

Topic: Measures to reach peace and stability in Somalia

Forum: Security Council

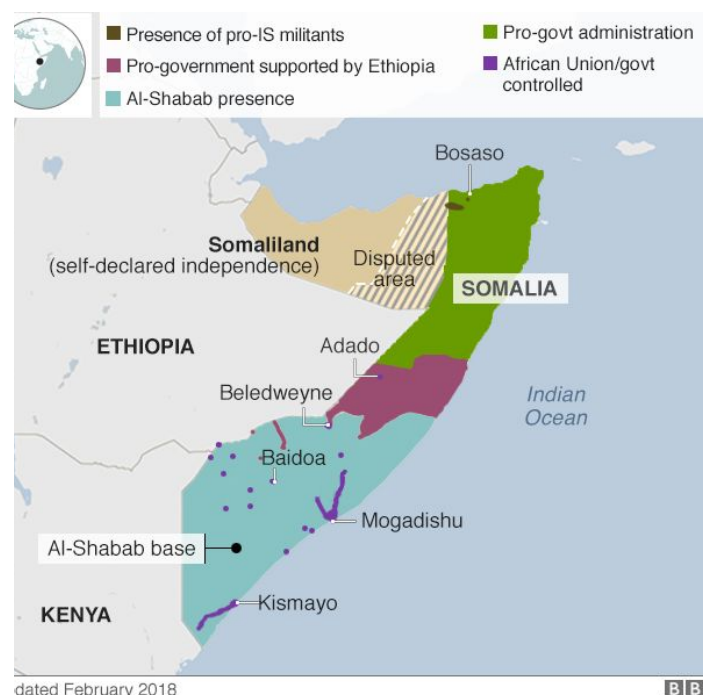
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Introduction

The Somali civil war is a bloody conflict which has been going on since the early 1990's after dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown and forced to flee the capital. The nation has been in constant conflict since, making it unable to deal with famine and outbreaks of disease; causing thousands of civilians to lose their lives. Somalia is also filled with islamist insurgents, going by the name of al-Shabab, mainly ruling the south and central parts of the country. Al-Shabab has links to terrorist group al-Qaeda and they impose strict islamic sharia laws. The government, which is backed by the United Nations, is barely surviving. It only has control of the capital, Mogadishu and a few other small areas. Because of all of the aspects mentioned above, the people of Somalia are suffering greatly.

The Somali civil war is, which you will find out throughout this report, a conflict which has many aspects that need to be taken into consideration when thinking about appropriate solutions. The conflict also includes many different stakeholders including the interim government, insurgent groups as well as civilians, who all have different needs and demands. Because the war has been going on for a significant amount of time, the country will most likely live with the effects of it for a very long time. During debates, it is therefore crucial for delegates to consider the multiple sides to the conflict and try to find solutions which includes all of the aspects of and stakeholders to the conflict.



Definition of key terms

Al-shabab - translating to “the Youth” in arabic, al-Shabab is a jihadist militant group operating in Somalia. They emerged from the Union of Islamic Courts and enforce a strict islamic sharia laws. It still has control over many rural areas in Somalia.

Militia - an army or group of soldiers lacking full military training or citizens of a nation which acts as a supplement to the regular army of a country.

Transitional Federal Government (TFG) - the transitional or interim government in Somalia, which currently controls the capital and a few other areas. They are officially backed by the United Nations and the African Union. The interim President Abdullahi Yusuf can be linked to the Ethiopian Prime minister.

AMISOM - the African Union Mission in Somalia is a regional peacekeeping mission which has been going on since 2007 in Somalia.

Interim government - An interim government is a government that is most commonly organized after a revolution or other sudden event where no government has been appointed through formal elections.

Islamic Courts Union - a collection of Sharia courts

Background information

Nine years of stability in Somalia ended abruptly after President Shermarke was overthrown and Mohammed Siad Barre seized power of the nation. He declared Somalia a socialist state and ruled for 22 years before being overthrown and forced to flee the capital of Mogadishu to seek safety, in 1991.

Mission restore hope was an American initiative to a more secure and efficient humanitarian aid work in Somalia. The project was approved by the United Nations Security Council in 1992. It was created as a response to the difficulties the United Nations workers had been

subjected to when trying to find secure routes to transport food and other aid material to and in Somalia. The United States involvement, however, ended in 1994 after two American helicopters were shot down by Somali rebels, leaving several American casualties. Because of the lack of safety in Somalia, the United Nations removed all of its workers from Somalia in 2001.

In 2004, the transitional federal government (TFG) is formed in Somalia. Only two years after the formation, however, the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) seized power of Mogadishu and a few other areas in the south of Somalia in 2006. The youth organization of the ICU called the al-Shabab also branch off during this time, and starts fighting to remove foreigners. The al-Shabab are now known to be affiliated with al-Qaeda. During their rule, a massive amount of civilians died of famine and disease outbreaks. A complete humanitarian crisis is experienced in 2011 in connection with this. Furthermore, al-Shabab retreats from Mogadishu in 2011. The TFG starts returning to Mogadishu after this.

In 2017, the President of Somalia requested the lifting of the arms embargoes, which have existed in Somalia for a very long time, with the motivation that arms are needed to be able to fight the terrorism and rebels still present in Somalia. Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, claimed that the current conditions in Somalia could lead to a success story.

The following timeline includes and summarizes some important events:

July 1960	Somalia gains independence after British and Italian forces leave
1969	Barre seizes power of Somalia after Shermarke is assassinated; he declares Somalia a socialist state
1991	Dictator Mohamed Siad Barre is overthrown and a fight for power between Somali warlords begins
1992	United Nations Security Council approves a mission called “Restore Hope”, lead by the United States
1993-1994	Somali rebel shoot down American helicopters, causing the United States to finish their mission in 1994
2001	The United Nations announce that they will remove its international

	workers because of jeopardization of their safety in Somalia
2004	The transitional federal government is finalized in Kenya
2006	The Islamic Courts Union (ICU) takes control over the capital Mogadishu
2011	al-Shabab retreats from Mogadishu
2017	President of Somalia calls for the lifting of the arms embargo so that jihadists can be defeated and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres states that he believes it can be a success story

Stakeholders

United States of America

In 1991, the American embassy was closed down in Somalia. The USA provided Somalia with aid, however, their supply ended after an attack on a US helicopter by rebels. They are now showing support towards AMISOM and any actions working towards removing al-Shabab from the country.

Ethiopia

Interim President Abdullahi Yusuf has close ties with Ethiopia, and made the capital of Addis Ababa his first place to visit after being elected. Furthermore, the Ethiopian Prime minister Meles Zenawi is set on not allowing the islamist group of al-Shabab to gain power just across the border to Ethiopia. They

Kenya

The transitional government was formed in Kenya, after many years of debating and Kenya has shown support in favor of the transitional federal government (TFG).

African Union

The African Union has also shown its support for the TFG, however, does not believe that there should be a presence of Ethiopian forces in Somalia, and has called for them to retrieve their forces. The United Nations Security Council has, however, not been able to settle an agreement regarding the removing of all foreign troops.

Relevant UN treaties resolutions and reports

Some relevant United Nations resolutions on the topic includes:

- Resolution S/RES/2111 - on the arms embargo placed on Somalia
- Resolution S/RES/2232 - on combating al-Shabab
- Resolution S/RES/2431 - on the situation in Somalia (released in July 2018) as well as an extension of the AMISOM missions

Previous attempts to solve the issue

There have been many attempts to solve this issue as it has been going on for such a long time, however, as should be obvious, none have been completely effective. For example the current transitional federal government is not very stable and does not control a very large fraction of the nation. Furthermore, there is still a large amount of jihadist groups present, meaning that citizens are still subjected to terror in their daily lives. Another example of a solution which was taken was the attempted ceasefire in 1992. The ceasefire, however, was ignored and fighting continued and only kept increasing afterwards.

A project that has shown some success, on the other hand, is the AMISOM mission. The peacekeeping mission has played a very important role in the development of, for example, the parliamentary elections in 2017.

Possible solutions

When writing operative and preambulatory clauses it is very important that all delegates see the many aspects of the conflict and try to construct clauses which aim to deal with all of them. To be able to write a good resolution on this topic, we therefore need constructive and specific clauses which take into account all of the sides to this conflict.

The following categories can be used for inspiration when writing clauses:

- Actions which deals with the situation of the currently fragile government and aim to further stabilise and aid them when ruling Somalia
- Measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the civilians in Somalia who are many times victims to the conflict
- Ways to make provision of humanitarian aid in Somalia safer and easier

- Reducing or removing the presence of islamist insurgent fighters which currently control large parts of the nation
- Discussions on the legitimacy of the presence of foreign military forces in Somalia

Remember that the categories are simply suggestions and that other, creative, solutions are always appreciated, as long as they stick to the topic. Please also note that effective operative clauses need to clearly present measures and actions to be taken.

Useful sources

Video explaining the background of the Somali civil war:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clsarDL0ROY>

An article which outlines many of the different stakeholders in the current conflict:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/5092586.stm>

Website of the African Union Mission in Somalia:

<http://amisom-au.org/amisom-background/>

United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Somalia:

<https://unsom.unmissions.org/security-council-resolutions>

Article explaining the al-Shabab presence in Somalia:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689>

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