Name: Al-Shabab

Type of Organization:
- non-state actor
- terrorist
- transnational
- violent

Ideologies and Affiliations:
- Al-Qaeda and Associated Movements
- Islamist
- jihadist
- pan-Islamist
- Qutbist
- Salafist
- takfiri
- Wahhabi

Place of Origin: Somalia

Year of Origin: 1996-1997

Founder(s): Ibrahim Haji Jaama' Al-Afghani.

Places of Operation: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti.

Also Known As: [1]
Al Shabab
Al-Shabaab
Al-Shabaab al-Islaam
Al-Shabaab al-Islamiya
Al-Shabaab al-Jihaad al Shabaab
As-Saḥāb
Ash-Shabaab
Hizbul Shabaab
Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen (HSM)
Harakat Shabaab Al Mujahidin
Mujahideen Youth Movement (MYM)
Hezb al-Shabaab
Hisb'ul Shabaab
Hizbul Shabaab
Movement of Warrior Youth

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[1] "al Shabaab," Terrorism Research & Analysis Consortium, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/al-shabaab.

Mujahidin Al-Shabaab Movement
Shabaab
The Party of Youth
The Popular Resistance Movement in the Land of the Two Migrations (PRM)
The Youth
Unity of Islamic Youth
Youth Wing
Muhajiroon brigade (division made up of foreign fighters)

Executive Summary:

Al-Shabab, or "the Youth," is a regional jihadist group that seeks to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state in Somalia. The group ultimately hopes to expand its purview to encompass the whole Horn of Africa. In areas that it already controls, the group imposes its strict version of *shariah* (Islamic law), prohibiting activities like listening to music or shaving beards. Since its inception, al-Shabab has been rife with internal conflict, with key leaders fighting over violent strategies and the group's overall direction, including its precarious allegiance to al-Qaeda. Ahmed Abdi Godane, a founder and *emir* (commander) of al-Shabab who was killed by a U.S. drone strike in September 2014, was able to violently cleanse the group's ranks of internal opposition and succeeded in further radicalizing it. After Godane's death, al-Shabab reiterated its dedication to the violent al-Qaeda core.

The group has executed a score of violent attacks, including the September 2013 Watergate Mall attacks in Nairobi, Kenya. Not only did it include a combination of previous al-Shabab attack tactics, but it was the first major operation on foreign soil. Though the U.S. and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) have been able to regain control of key geographical strongholds and lucrative ports, al-Shabab remains at-large, and the region is on high alert in fear of retaliation for its leader's death.

The group has become adept at activating the Somali-American diaspora, successfully harnessing social media outlets to recruit members and fund their terror activities. They had been suspended from Twitter after claiming responsibility for the Westgate mall attack, but have returned and since honed their propaganda.[2]

Key Leaders:[3]
- Ahmed Umar (aka Abu Ubaidah), emir (commander), newly appointed
- Ahmed Abdi Godane (Mukhtar Abu Zubair), emir (commander) (deceased)
- Mukhtar Robow (Abu Mansur), deputy emir
- Hassan Mahat Omar, ideological leader, key figure in recruitment and fundraising
- Ali Mohamed Rage (Ali Dhere), official spokesman
- Abulaziz Abu Muscab, military operations spokesman
- Fuad Mohamed Qalaf (Shongole), senior member

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[2] Holly Yan, "What is Al-Shabaab, and what does it want?" CNN, December 2, 2014, http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/02/world/africa/al-shabaab-explainer/.
[3] "Al Shabaab Leadership Profiles," AEI Critical Threats, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.criticalthreats.org/somalia/al-shabaab-leadership.

- Ibrahim Haji Jama Mead (Ibrahim al Afghani), senior member
- Omar Hammami (Abu Mansour al-Amriki), key leader and member (deceased)
- Hassan Dahir Aweys Ali, senior member and former leader

Doctrine:

Al-Shabab's ideology is typically described as a brand of Salafism and Wahhabism that supports *takfir*, the excommunication of apostates or unbelievers. Though it has stated many goals in the past, the group fights first and foremost to create a fundamentalist Islamic state in the Horn of Africa[4] that would include not only Somalia but also Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia.[5]

Analysts cite the early militant Salafi extremist group al-Itihad al-Islami (AIAI, aka Unity of Islam) as the precursor to al-Shabab and the incubator for many of its leaders. AIAI peaked in the 1990s after the Siad Barre military regime fell and civil war broke out.[6] A younger, hardline group split from the elder AIAI, seeking to establish a "Greater Somalia" ruled under *shariah*. This group of youths joined forces with the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), a group of *shariah* courts, to serve as a governance alternative once they overtook Mogadishu. The combined group was eventually pushed out by Ethiopia. Much of the ICU fled to the south of Somalia and al-Shabab emerged and continued asymmetrical attacks on Ethiopian attacks.

This context is important in understanding a key characteristic of the group—it is not monolithic and is prone to internal fissures over strategy and tactics. These conflicts became particularly significant when whole clans broke from al-Shabab in 2008. Reports highlighted increased leadership conflicts over tactics, clan interests, affiliations with al-Qaeda, and policies toward international aid agencies.[7]

Ahmed Abdi Godane eventually triumphed over internal opposition with a series of purges in 2011 and a particularly bloody internal battle in June 2013. One of the implications of Godane's victory is that the core group's doctrine and affiliation seem to have been settled. Though al-Shabab has always had a Salafist jihadist orientation, the group's leadership was once heterogeneous, including nationalist and politically pragmatic figures like Hassan Dahir Aweys and Mukhtar Roobow. The al-Shabab that triumphed arose from the extreme fringe,

[4] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.
[5] Abdisaid M. Ali, "The Al-Shabaab Al Mujahidiin: A Profile of the First Somali Terrorist Organization," Das Institut für Strategie- Politik- Sicherheits- und Wirtschaftsberatung, June 2, 2008, http://kms2.isn.ethz.ch/serviceengine/Files/ESDP/55851/ipublicationdocument_singledocument/1dd66bc5-b0c9-488c-b7e9-d16eeac91018/en/AlShabaab.pdf.
[6] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.
[7] Ken Menkhaus, "Al-Shabab's Capabilities Post-Westgate," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 2 (February 2014): 4-9, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss2.pdf.

steeped in the *takfiri* ethos that legitimizes the killing of other Muslims and a recommitment to global jihad and restoration of the Caliphate.[8]

Godane, no longer faced internal opposition to aligning with al-Qaeda, officially pledged al-Shabab's allegiance to that group in 2012. Afterwards, some al-Qaeda fighters who trained at camps in Afghanistan moved to Somalia to train members of al-Shabab. The two groups continue to cooperate closely on everything from indoctrination and basic infantry skills to advanced explosives and assassination training. Al-Qaeda reportedly plays an important role in al-Shabab's leadership, with one count reporting that foreigners comprise over half of al-Shabab's executive council and that the group has embraced globalized rhetoric and propaganda.[9] Out of an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 fighters, 200 to 300 are non-Somali, with a number coming from the Somali diaspora.[10]

Kenyan human rights lawyer Al Amin Kimathi describes al-Shabab's recruitment process based on information gathered from interviews with detainees:

> *They are given quotations from the Koran, the Hadiths, but they do not have the benefit of a critical mind to look at it in any other context and they trust the people driving them to this. Advantage is taken of the person's feeling of desperation and that is dangerous enough to drive them over the top. They are given the feeling that they are a very important person and that martyrdom is something to aspire to - the anger over their deprivation is lowered to a feeling of comfort, to a point where the only thing they aspire to is a collective action. Whether that action leads to their survival or death that doesn't really matter any more* [sic].[11]

Al-Shabab implements its brand of *shariah,* where stonings, amputations, and beheadings are regular punishment for criminals and apostates. The group violently persecutes non-Muslims and clashes continuously with humanitarian and international aid workers.[12]

Structure:

Al-Shabab's military organization, the *Jaysh al-Usra* ("Army of Hardship"), includes five major formations or brigades:
- *Abu Dalha Al-Sudaani:* Lower and Middle Jubba

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[8] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[9] Fred Dews, "Al Shabaab: Background on the Somalia-based Terrorist Group that Attacked a Nairobi Mall," Brookings Institutition, September 23, 2013, http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/brookings-now/posts/2013/09/al-shabaab-somalia-terrorist-nairobi-mall-attack.

[10] Fred Dews "Al Shabaab: Background on the Somalia-based Terrorist Group that Attacked a Nairobi Mall," Brookings Institution, September 23, 2013, http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/brookings-now/posts/2013/09/al-shabaab-somalia-terrorist-nairobi-mall-attack.

[11] "In prison with al-Shabab: What drives Somali militants?" BBC News, last modified October 4, 2013, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-24379013.

[12] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

- *Sa'ad Bin Mu'aad:* Gedo
- *Saalah Nabhaan:* Bay and Bakool
- *Ali Bin Abu Daalib:* Banaadir, Lower Shabelle, and Middle Shabelle
- *Khaalid Bin Waliid:* Hiiraan, Mudug, and Galgaduud
- *Liwaa'ul Qudus:* "Sharqistaan" (eastern Sanaag and Bari regions).

Godane has been shifting power away from the Shura Council, which included opponents of his, into the hands of local governors and commanders whom he deems loyal. Concomitantly, he raised the status of the *Amniyaad* from the group's intelligence wing to a sort of internal secret police, responsible for identifying internal threats and ensuring loyalty.[13] Al-Shabab reliesheavily on the *Amniyaad* to also maintain a presence in Mogadishu and to demonstrate the group's strength. The intelligence unit's common tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) include targeted killings, throwing grenades, and using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). It is also responsible for devising "martyrdom" operations, a key feature of al-Shabab's asymmetrical warfare strategy.[14]

The group has a media arm, al-Kataib, which produces video content for international audiences. Notwithstanding a propaganda campaign against al-Shabab, many Somalis still find the group's statements credible.[15]

Financing:

al-Shabab has had several sources of income throughout its history, including varying degrees of support from the Somali diaspora, locals, sponsors, and sustained *dawa* (proselytizing). Domestically, al-Shabab drew significant revenue from racketeering after seizing the southern port city of Kismayo in 2008. The charcoal trade was essential to the city's trade and the group was able to receive proceeds from exporting charcoal, totaling an estimated $35-50 million annually.[16] Although AMISOM was able to take back Kismayo in October 2012, the U.N. reports that al-Shabab's illicit charcoal trade has continued in areas under the group's control, such as Barawe, and estimates that profits from this city alone amount to millions of dollars monthly.[17]

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[13] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[14] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[15] "Somalia: Al-Shabaab—It will be a Long War," International Crisis Group, June 26, 2014, http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/africa/horn-of-africa/somalia/b099-somalia-al-shabaab-it-will-be-a-long-war.pdf.

[16] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[17] "Letter dates 12 July 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) ad 1907 (2009) concerning Somalis and Eritrea addressed to the President of the Security Council," United Nations Security Council, July 12, 2014, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/413.

According to the U.N., sugar imports grew in late 2012, in connection with the increased production of charcoal, and thereafter increased for transport over the Kenyan border.[18] This cyclical trade, with charcoal exports in return for sugar imports that are eventually sold in Kenya for a lower price, is one way the group has sustained itself, despite losing control of the Kismayo port. Al-Shabab is also able to facilitate cash flows within Somalia through the rise of mobile money transfer companies subject to less scrutiny.[19] The International Crisis Group also reports that the group copes with a volatile financial environment and intermittent cash flow by investing in gold.[20]

After the June 2013 purge of Godane's opposition within the leadership, al-Shabab shifted its attention towards "taxation"—specifically, collecting funds through voluntary support, extortion, and partnership with businesses, humanitarian agencies, and other non-governmental organizations that operate in south-central Somalia.[21]

Recruitment and Training

Recruitment

Al-Shabab's recruitment efforts take place primarily within Somalia, Kenya, the U.S., and the EU.

Staying true to its name, which means "The Youth," al-Shabab seeks to recruit Somali adolescents and young adults.[22] Al-Shabab uses children in combat and reconnaissance roles, according to the U.N.[23] A 14-year-old Somali recruit, interviewed by the Institute for Security Studies in September 2014, said, "[W]hen you join, they give you a mobile phone and every month you get $50. This is what pushes a lot of my friends to join." Another member recalled how during his recruitment experience "[P]reachers delivered sermons for hours about destiny and the sweetness of the holy war. They distributed leaflets on Islam [and] showed video recording from other jihadist [sic] in the world."[24]

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[18] United Nations Security Council, "Letter dates 12 July 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) ad 1907 (2009) concerning Somalis and Eritrea addressed to the President of the Security Council," 12 July 2014, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/413.

[19] "Somalia: Al-Shabaab—It will be a Long War," International Crisis Group, June 26, 2014, http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/africa/horn-of-africa/somalia/b099-somalia-al-shabaab-it-will-be-a-long-war.pdf.

[20] "Somalia: Al-Shabaab—It will be a Long War," International Crisis Group, June 26, 2014, http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/africa/horn-of-africa/somalia/b099-somalia-al-shabaab-it-will-be-a-long-war.pdf.

[21] Ken Menkhaus, "Al-Shabab's Capabilities Post-Westgate," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 2 (February 2014): 4-9, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss2.pdf.

[22] Anneli Botha and Mahdi Abdile, "Radicalisation and al-Shabaab recruitment in Somalia," Institute for Security Studies, September 2014, 2, 6, http://www.issafrica.org/uploads/Paper266.pdf.

[23] "Somalia," United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, May 15, 2014, https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/countries/somalia/.

[24] Anneli Botha and Mahdi Abdile, "Radicalisation and al-Shabaab recruitment in Somalia," Institute for Security Studies, September 2014, 2, 6, http://www.issafrica.org/uploads/Paper266.pdf.

Al-Shabab has a sophisticated public relations arm that "includes a Twitter account and video production abilities."[25] The group's use of new media for propaganda has attracted recruits from around the world. Al-Shabab also disseminates recruitment videos dubbed in English and Somali. A video released in 2010 depicts a combatant attempting to recruit young fighters: "So what are you waiting for my brothers, why don't you leap forth for this act of worship? Join us so that we can together fight the forces of kufr [unbelief]…"[26]
Another video includes an English-language rap: "[M]ortar by mortar, shell by shell, only going to stop when they go to hell."[27]

Within Somalia, recruiters infiltrate remote, rural areas and approach potential recruits. There have been accounts of recruiters threatening the lives of Somali Muslim men who initially resist joining the group.[28]

"So what are you waiting for my brothers, why don't you leap forth for this act of worship? Join us so that we can together fight the forces of kufr…"

Recruitment in Kenya

Al-Shabab recruiters radicalize young Kenyan Muslims—often converts to Islam— with extremist sermons. Personal accounts reveal that recruiters use psychological manipulation to increase enrollment in the terror group. A disillusioned former recruit said that deceased al-Shabab member and radical Kenyan cleric Aboud Rogo Mohammed "used to tell us: 'Instead of sitting in the slum doing nothing, it's better to go to Somalia and fight for your religion, you'll go straight to heaven.'"[29]

Once the recruits are prepared to join al-Shabab, they travel to remote islands off of Kenya's coast, which are only a couple hours away from Somalia by boat. From these Islands, radical preachers guide them to their final destination, Somalia. [30]

Recruitment in America

U.S. Representative Edward Royce (R-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, warned in late 2013 that "al-Shabab has demonstrated a unique ability to recruit young members of the Somali diaspora in the United States...."[31]

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[25] Tom Watkins, "Al-Shabaab grew amid Somalia's lawlessness," CNN, September 2, 2014, http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/02/world/africa/somalia-al-shabaab-explainer/.
[26] Aaron Y. Zelin, "New video from Ḥarakat al-Shabāb al-Mujāhidīn's media outlet al-Katāi'b: "Message to the Ummah and Inspire The Believers," Jihadology, November 22, 2010, http://jihadology.net/2010/11/22/new-video-from-%E1%B8%A5arakat-al-shabab-al-mujahidins-media-outlet-al-kataib-message-to-the-ummah-and-inspire-the-believers/.
[27] Tom Watkins, "Al-Shabaab grew amid Somalia's lawlessness," CNN, September 2, 2014, http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/02/world/africa/somalia-al-shabaab-explainer/.
[28] Anneli Botha and Mahdi Abdile, "Radicalisation and al-Shabaab recruitment in Somalia," Institute for Security Studies, September 2014, p. 8, http://www.issafrica.org/uploads/Paper266.pdf.
[29] Peter Taylor, "On the trail of al-Shabab's Kenyan recruitment 'pipeline,'" BBC, September 28, 2013, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-24263357.
[30] Peter Taylor, "On the trail of al-Shabab's Kenyan recruitment 'pipeline,'" BBC, September 28, 2013, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-24263357.

Americans began traveling to Somalia to join al-Shabab in 2007 when the terror group stepped up its insurgency against Somalia's transitional government. Most American fighters for al-Shabab have been radicalized in Minneapolis, Minnesota, home to the largest Somali diaspora in the U.S.

The FBI contends that al-Shabab has made an "active and deliberate attempt" to recruit American fighters in person and over the Internet. A 2011 U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security investigation found that al-Shabab recruiters have used mosques and cafes as meeting places to radicalize and recruit.[32] Alabama native Omar Hammami appeared in several online videos in which he urged foreigners in English to "live the life of a mujahid." Al-Shabab has released a host of other online recruitment videos depicting American foreign fighters

Training

Due to the lack of governance in Somalia, al-Shabab has been able to manage specialized training camps with little domestic interference. In addition to a hand-to-hand combat camp in Ras Kiamboni and suicide bombing camps in Elberde and Mogadishu, al-Shabab has managed a hostage training camp in Eel Arfid.[33] Al-Shabab has also recruited women, although they are reportedly sent to training camps for the sole purpose of being taken as brides.[34]

Core al-Qaeda had an influence on al-Shabab training since before al-Shabab formally pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda in 2012. A 2011 report by the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security found that American recruits were receiving training from senior al-Qaeda operatives, some with ties to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.[35] Also as of 2011, Pakistani-born al-Qaeda operative Abu Musa Mombasa was reported to be al-Shabab's head of security and training.[36] Under the auspices of core al-Qaeda, the group has increasingly focused on its explosives and suicide-bomber training program.[37]

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[31] Guy Taylor, "U.S. youths recruited for Somali terror group al-Shabab, hearing told," *Washington Times*, October 3, 2013, http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/oct/3/us-youths-recruited-somali-terror-group-al-shabaab/?page=all.

[32] House Homeland Security Committee, Majority Investigative Report: *Al Shabaab: Recruitment and Radicalization within the Muslim American Community and the Threat to the Homeland*, 112th Congress, July 27, 2011, http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/Investigative%20report.pdf.

[33] Scott Baldauf and Ali Mohamed, "Somalia's Al Shabab recruits 'holy warriors' with $400 bonus," *Christian Science Monitor*, April 15, 2010, http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2010/0415/Somalia-s-Al-Shabab-recruits-holy-warriors-with-400-bonus.

[34] Scott Baldauf and Ali Mohamed, "Somalia's Al Shabab recruits 'holy warriors' with $400 bonus," *Christian Science Monitor*, April 15, 2010, http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2010/0415/Somalia-s-Al-Shabab-recruits-holy-warriors-with-400-bonus.

[35] House Homeland Security Committee, Majority Investigative Report: *Al Shabaab: Recruitment and Radicalization within the Muslim American Community and the Threat to the Homeland*, 112th Congress, July 27, 2011, http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/Investigative%20report.pdf.

[36] Rob Wise, "Al Shabaab," Center for Strategic & International Studies, July 2011, http://csis.org/files/publication/110715_Wise_AlShabaab_AQAM%20Futures%20Case%20Study_WEB.pdf.

[37] Rob Wise, "Al Shabaab," Center for Strategic & International Studies, July 2011, http://csis.org/files/publication/110715_Wise_AlShabaab_AQAM%20Futures%20Case%20Study_WEB.pdf.

Today, al-Shabab recruits undergo a six-month training process.[38] At one graduation ceremony open to media, 300 trainees became members. The new graduates were able to choose which sector of al-Shabab to join. Graduates can sign up for a combat unit, become bomb-makers, or work for the group's security network, the Amniyat. Standout recruits have the special opportunity to join the years-long waiting list for the Istishhadyin unit, the group's suicide brigade.[39]

In September 2014, the U.S. conducted a drone attack on an al-Shabab training camp south of Mogadishu. The attack killed al-Shabab's leader at the time, Ahmed Abdi Godane.[40]

History:

Early-2000s: A coalition of 11 Sharia courts forms the Islamic Courts Union (ICU). Sharif Sheikh Ahmed is named leader.[41]

2003: Al-Itihad al-Islami (AIAI) splits over goals and strategy, with the old guard creating a new political front and the youth members seeking to establish a "Greater Somalia" ruled by *shariah*. These latter hardliners join the ICU.

June 2006: The ICU, supported by al-Shabab militants, grabs control of Mogadishu after a battle against a coalition of warlords.[42]

December 6, 2006: Somalia's transitional government requests an intervention from neighboring countries to quell tension caused by the ICU in Mogadishu. Ethiopia, a majority Christian country, invades Somalia and takes Mogadishu with little opposition from the ICU.[43] Much of the ICU flees to neighboring countries and al-Shabab retreats to the south, where it begins organizing asymmetric attacks on conventional Ethiopian forces.[44]

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[38] Jamal Osman, "Exclusive: inside an al-Shabaab training camp," Channel 4, December 16, 2013, http://www.channel4.com/news/al-shabaab-somalia-kenya-westgate-al-qaeda.
[39] Jamal Osman, "Exclusive: inside an al-Shabaab training camp," Channel 4, December 16, 2013, http://www.channel4.com/news/al-shabaab-somalia-kenya-westgate-al-qaeda.
[40] Abdi Guled, "Somalia extremist group names new leader," Associated Press, September 6, 2014, http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/09/06/somalia-islamic-extremist-group-al-shabaab-names-new-leader/.
[41] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.
[42] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.
[43] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.
[44] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

January 2007 to January 2008: Al-Shabab is able to garner support from local Somalis and the Somali diaspora. Galvanized by the Ethiopian invasion, al-Shabab becomes the most powerful Somali guerilla group, receiving funding and recruits.[45]

January 7, 2007: Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), formed in exile in Nairobi, Kenya in the fall of 2004, unites the country's largest clans and moves into the Somali capital of Mogadishu.[46]

February 2007: The U.N. Security Council supports the creation of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM is a legacy of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Peace Support Mission in Somalia. AMISOM's mission is to support the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Mogadishu, implement a national security plan, train Somali security forces, and protect merchant shipping—humanitarian aid transportation in particular—from piracy.[47] As a result of clashes with al-Shabab and the group's earlier iterations, AMISOM's mandate expands to support TFG forces in the battle against militants.

March 2007: Under AMISOM, Uganda is the first nation to send forces into Somalia and maintains the largest contingency in the U.N.-backed force. Other AMISOM troops come from Kenya, Burundi, Djibouti, and Sierre Leone.[48]

February 26, 2008: The U.S. State Department designates al-Shabab a Foreign Terrorist Organization.[49]

October 29, 2008: The first known U.S. suicide bomber for al-Shabab, Shirwa Ahmed, is part of attack in Hargeisa that kills 24 people. Ahmed was a Somali-American from Minnesota who trained with al-Shabab.[50]

January 13, 2009: Ethiopia pulls out of Somalia after a series of setbacks and AMISOM forces, comprised mostly of troops from Uganda and Burundi, move in.[51]

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[45] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[46] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[47] United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 1772.* S/RES/1772 (2007), August 20, 2007, http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1772(2007).

[48] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[49] Department of State, Public Notice, "In the Matter of the Designation of al-Shabaab, aka al-Shabab, aka Shabaab, aka the Youth, aka Mujahidin Al-Shabaab Movement, aka Mujahideen Youth Movement, aka Mujahidin Youth Movement, aka MYM, aka Harakat Shabab al-Mujahidin, aka Hizbul Shabaab, aka Hisb'ul Shabaab, aka al-Shabaab al-Islamiya, aka Youth Wing, aka al-Shabaab al-Islaam, aka al-Shabaab al-Jihaad, aka the Unity of Islamic Youth, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended, Public Notice 6136," *Federal Register* 73, no. 53 (March 18, 2008): 14550, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-03-18/pdf/E8-5444.pdf.

[50] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[51] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

February 2009: The group successfully launches the use of explosive vests in a sophisticated attack against African Union (AU) military bases in Mogadishu. They employ a mix of person-borne improvised explosive devices (PBIEDs) and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), followed by indirect fire. Similar tactics were used in a September bombing at an AU military base.[52]

June 19, 2009: Somalia National Security Minister Omar Hashi Aden is killed in a large-scale suicide car bomb attack in Beletwyne. Over 30 people are killed in the attack. The group seeks to intensify its strategy to strong-arm the Somali-population, focusing on high-target assassinations and clan elders.[53]

September 17, 2009: Two VBIEDs penetrate the security perimeter of an AMISOM Force Headquarters, killing 17 peacekeepers, including the deputy force commander.[54]

July 11, 2010: Al-Shabab claims responsibility for several near-simultaneous bombings that kill dozens of people in sports bars in Uganda. The three coordinated blasts, which detonate just seven minutes apart, kill 76 people watching the World Cup in Kampala.[55] A fourth bomb left at a discotheque failed to go off. This is the group's first attack on foreign soil. The group's spokesman proclaims, "We are sending a message to every country who is willing to send troops to Somalia that they will face attacks on their territory."[56] This attack brought together several of the elements from the 2009 bombings—near simultaneous attacks, employing PBIEDs, VBIEDs, and mobile-phone trigger.

August 1, 2010: AMISOM and TFG forces take control of Mogadishu and other major urban centers,[57] taking significant territory from al-Shabab.

August 2010: The loss of Mogadishu humiliates Godane. Less than two weeks later, he replaces two influential and independently minded deputies, Mukhtar Roobow and Ibrahim Haji Jaama' al-Afghani, with staunch loyalists Mahad Warsame and Qaley Karatey.[58]

October 1, 2011: Kenya invades southern Somalia in Operation Linda Nchi.[59]

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[52] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[53] United Nations Security Council, "List of Individuals and Entities Subject to the Measures Imposed by Paragraphs 1, 3, and 7 of Security Council Resolution 1844," March 11, 2014, http://www.un.org/sc/committees/751/pdf/1844_cons_list.pdf.

[54] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[55] "In prison with al-Shabab: What drives Somali militants?" BBC News, last modified October 4, 2013, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-24379013.

[56] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[57] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[58] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

February 1, 2012: Ayman Al-Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's successor as al-Qaeda leader , formally announces al-Shabab's alignment with al-Qaeda. Godane's request to unite with al-Qaeda was originally opposed by bin Laden, telling Godane that it would not be in al-Shabab's best interests. However, al-Zawahri, in an apparent bid to assert his power over the strong al-Qaeda chapters in Syria and Yemen, moved quickly to affirm Godane's request.[60] Al-Qaeda has worked with al-Itihaad al-Islami (AIAI), an early influencer of al-Shabab. In 2005, al-Qaeda core made significant gains in Somalia and, by 2007, al-Shabab had split from the other Islamist groups. In 2008, both groups praised each other on their respective websites, with al-Shabab publicly declaring its allegiance to Osama bin Laden in September 2009.[61]

August 24, 2012: Al-Shabab attempts a complex attack, targeting the Muna Hotel in Mogadishu. Al-Shabab gunmen, disguised as government security personnel, lay siege to the building and a two-hour gun battle ensues before one of the assailants detonates an explosive vest. The attack kills 32 people, including several members of parliament. Although the attack was deemed successful by al-Shabab, the group did not attempt another operation of such complexity until two years later, when they attempted to kill Somalia's newly elected president at Mogadishu's Jazeera Hotel.[62]

October 2012: Local Somali forces support Kenyan troops' siege of Kismayo, a major source of revenue for al-Shabab, dealing a major blow to the group's key source of revenue.[63]

January 17, 2013: For the first time in over 20 years, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announces that the U.S. formally recognizes the government of Somalia.[64]

March 28, 2013: Al-Shabab detonates a car bomb aimed at Somali intelligence chief Kahlif Ahmed Ereg near the National Theater in Mogadishu. The bomb kills ten civilians and injures 15.[65]

April 14, 2013: Al-Shabab attacks the Supreme Court using a VBIED to breach the main entrance. Gunmen, some wearing explosive vests, then enter the building to carry out a killing

[59] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[60] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[61] Fred Dews, "Al Shabaab: Background on the Somalia-based Terrorist Group that Attacked a Nairobi Mall," Brookings Institution, September 23, 2013, http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/brookings-now/posts/2013/09/al-shabaab-somalia-terrorist-nairobi-mall-attack.

[62] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[63] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[64] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[65] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

spree. All of the attackers were reportedly killed and more than 35 people perished in the attack.[66]

June 19, 2013: Al-Shabab attacks the U.N. compound in Mogadishu. The attack follows a similar pattern as the Supreme Court plans, with a VBIED exploding at the main entrance, allowing a small team of gunmen to enter. A total of 22 people are killed, including four U.N. international personnel, four local security guards, and all attackers.[67]

June 2013: al-Shabab's bloodiest internal battle ever destabilizes the group, leading to a major purge. The purge is thought to have removed 200 members. Top leaders who opposed Godane meet varying fates, with Ibrahim al-Afghani and Maa'lim Hashi executed, Mukhtar Robow escaping, and Hasan Dahir Aweys fleeing but being captured by government militias and handed over to Somalia's Transitional Federal Government.[68] Godane consolidates control over the weakened, smaller group and implements a hardline strategy and tactics.

July 12, 2013: An AMISOM convoy, en route to Mogadishu International Airport, is struck by al-Shabab. The group publicly admits they had tried to target U.S. intelligence officers.[69]

July 27, 2013: The group attacks the Turkish embassy housing complex in Mogadishu using a car bomb and small weapons, killing eight and injuring 13.[70]

September 3 and 4, 2013: Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's convoy is attacked by a roadside bomb as he travels to Merka, Lower Shabelle. No casualties are reported, though one Somali soldier is injured in the attack.[71]

September 7, 2013: 18 civilians are killed at the popular Villa Restaurant in Mogadishu. Al-Shabab employs a two-part VBIED and suicide attack.[72]

September 12 and November 5, 2013: Al-Shabab twice targets the convoy of Interim Juba Administration President Ahmed Madobe with a car bomb outside of Kismayo's airport. President Madobe is slightly injured in the first attack. Civilians are killed in both attacks.[73]

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[66] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[67] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[68] Ken Menkhaus, "Al-Shabab's Capabilities Post-Westgate," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 2 (February 2014): 4-9, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss2.pdf

[69] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

[70] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

[71] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

[72] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

[73] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

September 21 - 24, 2013: Al-Shabab militants, including a Norwegian citizen of Somali origin and three Somali nationals, raid Westgate Shopping Centre in Nairobi. In the deadliest attack in Kenya in 15 years, the attackers kill 67 people over four days. The victims include six Kenyan security personnel and wound more than 200 people.[74]

November 8, 2013: The group attempts to detonate a sophisticated IED embedded in a laptop at a popular hotel in Mogadishu, Maka al Mukarama that is frequented by high-level government and security officials. The attack kills six and injures 15. A secondary VBIED detonates in the parking lot.[75]

November 19, 2013: Al-Shabab insurgents launch a complex attack against the central police station in Beledweyne, killing 24 Somali police officers and one Djiboutian AMISOM soldier, and injuring several others.[76]

December 5, 2013: A suicide car bomber hits a convoy of the Puntland security forces in central Boosaaso, killing three police officers and four civilians, while injuring several others.[77]

January 1, 2014: Al-Shabab claims responsibility for a suicide car bombing that kills at least 12 people and injured several others at the Jazeera Hotel.[78]

January 8, 2014: The Kenya Defense Force conducts an airstrike near Garbarhaahey in Somalia. The jets reportedly killed eight al-Shabab militants.[79]

January 15, 2014: Al-Shabab attempts to launch an attack on Somali National Army positions, but proves unsuccessful.[80]

January 26, 2014: An unmanned drone hits an al-Shabab convoy and is thought to kill a senior commander.[81]

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[74] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2014,
http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[75] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

[76] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[77] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[78] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[79] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[80] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[81] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

January 21, 2014: Two roadside explosions kill three civilians and injure 13. A few days later, on January 26th, the Puntland Government announces that it recovered ammunition, explosive devices and other equipment following an assault on the group's base in Galgala near the Golis Mountain range.[82]

February 13, 2014: A U.N. convoy is hit by a suicide car bomber en-route to the Mogadishu International Airport, killing several Somali bystanders.[83]

February 21, 2014: Following a series of suicide bombings over a few weeks, al-Shabab attacks Somalia's presidential palace with a combination of car bombs and engages in a gun battle with palace guards. 14 people are left dead, including five Somali officials and soldiers and nine attackers. The interior minister confirms that two government officials are among the dead.[84]

September 1, 2014: U.S. airstrikes kill al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane.[85]

September 5, 2014: The U.S. confirms al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane was killed in the September 1, 2014 airstrike. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud calls on al-Shabab to renounce violence and embrace peace.[86]

September 6, 2014: Following the death of al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane, the group reaffirms its allegiance to al-Qaeda and promises revenge for Godane's killing.[87] The Somali government braces itself for an undoubtedly violent backlash. Government intelligence reveals that al-Shabab is planning retaliatory attacks for Godane's death.

September 8, 2014: Al-Shabab pledges allegiance to a new leader, Sheikh Ahmed Umar Abu Ubaida, stating that their enemies would reap the "bitter fruits" of revenge. Abu Ubaida comes from a branch of Somalia's Dir clan, originating in the south. Godane was also a member of the clan but from a northern branch. It is suggested that the new leader is related to

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[82] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[83] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[84] "Al-Shabab attacks Somali presidential palace," Al Jazeera, February 22, 2014, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/02/somali-presidential-hq-attacked-al-shabab-201422112586270319.html.

[85] "Pro-Somali troops secure last al-Shabab bastion," Associated Press, October 5, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ff42269eb581420db323295647940620/pro-somalia-troops-secure-last-al-shabab-bastion.

[86] Robert Burns and Lolita C. Baldor, "US confirms death of Somalia terror group leader," Associated Press, September 5, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/pentagon-confirms-death-somalia-terror-leader.

[87] Reuters, "Al-Shabaab pledge allegiance to new leader," Al Arabiya News, September 8, 2014, http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/09/08/Somalia-s-al-Shabaab-pledge-allegiance-to-new-leader.html.

Godane maternally.[88] Just hours after the pledge, the group claims responsibility for two car bomb attacks that targeted African peacekeepers and a TFG convoy, killing 12 civilians.[89]

September 8, 2014: A suicide bomber attacks Somalia's Lower Shabelle region, killing 12 civilians and wounding two soldiers. Later, a second suicide attacker rams his car into the convoy escorting Somalian intelligence commander Abdifatah Shaweye to the scene of the first attack. Shaweye is lightly wounded. No further casualties are reported.[90]

September 13, 2014: The U.S. embassy in Uganda warns Americans to stay home while Ugandan authorities work to foil a possible al-Shabab terror attack.[91] 19 people are arrested after raids on at least two locations in Kampala.[92]

September 17, 2014: Prosecutors in Finland charge four people who allegedly collected "thousands of euros" for al-Shabab between 2008 and 2011. One of the defendants is also charged with recruiting for al-Shabab. The suspects face up to eight years in prison. It is the first time terror charges are filed in Finland.[93]

September 20, 2014: Two suspected German members of al-Shabab are arrested after landing in Germany's Frankfurt airport. According to the German federal prosecutors' office, German-Tunisian dual citizen Mounir T. and German citizen Abdiwahid W. went to Somalia in 2012 to join al-Shabab. The men were detained in Kenya in August 2014 and deported to Germany.[94]

September 24, 2014: Uganda charges 10 suspected members of al-Shabab with belonging to a terrorist group and aiding in terror activities. Nine of the suspects are Somali nationals and one is Kenyan. All were arrested during the September 13, 2014 raid.[95]

September 24, 2014: An Egyptian court sentences telecommunications engineer Mahmoud Abdel Aziz to life in prison for working as a bomb-maker and communications specialist for al-

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[88] Paul Crompton, "Somalia's Islamist al-Shabaab at risk of splintering," Al Arabiya News, September 9, 2014, http://english.alarabiya.net/en/perspective/analysis/2014/09/09/Somalia-s-Islamist-al-Shabaab-at-risk-of-splintering.html.

[89] "Al-Shabaab pledge allegiance to new leader," Al Arabiya News, September 8, 2014, http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/09/08/Somalia-s-al-Shabaab-pledge-allegiance-to-new-leader.html.

[90] Abdi Guled, "12 civilians killed in Somalia attack, say police," Associated Press, September 8, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/5-civilians-killed-somalia-bombing-say-police.

[91] Tom Odula, "US gov't warns citizens of terror plot in Uganda," Associated Press, September 13, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/us-govt-warns-citizens-terror-plot-uganda.

[92] Rodney Muhumuza, "Uganda holds 19 terror suspects, seizes explosives," Associated Press, September 15, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/uganda-holds-6-terror-suspects-seizes-explosives; Rodney Muhumuza, "10 suspects charged in Uganda over al-Shabab ties," Associated Press, September 25, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ba8853e16e2f4be89746f9c5b86f5f1b/10-suspects-charged-uganda-over-al-shabab-ties.

[93] "Finland: 4 charged with funding Somali militants," Associated Press, September 17, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/finland-4-charged-funding-somali-militants.

[94] "2 al-Shabab suspects arrested in Frankfurt," Associated Press, September 21, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ffc56df4f92a41f98a4390d46d0a4242/2-al-shabab-suspects-arrested-frankfurt.

[95] Rodney Muhumuza, "10 suspects charged in Uganda over al-Shabab ties," Associated Press, September 25, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ba8853e16e2f4be89746f9c5b86f5f1b/10-suspects-charged-uganda-over-al-shabab-ties.

Shabab. According to the prosecutor, Abdel Aziz, also known as Hakeem al-Masry, helped al-Shabab communicate with al-Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.[96]

October 5, 2014: African Union and Somali troops capture Barawe, a key coastal town 135 miles southwest of Mogadishu and the last of al-Shabab's major strongholds. According to the Somali military, al-Shabab militants fled by land and sea. Al-Shabab has used the port to import troops and weapons while exporting millions of dollars' worth of Somalian charcoal.[97]

October 12, 2014: A car bomb explodes outside a café in Mogadishu, killing 11 and wounding eight. Al-Shabab is suspected.[98]

October 15, 2014: A car bomb explodes near the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia, killing five and wounding seven, mostly children. Al-Shabab is suspected.[99]

October 19, 2014: Kenyan and Somali soldiers kill five suspected al-Shabab members. The suspects were attempting to cross into Kenya from Ethiopia in a car filled with 220 pounds of explosives and six suicide vests.[100]

October 24, 2014: U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro postpones the sentencing of 31-year-old U.S. citizen Gufran Mohammed, who pled guilty to supporting al-Shabab. Co-defendant Mohamed Hussein Said of Kenya pled not guilty to similar charges.[101]

October 24, 2014: As part of an effort to target al-Shabab's funding, the U.N. Security Council authorizes the inspection of ships suspected to be carrying Somalian charcoal. The U.N. banned charcoal exports from Somalia in 2012.[102]

October 29, 2014: UAE Foreign Minister Sheik Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan warns that ISIS and al-Shabab may join forces. He urges countries to prepare for such a threat.[103]

November 17, 2014: Al-Shabab militants open fire on the car of a 60-year old Somali-American in Mogadishu. Separately, militants shoot and kill a freelance journalist in central Somalia. [104]

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[96] "Egypt sentences al-Qaeda member to life," Associated Press, September 25, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/3b34d0f830b542a388ef3946210c57f0/egypt-sentences-alleged-al-qaida-member-life.
[97] Abdi Guled, "Pro-Somali troops secure last al-Shabab bastion," Associated Press, October 5, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ff42269eb581420db323295647940620/pro-somalia-troops-secure-last-al-shabab-bastion.
[98] Abdi Guled, "Car bomb in Somalia's capital kills 11," Associated Press, October 12, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/55b8bab4b8e4484ba373c1d45309fe8f/car-bomb-somalias-capital-kills-least-7.
[99] Abdi Guled, "Car bomb in Somali capital kills 5, mostly kids," Associated Press, October 15, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7da0bdd1147542ec90b5f9ca1bb7d072/car-bomb-somali-capital-kills-5-mostly-kids.
[100] Tom Odula, "Kenya: 5 suspected bombers killed," Associated Press, October 19, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ac07e34b824c485e86e799f998d387c4/kenya-5-terrorists-killed-car-bomb-recovered.
[101] Curt Anderson, "Terror supporter sentencing delayed in FBI sting," Associated Press, October 24, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/5ede222e86ae4e558904bb30e1752f14/terror-supporter-sentencing-delayed-fbi-sting.
[102] Edith M. Lederer, "UN authorizes ship inspections for Somali charcoal," Associated Press, October 24, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/e8fe2a9961754c3b80c00f68c550dc6e/un-authorizes-ship-inspections-somali-charcoal.
[103] Adam Schreck, "UAE official warns for potential of IS-Shabab link," Associated Press, October 29, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/168d40798c8745b8840988a13fd0fa4f/uae-official-warns-potential-shabab-link.

November 17, 2014: Kenyan police arrest 251 in raids on two mosques in Mombasa. The raids also net eight grenades and a pistol. One person is killed after trying to throw a grenade at police.[105]

November 20, 2014: A U.S. federal judge says that in order to receive a more lenient sentence, U.S. citizen and alleged al-Shabab financier Gufran Mohammed must demonstrate that he has renounced extremism and show remorse.[106]

November 22, 2014: After hijacking a bus heading to Nairobi, Kenya, al-Shabab massacres 28 civilians, having separated Muslims from non-Muslims by challenging the non-Somali passengers to recite the *shahada*, the Islamic declaration of faith. Nineteen men and nine women are murdered, shot at close range.[107]

November 25, 2014: British intelligence reveals it could have prevented the May 2013 killing of British soldier Lee Rigby by two Islamic extremists if U.S. social media companies had cooperated responsibly. The report criticizes Google, Twitter, and Yahoo for "failing to report extremist content or comply with British requests to hand over information." One of the murderers, Michael Adebolajo, was arrested in Kenya in 2010 while attempting to travel to Somalia to join al-Shabab militants.[108]

December 2, 2014: After identifying non-Muslim workers at a quarry in Kenya, Al Shabab massacres 36 people, most of whom are reportedly "lined up, and shot in the head, at close range" while others are beheaded.[109]

December 3, 2014: Al-Shabab carries out a car bomb attack on a U.N. convoy near Mogadishu airport, killing four Somalis, including a policeman and a contractor, and wounding 13 others.[110]

December 5, 2014: Al-Shabab suicide bombers kill up to seven people and wound dozens more in a restaurant in the northwest town of Baidoa in Somalia.[111]

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[104] Abdi Guled, "Somali-American who helped Mogadishu govt killed," Associated Press, November 19, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/768422c036ad463d98479ba3ce922bb6/somali-american-who-helped-mogadishu-govt-killed.

[105] "Kenyan police raid mosques; 1 dead, 251 arrested," Associated Press, November 17, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/717b1a93a2eb4cf68e6f9a15e6ff0b93/kenyan-police-raid-mosques-1-dead-251-arrested.

[106] Curt Anderson, "Sentencing delayed for terror supporter in Florida," Associated Press, November 20, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/54eb67858d484f1498e73d0b69e64f76/terror-supporter-sentencing-set-fbi-sting.

[107] Tom Odula, "Somalia's al-Shabab kills 28 non-Muslims in Kenya," *Washington Post*, November 22, 2014, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/somalias-al-shabab-kills-28-non-muslims-in-kenya/2014/11/22/d7571d5c-7272-11e4-ad12-3734c461eab6_story.html.

[108] Jill Lawless, "Report: Spies lacked info to stop soldier's murder," Associated Press, November 25, 2014, http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/fb11964abe6e4764bf804917883b7a16/report-uk-soldiers-killers-were-spies-radar

[109] "Al-Shabab massacres non-Muslims at Kenya quarry," BBC News, last modified December 2, 2014, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30288137.

[110] Feisal Omar, "Al-Shabaab car bomb kills four Somalis in U.N. convoy," Reuters, December 3, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/somalia-blast-idUSL6N0TN0L220141203.

[111] Feisal Omar, "Suicide bombers kill up to seven in Somali town," Reuters, December 5, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/us-somalia-blast-idUSKCN0JJ1WT20141205.

December 12, 2014: Al-Shabab kidnaps and beheads Quran teacher Mohamed Hussein near the central Somali city of Bulo Berde. Hussein apparently refused to obey al-Shabab's order to leave his village. His headless corpse is later found dumped close to his home.[112]

December 15, 2014: Al-Shabab attacks a military base in southern Somalia, killing at least 10 soldiers.[113]

December 25, 2014: Eight al-Shabab militants storm an African Union (AU) building and kill three Ugandan peacekeepers and a civilian contractor. Al-Shabab claims that it killed 14 peacekeepers, explaining that it "targeted the enemies at a time they were celebrating Christmas…"[114]

December 26, 2014: In claiming responsibility for the African Union attack on December 25, al-Shabab state that it is in retaliation for a U.S. strike that killed its leader, Ahmed Godane.[115]

December 30, 2014: U.S. air strikes kill an al-Shabab leader known as Abdishakur (a.k.a. Tahliil), reportedly head of the group's suicide unit, Amniyat.[116]

January 2, 2015: Al-Shabab confirms it was responsible for killing at least seven Somali soldiers in an attack on a military base outside Baidoa.[117]

January 4, 2015: Al-Shabab detonates a car bomb that kills four civilians and injures seven more in the Somali capital of Mogadishu.[118]

January 27, 2015: Former senior al-Shabab intelligence chief Zakariya Ismail Hersi claims that he has renounced his membership of the extremist group.[119]

Designations by U.S. Government:

Date	Designated Entity	Designation	Designating Entity	Effects of Designation	Reference

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[112] Omar Nor, "Al-Shabaab blamed for five beheadings," CNN, December 15, 2014: http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/15/world/africa/somalia-violence/.

[113] Abdi Sheikh, Feisal Omar, et al, "Islamist rebels kill 10 Somali soldiers in attack on base," Reuters, December 15, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/15/somalia-attacks-idUSL1N0TZ09520141215.

[114] Abdi Sheikh and Feisal Omar, "Islamist gunmen attack African Union base in Somalia," Reuters, December 25, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/27/us-somalia-security-idUSKBN0K503C20141227.

[115] Omar Nor, Mohammed Tawfeeq, and Susanna Capelouto, "Al-Shabaab: Attack on base was revenge for U.S. airstrike," CNN, December 26, 2014, http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/26/world/africa/somalia-violence/.

[116] Abdi Sheikh, "UPDATE 2- Al Shabaab leader killed in U.S. air strike in Mogadishu," Reuters, December 30, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/30/usa-somalia-airstrike-idUSL6N0UE2BV20141230.

[117] Feisal Omar and Abdi Sheikh, "At least seven killed in al Shabaab attack at Somali military base," Reuters, January 2, 2015, http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/02/us-somalia-attacks-idUSKBN0KB0ET20150102

[118] Abdi Sheikh, "Car bomb targeting Somali security forces kills four civilians," Reuters, January 4, 2015, http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/04/us-somalia-blast-idUSKBN0KD0E420150104.

[119] Abdi Guled, "Somalia: Al-Shabab leader says he has quit terror group," Associated Press, January 27, 2015, http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/f519f587d9ea44b4b596683543e570d1/somalia-al-shabab-leader-says-he-has-quit-terror-group.

October 23, 2002	Jemaah Islamiyah	Foreign Terrorist Organization (under Executive Order 13224)	Department of State	Blocks property and prohibits transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.	[120]
February 26, 2008	Al-Shabab	Foreign Terrorist Organization (under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act)	Department of State	Freezes assets in U.S. financial institutions; bans admission of members to U.S.; bans providing "material support or resources" to entity.	[121]
February 26, 2008	Al-Shabab	Specially Designated Global Terrorist (under Executive Order 13224)	Department of State	Blocks all property ownership/real estate transactions in the U.S. or under the possession of control of U.S. persons; bans any property-related transactions by U.S. persons or within U.S., including giving or receiving	[122]

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[120] "Country Reports on Terrorism 2011," U.S. Department of State, July 31, 2012, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2011/195553.htm.

[121] Department of State, Public Notice, "In the Matter of the Designation of al-Shabaab, aka al-Shabab, aka Shabaab, aka the Youth, aka Mujahidin Al-Shabaab Movement, aka Mujahideen Youth Movement, aka Mujahidin Youth Movement, aka MYM, aka Harakat Shabab al-Mujahidin, aka Hizbul Shabaab, aka Hisb'ul Shabaab, aka al-Shabaab al-Islamiya, aka Youth Wing, aka al-Shabaab al-Islaam, aka al-Shabaab al-Jihaad, aka the Unity of Islamic Youth, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended, Public Notice 6136," *Federal Register* 73, no. 53 (March 18, 2008): 14550, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-03-18/pdf/E8-5444.pdf.

[122] Department of State, Public Notice, "In the Matter of the Designation of al-Shabaab, aka al-Shabab, aka Shabaab, aka the Youth, aka Mujahidin Al-Shabaab Movement, aka Mujahideen Youth Movement, aka Mujahidin Youth Movement, aka MYM, aka Harakat Shabab al-Mujahidin, aka Hizbul Shabaab, aka Hisb'ul Shabaab, aka al-Shabaab al-Islamiya, aka Youth Wing, aka al-Shabaab al-Islaam, aka al-Shabaab al-Jihaad, aka the Unity of Islamic Youth as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist pursuant to Section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as Amended, Public Notice 6137," *Federal Register* 73, no. 53 (March 18, 2008): 14550, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-03-18/pdf/E8-5444.pdf..

				contributions to the entity.	
February 26, 2008	Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed Godane (Mukhtar Abu Zubair)	Foreign Terrorist Organization (under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act)	Department of State	Freezes assets in U.S. financial institutions; bans admission of members to U.S.; bans providing "material support or resources" to entity.	[123]
February 26, 2008	Mukhtar Robow	Foreign Terrorist Organization (under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act)	Department of State	Freezes assets in U.S. financial institutions; ban on admission of members to U.S.; ban on providing "material support or resources" to entity.	[124]
February 29, 2008	Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed Godane (Mukhtar Abu Zubair)	Specially Designated Global Terrorist (under Executive Order 13224)	Department of State	Blocks all property in U.S. or under possession of control of U.S. persons; bans any property-related transactions by U.S. persons or within U.S., including giving or receiving contributions to the entity.	[125]
February 29, 2008	Mukhtar Robow	Specially Designated Global Terrorist (under	Department of State	Blocks all property in U.S. or under possession of control of U.S.	[126]

[123] "Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed," National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.nctc.gov/site/profiles/aw_mohamed.html.

[124] "Mukhtar Robow," National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.nctc.gov/site/profiles/robow.html.

[125] "Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed," National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.nctc.gov/site/profiles/aw_mohamed.html.

[126] "Mukhtar Robow," National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.nctc.gov/site/profiles/robow.html.

		Executive Order 13224)		persons; bans any property-related transactions by U.S. persons or within U.S., including giving or receiving contributions to the entity.	
February 29, 2008	Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed Godane (Mukhtar Abu Zubair)	Global Terrorist (under Executive Order 13536)	Department of Treasury	Blocks property of persons contributing to conflict in Somalia, assets within the U.S. are frozen, U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with designees.	[127]
July 29, 2011	Omar Hammami	Global Terrorist (under Executive Order 13536)	Department of Treasury	Blocks property of persons contributing to conflict in Somalia, assets within the U.S. are frozen, U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with designees.	[128]
July 29, 2011	Hassan Mahat Omar	Global Terrorist (under Executive Order 13536)	Department of Treasury	Blocks property of persons contributing to conflict in Somalia, assets within the U.S. are frozen, U.S.	[129]

[127] "Mukhtar Robow," National Counterterrorism Center Counterterrorism 2014 Calendar, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.nctc.gov/site/profiles/robow.html.

[128] "Hammami Press Release," U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 29, 2011, http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/20110729_Somalia.pdf.

[129] "Hammami Press Release," U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 29, 2011, http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/20110729_Somalia.pdf.

			persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with designees.	

Designations by Foreign Governments:

Government/ Organization	Date	Designated Entity	Designation	Reference
Australia	August 22, 2009	Al-Shabaab	Terrorist Organization	[130]
Canada	April 5, 2014	Al-Shabaab	Terrorist Entity	[131]
New Zealand	February 10, 2010	Al-Shabaab	Terrorist Entity	[132]
Norway	date not found	Al-Shabaab	Sanctioned Group	[133]
United Nations Security Council Committee	September 24, 2014	Al-Shabaab	Insurgent Group for actions against international peacekeeping operations and obstruction of humanitarian assistance to Somalia	[134]

Ties to Entities Designated by the U.S. or Foreign Governments:

Al-Shabab publicly praised al-Qaeda between 2006 and 2008, condemning U.S. oppression of Muslims worldwide. In 2010, the group announced that it sought to "connect the horn of

[130] "Al-Shabaab," Australian National Security, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/JemaahIslamiyahJI.aspx.

[131] "Currently Listed Entities," Public Safety Canada, last modified March 24, 2014, http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrt/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/crrnt-lstd-ntts-eng.aspx#2009.

[132] "Lists Associated with Resolution 1373," New Zealand Police, http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/counterterrorism/designated-entities/lists-associated-with-resolution-1373.

[133] "Arms Embargo," Norwegian Police Security Service, accessed February 4, 2015, http://www.pst.no/blogg/vapenembargo/.

[134] "List of Individuals and Entities Subject to the Measures Imposed by Paragraphs 1, 3, and 7 of Security Council Resolution 1844," United Nations Security Council, March 11, 2014, http://www.un.org/sc/committees/751/pdf/1844_cons_list.pdf.

Africa jihad to the one led by al-Qaeda."[135] Al-Shabab officially announced its union with al-Qaeda in February 2012. Following Godane's death in September 2014, the group and its new leader reaffirmed the alignment.[136]

Ties to Other Entities:

Al-Shabab has an affiliated network, including al-Hijra (aka Muslim Youth Center or MYC) in Kenya.[137] After the Westgate mall attack in September 2013, evidence emerged that al-Hijra assisted al-Shabab militants in executing the attacks. Al-Hijra, formerly known as the Muslim Youth Center (MYC), is a group of primarily Kenyan Somali and non-Somali Muslim followers of al-Shabab in East Africa.[138]

Media Coverage/Analysis of Group:

Western Media

Western news outlets focus on U.S. military efforts to stop the group due to its ties to al-Qaeda, including the U.S.'s role in striking al-Shabab militants[139] and in launching the drone strike that killed Godane.[140] Connections to al-Qaeda have also raised concerns about al-Shabaab planning attacks overseas.[141]

Arab and African Media

Arab news outlets have reported on the two-decades-long conflict within the failed state of Somalia and the contagion it has caused in east Africa. Al-Shabab confirmed many media reports stating after the Westgate shopping mall attack was in retaliation for Kenyan support of AMISOM's mission in Somalia, and demanded that Kenya pull out. The group's first reprisal mission for Godane's death in Uganda was ultimately foiled by Ugandan security forces. A few years earlier, the group claimed responsibility for killing 76 people in Kampala, citing Uganda's participation in AMISOM as a motive as well.[142]

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[135] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[136] Reuters, "Al-Shabaab pledge allegiance to new leader," Al Arabiya, September 8, 2014, http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/09/08/Somalia-s-al-Shabaab-pledge-allegiance-to-new-leader.html.

[137] Fredrick Nzes, "Al-Hijra: Al-Shabab's Affiliate in Keyna," CTC Sentinel 7, no. 2 (May 2014): 24-26, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss5.pdf.

[138] Fredrick Nzes, "Al-Hijra: Al-Shabab's Affiliate in Keyna," CTC Sentinel 7, no. 2 (May 2014): 24-26, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss5.pdf.

[139] Ernesto Lodono and Scott Wilson, "U.S. strikes al-Shabab in Somalia and captures bombing suspect in Libya," Washington Post, October 6, 2013, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-navy-seals-raid-al-shabab-leaders-somalia-home-in-response-to-nairobi-attack/2013/10/05/78f135dc-2e0c-11e3-8ade-a1f23cda135e_story.html.

[140] Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt and Jeffrey Gettleman, "Strikes Killed Militant Chief in Somalia, U.S. Reports," New York Times, September 5, 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/06/world/africa/somalia-shabab.html.

[141] "US confirms al-Shabab leader Ahmed Godane killed," BBC News, September 5, 2014, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29086800.

[142] "Uganda foils 'terrorist' attack," Al Jazeera English, September 13, 2014, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/09/uganda-foils-terrorist-attack-201491312302715418.html.

Militant profiles have emerged in African news media. Al-Shabab defectors are shown as traumatized and pressured victims. One former member told how, at 13 years of age, he joined the group after they took control of his town.[143]

In light of Godane's death, several news sources question the viability of Ahmed Umar as a leader and the stability of the organization, and how it would bode for security in the region. Both Arabic and African news outlets show concern for what a splintered group could mean for the movement and the region. *The East African* notes that the group will most likely tap into its cells across East Africa and make a push for recruitment.[144] Though the group's strategic and tactical directions are uncertain, analysts maintain the group will try to position itself as more global in nature. Such positioning could include strengthening ties with al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, and ISIS.[145] This direction could be indicated by al-Shabab's recommitment to al-Qaeda shortly after Umar's appointment as the new leader. The group could also potentially splinter and morph into a different structure, especially if internal power struggles recur.[146]

To a lesser but significant degree, news outlets have highlighted the 45-day amnesty that the Somali's government has extended to al-Shabab fighters who renounced the group.[147] Horn of Africa news website *Sabahi*, sponsored by U.S. Africa Command, highlighted President Mohamud's 60-day extension of the amnesty on October 27, 2014,[148] claiming that after the initial edict, approximately 30 militants surrendered daily. The national amnesty offered, in lieu of punishment, a nine-month rehabilitation program and a subsequent return to normal life.[149]

In contrast, Western media coverage put less emphasis on the amnesty program, preferring to focus on al-Shabab's ties to al-Qaeda and now potentially to ISIS. Godane, for example, is believed to have established ties with ISIS militias during their expansion into Syria and Iraq and offered al-Shabab fighters in support.[150]

Violent Activities:

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[143] Shukri Mohamed, "Dozens of al-Shabaab members taking advantage of amnesty 'every day,'" Sabahi, September 17, 2014, http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2014/09/17/feature-01.

[144] Gaaki Kigambo, "Why splintered al-Shabaab worries security experts," *East African*, September 13, 2014, http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/-/2558/2451684/-/5jmdxez/-/index.html.

[145] Gaaki Kigambo, "Why splintered al-Shabaab worries security experts," *The East African*, September 13, 2014, http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/-/2558/2451684/-/5jmdxez/-/index.html.

[146] Paul Crompton, "Somalia's Islamist al-Shabaab at risk of splintering," Al Arabiya News, September 9, 2014, http://english.alarabiya.net/en/perspective/analysis/2014/09/09/Somalia-s-Islamist-al-Shabaab-at-risk-of-splintering.html.

[147] "Mohamud extends al-Shabaab amnesty offer for 60 days," Sabahi, October 28, 2014, http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2014/10/28/newsbrief-01.

[148] "Mohamud extends al-Shabaab amnesty offer for 60 days," Sabahi, October 28, 2014, http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2014/10/28/newsbrief-01.

[149] Shukri Mohamed, "Dozens of al-Shabaab members taking advantage of amnesty 'every day,'" Sabahi, September 17, 2014, http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2014/09/17/feature-01.

[150] "SOMALIA: Deceased Al Shabab chief had ties with ISIS, sources," RBC Radio Raxanreeb.com, 30 October 2014, http://www.raxanreeb.com/2014/10/somalia-deceased-al-shabab-chief-had-ties-with-isis-sources/.

As the group lost control of urban centers, its tactics shifted to asymmetrical attacks, with greater reliance on suicide bombs, IEDs, hit-and-runs, political threats, assassinations, and grenade attacks.[151] The group's new tactics emphasized collaboration with its historical enemies in Somalia, resulting in alliances and deals that make it difficult for external actors to dismantle the group.[152] Godane's suppression of internal opposition allowed him to drive al-Shabab towards more indiscriminate modes of violence similar to al-Qaeda's.

The majority of the group's attacks are retaliatory against perceived injustices against Muslims and against al-Shabab's mission in Somalia. Targets includes the U.S. and other Western countries, as well as those states, such as Uganda and Kenya, who have contributed to troops to AMISOM.

As outlined below, al-Shabab has engaged in both guerrilla and terror tactics since its inception. A key differentiator and contributor to its sustainability as an organization is al-Shabab's adaptability. This military and political flexibility is assisted by the leadership's lack of direct accountability to a constituency,[153] enabling them to carry out any number of attacks on whatever targets they choose. One of the major developments within the organization has been its tactical shifts and hybridization of violent attacks, combining both suicide bombers and suicide infantry.[154] According to Matt Bryden at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Westgate Mall attack was the culmination of successfully tried and tested tactics, techniques and procedures honed back home in Somalia.[155] Specifically, al-Shabab understood from past experience that breaching the perimeter of the mall would be necessary to overtake it, so their typical suicide-bombing tactic would not work there. Consequently, the group used hand grenades to penetrate the structure.

Timeline of Violent Activities:

October 29, 2008: The first known U.S. suicide bomber for al-Shabab, Shirwa Ahmed, is part of attack in Hargeisa that kills 24 people. Ahmed was a Somali-American from Minnesota who trained with al-Shabab.[156]

February 2009: Al-Shabab successfully launches the use of explosive vests in a sophisticated attack against African Union (AU) military bases in Mogadishu. They employ a mix of

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[151] Ken Menkhaus, "Al-Shabab's Capabilities Post-Westgate," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 2 (February 2014): 4-9, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss2.pdf.

[152] Ken Menkhaus, "Al-Shabab's Capabilities Post-Westgate," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 2 (February 2014): 4-9, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss2.pdf.

[153] International Crisis Group, "Somalia: Al-Shabaab -- It will be a Long War," Policy Briefing, Africa Briefing No. 99, June 26, 2014, http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/b099-somalia-al-shabaab-it-will-be-a-long-war.pdf.

[154] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[155] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[156] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

person-borne improvised explosive devices (PBIEDs) and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), followed by indirect fire. Similar tactics were used in a September bombing at an AU military base.[157]

June 19, 2009: Somalia National Security Minister Omar Hashi Aden is killed in a large-scale suicide car bomb attack in Beletwyne. Over 30 people are killed in the attack. The group seeks to intensify its strategy to strong-arm the Somali-population, focusing on high-target assassinations and clan elders.[158]

September 17, 2009: Two VBIEDs penetrate the security perimeter of an AMISOM Force Headquarters, killing 17 peacekeepers, including the deputy force commander.[159]

July 11, 2010: Al-Shabab claims responsibility for several near-simultaneous bombings that kill dozens of people in sports bars in Uganda. The three coordinated blasts, which detonate just seven minutes apart, kill 76 people watching the World Cup in Kampala.[160] A fourth bomb left at a discotheque failed to go off. This is the group's first attack on foreign soil. The group's spokesman proclaims, "We are sending a message to every country who is willing to send troops to Somalia that they will face attacks on their territory."[161] This attack brought together several of the elements from the 2009 bombings—near simultaneous attacks, employing PBIEDs, VBIEDs, and mobile-phone trigger.

August 24, 2012: Al-Shabab attempts a complex attack, targeting the Muna Hotel in Mogadishu. Al-Shabab gunmen, disguised as government security personnel, lay siege to the building and a two-hour gun battle ensues before one of the assailants detonates an explosive vest. The attack kills 32 people, including several members of parliament. Although the attack was deemed successful by al-Shabab, the group did not attempt another operation of such complexity until two years later, when they attempted to kill Somalia's newly elected president at Mogadishu's Jazeera Hotel.[162]

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[157] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[158] United Nations Security Council, "List of Individuals and Entities Subject to the Measures Imposed by Paragraphs 1, 3, and 7 of Security Council Resolution 1844," March 11, 2014, http://www.un.org/sc/committees/751/pdf/1844_cons_list.pdf.

[159] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

[160] "In prison with al-Shabab: What drives Somali militants?" BBC News, last modified October 4, 2013, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-24379013.

[161] Jonathan Masters, "Al-Shabab," Council on Foreign Relations, last modified September 5, 2014, http://www.cfr.org/somalia/al-shabab/p18650.

[162] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.

March 28, 2013: Al-Shabab detonates a car bomb aimed at Somali intelligence chief Kahlif Ahmed Ereg near the National Theater in Mogadishu. The bomb kills ten civilians and injures 15.[163]

April 14, 2013: Al-Shabab attacks the Supreme Court using a VBIED to breach the main entrance. Gunmen, some wearing explosive vests, then enter the building to carry out a killing spree. All of the attackers were reportedly killed and more than 35 people perished in the attack.[164]

June 19, 2013: Al-Shabab attacks the U.N. compound in Mogadishu. The attack follows a similar pattern as the Supreme Court plans, with a VBIED exploding at the main entrance, allowing a small team of gunmen to enter. A total of 22 people are killed, including four U.N. international personnel, four local security guards, and all attackers.[165]

June 2013: al-Shabab's bloodiest internal battle ever destabilizes the group, leading to a major purge. The purge is thought to have removed 200 members. Top leaders who opposed Godane meet varying fates, with Ibrahim al-Afghani and Maa'lim Hashi executed, Mukhtar Robow escaping, and Hasan Dahir Aweys fleeing but being captured by government militias and handed over to Somalia's Transitional Federal Government.[166] Godane consolidates control over the weakened, smaller group and implements a hardline strategy and tactics.

July 12, 2013: An AMISOM convoy, en route to Mogadishu International Airport, is struck by al-Shabab. The group publicly admits they had tried to target U.S. intelligence officers.[167]

July 27, 2013: Al-Shabab attacks the Turkish embassy housing complex in Mogadishu using a car bomb and small weapons, killing eight and injuring 13.[168]

September 3 and 4, 2013: Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's convoy is attacked by a roadside bomb as he travels to Merka, Lower Shabelle. No casualties are reported, though one Somali soldier is injured in the attack.[169]

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[163] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.
[164] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014,
http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.
[165] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 2014,
http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.
[166] Ken Menkhaus, "Al-Shabab's Capabilities Post-Westgate," *CTC Sentinel* 7, no. 2 (February 2014): 4-9,
https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTCSentinel-Vol7Iss2.pdf
[167] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.
[168] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.
[169] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.

September 7, 2013: 18 civilians are killed at the popular Villa Restaurant in Mogadishu. Al-Shabab employs a two-part VBIED and suicide attack.[170]

September 12 and November 5, 2013: Al-Shabab twice targets the convoy of Interim Juba Administration President Ahmed Madobe with a car bomb outside of Kismayo's airport. President Madobe is slightly injured in the first attack. Civilians are killed in both attacks.[171]

September 21 - 24, 2013: Al-Shabab militants, including a Norwegian citizen of Somali origin and three Somali nationals, raid Westgate Shopping Centre in Nairobi. In the deadliest attack in Kenya in 15 years, the attackers kill 67 people over four days. The victims include six Kenyan security personnel and wound more than 200 people.[172]

November 8, 2013: The group attempts to detonate a sophisticated IED embedded in a laptop at a popular hotel in Mogadishu, Maka al Mukarama that is frequented by high-level government and security officials. The attack kills six and injures 15. A secondary VBIED detonates in the parking lot.[173]

November 19, 2013: Al-Shabab insurgents launch a complex attack against the central police station in Beledweyne, killing 24 Somali police officers and one Djiboutian AMISOM soldier, and injuring several others.[174]

December 5, 2013: A suicide car bomber hits a convoy of the Puntland security forces in central Boosaaso, killing three police officers and four civilians, while injuring several others.[175]

January 1, 2014: Al-Shabab claims responsibility for a suicide car bombing that kills at least 12 people and injured several others at the Jazeera Hotel.[176]

January 15, 2014: Al-Shabab attempts to launch an attack on Somali National Army positions but proves unsuccessful.[177]

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[170] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.
[171] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.
[172] Matt Bryden, "The Reinvention of Al-Shabaab: A Strategy of Choice or Necessity," Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2014, http://csis.org/files/publication/140221_Bryden_ReinventionOfAlShabaab_Web.pdf.
[173] "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Africa Overview," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013,* U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224820.htm.
[174] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.
[175] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.
[176] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.
[177] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

January 21, 2014: Two roadside explosions kill three civilians and injure 13. A few days later, on January 26th, the Puntland Government announces that it recovered ammunition, explosive devices and other equipment following an assault on the group's base in Galgala near the Golis Mountain range.[178]

February 13, 2014: A U.N. convoy is hit by a suicide car bomber en-route to the Mogadishu International Airport, killing several Somali bystanders.[179]

February 21, 2014: Following a series of suicide bombings over a few weeks, al-Shabab attacks Somalia's presidential palace with a combination of car bombs and engages in a gun battle with palace guards. 14 people are left dead, including five Somali officials and soldiers and nine attackers. The interior minister confirms that two government officials are among the dead.[180]

September 8, 2014: A suicide bomber attacks Somalia's Lower Shabelle region, killing 12 civilians and wounding two soldiers. Later, a second suicide attacker rams his car into the convoy escorting Somalian intelligence commander Abdifatah Shaweye to the scene of the first attack. Shaweye is lightly wounded. No further casualties are reported.[181]

October 12, 2014: A car bomb explodes outside a café in Mogadishu, killing 11 and wounding eight. Al-Shabab is suspected.[182]

October 15, 2014: A car bomb explodes near the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia, killing five and wounding seven, mostly children. Al-Shabab is suspected.[183]

November 17, 2014: Al-Shabab militants open fire on the car of a 60-year old Somali-American in Mogadishu. Separately, militants shoot and kill a freelance journalist in central Somalia.[184]

November 22, 2014: After hijacking a bus heading to Nairobi, Kenya, al-Shabab massacres 28 civilians, having separated Muslims from non-Muslims by challenging the non-Somali

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[178] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[179] United Nations Security Council, "Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia," S/2014/140, March 3, 2014, http://unsom.unmissions.org/Portals/UNSOM/SG%20Report%20March%202014.pdf.

[180] "Al-Shabab attacks Somali presidential palace," Al Jazeera English, February 22, 2014, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/02/somali-presidential-hq-attacked-al-shabab-201422112586270319.html.

[181] Abdi Guled, "12 civilians killed in Somalia attack, say police," Associated Press, September 8, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/5-civilians-killed-somalia-bombing-say-police.

[182] Abdi Guled, "Car bomb in Somalia's capital kills 11," Associated Press, October 12, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/55b8bab4b8e4484ba373c1d45309fe8f/car-bomb-somalias-capital-kills-least-7.

[183] Abdi Guled, "Car bomb in Somali capital kills 5, mostly kids," Associated Press, October 15, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7da0bdd1147542ec90b5f9ca1bb7d072/car-bomb-somali-capital-kills-5-mostly-kids.

[184] Abdi Guled, "Somali-American who helped Mogadishu govt killed," Associated Press, November 19, 2014, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/768422c036ad463d98479ba3ce922bb6/somali-american-who-helped-mogadishu-govt-killed.

passengers to recite the *shahada*, the Islamic declaration of faith. Nineteen men and nine women are murdered, shot at close range.[185]

December 2, 2014: After identifying non-Muslim workers at a quarry in Kenya, Al Shabab massacres 36 people, most of whom are reportedly "lined up, and shot in the head, at close range" while others are beheaded.[186]

December 3, 2014: Al-Shabab carries out a car bomb attack on a U.N. convoy near Mogadishu airport, killing four Somalis, including a policeman and a contractor, and wounding 13 others.[187]

December 5, 2014: Al-Shabab suicide bombers kill up to seven people and wound dozens more in a restaurant in the northwest town of Baidoa in Somalia.[188]

December 12, 2014: Al-Shabab kidnaps and beheads Quran teacher Mohamed Hussein near the central Somali city of Bulo Berde. Hussein apparently refused to obey al-Shabab's order to leave his village. His headless corpse is later found dumped close to his home.[189]

December 15, 2014: Al-Shabab attacks a military base in southern Somalia, killing at least 10 soldiers.[190]

December 25, 2014: Eight al-Shabab militants storm an African Union (AU) building and kill three Ugandan peacekeepers and a civilian contractor. Al-Shabab claims that it killed 14 peacekeepers, explaining that it "targeted the enemies at a time they were celebrating Christmas…"[191]

December 26, 2014: In claiming responsibility for the African Union attack on December 25, al-Shabab state that it is in retaliation for a U.S. strike that killed its leader, Ahmed Godane.[192]

January 2, 2015: Al-Shabab confirms it was responsible for killing at least seven Somali soldiers in an attack on a military base outside Baidoa.[193]

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[185] Tom Odula, "Somalia's al-Shabab kills 28 non-Muslims in Kenya," *Washington Post*, November 22, 2014, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/somalias-al-shabab-kills-28-non-muslims-in-kenya/2014/11/22/d7571d5c-7272-11e4-ad12-3734c461eab6_story.html.

[186] "Al-Shabab massacres non-Muslims at Kenya quarry," BBC News, last modified December 2, 2014, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30288137.

[187] Feisal Omar, "Al-Shabaab car bomb kills four Somalis in U.N. convoy," Reuters, December 3, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/somalia-blast-idUSL6N0TN0L220141203.

[188] Feisal Omar, "Suicide bombers kill up to seven in Somali town," Reuters, December 5, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/us-somalia-blast-idUSKCN0JJ1WT20141205.

[189] Omar Nor, "Al-Shabaab blamed for five beheadings," CNN, December 15, 2014: http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/15/world/africa/somalia-violence/.

[190] Abdi Sheikh, Feisal Omar, et al, "Islamist rebels kill 10 Somali soldiers in attack on base," Reuters, December 15, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/15/somalia-attacks-idUSL1N0TZ09520141215.

[191] Abdi Sheikh and Feisal Omar, "Islamist gunmen attack African Union base in Somalia," Reuters, December 25, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/27/us-somalia-security-idUSKBN0K503C20141227.

[192] Omar Nor, Mohammed Tawfeeq and Susanna Capelouto, "Al-Shabaab: Attack on base was revenge for U.S. airstrike," Decmber 26, 2014, http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/26/world/africa/somalia-violence/.

[193] Feisal Omar and Abdi Sheikh, "At least seven killed in al Shabaab attack at Somali military base," Reuters, January 2, 2015, http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/02/us-somalia-attacks-idUSKBN0KB0ET20150102

January 4, 2015: Al-Shabab detonates a car bomb that kills four civilians and injures seven more in the Somali capital of Mogadishu.[194]

Rhetoric:

Al-Shabab statement on Charlie Hebdo and Kosher deli attacks, January 21, 2015[195]

"We encourage all Muslims, specifically the sons of Tawheed living in Europe, to follow in the footsteps of their brothers… We...thank our brothers, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who have been—and continue to be—the pioneers of external operations that target the heart of the Crusader enemies…"
Anti-Europe; Pro-Violence

Abdiasis Abu Musab, al-Shabab spokesman for military operations, December 5, 2014[196]

The al-Shabab car bomb attack on a U.N. truck had "targeted a convoy of foreign mercenaries and their apostate allies."
Anti-Unbeliever; Pro-Violence

Al-Shabab statement following the death of leader Ahmed Abdi Godane, September 2014[197]
"Avenging the death of our scholars and leaders is a binding obligation on our shoulders that we will never relinquish nor forget no matter how long it takes. By the permission of Allah, you will surely taste the bitter consequences of your actions."
Pro-Violence

Ahmed Abdi Godane, then-leader, 2014[198]

"There is no way that you, the Kenyan public could possibly endure a prolonged war in Somalia and you cannot also withstand a war of attrition inside your own country. So make your choice today and withdraw all your forces from the Islamic Wilāyāt, otherwise be prepared for an abundance of blood that will be spilt on your country, economic downfall and displacement."
Anti-Kenyan; Pro-Violence

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[194] Abdi Sheikh, "Car bomb targeting Somali security forces kills four civilians," Reuters, January 4, 2015, http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/04/us-somalia-blast-idUSKBN0KD0E420150104.

[195] Feisal Omar, "Somali Islamist militants praise strikes at 'heart of Crusader'," Reuters, January 21, 2015 http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/21/us-somalia-france-attacks-idUSKBN0KU1KC20150121.

[196] Feisal Omar, "Al-Shabaab car bomb kills four Somalis in U.N. convoy," Reuters, December 3, 2014, http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/somalia-blast-idUSL6N0TN0L220141203.

[197] "Al-Shabab names new leader after Godane death in US strike," BBC News, September 6, 2014, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29093200.

[198] A Shabāb Mujahid Bro, "End of Safari," *Inspire*, no. 12 (Spring 2014): 30, https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/inspire-magazine-issue-12.pdf. See Aaron Y. Zelin, "al-Qāʾidah in the Arabian Peninsulaʾs al-Malāḥim Media releases Inspire Magazine Issue #12," Jihadology, March 14, 2014, http://jihadology.net/2014/03/14/al-qaidah-in-the-arabian-peninsulas-al-mala%E1%B8%A5im-media-releases-inspire-magazine-issue-12/.

Abulaziz Abu Muscab, military operations Spokesman, 2014[199]

"[Answering the question "Why Target Nairobi's Westgate Mall?"] It is a place where tourists from around the world come to shop, where diplomats gather,… where Kenya's decision-makers go to relax and enjoy themselves… a place where there are Jewish and American shops."
Anti-American; Anti-Kenyan; Anti-Semitic; Pro-Violence

Al-Shabab Press Office, 2014[200]

"Kenyans will not appreciate the gravity of the situation without seeing, feeling and experiencing death in all its ghoulish detail."
Anti-Kenyan; Pro-Violence

Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage, July 13, 2013[201]

"We thank the mujahideens that carried out the attack. We are sending a message to Uganda and Burundi, if they do not take out their AMISOM troops from Somalia, blasts will continue and it will happen in Bujumbra too."
Anti-Burundian; Anti-Ugandan; Pro-Islamist; Pro-Violence

Omar Hammami, key leader, May 16, 2012[202]

"([S]ome… acted as if they would not fix my car unless I denounced bin Laden and praised George Bush, and so forth). I didn't really have a clear position about the whole thing at the time. I was mixed between the "hatred of terrorism" instilled by the ['neo-Salafis'] and between my real hatred for America…"

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[199] A Shabāb Mujahid Bro, "End of Safari," *Inspire*, no. 12 (Spring 2014): 30, https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/inspire-magazine-issue-12.pdf. See Aaron Y. Zelin, "al-Qā'idah in the Arabian Peninsula's al-Malāḥim Media releases Inspire Magazine Issue #12," Jihadology, March 14, 2014, http://jihadology.net/2014/03/14/al-qaidah-in-the-arabian-peninsulas-al-mala%E1%B8%A5im-media-releases-inspire-magazine-issue-12/.

[200] A Shabāb Mujahid Bro, "End of Safari," *Inspire Magazine*, no. 12 (Spring 2014): 30, https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/inspire-magazine-issue-12.pdf. See Aaron Y. Zelin, "al-Qā'idah in the Arabian Peninsula's al-Malāḥim Media releases Inspire Magazine Issue #12," Jihadology, March 14, 2014, http://jihadology.net/2014/03/14/al-qaidah-in-the-arabian-peninsulas-al-mala%E1%B8%A5im-media-releases-inspire-magazine-issue-12/.

[201] "Uganda: Somali militants claim bomb attacks," Afronline: The Voice of Africa, 13 July 2010, http://www.afronline.org/?p=6657.

[202] Abu Mansuur al-Amriiki, "The Story of an American Jihaadi, Part One," azelin.files.wordpress.com, May 16, 2012, http://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/omar-hammami-abc5ab-mane1b9a3c5abr-al-amrc4abkc4ab-22the-story-of-an-american-jihc481dc4ab-part-122.pdf. See Aaron Y. Zelin, "New book from Omar Hammami [Abū Manṣūr al-Amrīkī]: 'The Story of an American Jihādī, Part 1," Jihadology, May 16, 2012, http://jihadology.net/2012/05/16/new-book-from-omar-hammami-abu-man%E1%B9%A3ur-al-amriki-the-story-of-an-american-jihadi-part-1/.