Violent Extremism in Somalia and the Horn of Africa

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Africa’s Contemporary Security Challenges
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OVERVIEW

I. BACKGROUND

II. STATUS

III. PROSPECTS

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS
AFRICA’S ACTIVE MILITANT ISLAMIST GROUPS

ALGERIA
- Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

MALI/BURKINA FASO
- Junda al弩ssal al Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) (i.e., the following regional AQIM affiliates):
  - the Sahel and Maghreb branch of AQIM
  - the Movement for Islamic Liberation in West Africa (AIM/MAW)
  - Ansar Dine
  - Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO)

EGYPT
- Ansar al Islam
  - Ansar al Islam
  - Ansar Bait al-Maqdis (ABM) (aka. Wilayat Sinai)
  - Islamic State in Egypt

LIBYA
- Ansar al Sharia Libya (ASL)
  - Al Murabitun (primarily targeting Egypt)
- Wilayat Barqa (aka, Cyrenaica Province)
- Wilayat Derna
- Wilayat Fezzan (aka, Fezzan Province)
- Wilayat Tawergha (aka, Tripoli Province)

TUNISIA
- Dhibah al-Nuṣayriyyah Brigade
- Shabab al Talâh (aka, Ansar al Sharia Tunisia (AST))
- Soldiers of the Caliphate (aka, Jam'ah al Kullâbah al-Hajarîn)

SOMALIA
- Al Shabaab
- Islamic State in Somalia (ISIS)

KENYA
- Al Shabaab
- Islamic State in East Africa

AFRICA’S FATALITIES IN 2017

*Updated: April 2018*

Notes: Compiled by the Africa Center; this graphic shows events involving the listed groups over the 12-month period ending March 31, 2017. Dates and attack fatalities do not attempt to distinguish the perpetrators of the events. Group listings are intended for informational purposes only and do not reflect detailed analyses or affiliations. Due to the fluid nature of these groups, the listed affiliations may change.

Sources: Armed Conflict Location Events Data Project (ACLED), Daniel Byllesby, Justin Totten, and Emergency Center Team, ACLED Intelligence Group, The South Asia Group, Stanford University (Leveraging Datasets Project), B1st, Terrorism Research & Analysis Consor-
tium (TRAC), and Asyil 3, 2017.
BACKGROUND

- **1990s**
  - Global Politics
  - Turmoil in Somalia

- **Early 2000s**
  - Global War on Terrorism
  - Islamic Courts Union

- **Al-Shabaab Era**
  - c2005 – 2011: Rise to (hollow) victory
  - 2012 – 2015: Cross-border terrorism
  - 2016 – present: Renewed insurgency
STATUS

- Organization
  - Structure
  - Membership
- Resources
  - Territory
  - Financing
  - Networks
- Violence
  - Weaponry
  - Targeting
- Influence
  - Messaging
  - Recruitment
STATUS

Challenges

- Rivals
- Internal Violence
- Unpopularity
- Stalemate
Against Al-Shabaab
- Stabilizing government
- Regional realignments
- New partners for Somalia

Favoring Al-Shabaab
- Western fatigue
- Growing African terrorism
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on political reconstruction
- Find off ramps for terrorists
- ‘Rightsize’ aerial strikes
- Be selective in training and CVE programs
THANK YOU

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