



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
19 February 2019

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 February 2019]

---

\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## Human Rights violations by Somali's Security Forces

### Introduction

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights association (Egypt) presents this statement on the general security situation in Somalia. The situation is witnessing a clear government disability to effectively control the security situation which threatens the country's sovereignty. Despite the international and regional efforts to support the Somali government to confront these security threats, Somalia, after many years, still don't have a unified national army. All these efforts are wasted, under the allegations of corruption, which pervades the public sector in general and security in particular.

### First: Developments in the security situation in Somalia:

#### Overall security situation

Despite the foreign aid, the security role of the Somali government is significantly reduced. Somalia recorded the largest increase in global terrorism in 2017. The death rate from terrorism rose by nearly 93% where it increased from 762 in 2016 to 1470 in 2017. The number of terrorist incidents rose significantly from 248 to 369 which mean 49% increase<sup>1</sup>.

#### A. A clear Governmental failure in fighting terrorist groups

As a result of the lack of security from the federal government, al-Shabaab militant group committed 372 terrorist incidents in 2017, including 137 in the capital Mogadishu. Also, al-Shabaab militant group was responsible for the most serious terrorist attack in the world in 2017, a truck bombing in Mogadishu that resulted in 588 deaths and more than 300 registered injuries<sup>2</sup>. The most prominent events in 2018 were killing at least forty people and wounding dozens in two car bombs explosions followed by a suicide attack near a hotel in the Somali capital<sup>3</sup>.

As a result of the security weakness of the federal government, the group seized many bases and equipment of the Somali government throughout 2017. Furthermore, the militant group controlled highways and ports in major cities such as Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu. Despite the increase in al-Shabaab group's terrorist attacks, their activity is largely limited to the capital, where 68% of deaths occur in Mogadishu<sup>4</sup>.

#### B. Corruption in the Somali security apparatus:

Corruption is widespread in the Somali army. The United States of America mission sent documents showing that the Somali army was unable to proof aid spending. The documents showed that the Somali army is full of corruption and is unable to provide food, weapons and wages despite receiving support that reaches hundreds of millions of dollars. Some diplomats say that the Somali army is officially composed of 26,000 individuals, but the wages list is full of fictitious names, retired and dead soldiers. The irregularity of the government in paying salaries prompted many military personnel to sell their weapons or to seek additional work. Thus, the US government decided to stop offering aid to Somali government<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Global Terrorism Index 2018, "Measuring the impact of terrorism", the Institute for Economics and Peace, p 24.

<sup>2</sup> Jason Burke, "**Mogadishu truck bomb: 500 casualties in Somalia's worst terrorist attack**", *The Guardian*, 16 Oct 2017, on this link: <https://bit.ly/2kQM1Ac>

<sup>3</sup> أ ف ب ، "الصومال: 41 قتيلا على الأقل في سلسلة تفجيرات في مقديشو"، فرنسا 24، بتاريخ: 9 نوفمبر 2018، <https://bit.ly/2Fu2IBr> على الرابط التالي:

<sup>4</sup> Anzalone C. (2018). "**Black Banners in Somalia: The State of al-Shabaab's Territorial Insurgency and the Specter of the Islamic State**". *CTC Sentinel* 12-22. Retrieved from <https://ctc.usma.edu/app/uploads/2018/03/CTC-Sentinel-Vol11Iss3.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Katharine Houreld, "**Exclusive: U.S. suspends aid to Somalia's battered military over graft**", *Reuters*, 14/12/2017, on this link: <https://reut.rs/2SowAQ3>

Corruption is spread in police force also. Twenty-eight policemen have recently been arrested on charges of participating in corruption. Somali companies cannot protect themselves through the police so they use violent groups or arm themselves against threats<sup>6</sup>.

C. Somalia's lack of benefits from external support to the security system:

**I. The withdrawal of the African Union forces "AMISOM"**

African Union peacekeeping forces are preparing to leave in 2020/2021, leaving the security responsibility to the Somali army. Although, it seems that the Somali army needs years to be capable of facing security challenges. The withdrawal process continues from December 2017 until 2021. This is due to the lack of confidence of the United Nations in the ability of the Somali National Army to control the security situation if the forces of AMISOM emerge from the country<sup>7</sup>.

**II. Foreign efforts to form real national army are misused**

Turkey has a military base in Somalia and, in February 2018, it was authorized to establish the second base. Also, Turkey has its own military academy to train Somali forces. Qatar also has a military academy in Somalia. Qatar has recently supported the Government of Somalia with 68 modern military tools, which were jointly deployed by different units of the Qatari Armed Forces<sup>8</sup>. In February 2018, it supported Somalia with 30 Sport utility vehicle (SUV) to support the National Police<sup>9</sup>.

The United Arab Emirates closed its training facility for Somali troops in April 2018 after the recent crisis between the two governments. Egyptians and Sudanese also train officers. The British carry out trainings at their center in south of Mogadishu, in the city of Baidoa. The United States is working with the special operations forces of Danab at the Baledogle Air Base.

As for financial support, The United States offered more than 900 million dollars as bilateral aid to The African Union mission in Somalia. In addition to that, It offered 720 million dollars to the United Nations office in Somalia which works with the army. By 2016, the European Union was monthly contributing with about 23 million dollars to The African Union's mission to Somalia also spends around 35 million dollars yearly on the training mission<sup>10</sup>.

Despite all funds and years of support, the Somali National Army remains unable to stand alone against security. The provisions of London Agreement in April 2017 to structure the Somali National Security have not yet been fulfilled. Corruption remains common in the government security apparatus. It obstructs the possibility of forming a real national army capable of confronting the surrounding security conditions.

## Second: Recommendations

1. Security threats in Somali need the following:
2. Building strong security institutions rather than a random military approach
3. Develop a comprehensive strategy to counter the extremist ideology of al Shabaab militant group, not only militarily, but also on the ideological level.
4. Combating corruption spread in the Somali security services, and opening investigations on the misuse of foreign aid. With adopting electronic payroll systems to reduce corruption

<sup>6</sup> خبر بعنوان، " اعتقال أفراد من الشرطة الصومالية بتهمة الفساد"، منشور على موقع الصومال الجديد، بتاريخ 2018/8/26 <https://bit.ly/2TG925Z>، على الرابط التالي:

<sup>7</sup> Fred Oluoch, "Amisom ready to withdraw", *The East African*, NOVEMBER 12, 2018, on this link: <https://bit.ly/2T8cne7>

<sup>8</sup> <https://bit.ly/2suCGiG> كما أعلنت وزارة الدفاع القطرية على حسابها على تويتر، على الرابط التالي

<sup>9</sup> بدون إسم كاتب، "الصومال يتسلم مساعدات قطرية لدعم الشرطة"، منشور على موقع الخليج أونلاين، بتاريخ 17 فبراير 2018، على الرابط التالي: <https://bit.ly/2Bq5VYI>

<sup>10</sup> Amanda Sperper, "Somalia Is a Country Without an Army", *Foreign Policy*, AUGUST 7, 2018, on this link: <https://bit.ly/2Og0vnd>

5. Optimize the African Union forces (AMISOM) before their full withdrawal in 2021, which enables the government to extend their control over the places where the AMISOM achieved successes to prevent the terrorist movements from regaining control over these places
  6. Develop a clear and specific strategy for the Government's use of the various financial, military and logistic assistance to restructure a strong institutional army representing all the tribes in Somalia.
-