



1.2.3. Updated list of main actors

Most of Somalia's military and security forces have been addressed in detail in the [EASO COI Report Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#),¹⁰⁸ and integrated into the subsequent [EASO COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#),¹⁰⁹ [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(February 2023\)](#),¹¹⁰ [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#),¹¹¹ and the [EUAA COI query response on Somalia: Major political, security, and humanitarian developments \(13 August 2025\)](#).¹¹²

During the reference period, the **FGS Security Forces** comprised the Somali National Army (SNA)¹¹³ (including the functionally separate US-trained Danab Brigade and Turkish-trained Gorgor Brigade),¹¹⁴ the Somali Police Force (SPF)¹¹⁵ (including its rapid response unit Goodir¹¹⁶ and the Türkiye-trained¹¹⁷ Haramcad elite police unit¹¹⁸), and the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA).¹¹⁹ The SNA, commanded by Ibrahim Mohamed Mahmoud who replaced Odowaa Yusuf Rage in January 2026,¹²⁰ has been described as being affected by lack of experience and poor training of personnel.¹²¹

At regional level, Somaliland armed forces¹²² and Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn - Khatumo (SSC-K) forces¹²³ were operating in their respective areas in the north. Each of the federal member states – Puntland,¹²⁴ Jubbaland,¹²⁵ the South-West State,¹²⁶ Hirshabelle,¹²⁷ and Galmudug,¹²⁸ – maintained their own regional security forces.

Moreover, there were dozens of clan and sub clan militias in Somalia.¹²⁹ For developments concerning **Ma'awisley** clan militia forces, see the [EUAA COI query response on Somalia: Major political, security, and humanitarian developments \(13 August 2025\)](#).¹³⁰ For general background information on clan militias, see the [EASO COI report Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#).¹³¹

The multidimensional AU-led and UN-approved African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (**AUSSOM**) succeeded the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) on 1 January 2025¹³² with a mandated ceiling of 11 826 uniformed personnel. During the reference period, serious financial shortfalls impeded AUSSOM's ability to effectively implement its mandate of supporting Somalia's security transition,¹³³ including through participation in counter-Al-Shabaab operations.¹³⁴ Meanwhile, in December 2025, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2809 (2025) which extended the mission's mandate until 31 December 2026 and authorised AU member states to continue deploying uniformed personnel at the mandated strength.¹³⁵ The reference period further saw the first confirmed instance of Turkish ground forces directly participating in combat against Al-Shabaab,¹³⁶ while Türkiye also deployed three F-16 fighter jets,¹³⁷ helicopters,¹³⁸ and modern battle tanks to Mogadishu.¹³⁹ Egypt, which

had thus far only sent military gear, deployed 1 091 soldiers to Mogadishu in February 2026 to take part in AUSSOM operations.¹⁴⁰ Both Egypt and Sudan provided training for Somali intelligence officers. Meanwhile, Ethiopia, Kenya and the UAE cooperated with and assisted Somaliland, Puntland and Jubbaland in security matters.¹⁴¹

Al-Shabaab. See section [1.2.2. Al-Shabaab control areas, presence, and influence](#) above.

Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) elements were concentrated in Bari region's Cal Miskad mountains. The group primarily uses IEDs to attack security forces.¹⁴² As of December 2025, Abdul Qadir Mumin remained the leader of the organisation, with Abdurahman Fahiye his deputy.¹⁴³ In July 2025, the group's third most senior member was captured in a joint Puntland-US operation.¹⁴⁴ While at the start of Puntland's US- and UAE-supported¹⁴⁵ anti-ISS operation Hilaac in December 2024, ISS had an estimated strength of about 1 000¹⁴⁶ – 1 200 fighters,¹⁴⁷ their numbers had been decimated to around 200 to 300 fighters by late 2025¹⁴⁸ as a result of killings and captures of fighters.¹⁴⁹ Nevertheless, a UN report estimated that the group had maintained 'significant capacity for resilience', operating in highly mobile cells and using deep hideouts, caves and smuggling routes to sustain its presence.¹⁵⁰ Puntland forces continued security operations against ISS during the reference period,¹⁵¹ supported by US airstrikes,¹⁵² the UAE and regional countries.¹⁵³

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