to May of 1995.

Though UNITAF is now the official task force, UNISOM still worked with its peacekeepers and would take over again once UNITAF had met its goals. UNITAF was comprised of forces from 24 countries, though the biggest bulk came from the USA.

It is estimated that due to the outside help of the UNITAF (nicknamed operation 'continued Hope' in the USA) saved the lives of around 100,000 people.

In 1993, the Secretary-General got 14 important Somali political and rebel factions to agree to de-weaponize and hand over the weapons to UNITAF and UNISOM

Though these results were beneficial, Somalia was still unstable and so the UN decided to change the UNITAF into UNISOM II. UNISOM II's mandate specified that they continued to work to find relief efforts but now also restore peace and rebuild Somalia's state and economy. UNISOM II worked from 1993 till 1995 to establish secure environments for humanitarian relief.

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With approval from the United Nations, the African Union had set up the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The AMISOMs mandate indicated that they are supporting transitional governmental structures, training Somali security forces, implementing national security plans and assisting in creating secure environments to deliver humanitarian aid. One of its main duties being the support of the Federal Government of Somalia's forces in the battle against Al-Shabaab.

AMISOM was initially set up by the African Union's Peace and Security Council in 2007 with a six-month mandate, which was then approved by the United Nations Security Council to make more subsequent six-month renewals of the AMISOMs mandate, which allows them to still be active today.

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Another mission to stop Al Shabaab was Operation Linda Nchi;

Operation Linda Nchi is the military operation coordinated by the Kenyan military and the Somali military. The co-operation was set up in 2011 when Kenyan troops crossed the conflict zone in Southern Somalia to pursue Al Shabaab militants who has allegedly kidnapped several foreign tourists and aid workers from Kenya.

In March of 2012, Operation Linda Nchi was dismantled and the Kenyan troops were sent to work under AMISOM. When under AMISOM, the Kenyan soldiers, assisted by Somali government forces, were able to capture Afmadow, a southern town important in the military campaign, from Al Shabaab.

Kenyan forces were officially integrated into AMISOM in early June.

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Individually, a lot of nations have set up their own programs to help the fight against Al Shabaab. The United States of America has donated a few hundred million dollars to AMISOM and has lent its own aid workers; alongside the United Kingdom who have lent air forces and troops of their own to conduct counter-terrorist operations against Islamist terrorists in Somalia and providing surveillance for harm and missions.

Possible solutions

Most solutions for tackling terrorism in the horn of Africa have been on the defense side, providing humanitarian aid and making sure that Al-Shabaab does not proceed further into the Horn of Africa. One of the main reasons that the aid is focused on humanitarian is because of the droughts, but no goal on the famine or the military advance have been set. Therefore creating a more specific goal and separating political matters from social ones will allow for less casualties.

On the political side, many countries follow the motto "We don't negotiate with terrorists" which has its own grounds. On the other hand, Al-Shabaab has grouped up with Al Qaeda, making it one of the biggest terrorists groups in the world and having no communications between the two would constitute to a majority of the population to remain dissatisfied when the UN does overcome these terrorists.

Attempting to solve the problem of famine and drought with increased media attention and cooperation with Non-governmental private organizations may allow the topic to be more acknowledged. With an increase of media attention and the involvement of non UN- organizations, new perspectives on solving the drought and a larger global pursuit to stop mass-starvation from occurring can happen.

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