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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

See original.

Source: Agency for International Development (USAID) [Washington, DC]. 27 mars 1995. Situation Report n<sup>o</sup> 2: "Somalie -- Civil Strife".

## 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.

Leaders	
Mohamed Farah Aidid	Fara Aydid, Aydeed, Aideed
Osman Hassan Ali Ato	Atoo, Atto
Mohammed Siad Barre	Siyad Barreh
Mohamed Ibrahim Egal	Muhammad Hajji Ibrahim Egal, Igaal
Mohamed Said Hersi	"Morgan" Hirsi "Morgan"
Abdirahman Ahmed Ali	"Tour" Abdurahman "Tur", "Tuur"

Cities and Regions	
Afgoye	Afgooye
Bai	Bay

Belet Huen	Beled Weyn, Belet Weyne, Beledweyne, Belet Uen
Bosaso	Boosaaso, Bosasso, Bender Qaasim
Burao	Buro, Borao
Buurhakaba	Bur Hacaba, Bur Acaba
Gardo	Qardho
Guerissa	Gerisa, Garissa
Hargeisa	Hargeysa
Hiran	Hiiraan, Hiraan
Kismayo	Kismayu, Kismaayo, Kisimayo, Chisimayu
Mogadishu	Mogadiscio

Clans	
Abgal	Abgaal
Digil	Digale
Gadaboursi	Gadabursi
Garhajis	Gahajis, Gahargis
Habar Gedir	Habr Gedir, Habr Gedr, Habr Gidir
Harti	Harte
Hawiyya	Hawiye
Issa	ise
Isaak	Issaq
Majerteen	Mujerteen, Majeerteen
Marehan	Marewhan, Marehaan
Mirifleh	Merefle
Mursade	Murasade
Rahanweyn	Rahenweyne, Rahanwayn

## 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**

Renewed factional fighting between forces loyal to Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Aidid is reported in Mogadishu ( Reuters 25 June 1994; IPS 29 June 1994; *Keesing's* June 1994a, 40043). Ali Mahdi's faction of the United Somali Congress (USC) holds Aidid's SNA responsible for the renewed fighting, contending that the SNA has broken a series of pacts, accords and cease fires signed since March 1992 ( Voice of the Somali Republic 24 June 1994; Reuters 25 June 1994; *Indian Ocean Newsletter* 2 July 1994, 3). A SNA representative however, states that "troublemakers" intent on derailing the peace process caused the clashes (*Indian Ocean Newsletter* 2 July 1994, 3; Voice of the Great Somali People 24 June 1994; *Keesing's* June 1994a, 40043). *Indian Ocean Newsletter* reports that "it would appear that ... supporters of Ali Mahdi ... initiat[ed] the conflict by attacking their SNA rivals" ( Indian Ocean Newsletter 2 July 1994, 3) Between six ( Reuters 25 June 1994) and thirty people are killed and dozens injured during the fighting, including many women and children (*Keesing's* June 1994a, 40043; *Afrique contemporaine* Oct.-Dec. 1994, 297).

### **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, Nejjib 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

Great Somali People 31 July 1994; Voice of the Somali Republic 26 July 1994; *ibid.* 1 Aug. 1994). Ali Mahdi, in a recorded speech, indicates that "the fighting has claimed hundreds of lives ..." ( *ibid.*). Spokespersons for Ali Mahdi's faction of the USC claim Aidid and the SNA are responsible for the renewal of violence, while officials with the SNA deny any responsibility ( Voice of the Great Somali People 31 July 1994; Voice of the Somali Republic 26 July 1994). Later reports indicate that the fighting in Belet Huen continues into August and September ( *ibid.* 7 Aug. 1994; *ibid.* 5 Sept. 1994; AFP 7 Aug. 1994).

## 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

UNOSOM representatives leave Somaliland after being expelled by the Somaliland government ( AFP 22 Aug. 1994; *Keesing's* Aug. 1994b, 40131; *Africa Report* Nov.-Dec. 1994, 40). Somaliland president Mohamed Ibrahim Egal contends UNOSOM repeatedly interfered in Somaliland's internal affairs, breaching "undertakings" given by Boutros-Ghali ( AFP 22 Aug. 1994; *Keesing's* Aug. 1994b, 40131). In October 1993 Boutros-Ghali had stated that UNOSOM officials would "coordinate closely with Egal and his officials" in an effort to improve UN relations with the Somaliland government (*Indian Ocean Newsletter* 27 Aug. 1994a, 2; *Africa Report* Nov.-Dec. 1994, 40).

## 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**

The last US troops leave Somalia (*Libération* 16 Sept. 1994; *Keesing's* Sept. 1994, 40172; *Afrique contemporaine* Oct.-Dec. 1994, 297). The American liaison office in Mogadishu is officially closed in September and relocated to Nairobi ( IPS 27 Aug. 1994).

### **22 September**

President Egal sends Somaliland National Security Force troops to Hargeisa International Airport which has been under the control of rival militia troops loyal to former Somaliland 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**

Inter-clan fighting breaks out in Mogadishu between the Habar Gedir subclan loyal to General Aidid and the Abgal subclan, loyal to Ali Mahdi ( AFP 1 Oct. 1994; *Africa Research Bulletin* 24 Nov. 1994a, 11626; *Keesing's* Oct. 1994a, 40220) The warring clans exchange rocket propelled grenades and mortar fire, forcing local residents to flee the area ( AFP 1 Oct. 1994; *Africa Research Bulletin* 24 Nov. 1994a, 11626). Further violence between the two clans is reported from 24-29 October ( AFP 25 Oct. 1994) resulting in the deaths of at least eight people ( *ibid.*; *Keesing's* Oct. 1994a, 40220; IPS 25 Oct. 1994).

### **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**

The national reconciliation conference, originally scheduled for 27 October, begins (see entry for 14 October 1994) (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994c, 40267). On 30 November General Aidid reports that the conference has made "good progress" ( *ibid.*). The conference is boycotted by Ali Mahdi and the SSA ( *ibid.*), and Ali Mahdi, in defiance, holds his own conference directed at forming a national coalition government (*Africa Research Bulletin* 19 Dec. 1994a, 11661; *Voice of the Somali Republic* 2 Nov. 1994). The *Egyptian Gazette*, quoted by *Africa Research Bulletin*, warns of a renewed civil war if both Ali Mahdi and Aidid announce separate coalition governments ( *Africa Research Bulletin* 19 Dec. 1994a, 11661). *Keesing's* reports sporadic street fighting between supporters of Ali Mahdi and Aidid (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994c, 40267).

### **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

on 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; AI 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

caught in crossfire. Hundreds of other civilians are forced to flee the area amidst escalating violence between Abgal militiamen loyal to Ali Mahdi and the Mursade militia loyal to Aidid ( *ibid.*; *Le Monde* 14 Dec. 1994). *Libération* reports 27 deaths and over 100 injuries in this latest round of fighting (*Libération* 10 Dec. 1994, 12). The renewed clashes are reportedly the result of the defection in September of Mursade leader Mohamed Qanyere Afrah from Ali Mahdi's wing of the USC ( AFP 21 Dec. 1994; IPS 23 Dec. 1994; *Africa Confidential* 6 Jan. 1995, 6; see also *Africa Confidential* 7 Oct.1994, 2).

### **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. 1994Jan. 1995).

### **17 December**

Rudy Marcq, a 24-year old Frenchman working for Action internationale contre la faim (AICF), is kidnapped in Mogadishu ( BBC Summary 20 Dec. 1994; *Africa Research Bulletin* 23 Jan. 1995c, 11696). The kidnapers, who demand US\$52,000 in ransom, are members of the Dudubleh subclan, a group close to Aidid's Habar Gedir subclan (*Indian Ocean Newsletter* 28 Jan. 1995, 2; AFP 23 Jan. 1995). After lengthy negotiations fail to secure Marcq's release, humanitarian agencies in Mogadishu halt all non-essential activities on 12 January ( *ibid.* 12 Jan. 1995; *Libération* 12 Jan. 1995). No ransom is paid and Marcq is released on 22 January ( AFP 23 Jan. 1995; *Indian Ocean Newsletter* 28 Jan. 1995, 2).

### **19 December**

Renewed fighting breaks out between the Abgal and Mursade subclans in the Medina district of Mogadishu and subsequently spreads to the Bermuda district ( Reuters 19 Dec. 1994; AFP 20 Dec. 1994). Civilians are forced to flee their homes ( *ibid.*; Reuters 19 Dec. 1994) and AFP reports seven fatalities and over 120 people wounded ( AFP 21 Dec. 1994). *Current History* reports 20 deaths and 125 other casualties in Mogadishu between 19 and 21 December (*Current History* Feb. 1995, 95).

### **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**

Fierce sporadic fighting continues all month in the southern Mogadishu district of Bermuda, near the UN-controlled seaport and airport (*Current History* Mar. 1995, 143; Xinhua 1 Jan. 1995; BBC World Service 16 Jan. 1995; AFP 29 Jan. 1995). Casualties are high among both Abgal and Mursade fighters with over 10 people killed and 200 wounded in early January (*Current History* Mar. 1995, 143; AFP 2 Jan. 1995a). By month's end an estimated 20,000 families have fled the Bermuda district ( ibid. 29 Jan. 1995).

#### **2 January**

Mohammed Siad Barre, former Somali president from 1969 to 1991, dies of a heart attack in exile in Nigeria. Barre's body is flown back to Somalia for burial in his home town of Garbahaarrey in the Gedo region ( AFP 2 Jan. 1995b; *Africa Research Bulletin* 23 Feb. 1995b, 11718; Radio Mogadishu 12 Jan. 1995; Reuters 2 Jan. 1995).

#### **4 January**

An unconditional cease fire, set to take effect on 5 January, is signed by elders of the Abgal and Mursade subclans (see entries for January 1995 and 9 December 1994) ( BBC World Service 4 Jan. 1995; AFP 5 Jan. 1995; AP 4 Jan. 1995). Despite the cease fire, however, fighting resumes between the two subclans on 6 January resulting in more than nine deaths ( AFP 7 Jan. 1995; ibid. 6 Jan. 1995; *Africa Research Bulletin* 23 Feb. 1995a, 11730). AFP reports that it is not known what provoked this round of fighting ( AFP 6 Jan. 1995). Clan elders once again initiate peace negotiations on 7 January in an attempt to end the violence (see entry for 31 January 1995) ( ibid.; ibid. 7 Jan. 1995).

#### **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**

Somaliland President Egal announces that a new Somaliland currency will replace the Somali currency after 31 January 1995 (*Keesing's* Jan. 1995, 40349; *Indian Ocean Newsletter* 25 Mar. 1995, 2).

#### **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**

Ali Mahdi proposes another Somali national reconciliation conference (AFP 6 Feb. 1995; AP 6 Feb. 1995). The conference is to be held on 25 February (Reuters 15 Feb. 1995) with the intent of forming of a Somali central government (AFP 6 Feb. 1995). Ali Mahdi's chief rival, General Aidid, is invited to participate (AP 6 Feb. 1995; BBC Summary 8 Feb. 1995). However, Ali Mahdi's proposal is immediately condemned by supporters of Aidid and the SNA who have organized a similar on going reconciliation conference (see entry for 1 November 1994) (AFP 6 Feb. 1995). Ali Mahdi's conference is later postponed to "... a suitable date ... [to] be announced later" (BBC Summary 25 Feb. 1995).

### **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;

ibid. 25 Feb. 1995, 6). Competition and tension between Sombana, a subsidiary of the US banana company, Dole, and Somalfruit, an Italian company, has resulted in clashes between Somali militiamen working for the two rival companies ( ibid. 18 Feb. 1995, 4; *Libération* 10 Feb. 1995, 12). Reuters reports that Palmisano's death is believed to be a case of mistaken identity ( 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**

A new peace pact, signed by Ali Mahdi and General Aidid, is announced by Ali Mahdi supporters ( BBC Summary 24 Feb. 1995; *Africa Research Bulletin* 23 Mar. 1995b, 11762; BBC Summary 4 Mar. 1995). The pact, which declares the use of force illegal, intends to overcome existing disagreements between Somalia's major rival factions in order to "forge unity and new cooperation within the USC" ( BBC Summary 24 Feb. 1995).

## **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**

Factional fighting breaks out in the regions immediately surrounding Mogadishu airport as the UN begins its exodus from the city ( UPI 26 Feb. 1995; AFP 26 Feb. 1995; *Keesing's* Feb. 1995, 40390).

## **27 February**

Over 2,000 US marines and Italian troops arrive in Mogadishu to assist in the withdrawal of the remaining UN personnel in Somalia ( AFP 27 Feb. 1995; *Current History* Apr. 1995, 191; AFP 28 Feb. 1995b).

## **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**

The last UN troops in Somalia, 800 Pakistani peacekeepers, leave the country (*Libération* 3 Mar. 1995, 13; AFP 2 Mar. 1995; USAID 27 Mar. 1995, 1).

## **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**

Mogadishu's seaport is re-opened after General Aidid and Ali Mahdi sign an agreement allowing for the resumption of port operations. The airport remains closed. ( AFP 11 Mar. 1995; *Voice of the Somali Republic* 6 Mar. 1995; AFP 9 Mar. 1995; *Voice of the Great Somali People* 9 Mar. 1995; USAID 27 Mar. 1995, 2).

## **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.*). *Keesing'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 (*Keesing'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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