
Forum: 1st committee of the General Assembly

Issue: Ensuring security in Somalia

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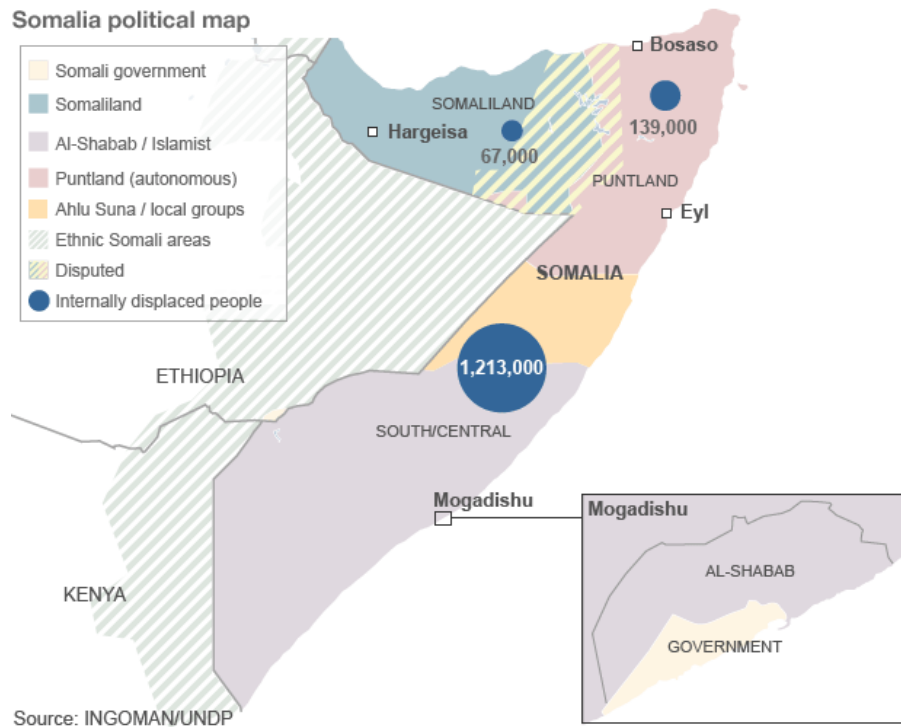
Introduction to the issue:

Somalia has been the home of many conflicts over the past couple of decades due to the lack of a formal government. These conflicts, among others, involve piracy, famines and natural disasters. The population of Somalia itself is suffering greatly, but also the surrounding nations and the rest of the world are victims of the lack of security and safety in Somalia. Due to the long-lasting conflict in Somalia, millions of its citizens have fled to nearby countries or other parts of the world.

Background information:

Conflict and tensions have been significantly present in Somalia since President Said Barre was overthrown in 1991. The clans, which had gotten rid of him, failed to agree on a new government. Furthermore, several clans began fighting each other over who should be elected as the new president.

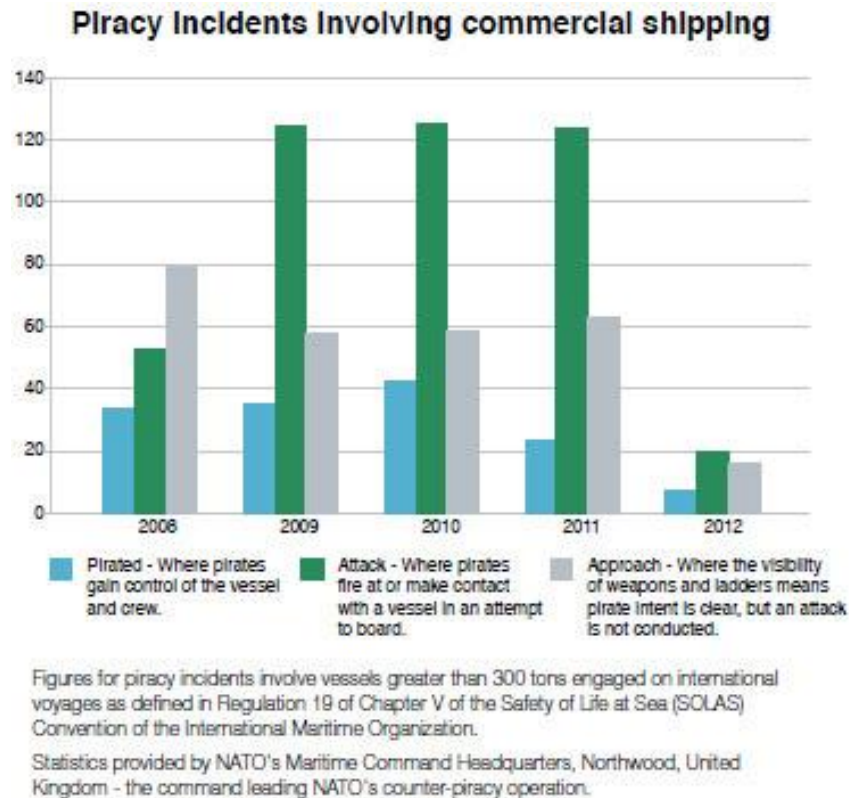
The most intense fighting since the president was overthrown, took place in November 1991 in the capital, Mogadishu. One group supported the interim president, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, whilst the other group supported the chairman of the United Somali Congress, General Mohamed Farrah Aidid. The dispute spread to the rest of Somalia. Some people decided to join either of the two groups above, while others did not. As of 2006 the political division of Somalia looked like this:



As seen on the map above, Al-Shabab has gained control of a large part of southern Somalia. The continuous fighting led to destruction and devastation for the nation as a whole, causing millions of people to flee for their lives. The emergency aid has had, and still has, difficulties reaching its destination, which only increased the huge group of people who suffered from malnutrition.

Another effect of the lack of a formal government is the lawlessness, which was present during the twenty years until Somalia once again got a government. This led to the feuds being able to continue, because no one had the authority to stop them. There will be a further elaboration on the United Nations' attempts to establish peace in the region, below.

As well as the feuds previously mentioned, piracy also became a significant part of Somalia. This made it extremely dangerous to ship goods through the areas surrounding the Somali coast. The piracy has decreased significantly over the last couple of years, though:



Actions taken by the United Nations:

Early actions taken by the UN:

Back in 1991, when president Siad Barre was overthrown, the United Nations was greatly involved in the provision of humanitarian aids. Although the disputes caused by the change of government several times forced the UN to withdraw their people, the UN continued to supply Somalia with aid to the broadest possible extent. Much of this humanitarian work was done in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other non-governmental organisations.

The Secretary-General of the UN at the time, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, expressed the need for intervention, in order to restore peace in Somalia, to the president of the Security Council (SC) in December 1991. The Secretary-General and the SC then completed several visits to Somalia in order to inspect the nation, so that further negotiations could begin.

Then, in 1992, the SC established UNOSOM I as a part of resolution 751 (read a more detailed description of this organisation in the section allocated for definitions). UNOSOM I has helped significantly with promoting human rights, and was also responsible for the security personnel, which monitored the ceasefire and Mogadishu during the heated moments.

More recent actions taken:

The more recent actions include the establishment of a new organ, UNSOM, which was created in 2012 as a part of the SC resolution 2102 (again, there is a more detailed account of the organ in the section below). Since UNSOM was established the same year as Somalia got its first formal

government in more than two decades, UNSOM's function is not to monitor, like UNOSOM I, but rather to advise and guide the new government.

The SC resolution 2124 from 2013 deals with several issues concerning Somalia. It is mostly from Operative Clause (OC) fourteen and down, there are OC's relevant to the security of Somalia. The aim of this resolution is to promote peace, and cooperate with other organisations, such as but not limited to the AMISOM, in order to achieve this peace. The resolution also wished to create a path towards increasing the security of the UN personnel present in Somalia as this has previously been violated. Finally, it expresses a hope for increased cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and other relevant organisations in order to ensure a better political environment in Somalia and thereby a more stable and peaceful nation.

One of the major consequences of the Somali lawlessness is the piracy, which has taken place just off the coast of Somalia. There are several resolutions working toward decreasing the piracy, but one of the most recent ones is the SC resolution 2125 from 2013. This resolution also focuses on the fact that there are children involved in this piracy, as well as recognising that the instability in Somalia throughout the past two decades has contributed majorly to the Somali tolerance of piracy – there simply has not been anyone with neither the authority, nor the capability to stop this. However, by now, the piracy has significantly decreased as shown on the chart in the beginning of this Research Report.

Definitions of organisations and key terms:

United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I):

UNOSOM I's job was initially to monitor the ceasefire signed in 1992. UNOSOM I also included security personnel deployed by the UN. These troops were in uniform, but unarmed, and were to patrol Mogadishu.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM):

UNSOM was established as a part of resolution 2102, adopted by the SC on the 2nd May 2013. It was actually established on 3rd of June. UNSOM was created with the intentions to give advice to the Federal Government on things, such as, but not limited to the security sector. It also helps the government promote human rights, child protection and women empowerment, among others.

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM):

AMISOM is a peace support operation created by the African Union (AU). Its job is to, by all appropriate means, decrease the damage caused by the Al-Shabab and in other ways support the Federal Government of Somalia, mainly concerning peacekeeping, though.

Al-Shabab:

The Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahidin is known as the Al-Shabab, when using a more colloquial language. It is the military department of the Somali Council of Islamic Courts, which took over the southern part of Somalia in 2006, and is basically a terrorist organisation often associated with the Al-Qaeda. Despite this, Al-Shabab is mainly interested in domestic fights against the Federal Government of Somalia.

Timeline:

- *1960*: Somalia is formed, as last colonising nations left the country
- *21st October 1969-26th January 1991*: Siad Barre is Somalia's president
- *26th January 1991*: President Siad Barre overthrown
- *3rd March 1992*: General Aidid and interim president Ali Mahdi signed an "Agreement on the Implementation of Ceasefire"
- *24th April 1992*: Resolution 751 is adopted by the Security Council (SC) including the creation of UNOSOM
- *12th August 1992*: Secretary General of the UN informs the SC that both parts have agreed to the immediate deployment of 500 unarmed security personnel in the capital as part of the UNOSOM I
- *14th September 1992*: First United Nations security personal arrived in Mogadishu
- *Second half of 2006*: Al-Shabab has gained control of most of southern Somalia
- *2012*: Internationally backed government

Things to consider:

- What is my nation's opinion on this?
- To what extent is my nation involved in this issue?
 - Is my nation's citizens' safety threatened?
 - Has my nation contributed to any of the actions taken by the UN?
- What potential solutions would my nation support?
 - (Consider social, economic, etc. consequences)

Useful links:

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unosomi.htm>

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/751\(1992\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/751(1992))

<http://unsom.unmissions.org/>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50903#.VeXfwfntmko>

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2124\(2013\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2124(2013))

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

Sources:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094503>

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unosom1backgr2.html>

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions_94220.htm

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-12285365>

http://www.nctc.gov/site/groups/al_shabaab.html

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2102%282013%29

<http://unsom.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6255&language=en-US>

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