



SECURITY COUNCIL

Kenya

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Summary

Kenya is the Southwestern neighbour of Somalia. Since the country gained its independence in 1964, it has operated under a relatively stable democracy, although for a period of time it was under one party rule, with significant power concentrated in the hands of the president. In 2010 a constitutional reform was passed, which was in part aimed at reducing persistent corruption among lawmakers and significantly reducing the powers of the president.

History in Jubaland

In October 2011 the Kenyan military crossed the border into Somalia to carry out an attack against the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab. Though the organisation has carried out cross-border attacks in Kenya during the previous month, another goal of the incursion might have been to improve the image of the government and the national army both domestically and on the international stage. The militant group vowed revenge and has retaliated by carrying out further acts of terror in Kenya. Distrust between the two nations about the border region is persistent. Over 2.4 million Somalis live in Kenya, which gives them considerable political power in a country where people often vote along ethnic lines. As a consequence

Kenya is incentivized to create a buffer zone in Jubaland to ensure security of its Northeastern region, compromising Somalia's territorial integrity. Kenyan elites (as well as Al-Shabaab) have also benefited from trade (both legal and illegal) going through the port of Kismayo, the control of which has been a source of conflict between 3 clans.

Current Role in Jubaland

In January 2025 the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) summoned the Kenyan ambassador, following an violation of the air embargo over Jubaland by a Kenya-registered aircraft. The plane carried Jubaland president Ahmed Madobe to Nairobi where he would receive medical care. The FGS remains distrustful towards Kenya, despite (or because) the country's participation in the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). Kenya plays a key role in regional security as it has a small, but quite well-equipped army compared to its neighbours due to decades of US support for anti-terror efforts. The eradication of Al-Shabaab is in both nation's interest.

