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Issue Paper
SOMALIA
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS JUNE 1994-APRIL 1995
(Supplement to Chronology of Events September 1992-June 1994)
July 1995

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MAP

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GLOSSARY

Many Somali political groups are associated with one or more clans or subclans. The name of the clan or clans, when known, has been affixed in order to facilitate research.

OAU
Organization of African Unity

SDA
Somali Democratic Alliance (Gadaboursi)

SDM
Somali Democratic Movement (Rahanweyn)

SLA
Somali Liberation Army

SNA
Somali National Alliance (Hawiye)

SNF
Somali National Front (Darood: Marehan)

SNM
Somali National Movement (Isaak)

SPM
Somali Patriotic Movement (Darood: Ogaden)

SSA
Somali Salvation Alliance (Abgal)

SSDF
Somali Salvation Democratic Front (Darood: Majeerteen)

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOSOM
United Nations Operations in Somalia

USC
United Somali Congress (Hawiye: Abgal, Habar Gedir, Hawadle)

USF
United Somali Front (Dir: Issa)

NOTE ON SPELLING

The spellings of names of Somali leaders, clans, cities and regions used in this chronology are those which appear most often in the sources consulted. Some common variant spellings are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leaders</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mohamed Farah Aidid</td>
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<td>Osman Hassan Ali Ato</td>
<td>Atoo, Atto</td>
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<td>Mohammed Siad Barre</td>
<td>Siyad Barreh</td>
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<td>Mohamed Ibrahim Egal</td>
<td>Muhammad Hajji Ibrahim Egal, Igaal</td>
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<td>Mohamed Said Hersi</td>
<td>&quot;Morgan&quot; Hirsi &quot;Morgan&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdirahman Ahmed Ali</td>
<td>&quot;Tour&quot; Abdurahman &quot;Tur&quot;, &quot;Tuur&quot;</td>
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<table>
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<th>Cities and Regions</th>
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CHRONOLOGY

This paper supplements the November 1994 *Somalia: Chronology of Events December 1992-June 1994* and should be read in conjunction with that paper.

**1994**

1 June

The president of the Republic of Somaliland, Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, accuses the UN special envoy of partiality in his efforts to reconcile the various Somali factions (AFP 1 June 1994).

5 June

Yusuf Jama Burale, Somaliland minister of resettlement and reconstruction, updates the Somaliland press on the ministry’s work with Somaliland refugees (Voice of the Republic of Somaliland 5 June 1994). Burale reports that his government has held discussions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) over the past eight months on the issue of repatriating refugees from neighbouring countries. Burale also states that the Somaliland government has explained to the UNHCR its planned preparations for their resettlement (ibid.).

18 June

A peace accord is signed by nineteen southern Somali clan leaders, supporters of two main warring factions in Juba. The accord is endorsed by the leaders of the two factions, General Mohamed Said Hersi "Morgan" and Osman Ato (AFP 19 June 1994; AFP 20 June 1994; Keesing’s June 1994c, 40043). Osman Ato represents General Mohamed Farah Aidid’s Somali National Alliance (SNA) (ibid.), and
General "Morgan" is allied to a faction of the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) (*Africa Confidential* 18 Dec. 1992, 3). The nine-point accord is designed to strengthen an existing cease fire agreement, establish disarmament terms and initiate provisions for the opening of roads in the Juba region (*Keesing's June 1994c, 40043; AFP 19 June 1994).

**24-26 June**


**1 July**

The UNHCR appeals to the international community to raise US$14.5 million for the voluntary repatriation of 50,000 Somalian refugees from Kenya (*TASS* 1 July 1994; UNHCR 1 July 1994). According to the UNHCR most of the refugees intend to repatriate to "the Kismayo area, Gedo and Central Somalia and the northern region" (*ibid.*). There are over 220,000 Somali refugees in Kenya (*ibid.; TASS* 1 July 1994).

**16 July**

*Indian Ocean Newsletter* reports sporadic skirmishes and gunfights during the previous two weeks along the Djibouti-Somaliland border (*Indian Ocean Newsletter* 16 July 1994, 3; *ibid.* 23 July 1994b, 4). The report further states that the skirmishes are believed to be linked to the return of Issa refugees to Somaliland (*ibid.* 16 July 1994, 3).

**17 July**

UN representative, Nejib Friji, announces that the UN is set to begin the evacuation of over 1,500 Somali refugees caught in Yemen's civil war. (*AP* 18 July 1994; *AFP* 17 July 1994). A UN chartered ship will carry the refugees from Aden, Yemen to northwestern Somalia. Upon arrival in Somalia the UNHCR will help the refugees resettle in the region of their choice (*ibid.; AP* 18 July 1994).

**18 July**

Two Malaysian UN peacekeepers are killed and two others injured by Somali gunmen in Mogadishu (*Le Monde* 20 July 1994; *Current History* September 1994, 300; *Reuters* 20 July 1994). James Victor Gbeho, the UN Secretary General's special representative in Somalia, condemns the attack stating that "such attacks will adversely affect the assistance of the international community to Somalia" (*ibid.***).

**24-31 July**

Somali radio reports renewed fighting in the capital city of the Hiran region, Belet Huen (*Voice of the...

26 July

"The heaviest [fighting] in recent months ..." is reported in southern Mogadishu (Reuters 27 July 1994). Rival Habar Gedir and Hawadle clans engage in heavy weapons fire that lasts several hours (ibid.; Voice of the Somali Republic 1 Aug. 1994).

30 July

Indian Ocean Newsletter reports that the UNHCR began a voluntary repatriation of 30,000 Somali refugees from Kenya's Utange camp in the Mombasa district in the previous week. The UNHCR provides the refugees with blankets, household goods and enough food for three months (Indian Ocean Newsletter 30 July 1994, 4).

August

In northeast Somalia, a political dispute over the chairmanship of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) continues to develop between SSDF leaders Abdullahi Yussuf Ahmed, a member of the Omar Mahmoud subclan and Mohamed Abshir, a member of the Issa Mahmoud subclan (Indian Ocean Newsletter 27 Aug. 1994b, 4; Africa Confidential 23 Sept. 1994, 8; see also Indian Ocean Newsletter 23 July 1994a, 1). The rivalry between the two continues to precipitate the postponement of a SSDF congress originally scheduled for 20 June in the city of Gardo (Indian Ocean Newsletter 23 July 1994a, 1; ibid. 27 Aug. 1994b, 4). The SSDF has been in control of northeast Somalia for over two years (ibid. 23 July 1994a, 1).

19 August

UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali recommends to the Security Council that UN forces in Somalia be cut from 18,000 to some 15,000 troops by October 1994 (Xinhua 19 Aug. 1994; AFP 23 Aug. 1994). Boutros-Ghali also requests a one month extension of the United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM) mandate, which expires on 30 September 1994 (Keesing's Aug. 1994a, 40131).

21 August


22 August

Seven Indian UN peacekeepers are killed and nine wounded as a UNOSOM convoy is ambushed in
Burleego, southwest of Mogadishu (IPS 23 Aug. 1994; AFP 23 Aug. 1994). The attackers use anti-aircraft weapons, small arms and mortars during the attack, which was reportedly unprovoked and premeditated (All India Radio 22 Aug. 1994; Reuters 22 Aug. 1994). Three Somalis are killed during the attack, while three others are captured and later interrogated by UNOSOM personnel (AFP 23 Aug. 1994). The area is nominally under the control of General Aidid and the SNA, but a SNA spokesman "clearly stated that this act of banditry was not connected to SNA forces or their supporters" (Voice of the Great Somali People 24 Aug. 1994; see also Keesing's Aug. 1994a, 40131).

Colonel Abdulahi Yussuf Ahmed is elected chairman of the SSDF at its fifth congress which opens in Gardo following a two-month delay (see entry for August) (Indian Ocean Newsletter 8 Oct. 1994, 3; ibid. 3 Sept. 1994a, 8; ibid. 3 Sept. 1994b, 4; Africa Confidential 23 Sept. 1994, 8). Yussuf's chief rival, General Mohamed Abshir, does not recognize the opening of the congress (ibid.) and leaves Gardo before voting begins (Indian Ocean Newsletter 3 Sept. 1994b, 4).

28 August

The Swedish Church Relief group leaves Mogadishu after staff members receive death threats (NNS Aug. 1994). Other NGOs and aid organizations indicate that they plan to leave as well (ibid.; IPS 21 Oct. 1994; Libération 27 Oct. 1994).

29 August

Somaliland President Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, meeting with Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abd al-Majid in Cairo, petitions the Arab League for diplomatic recognition of Somaliland (Indian Ocean Newsletter 10 Sept. 1994, 3). The Secretary General, however, reaffirms the organization's support for Somali unity and dismisses Egal's petition (ibid.; MENA News Agency 30 Aug. 1994).

30 August

Somali radio reports the arrival in Mogadishu of a delegation of northern Somali leaders for a meeting with SNA leader General Aidid (Voice of the Great Somali People 31 Aug. 1994; ibid. 1 Sept. 1994). Describing their visit to Mogadishu as "historic", the leaders of the Somali National Movement (SNM), the Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA), and the United Somali Front (USF) express northern support for a united Somalia and a federal system of government. The secession of the northern regions of Somalia is condemned by Aidid and other officials of the SNA (ibid. 31 Aug. 1994).

31 August

Three Indian military doctors are killed by a mortar or grenade attack by unidentified persons on a field hospital in Baidoa (Xinhua 1 Sept. 1994; Current History October 1994, 351; Keesing's Sept. 1994, 40172). The doctors, part of India's peacekeeping mission, also ministered to Somali civilians (Xinhua 1 Sept. 1994).

3 September

Seven members of the Habar Gedir clan are killed in Kismayo when members of the Luway clan attempt to steal a truck (Reuters 4 Sept. 1994). Afrique contemporaine also reports seven people killed in Kismayo although the report indicates that the incident occurred on 5 September (Afrique contemporaine Oct.-Dec. 1994, 297).

4 September
UN officials report that at least ten people have been killed in clashes between rival clans in the town of Baidoa (Reuters 4 Sept. 1994). Another incident is reported in Merka, where thieves raid a school, detonate explosives, and steal money and equipment. UN officials quoted by Reuters state that the attack on the school was "apparently an attempt by fanatical Moslems to destroy the school, which is administered by Italian Christian missionaries" (ibid.) Africa Research Bulletin also reports clashes in Baidoa and Merka in September (Africa Research Bulletin 25 Oct. 1994, 11591-92).

15 September

22 September
President Egal sends Somali National Security Force troops to Hargeisa International Airport which has been under the control of rival militia troops loyal to former Somali National leader Abdirahman Ahmed Ali "Tour" since Somaliland's declaration of independence (BBC World Service 22 Sept. 1994). Egal's troops have orders to stop unauthorized incoming planes (ibid.). The two sides have reportedly been negotiating an end to their dispute for months (ibid.).

24 September
Factional fighting in the northeastern Somali port city of Bossaso kills four people and wounds seven. Reuters reports that the clash appears to be related to a struggle between SSDF rival factions vying for control of the city (see entry for August) (Reuters 25 Sept. 1994).

1-3 October

14 October
Leaders of a dozen Somali political factions meeting in Mogadishu issue a call for a national reconciliation conference to be held on 27 October in Mogadishu (Africa Research Bulletin 24 Nov. 1994a, 11626; AFP 22 Oct. 1994). Somali radio reports that the national conference is to include 16 political organizations, has logistical support from UNOSOM, and aims to discuss general elections and the formation of a broad-based Somali government (Voice of the Great Somali People 14 Oct. 1994). Ali Mahdi, however, states that his supporters will not attend the conference unless it is organized by UNOSOM, rather than by Aidid's SNA (Africa Research Bulletin 24 Nov. 1994a, 11626; Voice of the Somali People 15 Oct. 1994). Ali Mahdi also warns of the likely escalation of factional fighting if participants in the conference attempt to form a government (AFP 22 Oct. 1994). The conference is later postponed to 1 November (Keesing's Oct. 1994b, 40220; Indian Ocean Newsletter 29 Oct. 1994, 3).

15 October
President Egal's troops seize Hargeisa International Airport (AFP 16 Oct. 1994; BBC World Service 17 Oct. 1994a) after allegedly having been attacked by rival militia (see entry for 22 September) (ibid.). Egal's troops reportedly dislodge the rival troops, identified in some reports as the Third Brigade (ibid.), after one day of fighting (ibid.; AFP 16 Oct. 1994). *Indian Ocean Newsletter* reports that the rival militia are known as "Force III, part of an old guerrilla army of the Somali National Movement [SNM]" and led by a General Jama Gahalib and former Somali air force colonel Kalinleh (*Indian Ocean Newsletter* 22 Oct. 1994, 2). Some 12 people are reportedly killed during the fighting, and the militia flee to the mountains (ibid.). Other reports indicate that the rebel militia have gathered near the town of Arawelo (BBC World Service 17 Oct. 1994b).

**1 November**


**4 November**

The UN Security Council unanimously votes to extend the UNOSOM mandate until 31 March 1995, the date that all UN troops are scheduled to be out of Somalia (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994b, 40267; *Africa Research Bulletin* 19 Dec. 1994b, 11660; *West Africa* 21-27 Nov. 1994, 2003).

**14-15 November**

Heavy fighting breaks out in Hargeisa between Somaliland government troops and SNM Force III troops loyal to Egal's predecessor Abdirahman Ahmed Ali "Tour" (see entries for 22 September and 15 October 1994) (*Africa Research Bulletin* 19 Dec. 1994c, 11661; AFP 17 Nov. 1994). Hundreds of civilians and aid workers flee the capital on foot (*Africa Research Bulletin* 19 Dec. 1994c, 11661); there are reports of between 30 and 80 deaths, including numerous civilians (*AFP 17 Nov. 1994; Voice of the Great Somali People 16 Nov. 1994*). By 18 November both sides claim control of Hargeisa. Somali radio reports indicate that the SNM has full control of Hargeisa and that President Egal has been forced to flee the city (*Voice of the Great Somali People 16 Nov. 1994; Africa Research Bulletin* 19 Dec. 1994c, 11661). During a telephone interview with AFP on 18 November, however, President Egal denies reports that he has fled the city, indicates that his army has crushed the "insurrection" in Hargeisa, and claims that the city is now calm (*AFP 18 Nov. 1994; Radio Ethiopia 18 Nov. 1994; *Keesing's* Nov. 1994a, 40267; BBC World Service 17 Nov. 1994*). Despite Egal's claims, however, sporadic fighting continues in Hargeisa throughout November and December (see entry for 11 December 1994) (*Indian Ocean Newsletter* 17 Dec. 1994, 2).

**15 November**

UNOSOM reports that 4,000 of its Indian troops in Kismayo and Baidoa are to be withdrawn by the end of November (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994b, 40267). Humanitarian organizations are also urged to leave the two cities amid continuing reports of violence (ibid.). Médecins sans frontières withdraws from Kismayo.
23 November because of renewed tensions in the area (Libération 24 Nov. 1994, 16; Keesing's Nov. 1994b, 40267) and Oxfam indicates that it will also leave Kismayo before the troops withdraw (Middle East Times 27 Nov.-3 Dec. 1994, 4).

26 November

An Ethiopian newspaper report, quoted in AFP, states that over 19,000 Somali refugees, fleeing violent fighting in Somaliland, have recently entered Ethiopia (AFP 26 Nov. 1994; Xinhua 25 Nov. 1994; Afrique Contemporaine Jan.-Mar. 1995, 75). The refugees have been placed in five camps along the Somalia-Ethiopia border (AFP 26 Nov. 1994; Radio Ethiopia 1 Dec. 1994). By 9 December, Ethiopian officials announce that 48,000 Somali refugees, mostly "destitute" mothers and children, have entered Ethiopia since the outbreak of fighting in northwest Somalia (Africa Research Bulletin 23 Jan. 1995a, 11673). In March 1995, UNHCR officials estimate that 70,000 refugees from northwest Somalia have fled to Ethiopia since mid-November 1994 (USAID 27 Mar. 1995, 3).

2 December

A state of emergency is declared in Somaliland by President Egal giving the government increased authority to confiscate property and arrest and detain individuals "until it is clear that the country has returned to normal" (Africa Research Bulletin 23 Jan. 1995b, 11696; Voice of the Republic of Somaliland 2 Dec. 1994).

6 December

Bangladeshi peacekeepers, who had been preparing to relocate from Afgoye to Mogadishu, kill at least 18 Somalis as their tanks attempt to leave Afgoye amidst heavy gunfire (IPS 6 Dec. 1994; Africa Research Bulletin 23 Jan. 1995d, 11695). The violence reportedly breaks out after gunmen demand rent for a building UN forces had occupied in the town (ibid.; IPS 6 Dec. 1994).

In Kismayo, there are reports of fighting between rival clans members as the last Indian peacekeeping battalion leaves the city (Africa Research Bulletin 23 Jan. 1995d, 11696; Current History Feb. 1995, 95; Reuters 9 Dec. 1994). According to experts cited by Reuters, fighting among the Majerteen, Marehan and Harti subclans is expected to intensify as the clans attempt to gain control of Kismayo's seaport and air port (ibid.).

8 December

Twenty-five year old Abdullahi Weheliye Omar, convicted of rape by a Shari'a court, is publicly stoned to death in a region of northern Mogadishu under the control of Ali Mahdi (The Toronto Star 10 Dec. 1994; Al 16 Dec. 1994). Omar is the first Somali to be stoned to death since Somalia's Shari'a courts began operation on 11 August 1994 (ibid.; The Toronto Star 10 Dec. 1994). Another man, also found guilty of rape, receives a lighter sentence of 100 lashes apparently because he is not married (ibid.). Since August 1994, 12 men and one woman have had limbs amputated, 160 people have been flogged and one jail sentence has been pronounced (ibid.; see also Le Monde 1 Nov. 1994; Libération 15 Nov. 1994, 16). Also in Ali Mahdi-controlled areas of Mogadishu, in October, two teenagers had one hand each amputated for stealing less than $20 (Country Reports 1994 1995, 228).

9 December

At least 12 people are dead and over 50 wounded as a result of fighting in the Medina district of southern Mogadishu (Reuters 9 Dec. 1994). Three children and six women are among the civilians

11 December

Somali radio reports that Colonel Ahmed Mireh Ahmed, commander of the SNM for the northwestern regions of Somalia, tells reporters that 75 per cent of Hargeisa is under the control of SNM forces (*Voice of the Great Somali People* 11 Dec. 1994). In an earlier interview with the BBC, President Egal maintains, however, that he is "in control not only of Hargeisa ... [but also] in control of all the country" (*BBC World Service* 1 Dec. 1994). Later reports also indicate that President Egal’s troops have control of Hargeisa (*NNS Dec. 1994 Jan. 1995*).

17 December


19 December


23 December

AFP reports that Abgal militia have driven the Mursade forces out of the Medina district (AFP 23 Dec. 1994). According to AFP, this victory gives the Abgal a strategic position of strength close to the UN compound, the port and the airport, and "heightens fears" that the two factions will fight for control of the port and airport when UN troops withdraw in March 1995 (ibid.).

27 December

Thousands of Islamic law or Shari’a supporters take part in a demonstration protesting a recent attack by gunmen on Sheikh Sharif Muhiddin, head of the Shari’a court committee (*Reuters* 28 Dec. 1994; AFP 27 Dec. 1994). Sheikh Sharif, who was not hurt during the attack, tells the demonstrators that the attackers "... are not fighting me personally, but Allah, they wanted the Shari’a courts to be closed" (ibid.).

29 December

Abdi Osman Farah of the Hawadle subclan claims that his militiamen have defeated troops loyal to
General Aidid in the western town of Belet Huen (AFP 29 Dec. 1994). Osman Farah says that his troops have killed or wounded "a large number" of SNA fighters during "several days" of fighting. Witnesses to the fighting report that both sides have suffered heavy casualties during the clashes (ibid.). Ali Mahdi, quoted by Radio Mogadishu (described in the BBC Summary as "pro-Ali Mahdi Muhammad radio"), states in early January that "the situation in Belet Huen ... was still the same and the opposing forces were both inside and outside the town" (BBC Summary 12 Jan. 1995).

1995

January


2 January


4 January


11 January

Renewed fighting between Somaliland government troops and opposition militia is reported in Hargeisa (See entry for 14-18 November 1994) (AFP 11 Jan. 1995; BBC World Service 11 Jan. 1995). AFP reports 10 government troops killed and several others wounded during clashes which are described by relief workers as the "... fiercest in the city since the violence started two months ago" (AFP 11 Jan. 1995). During an interview with the BBC, President Egal claims that his forces have recaptured the airport and have cleared the city of rebels (BBC World Service 11 Jan. 1995).

14 January


27 January
Fighting is reported in the Guerissa region of western Somaliland. Issa militia, who control most of this region, are reportedly attacked by Gadaboursi militiamen (Indian Ocean Newsletter 4 Feb. 1995, 4). Indian Ocean Newsletter reports that the Mohamed Ace, a subclan of the Gadaboursi, has been at war with the Issa in this region "... for some time ..." (Indian Ocean Newsletter 4 Feb. 1995, 4; AFP 26 Mar. 1995b).

29 January

Somali radio reports that officials of the SSA, the SSDF and other politicians and intellectuals of the northeast regions of Somalia are meeting to discuss the implementation of Shari'a in their regions (Voice of the Somali Republic 29 Jan. 1995). SSDF officials agree that Shari'a should be implemented in their regions, and that courts "operating in accordance with the book of Allah should open as soon as possible" (ibid.; see also ABC News 1 Mar. 1995). In April two men charged with murder are executed by a newly-opened Shari'a court in Bosaso, a northeastern coastal city (AFP 8 Apr. 1995).

30 January

As many as three people are killed and several wounded as militiamen from Mogadishu's Medina district battle for control of a building vacated by a UN agency (AFP 30 Jan. 1995; Current History Mar. 1995, 143). Further looting is reported on 1 February when UN troops abandon the former UN headquarters in Mogadishu (Reuters 1 Feb. 1995; AFP 1 Feb. 1995).

31 January

A new cease fire is signed by leaders of the Abgal and Mursade subclans in another attempt to end the violent fighting in southern districts of Mogadishu (see entry for 4 January) (AFP 31 Jan. 1995; AP 1 Feb. 1995). Politicians representing the two clans that have been charged with responsibility for the recent increase of violence in the region also attend the truce meeting (AFP 31 Jan. 1995).

6 February


8 February

Two US Marine Corps helicopters arrive at Mogadishu airport to set up a command centre for the evacuation of the remaining 8,000 UN troops left in Somalia (AFP 8 Feb. 1995; ibid. 9 Feb. 1995). The arrival of the American troops sets off a wave of anti-American and anti-foreigner protests in Mogadishu (ibid.; Voice of the Great Somali People 9 Feb. 1995). According to Indian Ocean Newsletter, the UN evacuation from Somalia, originally scheduled for 31 March, has been brought forward by one month, principally due to pressure from the US (Indian Ocean Newsletter 11 Feb. 1995, 1).

10 February

Italian journalist Marcello Palmisano is murdered near Mogadishu's airport, apparently a casualty of Somalia's escalating "banana war" (Reuters 10 Feb. 1995; Indian Ocean Newsletter 18 Feb. 1995, 4;

12 February

Over 450 Pakistani UN peacekeepers leave Somalia as the evacuation of UN forces steps up (AFP 12 Feb. 1995; Libération 13 Feb. 1995, 16). All UN forces are expected to have left Somalia by 6 or 7 March (ibid.; AFP 12 Feb. 1995).

16 February

A joint committee charged with the administration of Mogadishu's port and airport is established with the support of both General Aidid and Ali Mahdi (AFP 16 Feb. 1995; Xinhua 18 Feb. 1995; AFP 26 Feb. 1995). Aidid and Ali Mahdi each nominate six members to the committee in an attempt to diffuse the potential for violence and looting when the two sites are abandoned by the UN (ibid. 16 Feb. 1995). Mohamed Kanyare Afrah, head of the Mursade faction in Mogadishu, denies the existence of this joint Ali Mahdi-Aidid committee and further claims that only militia loyal to Aidid control the airport and seaport (Indian Ocean Newsletter 11 Feb. 1995, 2). The establishment of the joint committee, scheduled to begin work effective from 23 February, is later confirmed by General Aidid and Ali Mahdi on 22 February. (Voice of the Somali Republic 25 Feb. 1995; Voice of the Great Somali People 26 Feb. 1995; Arab Republic of Egypt Radio 22 Feb. 1995).

21 February


22 February

An outbreak of cholera is reported in Mogadishu (USAID 27 Mar. 1995, 2; AFP 3 Mar. 1995a; Africa Research Bulletin 23 Mar. 1995a, 11768). Officials state that as many as 150 people have died of the disease in the previous three weeks, many in their homes due to a lack of available medical services (ibid.). A recent outbreak of cholera in Baidoa has reportedly been brought under control by the efforts of various foreign aid agencies. However, in spite of this there are approximately 138 cases of cholera reported in Baidoa during February, resulting in eight deaths (USAID 27 Mar. 1995, 2).

23 February

Over 4,000 pro-Aidid residents of southern Mogadishu demonstrate in support of the introduction of Shari'a in their regions of Mogadishu. Ali Mahdi has already introduced Shari'a in regions of northern Mogadishu (see entries for 8 and 27 December) (AFP 23 Feb. 1995a; Africa Research Bulletin 23 Mar. 1995c, 11762). The crowd also chants support for the recent peace agreement signed by General Aidid and Ali Mahdi (ibid.; AFP 23 Feb. 1995a; ibid. 23 Feb. 1995b).

Despite the peace agreement of 21 February, heavy fighting between Mursade forces loyal to Ali Mahdi,
and Abgal militia loyal to General Aidid, continues near the airport in the Bermuda district of Mogadishu (AFP 23 Feb. 1995b; BBC World Service 23 Feb. 1995). One report states that "... tension is as high as ever in the city" (ibid.).

26 February


27 February


28 February

Forces loyal to Somaliland President Egal clash in Salahle with militia loyal to Abdirahman Ahmed Ali "Tour", leader of the SNM (AFP 28 Feb. 1995a). The town, located 60 kilometres southeast of Hargeisa, is a stronghold of Tour's regional commander General Jama Mohamed Qualib. AFP reports seven people killed and 22 injured during the clash (AFP 28 Feb. 1995a).

1 March

Looting is reported at Mogadishu's airport as UN peacekeepers withdraw to the city's port (AFP 1 Mar. 1995). Habar Gedir militia loyal to General Aidid take control of the airport in order to prevent further disturbances (ibid.; Libération 2 Mar. 1995, 10).

2 March


3 March

Renewed clan fighting is reported in Mogadishu just hours after UN and US troops pull out of the city (AFP 3 Mar. 1995a). Ali Mahdi is quoted as saying that there have been "intermittent clashes" at the airport between his militiamen and forces loyal to General Aidid. Ali Mahdi goes on to criticize the UN for leaving Somalia before securing national reconciliation (ibid.). At the same time, General Aidid, maintaining that Mogadishu's airport and seaport remain secure (ibid.; Voice of the Great Somali People 3 Mar. 1995), states that any fighting at the ports is, in fact, militiamen attempting to discourage looters (AFP 3 Mar. 1995a).

9 March


15 March

As many as seven people are killed and several others wounded during an attack by militiamen on a
Shari’a court in Hararyale, in southern Mogadishu (AFP 15 Mar. 1995). The militiamen were reportedly attempting to free a colleague jailed by the court for murdering another militiaman in the Bermuda area. The Hararyale court began operation in February and since its establishment has sentenced two people to death by public execution (ibid.; see also AFP 8 Apr. 1995).

16 March

A fifteen-member Ethiopian delegation arrives in Mogadishu to attempt to mediate between warring Somali factions (AFP 16 Mar. 1995; see also Xinhua 5 Mar. 1995). The delegation, which has the support of the OAU (AFP 16 Mar. 1995), states that it intends to listen to the positions of the various factions in the country and meet with the two main faction leaders, Ali Mahdi and General Aidid (ibid.; Voice of the Somali Republic 21 Mar. 1995; ibid. 20 Mar. 1995).

19 March

A Somaliland Defense Ministry spokesman reports on Somaliland radio that government forces have successfully repelled an attack by "an anti-Somaliland group" at Obarable, near Hargeisa (Voice of the Republic of Somaliland 19 Mar. 1995). The spokesman further reports that the "group" sustained heavy losses while government forces suffered three deaths and ten other casualties (ibid.).

20 March

Factional fighting is reported around the city of Baidoa which is controlled in part by the Somali Democratic Movement (SDM). Witnesses report that at least two people have been killed and "many" wounded (AFP 20 Mar. 1995). A Somali newspaper report, cited by AFP, maintains that the SNA has recently sent several "technicals" (heavily armed vehicles) to the region. However, a senior SNA official, Mohamed Osman Haydara, denies that his group was in any way involved in the clashes and insists that the skirmishes are caused by "bandits" rustling camels and cattle (ibid.).

21 March

Somali radio reports that eight people are killed during disturbances between "bandits" and SDM "fighters" in the Buurhakaba district of southern Somalia (BBC Summary 23 Mar. 1995). According to a SDM official a group of armed "bandits" attacked villages in the district with the intention of creating "...instability in the region following the implementation of Shari’a with the opening of an Islamic court in the region" (ibid.). Keessing's also reports eight people killed in the Bai region in March, reportedly the result of clashes between SDM militia and forces opposed to the imposition of Shari’a in the region (Keessing's Mar. 1995, 40445).

26 March

As many as 17 people are killed in inter-clan fighting near the western Somaliland town of Ziela (AFP 26 Mar. 1995b). The fighting reportedly involves Isaak militia and members of the Issa clan who "... are allegedly supported by the Issa-dominated government in neighbouring Djibouti" (ibid.; see also Reuters 23 Mar. 1995; Africa Research Bulletin 26 Apr. 1995, 11799).

Ali Mahdi claims that an open disagreement has developed between himself and General Aidid (AFP 26 Mar. 1995a), and warns that inter-clan fighting in Mogadishu could resume "... at any moment". (ibid. 28 Mar. 1995). Ali Mahdi accuses Aidid of undermining agreements and "... show[ing] reluctance to accept a broad-based conference" (ibid. 26 Mar. 1995a; Reuters 26 Mar. 1995).

28 March
Gahajis gunmen loyal to ousted Somaliland leader Abdirahman Ahmed Ali "Tour" clash with President Egal's forces in the Somaliland town of Burao (BBC World Service 31 Mar. 1995; ibid. 29 Mar. 1995; AFP 29 Mar. 1995; Reuters 30 Mar. 1995). The fighting claims the lives of as many as 60 people (ibid.). On 30 March, Egal states in a telephone interview that his forces have inflicted heavy losses on the rebel gunmen and now control two-thirds of Burao (ibid.).

3 April

The Digil and Mirifleh communities of the Bai region in southern Somalia announce the formation of an autonomous "administration" in their regions, reportedly because the factional leaders in Mogadishu have been unable to establish a nation-wide government (BBC World Service 3 Apr. 1995; Voice of the Somali Republic 4 Apr. 1995). The new autonomous region, which is to be based in Baidoa (BBC World Service 3 Apr. 1995), will establish a parliamentary council and is to implement Shari'a in areas within its authority (ibid.; Voice of the Somali Republic 4 Apr. 1995). SNA officials later dismiss the autonomy claims, stating that the "Bay [Bai] region is an SNA zone and nothing can [be] done there without the consent of the alliance" (Voice of the Great Somali People 6 Apr. 1995; BBC World Service 10 Apr. 1995).

5 April

Fighting continues in the regions surrounding the city of Burao in Somaliland (Indian Ocean Newsletter 8 Apr. 1995, 2; BBC World Service 5 Apr. 1995b) with both sides in the conflict claiming control of the city. One source quoted by the BBC World Service indicates that "hundreds of people" (ibid.) have been killed in the recent fighting while others sources speculate that the number of dead may range from 2,000 - 4,000 people (ibid.; ibid. 5 Apr. 1995a).

10 April

A renewal of fighting is reported in the western Somali town of Belet Huen between members of the Habar Gedir and rival Hawadle subclans (see entries for 24-31 July 1994 and 29 December 1994). According to a Hawadle spokesperson, 46 Habir Gedir militiamen have been killed in the clashes (AFP 10 Apr. 1995; see also AFP 15 Apr. 1995; ibid. 21 Apr. 1995).

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8 April 1995. "Sharia Court Cuts Piece Off Young Woman's Lip." (NEXIS)
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23 March 1995. "Somalia; Eight People Reported Killed in Clashes Following Introduction of Shari'ah." (NEXIS)


12 July 1994. "Aydid Says he is not Responsible for Failure of Factions to Meet." (NEXIS)


17 October 1994a. "Hargeysa Airport Incident Spawns 'War of Words'." (FBIS-AFR-94-202 19
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