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January 2023

Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue

# AL-SHABAB AL-MUJAHIDEEN MOVEMENT TERRORISM AND THE CALIPHATE DREAM IN AFRICA



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## ***Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement Terrorism and the Caliphate Dream in Africa**

**Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue**

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## Introduction:

Terrorism poses a major threat to international peace and security and violates basic human rights and freedoms of groups and individuals. Terrorism began to infiltrate the African continent when many terrorist organizations emerged. It carried out its activities extensively in many countries of the continent that were characterized by the somewhat lack of terrorism. Unfortunately, it was not far from the sight of these various terrorist organizations, which placed it within the framework of their strategies and priorities. Due to the circumstances and conditions that the continent and its countries are going through, the concentration and spread of these groups became easier in these regions and countries

One of the most prominent terrorist groups in Africa is the Somalia-based *Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement. Since its emergence on the scene in 2006, it has presented itself as an extremist organization not only in Somalia but also in Africa. It has worked to organize itself as a global jihadist movement in the Horn of Africa and enjoys regional and international attention.

*Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement has taken control of more than a fifth of Somali territory and has adopted a set of methods to make more money, which enabled it to arm itself and carry out its terrorist operations.

*Al-Shabab* has launched terrorist attacks, whether inside Somali territory or inside neighboring countries, in widespread violations of human rights stipulated in international conventions and covenants.

Therefore, this report will explain the losses and damage caused to the State of Somalia as a result of the attacks launched by *Al-Shabab* by introducing *Al-Shabab*, its emergence, the areas it controls, its financing methods and the position of the international community towards it.

It then demonstrates the operations launched by the movement, including against civilians, by explaining its destruction of facilities, buildings, and wells, and supporting that with a series of kidnappings, killings, assassinations, and executions of civilians.

Finally, it demonstrates the operations launched by the movement against the peacekeeping base of the African Union and the Somali military bases,



cases of killing and assassination of soldiers, and the operations it launched inside the Kenyan territory.

### ***Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen:***

Known as *Harakat Al-Shabab al-Islamiyah*, *Harakat Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen*, *Al-Shabab Al-Shabab*, or *Al-Shabab al-Islami* in Somalia. It is a Somali Salafi movement that emerged in 2006 by **Aden Hashi Farah Ayro** as a military arm of Salafi forces linked to al-Qaeda, including Arab and foreign jihadists aiming to establish a Sharia state.

Their current leader, "**Ahmed Omar Diriye**", known as "**Abu Obeida**" since September 2014 and was classified in 2015 as a global terrorist and was sanctioned by the United Nations, and the deputy leaders of the movement is "**Mahad Karate**", as well as "**Jehad Mostafa**", an American citizen who resided in California previously. He is a military trainer in *Al-Shabab* camps, and the leader of its foreign fighters, the movement's media wing, an intermediary with other terrorist organizations, and an expert in the use of explosives in attacks.

The movement was designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. Department of State in March 2008.

### **The Emergence and Beginning of the Movement:**

The official establishment of the movement dates back to 2006. Ethiopia's invasion of Somalia in December 2006 was an important turning point in the course of the movement because it resisted the Ethiopian intervention using the guerrilla method. This led the Ethiopian forces to call for the United Nations' help in order to help them get out of Somalia. The movement achieved gains from that confrontation which increased its popularity and attracted many sympathizers and volunteers to join it.

Since 2008, terrorist operations carried out by the movement have escalated, the most important of which is the targeting of officials in the Somali Interim Government. After the US forces assassination of "Saleh Nabhan", one of the most prominent elements and leaders of the movement, in September 2009, the movement pledged to join Al-Qaeda. However, Osama bin Laden refused. *Al-Shabab* renewed their request to join



after the assassination of Bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri accepted and the movement officially joined al-Qaeda in February 2012.

### **Areas Controlled by *Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen*:**

*Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement controls a fifth of Somali territory, especially the rural areas and small counties in the south and center of the country. It has strong relations with many other terrorist organizations, especially the Boko Haram group in Nigeria.

### **Financial Resources of the Movement:**

- 1- **Foreign transfers:** The United States has closed a number of money transfer institutions in Somalia, including the Al-Barakat Foundation. It has arrested a number of Somalis in the US on charges of transferring money to *Al-Shabab*.
- 2- **Trade:** Especially the coal trade, because the movement controls the Somali port of Kismayo, which it used to smuggle raw coal. The movement also obtained large sums of money from the arms, sugar and tobacco trade.
- 3- **Zakat and tax funds:** The movement was able to control large areas in central and southern Somalia, which led to the imposition of laws on these areas, and the collection of zakat from citizens on sales of agricultural products, livestock, and sugar production. It also imposed taxes on imports from the port of Mogadishu, in addition to taking a part of the international aid that is meant for the displaced people affected by the drought.

### **❖ *Al-Shabab Mujahideen* and the dream of the Caliphate in Africa:**

*Al-Shabab* is the largest group loyal to al-Qaeda, in addition to its military forces and sources of funding that surpass the Somali government, which pushes it to carry out military actions, whether inside Somalia, the Ethiopian depth or Kenyan territory.

*Al-Shabab* is waging a multifaceted war, against either the Somali government or the countries that have supported this government in its fight against it.

The sources of financial movement amount to \$15 million pro month, which enables it to arm itself and carry out its terrorist operations.

In addition, Eritrea is considered a strategic depth for the movement because most of the movement's fighters receive their training on Eritrean territory,





and the ease of movement between African capitals has strengthened the Mujahideen movement, as well as the movement has a relationship with Boko Haram in Nigeria and other extremist organizations.

*Al-Shabab* believes that Africa is the most suitable continent to establish the dream of an Islamic caliphate, which has made it active in the recent period and announced its intentions to establish an Islamic state.

## ❖ **The position of international community towards *Al-Shabab* movement:**

### **1. The United States:**

The US president Joe Biden, signed on 16 May 2022, an executive order allowed the redeployment of about 500 US troops in Somalia, after the former US president Donald Trump, withdrew about 700 troops in December 2020. Perhaps the motivation of US towards this decision was confronting the growth of *Al-Shabab* movement, which poses a threat to US interests within Somalia and its strategic neighboring regions, especially in light of the interest of the movement's leaders to play a political role in Somalia.

### **2. African Union:**

The African Union intervened in the Somali crisis by organizing dialogue and understanding conferences between the Somali armed factions and the successive Somali governments.

Then forming peacekeeping mission in the country (AMISOM), which lasted from 2007 to 2022, in order to combat the movement, and this mission consisted of Uganda, Djibouti, Sierra Leone and Burundi, joined by Ethiopia and Kenya, but it faced challenges.

In addition, the African Union mission (ATEMES) was formed to replace (AMISOM) on 1 April 2022, with about 18,000 troops, 1,000 police and 70 civilians, and then it will gradually withdraw by 31 December 2024, and hand over the security responsibility to the Somali government, after its contribution to build the capabilities of security and police.

**The mission will go through 4 phases; each lasts 9 months, except the last phase will continue 6 months:**

- **The first phase**, which ended by 2022, witnessed the transformation of (AMISOM) to (ATEMES), as well as the deployment of troops, and improved coordination between the countries of East Africa: Uganda, Djibouti, Burundi, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- **The second phase** will witness the cooperation between the mission and the Somali forces in designing and conducting joint clearance operations, and handing over some Somali armed bases.



- **The third phase** will witness the handing over the remaining operating bases to the Somali security forces.
- **The final phase** will witness the complete withdrawal of the mission.

❖ **Violations of *Al-Shabab* movement during 2021 and 2022 against civilians and military personnel:**

The operations and bombings of the *Al-Shabab* movement have varied in targeting civilians and military personnel, as the first part of them affected civilian cities, installations, buildings, and wells, including kidnapping, killing, detaining, and execution, while the second part affected military bases, the peacekeeping base of the African Union, and army personnel, as well as the operations that targeted Kenya.

1) **Violations committed by *Al-Shabab* against civilians:**

Since January 2022, at least 613 civilians were killed and 948 injured in Somalia, which is the highest level of civilian casualties since 2017, and an increase of more than 30% over the last year, in addition, the majority of injuries were caused by the explosive devices, including at least 94% were carried out by *Al-Shabab*.

a. **Attacks on civilian cities and villages:**

- **In February 2021**, *Al-Shabab* gave 10 villages in Shabely province 72 hours to leave their homes, including the residents of Yaqbary winy, Balad al-amin, Gobanly, Golo and other areas, as well as it killed many, burned some villages because of their rejection of the orders of *Al-Shabab* to evacuate them, and the movement defeated local militias with which they fought fierce battles and dealt with the residents of Shabely with cruelty. (1)

One of the villages they set fire to was Yaqbary winy in Lower Shabely province in southwestern Somalia's state, forcing residents to evacuate and destroying homes where residents lived. (2)

- **On 13 December 2021**, *Al-Shabab* seized “Balaad” city, which located 37 km from the Somali Capital Mogadishu, as the movement controlled 5 boroughs that the city consisted of, and the fighting led to casualties among civilians and warring parties. (3)
- **On 22 March 2022**, *Al-Shabab* took control of the strategic town “Tedan”, in Heran governorate, central Somalia, after they attacked from several directions, and stormed it after clashes lasted for hours with security forces of Hershabely state. While the local official Moamen Mohammed Halani

<sup>1</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>2</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>3</sup> According to New Somalia.



said that, the movement's elements took control of the town after a surprise attack.

- **On 19 April 2022**, *Al-Shabab* controlled the strategic city “Metban”, in Heran governorate, central Somalia, after violent clashes broke out between government forces and *Al-Shabab* militants.

The movement had failed to take control of it the day before and retreated after violent confrontations with government forces, so they returned and launched a fierce attack and took control of the entire city, which had fallen into their hands several times before but they were withdrawing under military pressure. <sup>(4)</sup>

- **On 12 June 2022**, *Al-Shabab* planted an explosive device on the side of the road in the city “Jauhara”, in the central Shabely, south Somalia, which led to hitting “Tuk Tuk”, killing 4 people and wounding 2 others. <sup>(5)</sup>
- **On 17 June 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for an attack in the city Badu in central Somalia by detonating an explosive device in a car and then burnet the city, which led to killing 30 people.
- **On 21 July 2022**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack on Somali cities near the Ethiopian border, as they clashed with the Lio authority, and attacked the Lio camp in the country of Atau and then carried out a second attack on Yad, while *Al-Shabab* spokesperson Abdul Aziz Abu Musab announced that the movement's fighters had captured both Yad and Atau. <sup>(6)</sup>
- **On 27 July 2022**, *Al-Shabab Mujahideen* claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Lower Shabely Governorate, southern Somalia, which led to injure 7 people, as a suicide bomber carrying an explosive belt blew himself up at the headquarters of the city of Merka while officials were present.

Among the casualties was Commissioner Marka Abdullah Ahmed Wafu, while *Al-Shabab* announced it was targeting Commissioner Wafu, who is leading a military effort to clear its militias in the region. <sup>(7)</sup>

- **On 3 September 2022**, the *Mujahideen* launched an attack in Hiran province, central Somalia, which resulted in 17 deaths, after the gunmen set an armed ambush for the victims of the attack west of the city of Bledwene and completely set fire to trucks loaded with goods and food.

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<sup>4</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>5</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>6</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>7</sup> According to Al-Ain news.





All of the victims were civilians, including children, women and the elderly, who were travelling in trucks transporting goods between cities within the governorate.

In addition, all those killed were from the same clan, and the movement took revenge on them because they formed armed militias against the terrorist group *Al-Shabab*.<sup>(8)</sup>

- **In October 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for the attack on the town of Bledwene in Somalia, which killed 20 and wounded 36, and the attack came a day after the Somali government announced that one of the founders of the terrorist group *Al-Shabab* was killed in a military operation.

b. **Attacks on civilian installation, buildings and wells:**

- **On 19 August 2021**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that detonated an explosive belt inside a café in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, frequented by members of the Somali security forces, which led to killing two members of the security forces and wounding 5.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **On 19 February 2022**, *Al-Shabab* carried out a suicide bombing targeting a popular restaurant in the city of Bledwene in central Somalia, where political meetings are usually held, which led to killing 10 and wounding 15 others, including killing a local official named "Abdirahman Kenan", deputy governor of Hiran.
- **On 30 March 2022**, *Al-Shabab* set fire to more than 100 houses owned by innocent civilians in the village of Adly, south of Mudig province, Galmudug state in central Somalia, after failing to control the area because of fierce resistance from the population, which prompted it to burn property.
- **On 18 April 2022**, the terrorist group *Al-Shabab* shelled the Somali parliament with mortars, during the meeting of its newly elected members for the second time since they took office.  
However, shells landed near parliament in a heavily fortified compound, which led to injuring several people, not including members of the legislature.<sup>(10)</sup>
- **On 17 July 2022**, *Al-Shabab* carried out a terrorist bombing that led to deaths and injuries, including government officials, targeting the Jauhar Hotel in the capital of Hirshabely state "Jauhar", south Somalia.

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<sup>8</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>9</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>10</sup> According to Al-Ain news.



The explosion was carried out by a truck bomb, causing extensive damage from the hotel bombing, while *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for the attack. <sup>(11)</sup>

- **On 19 August 2022**, *Al-Shabab* attacked Al-Hayah Hotel in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, by shooting fire and bombs, which led to killing 13 people, while the security official Mohammed Abdel-Kader said that the security forces continued to neutralize the terrorists and surround them inside a room in the hotel.

In addition, the security forces rescued dozens of civilians, including children, who were inside the hotel, and this attack was the biggest attack in the Somali capital since President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud was elected in May. <sup>(12)</sup>

- **In October 2022**, *Al-Shabab* detonated a car bomb and an armed attack on the Tawakol Hotel in the Somali city of Kismayo, which led to killing 9 people and injuring dozens, as the car loaded with explosives hit the gate of the Tawakol hotel in the coastal city and immediately after that began shooting, while the Minister of Security in Jubaland Yossef Hussein Dimal said that the explosion led to the death of 9 and the injury of 47, some of them in serious condition, and the hotel where the explosion occurred was near a school, which resulted in the injury of many students.

Security forces killed three of the attackers while the fourth died in the blast, and the officer said that before the attack there was a meeting at the hotel to discuss how to fight *Al-Shabab*. <sup>(13)</sup>

- **In October 2022**, the Mujahideen carried out two explosions that killed 100 and injured 300 others because of the explosion of two cars in front of the Ministry of Education building in the capital, Mogadishu, including mothers, fathers, students and businessmen.

The two explosions occurred within minutes between them and the second car exploded with the arrival of ambulance teams, as well as a number of passers-by to the site, and the explosions caused severe damage to neighboring buildings and shattered window glass. <sup>(14)</sup>

- **In November 2022**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack on the Villa Rose Hotel near the capital, Mogadishu, and this hotel is frequented by a group of government officials and is located in a safe central area of the capital, as

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<sup>11</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>12</sup> According to Al-Gomhoryia.

<sup>13</sup> According to France 24.

<sup>14</sup> According to BBC news.



the attack resulted in the death of 8 civilians and many officials and civilians were rescued from the hotel. <sup>(15)</sup>

### **Violations of Wells:**

Popular uprisings against *Al-Shabab* have taken place in central Somalia, so the movement followed a new path away from violence and extremism against civilians.

- **On 5 January 2021**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for blowing up a well in an area between Shabelo and Baadwene in central Somalia, as the areas near Baadwene witnessed fierce battles between *Al-Shabab* fighters and the local population, as well as controlling Shabelo, which forced the residents to flee from it, and the destruction of the well are part of the pressure that the movement exerts on the residents of the southwestern regions in the Madag region. <sup>(16)</sup>
- **In mid-September 2022**, members of the movement's gunmen entered the town of "Ayel Jefe", in Hiran governorate, and ordered the local population to evacuate the region, explode the well, and burn houses. After expelling the movement's militants, the only well in the region was repaired with local efforts and government support, so the movement's elements poisoned the water of the well in the town, which led to the deaths of two people and the injury of five people because of drinking the poisoned water. <sup>(17)</sup>

### **c. Killing, execution, assassinations and kidnapping of civilians:**

- **On 1 January 2021**, *Al-Shabab* assassinated a local parliamentarian named "Kalif Hashim Mogy", by an explosive device that planted in his car, in "Kismayo" city, south Somalia, near the presidential palace in Jubaland state, while the movement claimed its responsibility for the attack, which considered as the first political assassination in 2021. <sup>(18)</sup>
- **In March 2021**, *Al-Shabab* executed 5 people on charge of spying for the Somali government in the city of "Boaly", central Juba governorate, south Somalia, and these people are: Mohammed Somo Ibrahim, who was accused of being the leader of the group, Mohammed Othman Mahmoud, 16 years old, Ismail Ali Said, 49 years old, Mohamed Ahmed Adam, 42 years old, and Abdel-Kadir Hassan Ali, 22 years old. <sup>(19)</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> According to France 24.

<sup>16</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>17</sup> According to Somalia Today.

<sup>18</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>19</sup> According to New Somalia.



- **On 2 May 2021**, the movement's militants kidnapped a prominent tribal sheikh named "Ahmed Galany", from the Ragy Aily region in central Shabely, as the militants stormed the sheikh's house and burned 2 cars that they were in before taking him to an unknown area. <sup>(20)</sup>
- **On 22 June 2021**, *Al-Shabab* executed a man named "Mohammed Also Abdi", in a public square in Shaw area of the Hiran region, central Somalia, by accusing him of slaughtering his brother and 72-year-old mother. <sup>(21)</sup>
- **On 10 August 2021**, *Al-Shabab* movement executed 3 people in southern Somalia, who are: Basher Ado Ali, Madi Ali Mamo and Abdel-Shakur Shoukry Sheikh, on charge of being soldiers of the Somali government and the Jubaland state. People from different parts of Kabsumo in the Lower Juba region in southern Somalia gathered in the public street to watch the execution, while the movement said that Basher Ado and Madi Ali were from the Somali army, and Abdel-Shakur was from the forces of Jubaland state. <sup>(22)</sup>
- **On 17 August 2021**, *Al-Shabab* assassinated a local official named Mohamed Abu Bakr Afrah, Chief Justice of Gharsbali, and two of his guards by targeting his cars with an explosive device south of the capital, Mogadishu, planted on the side of the road, and two other security personnel were injured as a result of the bombing. <sup>(23)</sup>
- **On 1 September 2021**, *Al-Shabab* executed a woman named "Afaa Hussein", in a public square in the Shaw area of the Hiran region, central Somalia, by accusing her of being a soldier in the forces of the state of Harshbely, and hundreds of residents of the area gathered in the field to watch the execution of the woman. *Al-Shabab* carries out from time to time field executions of people by accusing them of spying for the Somali government. <sup>(24)</sup>
- **On 25 September 2021**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack by car bomb on a checkpoint near the presidential palace, which killed 8 people, most of them civilians, including the Prime Minister's Advisor for Women Affairs and Human Rights "Habak Abu Bakr Hassan". <sup>(25)</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>21</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>22</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>23</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>24</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>25</sup> According to Al-Ain news.





- **On 3 October 2021**, the movement claimed responsibility for a landmine explosion near a popular restaurant in the city of “Bedio”, in the southern governorate of “Pay”, targeting the manager of Bartery airport named “Gamaa Ali Hery”, which led to injuring him and a number of personal security guards. <sup>(26)</sup>
- **On 6 October 2021**, the movement claimed responsibility for a mine explosion targeting Jauhar city, which led to the injury of two local deputies who were walking near a police station in the center of the city, returning from a ceremony held to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the founding of Hirshabely state, and they were: “Mohammed Abdi Ali and Abdel-Rahman Abdi Aido”. The attack came just days after the Hirshabely state completed the election of all eight members of the Somali Senate in Federal parliament. <sup>(27)</sup>
- **On 15 October 2021**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for assassination of officials from Jubaland and South west States, as they attacked the house of an official named “Hassan AINU”, in Bardera city of Gado region, Jubaland state, which led to his murder inside his home. In addition, it claimed also its responsibility for an explosion occurred on the outskirts of Baido city, which led to killing the Pula Gay commissioner and some of his personal guards. <sup>(28)</sup>
- **On 19 November 2021**, Al-Mujaheedeen murdered Radio Mogadishu director “Abdel-Aziz Mahmoud Joled”, known as “Africa”, in a suicide bombing in Mornido in the capital, and also the director of national television “Sharmarky Mohammed Warsamy” was seriously injured, while the movement announced that it killed Abdel-Aziz Mahmoud Joled in revenge for a number of the movement’s members, including Hassan Hanfy, and *Al-Shabab* elements had been tracking the journalist for a long time to assassinate him. <sup>(29)</sup>
- **On 20 November 2021**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for a terrorist explosion that killed 7 civilians and wounded 12 others, as a result of bombing an explosive device planted in a popular market in Bradley town of the southern governorate of Bay. While the movement announced that government soldiers were killed and wounded in the explosion. On the other side, there was no official comment from the Somali authorities. <sup>(30)</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>27</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>28</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>29</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>30</sup> According to Al-Ain news.



- **On 22 December 2021**, *Al-Shabab* assassinated a tribal sheikh named “Osman Abdi Salah” and an imam of a mosque named “Abdullah Mohamed Ali”, in the city of Efgoye, northwest of the Somali capital, for allegedly participating in the Somali parliamentary elections. The militants came in a car, assassinated both the sheikh and the imam, and then fled without being exposed to anyone from the local authorities, while the terrorist movement claimed responsibility for the assassination. <sup>(31)</sup>
- **On 25 December 2021**, *Al-Shabab* carried out two attacks in Lower Juba province in southern Somalia, which led to killing 4 people, including local officials, such as “Mohamed Jais”, Commissioner of Tabtu Region, and Tax Director “Omar Abu Bakr Abgalu”, in the Somali state of Jubaland. <sup>(32)</sup>
- **On 26 March 2022**, in light of the crimes practiced by *Al-Shabab* against civilians, the movement kidnapped 7 shepherds and their livestock in Mudg province, central Somalia. The head of the town of Bajila, “Mohamed Shekoki Abshir”, confirmed that the militias kidnapped the shepherds and their livestock because of their refusal to pay the royalties imposed by the movement, which worked to blackmail the local population several times, leading to bloody clashes between terrorists and the population, the majority of whom are shepherds.
- **On 30 March 2022**, Al-Mujahideen carried out a bombing targeting "Abdullah Ghaddodo", the deputy commissioner of Wenlwin for security and political affairs, in an attempt to assassinate him, but it resulted in a minor injury to him, the deaths of two soldiers from his personal guards, and the injury of one of his family members because the explosion occurred near his house by an explosive device.
- **On 30 May 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for an explosive device explosion in the city of Afgoye, Lower Shabely Governorate, southern Somalia, and planted the explosive device in front of the house of the city's former deputy commissioner, “Hussein Jibril”, which led to killing 3 civilians and wounding 4 others. <sup>(33)</sup>
- **On 11 October 2022**, *Al-Shabab* assassinated a local Somali official named "Sayed Ali Ibrahim", in the southern province of Lower Shabely, by detonating a mine in it. The terrorist *Al-Shabab* organization claimed the assassination, and the authorities confirmed the incident and said that

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<sup>31</sup> According to Veto news.

<sup>32</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>33</sup> According to Al-Ain news.



the official, who was assassinated, was working heavily to fight the terrorist *Al-Shabab* movement. <sup>(34)</sup>

- **On 12 November 2022**, the terrorist *Al-Shabab* movement assassinated 3 high-ranking officials in Somalia, including Sheikh “Abdel Aziz Ahmed Hersi”, the Imam of the Tabaqin Mosque in the city of Tarkinli in the capital, Mogadishu, after he spoke during a Friday sermon about the need to eliminate the Somali *Al-Shabab* movement, which prompted the movement to take revenge on him for inciting him to resist it. It also assassinated Sheikh “Osman Ahmed Gedi”, former head of the Adado City Court, and his son while they were performing Maghrib prayers, in addition to Major General “Abdullah Hussein Wartiri”, one of the most prominent officers in the Somali army. <sup>(35)</sup>
- **On 1 December 2022**, a group of militants affiliated with *Al-Shabab* assassinated a local Somali official named "Omar Khalif Hassan" in Denili district, west of the capital Mogadishu. Omar Khalif Hassan, who is responsible for the file of displaced people in the local administration, was assassinated while returning from an inspection visit to the displacement camps located in the district. The militants got into the car of the local official after he was assassinated and security forces failed to arrest those involved. <sup>(36)</sup>
- **In December 2022**, an armed group of the *Al-Shabab* organization assassinated a local official, “Bashar Ibrahim Ali”, in his hospital office in Borhkaba district, Bay Province, southern Somalia, who was working as a coordinator in the Ministry of Health. The militants stormed the hospital and shot him until death, and assassinations by *Al-Shabab*, which targets government officials at the federal and regional levels, have increased. <sup>(37)</sup>

## **2) Violations committed by *Al-Shabab* against military personnel:**

### **a. Attacks on peacekeeping forces:**

- **On 18 November 2021**, *Al-Shabab* announced its assassination to two soldiers from the Ugandan forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in an attack on the road between the Danu and Goluowen regions in the lower Shabely region, south of the capital Mogadishu, while the movement pointed that it targeted the African forces by bombing. <sup>(38)</sup>

<sup>34</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>35</sup> According to Al-Azhar Anti-Extremism Observatory.

<sup>36</sup> According to Akhbar Al-Gad.

<sup>37</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>38</sup> According to New Somalia.



- **On 12 December 2021**, *Al-Shabab* announced its assassination to 4 soldiers from the Burundian forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in the central Shabely region adjacent to the capital Mogadishu, as the convoy of African forces was attacked by explosive devices on the road linking the Mahdai area in the central Shabely region with the city of Jowhar, the capital of Hirshabely state. <sup>(39)</sup>
  - **On 7 February 2022**, *Al-Shabab* launched 3 attacks in Somalia, which led to killing 4 people, including 3 military personnel. Two soldiers from the African peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) were killed and 5 others were wounded as a result of artillery shelling of 24 mortar shells on the base in the Dinsor district of the southern province of Bay. In the capital Mogadishu, a military and civilian trainer were killed in two separate attacks, with *Al-Shabab* claiming responsibility for all attacks.
  - **On 24 February 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for an IED bombing targeting a patrol of the African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) while passing through Wajid district in Bakool province, southern Somalia, which led to killing a soldier and wounding two others.
  - **On 3 May 2022**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack on an African Union peacekeeping base in Somalia "ATMES", where they detonated a car bomb at the front gate of the base and then shooting turned into direct confrontations between the two sides in the town of El Barf in the central Shabely province in southern Somalia. Burundian troops operating within the African Transitional Peacekeeping Mission in Somalia were stationed at the base, and the clashes resulted in injuries and deaths between the two sides, while the movement claimed responsibility for the attack. <sup>(40)</sup>
  - **On 10 October 2022**, after the Somali army announced the killing of 200 terrorists, *Al-Shabab* militants launched an attack with 5 mortar shells on a peacekeeping force base "ATMES" in Balaad district in the central Shabely province in southern Somalia, and African forces responded to them and expelled them. <sup>(41)</sup>
- b. **Attacks on military camps and bases of the army:**
- **On 10 January 2021**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack on a Somali army base in the outskirts of Balaad, 30 km north of the capital Mogadishu,

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<sup>39</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>40</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>41</sup> According to Al-Ain news.





which led to killing 3 Somali soldiers in an attack that lasted about an hour, and *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for the attack. <sup>(42)</sup>

- **On 1 March 2021**, *Al-Shabab* attacked Bosaso prison in Burri region of Puntland state in northeastern Somalia, and Colonel “Hussein Ali Mohammad” said that the prison forces repelled the attack and arrested some prisoners who escaped from prison. *Al-Shabab* indicated that its fighters briefly attacked and took control of the prison, releasing prisoners and burning two cars in the prison after two hours of fighting between *Al-Shabab* militants and prison guards. In addition, *Al-Shabab* fighters blocked the streets leading to the prison because of the delay in reinforcements from the security forces according to the movement's prior planning. <sup>(43)</sup>
- **On 8 April 2021**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for an attack on a security point in the city of Mahdai in the Middle Shabely Region, located about 120 km north of the capital Mogadishu, while the fighting lasted about 10 minutes, and led to the death of two Somali government forces, and *Al-Shabab* fighters were able to take control of the security point for a brief period. <sup>(44)</sup>
- **On 25 October 2021**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack on a security checkpoint of Somali government forces in the city of Afgoye in the Lower Shabely region adjacent to the capital, Mogadishu, as violent clashes took place between the two parties, which led to the death of 3 people and the injury of a number of others. The attack coincides with a time when Somali government forces and allied African forces are conducting a military campaign against *Al-Shabab* militants linked with Al-Qaeda in Lower Shabely Province, South West State. <sup>(45)</sup>
- **On 30 October 2021**, *Al-Shabab* carried out an armed attack in Puntland state, northeastern Somalia, and fired 10 mortar shells at a military base, and in a direct confrontation between the two sides, which led to killing 8 Somali military personnel, others were injured, and a military vehicle was burned. <sup>(46)</sup>
- **On 13 December 2021**, *Al-Shabab* fighters briefly seized the town of Matban in Hiran province, destroyed the police station and caused severe

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<sup>42</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>43</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>44</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>45</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>46</sup> According to Al-Ain news.



damage to it, as well as this confrontation forced *Al-Shabab* to withdraw and displaced many people. <sup>(47)</sup>

- **On 11 January 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for two attacks targeting the Somali army, which led to killing 4 soldiers, and wounding two other soldiers and one civilian.
  - **The first attack** was launched on a military base in the Qalamo area, located 30 km south of the city of Jowhar, the capital of Hirshabelle state, while violent clashes took place between the militants and government forces, which led to the death of two soldiers and the injury of a civilian.
  - **The second attack**: Two Somali soldiers were killed and 2 others were wounded in an IED targeting a military vehicle near Jowhar city.
- **During one week of April 2022**, Somalia witnessed many bombings, when the presidential elections in Somalia approached, as these bombings targeted civilians and army and police commanders, which led to killing and wounding a number of people.
  - **On 22 April 2022**, *Al-Shabab* shelled a military base in Jubaland state in southern Somalia with mortars, but the attack did not result in any loss of life, and Jubaland forces carried out military operations to pursue the militants and secure the area.
  - **On 23 April 2022**, 3 soldiers were killed and another was injured as a result of the bombing of an explosive device in the capital of Hirshabelle, north of the capital Mogadishu, and the explosion targeted a security checkpoint.
  - **On 25 April 2022**, 3 people were killed and a prominent Somali general was injured in a landmine explosion that targeted his convoy in the center of the capital, Mogadishu, and the accusations point to the *Al-Shabab* movement, which uses mines to extend its control over Somalia. <sup>(48)</sup>
- **On 26 April 2022**, *Al-Shabab* attacked a military base in the city of Jowhar in the central Shabelle province, through explosions followed by shooting and an attempt to storm the base. The fighting broke out between government forces and the movement's militants for about an hour in an exchange of fire between the two sides, which led to the death of a soldier and the injury of two civilians. While *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for the attack and heavy casualties among government forces without providing evidence for its allegations, during the absence of comment from the Somali authorities. <sup>(49)</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>48</sup> According to Al-Azhar Anti-Extremism Observatory.

<sup>49</sup> According to Al-Ain news.



- **On 21 May 2022**, *Al-Shabab* carried out an attack on a security checkpoint in the northern suburbs of the town of Balad, which led to killing 6 soldiers in an armed clash between the movement's fighters and government forces at the security checkpoint in the town. <sup>(50)</sup>
  - **On 30 May 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for a violent attack on government bases in the city of Afgoye in southern Somalia, which led to killing a soldier and wounding 2 others. The attack took place on a bridge passing through the center of Afgoye city, where direct confrontations broke out between *Al-Shabab* militants and government forces using a variety of weapons by both sides. <sup>(51)</sup>
  - **On 21 November 2022**, *Al-Shabab* attacked a military base in Somalia, where a lone gunman entered the military base and opened fire indiscriminately, which led to killing 3 Kenyan peacekeepers and wounding 5 others before being killed. The attack took place at the Streira forward base in Lower Juba province in Jubalan state, south of Samale, near the Somali-Kenyan border, with *Al-Shabab* claiming responsibility. <sup>(52)</sup>
  - **In November 2022**, *Al-Shabab* carried out a suicide bombing at the gate of a military camp in Mogadishu, which led to killing 10 civilians and wounding others in an attack by a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest on a military camp in the Wadjar district of the capital, Mogadishu. The attacker targeted a group of youths at the entrance to the camp who wanted to join the Somali army. <sup>(53)</sup>
  - **On 1 December 2022**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack on the Denunai military base in the Bay province of southern Somalia, followed by heavy fighting that resulted in casualties. *Al-Shabab* elements have taken full control of the base and government forces are working to control the base again because it is considered one of the overtures for military operations against *Al-Shabab* in Bay province.  
On December 3, 2022, the movement seized two areas in Bay Region in Somalia's southwestern state. <sup>(54)</sup>
- c. **Assassinations and killings of military personnel:**
- **On 31 March 2021**, *Al-Shabab* militants assassinated a Puntland intelligence officer named “Omar Mohammed Setmar”, in Mudig province

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<sup>50</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>51</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>52</sup> According to Somalia Foundation's new news.

<sup>53</sup> According to Al-Gomhorya.

<sup>54</sup> According to Al-Ain news.



in Galyo city, and the movement claimed its responsibility for the assassination, while the provincial police chief pointed to the arrest of one of those involved in the murder of the security official. <sup>(55)</sup>

- **On 25 December 2021**, *Al-Shabab* launched an attack, which led to the death of a local police officer named “Tahir Jiri”, and in another attack, a senior Somali intelligence officer named “Ahmed Gary”, in Jublang state, after planting an explosive device in his car. In addition, the movement claimed its responsibility for the bombing. <sup>(56)</sup>
- **On 29 April 2022**, *Al-Shabab* detonated an explosive device planted in the area of the town of Janali in the Lower Shabelle Governorate in southern Somalia, while Somali army forces were carrying out military operations. The explosion led to killing 4 soldiers and wounding civilians and military personnel. <sup>(57)</sup>
- **On 11 June 2022**, *Al-Shabab* claimed responsibility for a series of attacks that resulted in 6 deaths and 8 injuries in the city of Tarkinli in the capital, Mogadishu.

Another bombing on the outskirts of Mogadishu targeted a military convoy accompanying the deputy commander of the Somali Land Forces, General “Hussein Hosh”, which injured one person and the military official survived.

They attacked a military base of local forces, killing a soldier in the town of Baidoa, Bay province, southwestern Somalia.

They assassinated a local official, “Asad Tabari”, in the Mogadishu city of Dinili and fled the scene without security pursuers, with *Al-Shabab* claiming responsibility for the attacks. <sup>(58)</sup>

- **On 9 December 2022**, *Al-Shabab* militants assassinated an intelligence service official named Colonel "Bakal Koki", with an explosive device planted on the side of the road and exploded in his car while he was moving between two districts in the governorate.

Clashes broke out between *Al-Shabab* militants and forces accompanying the security official, leading to losses on both sides, while the movement claimed the responsibility for the assassination. <sup>(59)</sup>

d. **Attacks on Kenyan soldiers:**

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<sup>55</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>56</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>57</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>58</sup> According to Al-Ain news

<sup>59</sup> According to Al-Ain news.





- **In February 2021**, *Al-Shabab* ambushed Kenyan forces, and then launched an attack on them in the outskirts of the Kenyan city “Mandera”, near to the Somali borders, which led to the death of a Kenyan soldier. <sup>(60)</sup>
- ***Al-Shabab* launched a set of attacks within northeastern Kenya, including:**
  - **On 12 May 2021:** *Al-Shabab* killed 3 Kenyan police reservists in attacks on mobile phone towers in Mandera city.
  - **On 18 May 2021:** an explosion occurred by an improvise explosive device, which resulted in the death of 8 Kenyan soldiers.
  - **On 21 May 2021:** 3 Kenyan police officers were killed in an explosion of an explosive device occurred in Mandera.

*Al-Shabab* movement has implemented its operations in Kenya’s northern and eastern cities, and it has controlled about 50% of northern Kenya and managed more than 60% of Mandera. <sup>(61)</sup>

- **On 15 June 2021**, hundreds of *Al-Shabab* movement launched an attack on a base of Kenyan forces in southern Somalia, which led to clashes between the movement and soldiers of the Kenyan forces of the African Union mission in Somalia. According to the movement, it attacked and destroyed part of the base, while the Kenyan government did not comment on that. <sup>(62)</sup>
- **On 4 November 2021**, 10 Kenyan soldiers were killed in an explosion of a mine within Kenya near the Somali borders, planted by the movement, which followed a convoy of Kenyan forces while crossing the coastal Lamu region. *Al-Shabab* said that it set fire to one of the Kenyan military vehicles, while Kenyan security officials did not comment on the explosion claimed by the movement. <sup>(63)</sup>
- **On 5 December 2021**, an attack by *Al-Shabab* occurred inside Kenyan territory on a military truck in the city of Mandera in the northeastern region adjacent to the Somali border, which led to the death of two officers and wounding 10 Kenyan soldiers. The targeted police car left the Somali city of Ramo with food for a police station on its way to the Kenyan city of Mandaera. <sup>(64)</sup>

## ❖ **Conclusion:**

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<sup>60</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>61</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>62</sup> According to New Somalia.

<sup>63</sup> According to Al-Ain news.

<sup>64</sup> According to New Somalia.



*Al-Shabab Mujahideen* in Somalia emerged in 2006, announced later its affiliation with al-Qaeda, and then carried out various terrorist operations whether inside the country or neighboring territories.

The movement has huge financial resources about \$15 million per month, because of foreign transfers, trade and taxes that impose on citizens, and enable it to arm itself and carry out its terrorist operations.

The United States and African Union had a role in combating the threat of *Al-Shabab* to the government, as the American president, Joe Biden, redeployed 500 US troops to Somalia in May 2022, after Trump withdrew in December 2020, while the African Union formed the AMISOM mission in response to the growing threat of *Al-Shabab*, and when it expired, the ATEMES mission replaced it in April 2022.

In addition, *Al-Shabab* has committed many violations since its inception, but it has recently increased its targeting to the institutions, buildings and civilians, such as kidnapping, murder, assassination, execution, and military bases and officials, by using various means in the most heinous violations of human rights.

Therefore, the *Al-Shabab* movement represents an existential threat to the Somali state, as it is considered an entity similar to the Somali state and even stronger than the state in some fields, especially financial and military.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1- Rehabilitating and training the Somali national forces by the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) in order to confront terrorist elements, especially the *Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement.
- 2- Supporting the AMISOM financially to carry out its tasks in the best way, due to its weak financial resources.
- 3- Imposing UN sanctions on countries and individuals who supply the *Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement with weapons that enable them to continue fighting.
- 4- Stopping the sources of financial funding for the movement to weaken it and possibly controlling it.
- 5- Securing the borders well to prevent the terrorists from infiltrating the borders, receiving training in neighboring countries, or linking up with other terrorist organizations.



- 6- Providing international support to the Somali government in order to confront the *Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen* Movement, especially in light of the malnutrition and drought in Somalia.
- 7- Establishing international means to protect civilians as a result of the violations committed by *Al-Shabab*.
- 8- Encouraging cooperation and union between the government, the army and the people to eliminate terrorist groups.

ملئى الحوار للتنمية وحقوق الانسان