

BRIEFING TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health;

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- (3) Thursday, 25th June 2009.
- (4) House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health

Topic: Somalia; Prospects for lasting peace and a unified response to extremism and terrorism.

(1) Status of AMISOM

- (2) The major challenges facing the African union peacekeeping operation
 - 2.1 The size of force. Today AMISOM is made up of 2590 Ugandan military troops and 1600 Burundi troops, giving a total of 4250 troops below the objective of 8,000.
 - 2.2 This force has been able to defend the state House, the air port and the sea port.
 - 2.3 The mandate of AMISOM is limited to reaction in self defence but even then it is not effectively resourced to do so. The AMISOM, for example, does not have attack helicopters that could be used to deal with the attacking Al shabab.
 - 2.4 The logistics for the Force are still inadequate.

(3) What can the international community do to bring peace and stability in Somalia?

- 3.1 More political will is required on the part of the international community. We need more willingness to take risks for the sake of Somalia. Talk less and do more. The AMISOM has not expanded as quickly as needed. This is because in part the African countries that The UN system is also using wrong criteria in handling Somalia. What we have in Somalia is an extraordinary situation requiring extraordinary means. For the UN to keep arguing that peace be created first before a UN peace keeping force can be sent continues to deny the Somalia people badly needed international forces to assist stabilize the country.
- 3.2 The international community should provide more financial resources and technical assistance. The very difficult humanitarian situation is hardly being attended to. The Government cannot find enough money to pay soldiers and police men. Somalia has not had a Government since 1991 and so has no civil service to talk about. And people are needed to go and put together a civil service, a banking system etc.

3.3 The country must be assisted and quickly to build its own security institutions. A crush programme should be put in place to train soldiers both within and out side Somalia. Money to do this must be found.

3.4 The people spoiling the efforts to rebuild Somalia must be heavily punished. The extremists can only sustain themselves by assistance from the spoilers. These spoilers should be quickly sanctioned.

(4) Who are the extremists and foreign fighters targeting the Somalia and the AU peace keeping Force? What is their objective.

- Al shabab Islamic fundamentalists supported by Eritrea.
- Objective is to over throw the Government of President Shariff and replace it so that they establish sharia law based governance.

(5) The Alcaeda is building up in Somalia. Unless we deal with it now it will grow rapidly and disorganize the region.