



Somalia

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Location and History

Somalia is situated at the Horn of Africa (the easternmost part of the continent), together with Somaliland, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea. The Somali Republic was established in 1960, after territories became independent from Britain and Italy. After a military coup in 1969 the country became a socialist dictatorship led by Mohamed Siad Barre. After the loss of the Ogaden War in 1978, the government's position weakened, giving way to a resistance movement operating from Kenya and Ethiopia, which finally overthrew the junta in 1991. Following this the former British Somaliland rejected the federation of 1960 and declared independence as the Republic of Somaliland, which operates as an independent state with no international recognition to this day. The rest of the country has been plunged into a civil war, which is still ongoing. In 1993 the United States intervened with a force of 35 000 multinational troops, which resulted in a short-lived ceasefire. Fighting continued with repeated failed ceasefire attempts in the 1990-s. Finally peace talks led to the establishment of the Transitional National Government, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004. In 2007 the UNSC authorised a small African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission (AMISOM) due to the rise of the terrorist group

Al-Shabaab. The TFG was replaced at the end of its mandate in 2012 by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). The FGS has adopted a provisional constitution which was supposed to be finalised by the Federal Parliament by 2016. One-person one-vote elections and a referendum on the new constitution were also supposed to take place by that year, but it has proved impossible due to the security situation. Clan-based indirect elections were held instead in 2016 and 2020. The UNSC authorised a new AU peacekeeping mission (ATMIS) in 2022.

Jubaland Crisis

In 2023 the FGS initiated a process to amend and formally approve the constitution. This would see the return of direct elections and the concentration of power in the hands of the executive. In 2024 when the amendments were approved, the state of Puntland declared independence. This was followed at the end of the year by clashes between the Jubaland forces (backed by Ethiopia) and the Somali Armed Forces (SAF), after the results of the Jubaland presidential election were contested by the FGS. The security- and humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating, as disputes between the federal states provide opportunities for Al-Shabaab to expand its territory.

