

SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)



➤ Women and girls living in IDP camps

- Raped or gang-raped in camps, others attacked outside camps
- Single-Family-Households

➤ Al-Shabaab Areas

- Rape, forced marriage, “hudood” or corporal punishments and killing

➤ Minority Women

- Experienced gender-based violence, domestic violence, robbery, exploitation and economic discrimination



RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN



➤ Between 2010 and 2016: 6,163 child soldiers (UN 2016)

- Al-Shabaab main perpetrator but other parties

➤ Al-Shabaab: Active recruitment (See also: Jan 2018 Human Rights Watch Report)

- Raid schools, madrassas, mosques
- Training camps: physical, religious and weapons training
- In combat and other support roles (guards, gathering intelligence, etc.)



MARRIAGE

- Customary(xeer), Islamic (Sharia) and civil laws
 - The Federal Republic of Somalia Provisional Constitution (2012)
 - Family Law/Code of 1975
- Age requirements
 - 18 years: 16 for girls with consent of guardian (Family Law)
 - Consent & “age of maturity” (Provisional Constitution)
- Types of Marriages
 - Arranged marriage, elopement (secret marriages)
 - Dumaal, Xigsiisan
- Elements of marriage (generally):
 - Yared (bride price), Meher (dowry), Nikaah (contract), Aroos (party)
 - Pre 1991: Regional Courts - Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs

ADOPTIONS

- Available information is very limited
- Department of State (2019):
 - “an adoption authority does not yet exist”
 - “laws in Somalia regarding adoptions are unclear”
 - “extremely difficult to determine whether children who appear to be orphans are eligible for adoption”
- Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada (1990)*:
 - Application before Ministry of Interior – security checks of adoption parent via Ministry of Security
 - Six month probation – Ministry of Security inspection – Ministry of Interior certification.

THANK YOU

RU Somalia Country Page

RAD/Regional Operations Somali Country Page

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Somalia



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**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

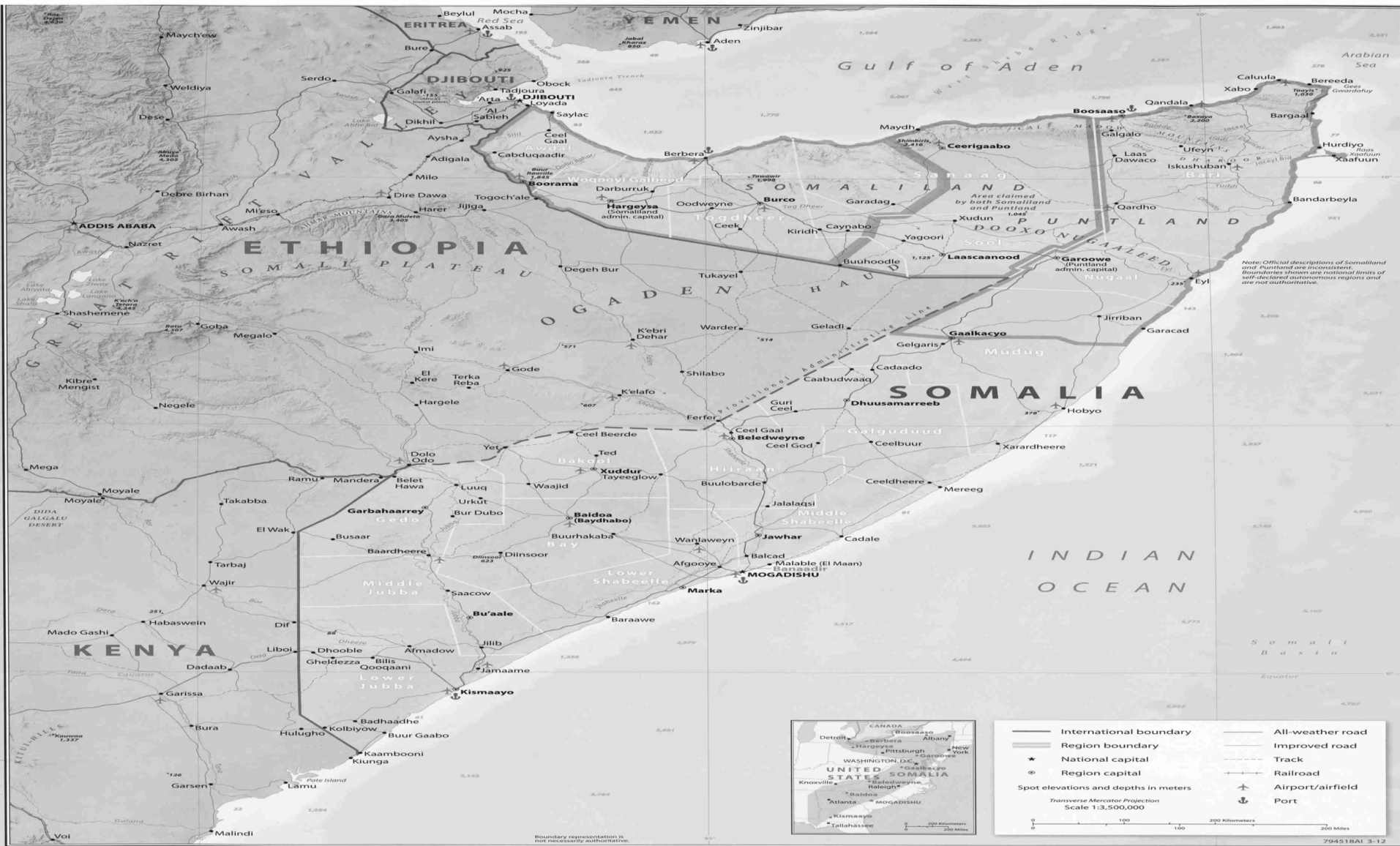
OUTLINE

- **General Background**
- **Civil War 1990s and 2000s**
 - **Conflicts and Associated Groups**
- **Al-Shabaab**
 - **General Info, Areas of Control, Tactics, Targets**
- **Clans, Minority and Occupational Groups**
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)**
- **Recruitment of Children**

CASE PROFILES

- **Gender:** Male (9 cases), Female (6 cases) and 3 couples (joint cases)
- **Religion:** mostly Sunni Muslim
- **Clan:** Ashraaf, Shekhal, Benadire, Darod, Hawiye, Digil, Dir, Midgan/Gabooye
- **Issues:** Al-Shabaab (including forced recruitment and marriage), inter-clan violence, single women without clan or male protection, SGBV, clan vs. minority group dynamics and violence
- **Timeline:** 1992 (one case), 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013

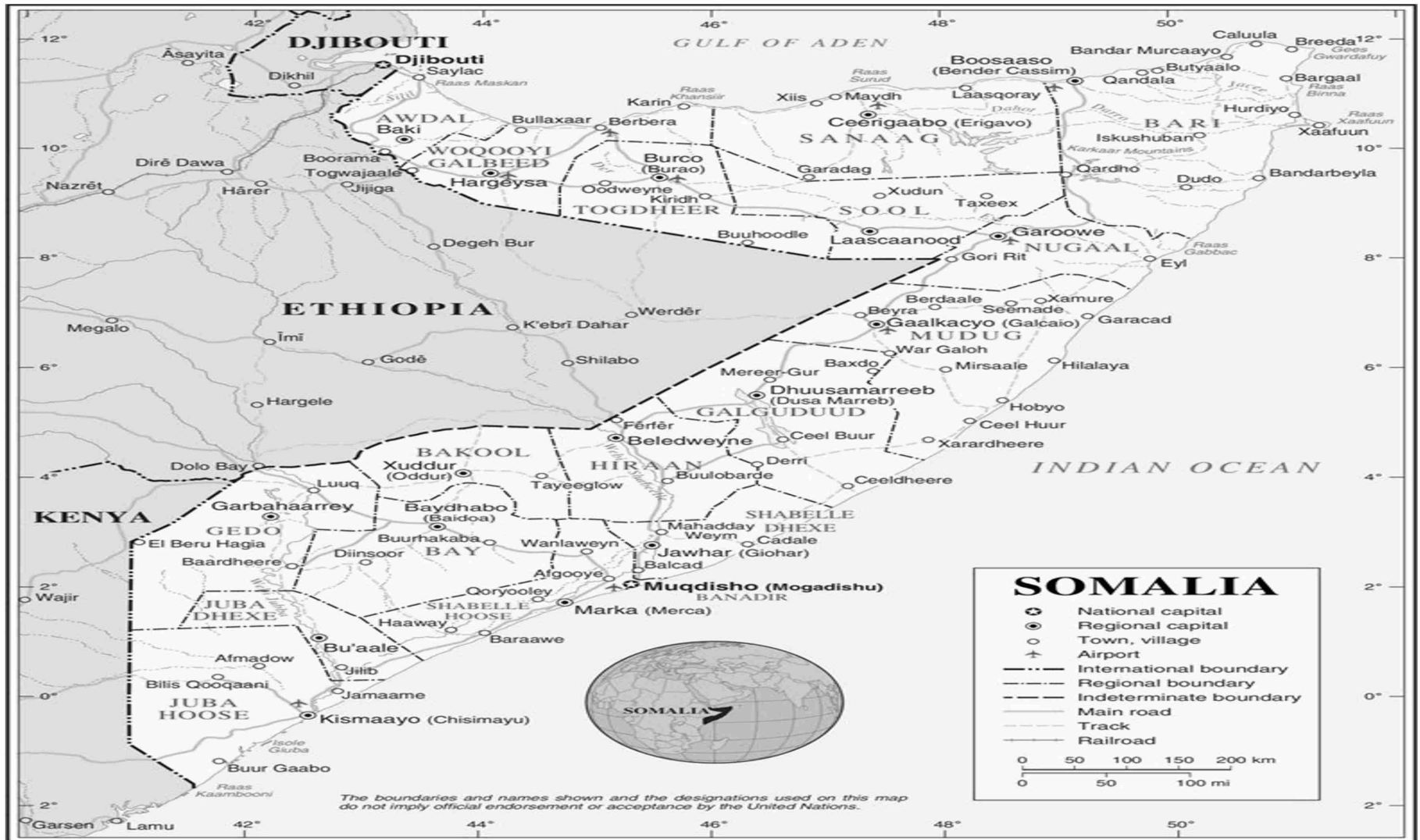
SOUTH & CENTRAL SOMALIA, SOMALILAND AND PUNTLAND



Note: Official descriptions of Somaliland and Puntland are inconsistent. Boundaries shown are national limits of self-declared autonomous regions and are not authoritative.

Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS



South/Central Somalia: Bakool, Benadir, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, Middle Jubba (Jubba Dhexe), Lower Jubba (Jubba Hoose), Mudug, Middle Shabelle (Shabelle Dhexe), Lower Shabelle (Shabelle Hoose) (8). The regions Awdal, Bari, Nugaal, Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed and the disputed regions Sanaag and Sool are situated in Somaliland and Puntland

SOMALIA: GENERAL BACKGROUND

- Language: Somali - Af-Maxaa-tir vs. Af Maay-tirir
 - uses Latin script
- Religion: Sunni Islam
 - Small Christian population and minority groups (Ashraf and Shekhal)

CIVIL WAR
(1990s - 2000s)

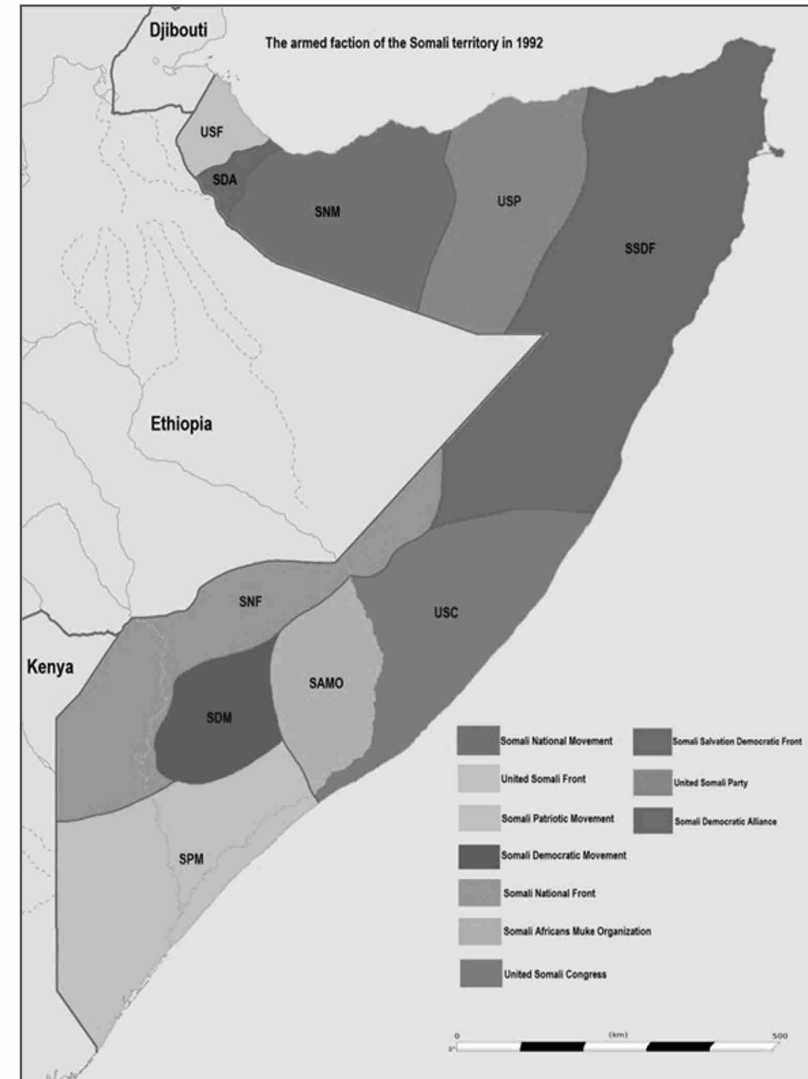
MOHAMMED SIAD BARRE REGIME

- October 21, 1969 coup: Major General Mohammad Siad Barre assumes power
 - Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC) – Somali Democratic Republic Socialist Party (SRSP)
- “Scientific Socialism”
- Loss of Ogaden war: increasing totalitarianism
- Barre regime divided along clan lines
 - Marehan – part of Darod clan family (Barre’s family clan)
 - President in 1980 with support from Darod/ Ogaden and Dulbahante clans
- Opposition: Majerteen (also Darod), Isaaq and Hawiye clans



CIVIL WAR: WHO IS WHO?

- Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia (DFSS)(northern-eastern Majerteen clan) - Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) (*See Cheat Sheet*)
- Somali National Movement (SNM): (northwestern Isaaq clans) Somaliland
- Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM): alliance between south and former Ogaden fighters
- United Somali Congress (USC): Hawiye clan and disaffected army officers
 - General Mohamed Fareeh Aideed
- 1991: USC, SNM and SPM overthrow Bيارre
 - USC: Mogadishu and Central Somalia
 - SPM: Kismayo - Southern Somalia
 - SSDF: Northeast Somalia



Armed Group Cheat Sheet, RAD ECN

CIVIL WAR: CLAN WAR AND STATE COLLAPSE

- Between 1988-1991: height of armed opposition to Barre regime
 - Isaaq clan (May 1988) 50,000 people killed and 650,000 fled to Ethiopia and Djibouti
- January 27, 1991: Barre flees Mogadishu and clans engage in power struggle
 - December 1991 to March 1992: in Mogadishu alone, four months of fighting lead to an estimated 25,000 deaths, 1.5 million people fleeing the country and 2 million internally displaced

CIVIL WAR: FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND ISLAMIST MOVEMENT (1992-2013)

➤ UNISOM I-UNITAF-UNISOM II (1992-1995)

➤ Al itihad al-Islamiay (AIAI) (1994-2006)

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➤ Islamic Courts Union (ICU) (2006) vs. Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter Terrorism

CIVIL WAR: FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND ISLAMIST MOVEMENT (CONT'D)

- Hizbul Islam (2009-2013)
 - Aligned with Al-Shabaab against the Transitional Federal Government
- 2007: African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)
- 2006-2008: violent insurgency and massive population displacement
 - 1.3 million people displaced by fighting
 - 3.6 million people in need of emergency food aid
 - 60,000 Somalis a year fleeing the country

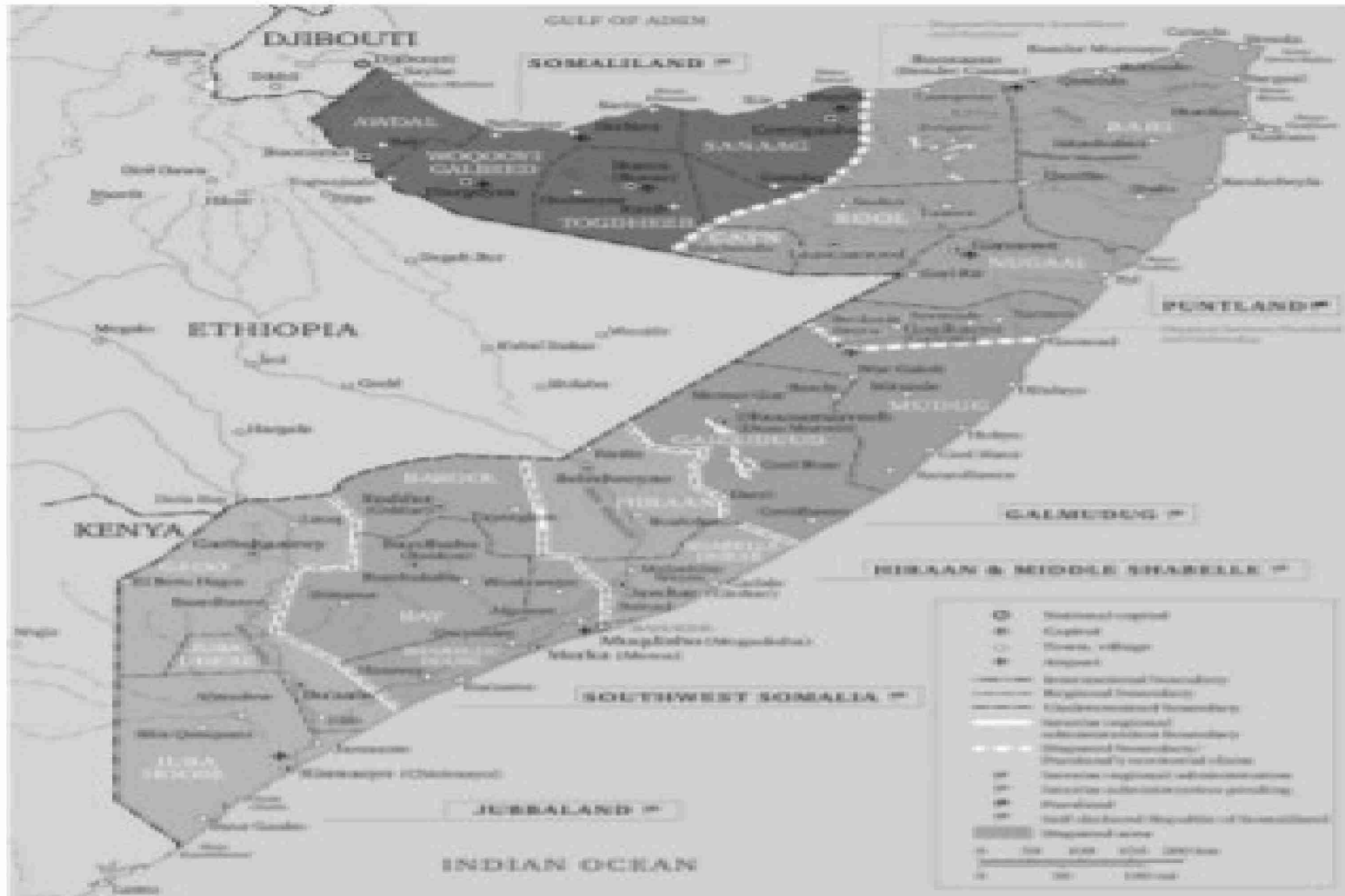
SOMALIA TODAY

- August 2012: Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to Federal Government of Somalia (FGS)
- January 2013: formalized relations with U.S.
- February 2017: elected Mohamed Adullahi Mohamed
 - ‘Farmajo’
- Security Challenges
 - Operations against Al-Shabaab
- April 2017: Call to surrender
- November 2019: political tensions between federal and regional governments



REGIONAL INTERIM ADMINISTRATIONS

Map of Somalia: Federal Member State and Interim Regional Administrations



Source: This map has been prepared based on United Nations Department of World Map Service, Cartographic Service, Map No. 100/1000, 24 November 2011, with additional content from the UN World Geospatial and Environmental Information System, updated with information by the author and the Africa Programme of UN Geospatial Centre.

Note: Somalia's administrative boundaries are not internationally recognized. Somalia's administrative boundaries are not internationally recognized. Somalia's administrative boundaries are not internationally recognized. Somalia's administrative boundaries are not internationally recognized.

STATE STRUCTURE & SECURITY FORCES

- State Structure: Federal Government of Somalia (FGS)
 - Two levels: federal and regional
- Somali Police Force (SPF) - Ministry of Interior
 - Est. 4000-6000
 - Mixed reporting on structure and function (some regular salaries vs. lack of command/control and clan ties)
- Somali National Army (SNA) - Ministry of Defense
 - 6 brigades (approx. 1500 each) – 12,000 total with 24,000 reservists
 - Strong clan - lines
- National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA)
 - Special unit in Mogadishu
 - Alpha Group (Gaashan)

AL-SHABAAB“THE YOUTH”



AL-SHABAAAB: GENERAL INFO

- Manpower: 3000-5000/6000
- Structure:
 - Amir: Godane (2008-2014), Ahmed Diriye (2014 - current)
 - Governors (walis) & military command special units
 - Amniyad: intelligence unit
- Membership:
 - Council (Shura), middle-layer and foot soldiers
 - Defections
- Funding: Zakat/taxation

AL-SHABAAB: GENERAL INFO

- Governance: Sharia courts
 - Security and morality police
 - Hibsaa police
 - Some autonomy at regional & local levels
- Recruitment: child recruitment; forced marriage
 - Use of madrassas or religious schools
 - Dumaashi (taking of new brides by Al-Shabaab)
- Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (March 2008)

AL-SHABAAB: TACTICS

- Area of Control: 2009-2011 (Southern and some Central Somalia)
 - By 2011-2012: lost Mogadishu and Kismayo
- Targeted suicide bombings, hit-and run attacks
- June/July 2015 (Ramadan): shift back to large-scale attacks including attacking reinforcement routes
 - New military unit: Abu Zubeyr Battalion
 - June 26 2015: raid on an AMISOM base in Leego, Lower Shabelle - 50 Burundian soldiers were killed

AL-SHABAAB: TACTICS (CONT'D)

- 2016-2017: delayed elections
 - April 2017: logistical training and support
 - June/July 2017: airstrikes of Al-Shabaab camps
- 2017-2018: improved bomb-making capabilities
 - Use of improvised explosives devices
 - October 2017 twin bombings: 316 people injured and more than 500 killed
 - Enhanced presence in Puntland

AL-SHABAAB: TACTICS (CONT'D)

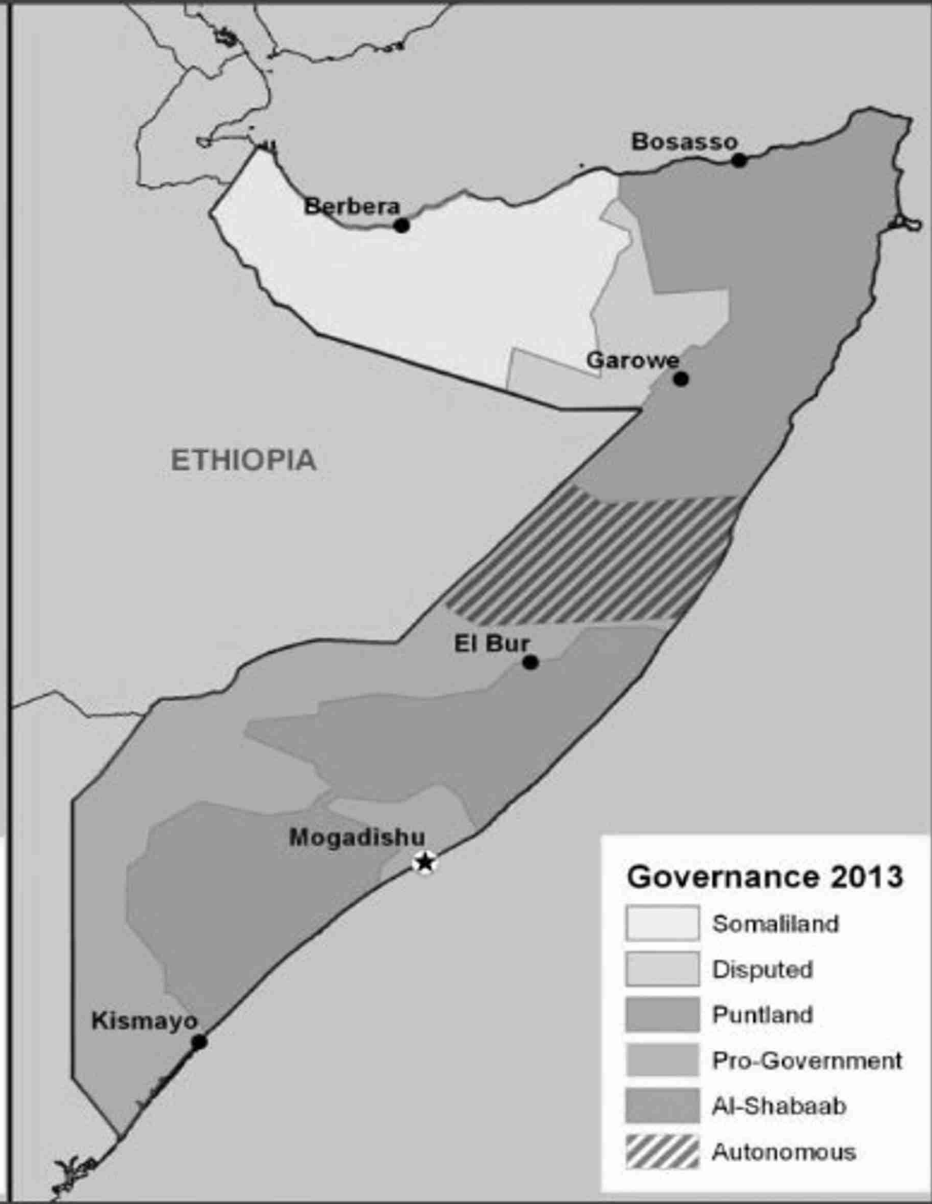
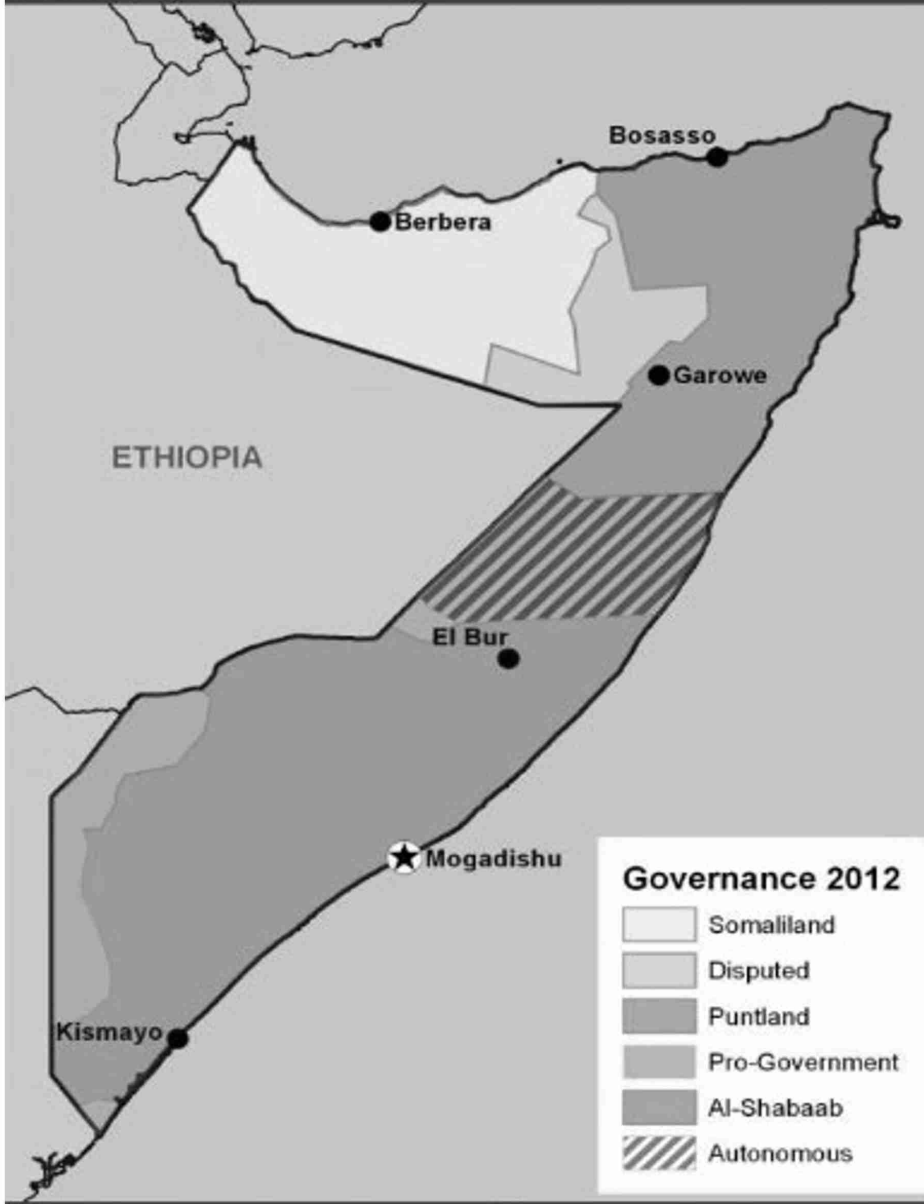
- 2019: attacks against the Federal Government and AMISOM forces continues
- July 2019: Benadair Regional Administration
 - Killed Mayor of Mogadishu
 - Suicide bomber: government employees
- December 2019: truck bomb killed 80 people
- January 2020: airbases along Kenya-Somalia border killed one U.S. soldier and two contractors



UNCLASSIFIED

Somali Governance Overview

Somalia



UNCLASSIFIED



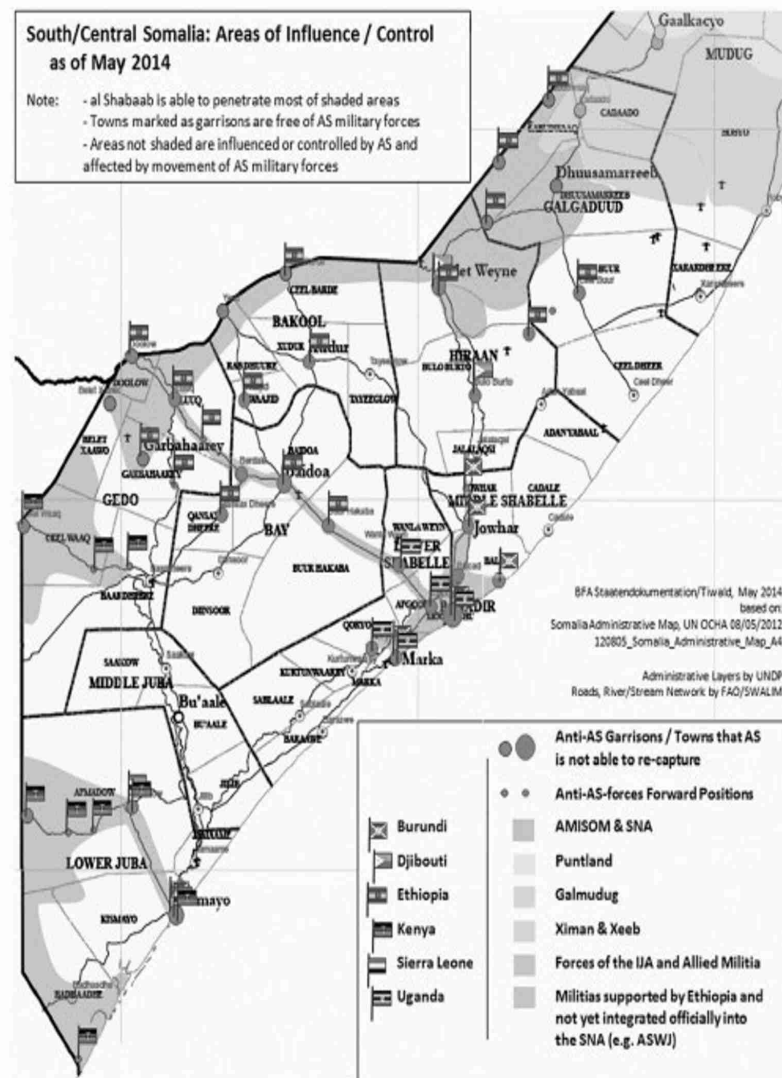
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AREAS OF CONTROL VS. AREAS OF INFLUENCE

- June 2016: control of rural areas including Juba, Bay, Shabelle, Bakol
- May 2017: 40 percent of Al-Shabaab activity in Mogadishu
- IEDs and explosive-laden vehicles placed in crowded areas
- Remote areas: AMISOM supply convoys and armed patrols
- Puntland attacks

3.4 Areas of Control / Areas of Influence - Anti- Al-Shabaab Forces

It is not possible to determine precisely who is in charge of which area as the situation is 'rather fluid' ⁽⁵²⁵⁾. Therefore, the map provided below should be seen as indicative of areas of control/influence by anti-Al-Shabaab forces ⁽⁵²⁶⁾.



AREAS OF CONTROL VS. AREA OF PRESENCE

- UN Reporting (Nov. 2019): Al-Shabaab maintains control or influence - non-urban areas and its “supply routes
- Administer: Juba Valley area
- Presence: Mudug region and Middle Shabelle region
- Taxation: “shadow government” throughout central and southern Somalia

Final Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, UN Security Council, November 2019

AL-SHABAAB: WHO IS AT RISK?

- High value targets: AMISOM/UN, NGOs, lawmakers
- Other: journalists; Somali returnees or diaspora; people working near AMISOM bases or for international organizations; civil society members, relatives of government officials; members and relatives of security forces
- Forced recruitment of youth: 70% of Somali population is under the age of 30
- Economic Blockades: use of check points along key access routes
- Refusal of foreign aid and restricting freedom of movement

AL-SHABABAAB: WHO IS AT RISK?

(CONT'D)

➤ Access to Protection

- Maintaining order can be challenging for the SNA
- Lack of clear and consistent command structure
- Corruption and abuse of power issues

➤ Judicial system

- Civilian system “largely nonfunctional”
- Local courts can be dependent on local clan
- Traditional, customary, sharia and formal law
- Military courts to administer judgment against civilians

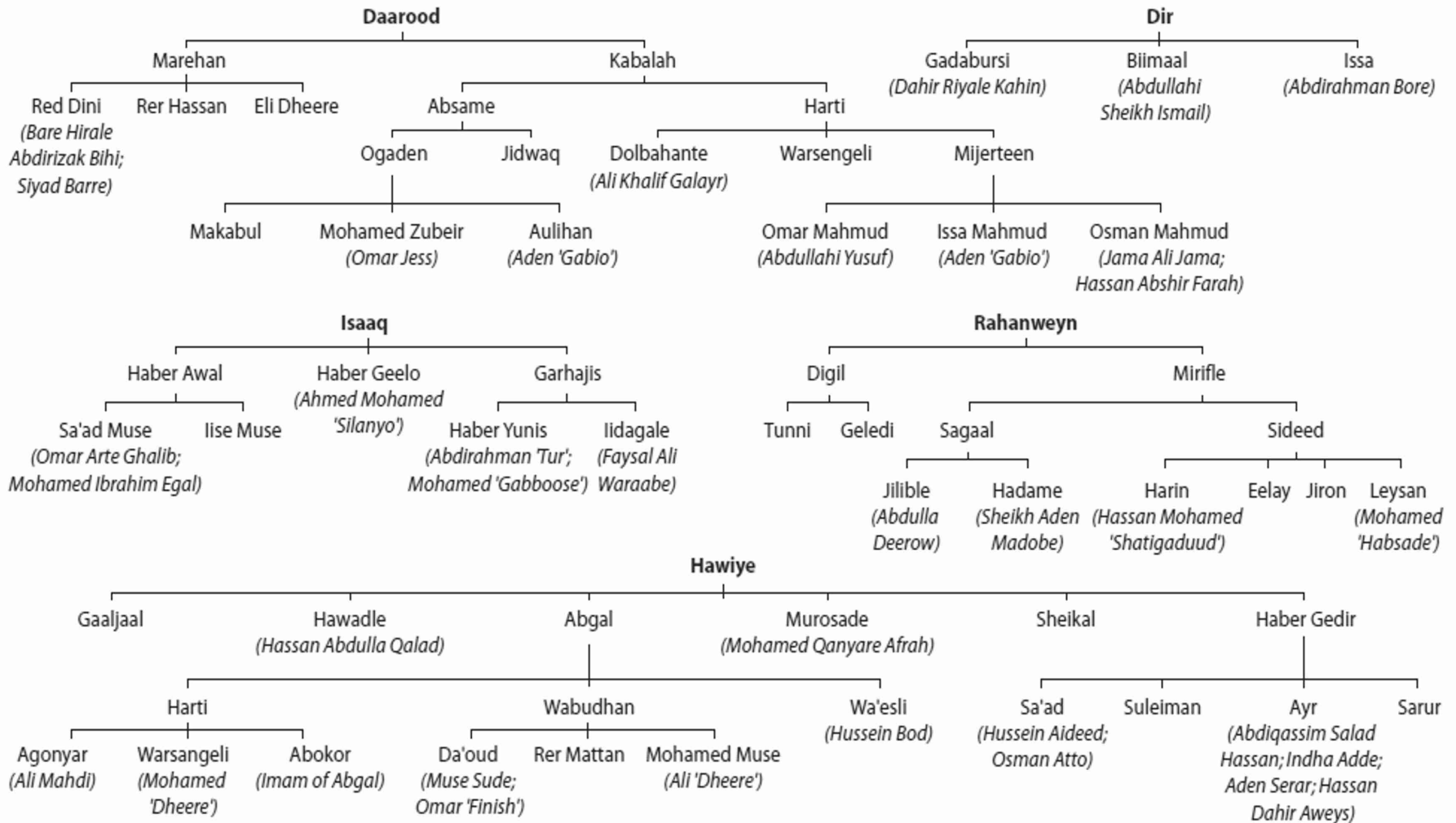
➤ Clan Identity and Protection

- More vulnerable to discrimination and abuses

CLANS, MINORITY GROUPS AND OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

CLANS - *Yaa tahay?*

Who are you? (What is your lineage?)



Somali Minorities: Bantu; Benadiri; Barawans (these groups generally stand outside Somali kinship, but occasionally enjoy adopted status within a Somali clan)

Note: this is a partial and simplified lineage chart of the five main Somali clan-families, intended to highlight sub-clans of particular political relevance in 2003. Many lineages are omitted while others are compressed or their relationships simplified. Notable Somali political figures are identified in parentheses below their sub-clan identity.

CLANS: OVERVIEW

- Clan, clan family, and immediate lineage
 - Generally traced along paternal lineage
- Noble Clans: Nomads vs. Agro-pastoralist
- Diya or mag group: administers customary law or xeer
- Xeer: important element that links alliances between clans
 - Excludes minority groups
 - Regulates social relations and governs communities
- Clan identity is essential to access clan protection

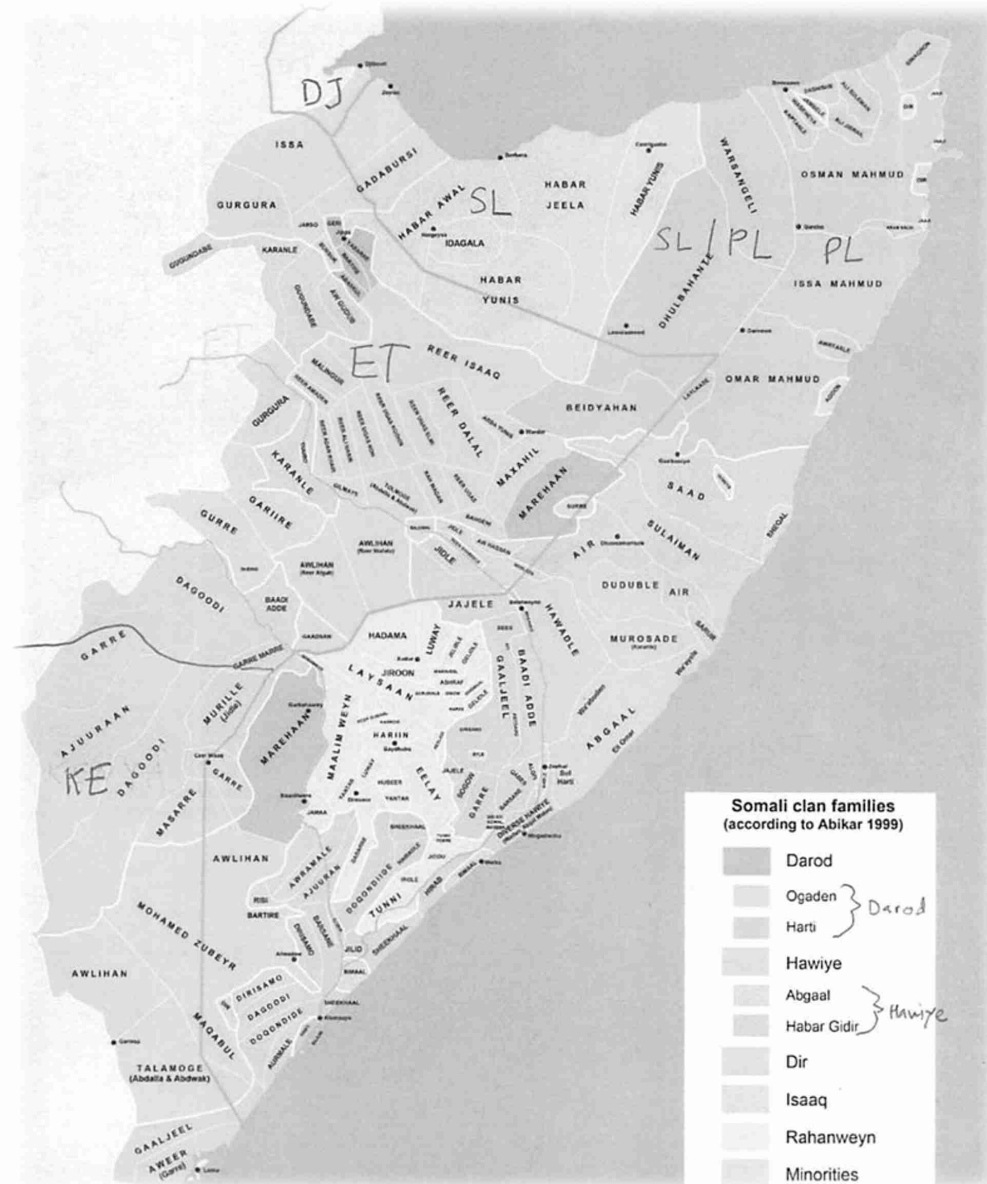
CLANS IDENTITIES

➤ Nomadic Clans:
Darod/Darood, Hawiye, Dir
and Isaaq(sometimes Dir)

- Darod (Barre's clan),
Hawiye (Main
Opposition)
- Dir includes Issa vs.
Isaaq(Somaliland)

➤ Agro Pastoralist (Saab):
Digil and Mirifle/Rahanweyn

- Location and territory



NAMING CONVENTIONS

➤ Naming Conventions

- Three names- given name at birth, father's first name and grandfather's name (father's side)
 - E.g. Ahmed Mohamed Adulle
- Generally have meaning - relate to time of birth, physical characteristics or symbolic meaning
- See The Somali: Their History and Culture, pg. 22-23

➤ Use of Nicknames

- Overt vs. covert nicknames (Farmajo)
- Small pool of names and common to use nickname in official capacity

MINORITY GROUPS: GENERAL INFORMATION

- Not clans but nomadic clans may call them
- “sab” vs Saab
- Minority - numbers vs. representation
- Lack support network of the majority (noble) clans (some exceptions)
- Vulnerable to political, social, economic and judicial discrimination e.g. land and property looting, violence

MINORITY GROUPS: WHO IS WHO

- **Midgaan/Madhibaan/Gabooye/Tumaal(sab):** hairdresser, blacksmith, shoemaker, tanner, no intermarriage
 - Yibir: ritual specialists
- **Bantu:** largest minority, farmers, no intermarry
 - Speak Somali, Bantu (Mushunguli, Kiswahili)
- **Benadiri:** mercantile community of mixed origin
 - own dialect of Somali, Chimini (Barawani), Kenya in 1990s
- **Sheikah (Sheikash):** Possible association with Hawiye clan family, religious
- **Ashraf:** respected as religious, tend not marry outside clan
- **Bajuni:** fishing community
 - Kibajuni, Kiswahi dialect

MINORITY GROUPS: MISTREATMENT

- UK Home office (2017): Minority groups continued to be disproportionately subjected to killings, torture, rape, kidnapping for ransom, and looting of land and property with impunity by faction militias and majority clan members, often with the acquiescence of federal and local authorities
- Benadiri, Bantu and Christian minorities are targets of religious persecution by Al-Shabaab: several killings of suspected Christians in 2012 and 2013 in Al-Shabaab controlled areas
- Lack of clan links: Rahanweyn and Bantu communities particularly vulnerable to famine and later to abuses in Mogadishu- no links to Hawiye
- Human Rights Watch (March 2013): Rahanweyn and Bantu IDPs from Bay, Bakool, and the Shabelle regions particularly vulnerable to abuse

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS: MISTREATMENT

- Occupational groups “lowest level of social hierarchy of Somali society”
- UK Home Office (2015): In northern Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) the dominant Isaaq and Darod clans effectively determine the position of the minorities.
 - Small groups of Midgan (Gaboye) are living in both Somaliland and Puntland but have little influence with authorities
 - Viewed as “guest”/”galti” or as illegal immigrants
- Dept. of State Trafficking Report (2014): Somali Bantus and Midgaan remain marginalized and sometimes kept in servitude by more powerful Somali clan members as domestic workers, farm laborers, and herders

SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

“In December 2012, Hawo, 27, left her husband and the town of Jowhar, 90 kilometers north of Mogadishu, to move to the capital with her six children to find work. While her bus was on the outskirts of town, assailants with Kalashnikov assault rifles and pistols stopped the bus and said they were going to “take all the women off the bus and nobody should try to do anything about it.” The women who resisted were beaten into submission. “They didn’t steal anything from us because none of us had anything of value. They took us to a bushy area and raped us. We could all see each other.” After the assailants left, the women returned to the bus and continued the journey to Mogadishu in silence.” (HRW, 2014)

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➤ Al-Shabaab Areas

- Rape, forced marriage, “hudood” or corporal punishments and killing

➤ Minority Women

- Experienced gender-based violence, domestic violence, robbery, exploitation and economic discrimination

