

## Security Council

### A) Armed conflict: Myanmar crisis

The Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of 2017, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country. According to BBC, Rohingya Muslims represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar but Myanmar's government, a predominantly Buddhist country, denies the Rohingya citizenship and even excluded them from the 2014 census, refusing to recognize them as a people. It sees them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

According to the same source, since the 1970s, Rohingya have migrated across the region in significant numbers. In the last few years, before the latest crisis, thousands of Rohingya were making perilous journeys out of Myanmar to escape communal violence or alleged abuses by the security forces. The latest exodus began on 25 August 2017 after Rohingya Arsa (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) militants launched deadly attacks on more than 30 police posts. Rohingyas arriving in an area known as Cox's Bazaar - a district in Bangladesh - say they fled after troops, backed by local Buddhist mobs, responded by burning their villages and attacking and killing civilians as shown in the picture below:

While some remain in denial, top officials and generals are increasingly paranoid over the crisis in Rakhine State and possible international intervention. It is as though Myanmar is reverting to the days when it was ruled by the much-condemned generals, who were constantly worried about Western pressure and UN intervention.

**Satellite images show destroyed Rohingya village**



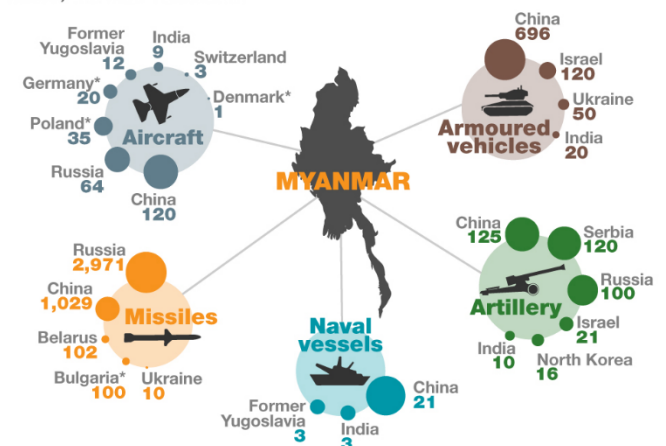
Source: Human Rights Watch, Satellite image 21 September 2017

BBC

The following graphic shows which countries have provided weaponry to Myanmar since 1990, and identifies China, Russia, India, Israel and Ukraine as its major arms suppliers. Majority of Myanmar's fighter aircraft, armored vehicles, guns and naval ships come from China, while Russia is the main provider of surface-to-air missiles.

## Myanmar arms trade 1990-2016: Who sold what?

Most of Myanmar's military imports come from China, Russia, Israel, Ukraine and India.



\*Traded before the European Union's arms embargo on Myanmar or only traded non-combat aircraft/equipment.

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute  
Icons: Noun Project | Creative Stall, Iykon, Robert A. Di Ieso, Sandy Priyasa

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The Myanmar military, known as the Tatmadaw, dominates the country. Most of the laws are there to keep them in power. Much of the nation's budget goes to buying weapons and supporting the military. Despite the fact that Myanmar is very poor, the military government has spent billions of dollars on weapons—sometimes from North Korean—and doubled the number of soldiers to 500,000 men and women since the 1990s. To replace its obsolete jet fighters, according to Council on Foreign Relations (2018) Myanmar has purchased JF-17s and is in “advanced negotiations” with Pakistan to license-build third-generation

models. The JF-17 is co-developed by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and China's Chengdu Aerospace Corporation. These jet fighters can engage in air-to-air battles but also have ground-attack capabilities allowing them to deliver dumb bombs and precision-guided munitions. These jets are suitable for Myanmar, where armed conflict with ethnic rebels is frequent.

Equipping Myanmar's air force with Su-30 twin-engine jet fighters that can carry out air-to-air and air-to-ground missions means the country is looking to protect its territory and preparing for foreign threats. The price tag on the jets has not been revealed. Sources close to the deal believe those negotiations may still be ongoing. Most Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh - men, women and children with barely any belongings - have sought shelter in these areas, setting up camp wherever possible in the difficult terrain and with little access to aid, safe drinking water, food, shelter or healthcare.

## Guide Questions

In relation with the sale and purchase of weapons in Myanmar

1. What actions are the UN and other organizations taking to resolve this problem?
2. Are there any peace treaties? And if so, are the treaties being fulfilled or are violations still being committed?
3. By supporting Myanmar with weapons, is there any violation to a local or international political agreement / law?
4. What is the fate of refugees fleeing from this armed conflict?
5. How could the country that you represent help to resolve the problem of armed conflict in Myanmar?

## Resolutions

1. The report notes that the country task force and its partners remained constrained by access and security impediments that presented a challenge for effective monitoring, verification and reporting of grave violations against children by listed parties in Myanmar. The report contains a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening action for the protection of children affected by armed conflict in Myanmar.

Resolution made by the United Nations; Security Council in 2013:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/258](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/258)

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## B) United States military intervention in the Somali Civil War

### Background

According to Peacekeeping (2018), a United Nations organization frail backed government is fighting the al-Qaeda linked al-Shabab Islamist insurgency. The fight is hampered by the Government's inability to control its national security forces, who are largely recruited from clan militias and put through training by other nations.

There was no national government in Somalia for nearly two decades. Much of the country has been effectively governed by local authorities, in Somaliland and Puntland, but these entities were not recognized as states by the international community. There is a severe lack of capacity in every part of the country to adequately address problems. While parts of the north have been relatively peaceful, including much of the self-declared "Republic of Somaliland," interclan and inter-factional fighting have flared up with little warning, and kidnapping, murder and other threats to foreigners occur unpredictably in many regions. Since 1991, an estimated 350,000 to 1,000,000 (UN, 2018) Somalis have died because of the conflict.

Also, according to the World Bank (2018) Somalia's defeat in the Ogaden War strained the stability of the Siad regime as the country faced a surge of clan pressures. An abortive military coup in April 1978 paved the way for the formation of two opposition groups: the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), drawing its main support from the Majeerteen clan of the Mudug region in central Somalia, and the Somali National Movement (SNM), based on the Isaaq clan of the northern regions. Formed in 1982, both organizations undertook guerrilla operations from bases in Ethiopia.

On the other hand, the Encyclopedia Britannica (2016) says that in December 1992 the United States led an intervention by a multinational force of more than 35,000 troops, which imposed an uneasy peace on the principal warring clans and pushed supplies into the famine-stricken areas. The military operation provided support for a unique effort at peacemaking by the United Nations.

The UN force was reduced to military units mainly from less-developed countries, and the clan-based tensions that had precipitated the civil war remained unresolved. The remaining UN troops were evacuated a year later. Over the next few years there were several failed attempts at peace as fighting persisted between the various clans; the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) and the Somali National Alliance (SNA) continued to be two of the primary warring factions.

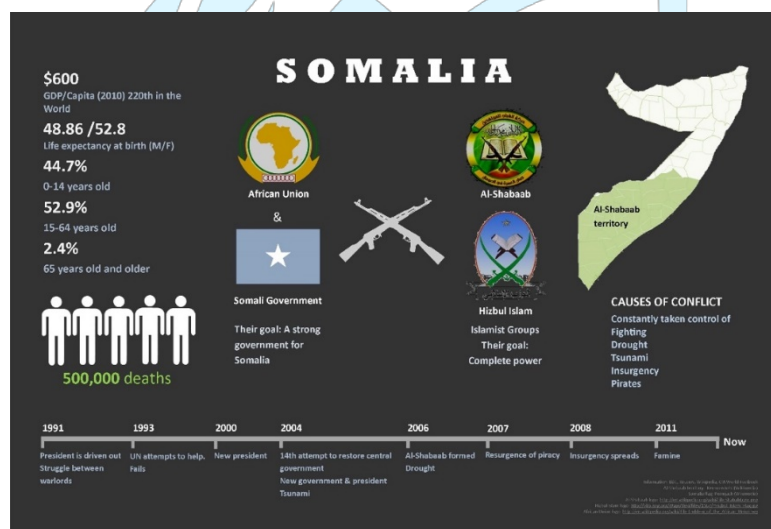
The 1992 US intervention in Somalia, goes as follows: First, this was a quintessentially humanitarian mission driven by normative concerns, with no traditional US national interests involved.

Second, the intervention was pushed by President George H. W. Bush, who was personally affected by the humanitarian tragedy. Third, to the extent that strategic motives influenced the decision, American leaders chose to intervene in Somalia in order to reduce pressure for US intervention in Bosnia, which they thought would involve far greater risks.

First, declassified National Security Council (NSC) documents indicate that the deployment of US troops to Somalia was not driven primarily by humanitarian considerations. Instead, high-ranking Bush administration officials were motivated by pragmatic concerns: senior American generals, in particular, worried that because of prior US actions, if the small United Nations Operation in Somalia (known as UNOSOM) imploded under attacks from hostile militias, US troops might have to be brought

in to extract the UN peacekeepers. The United States might then be left with primary responsibility for dealing with the famine and civil war, without a clear exit strategy.

The generals viewed an immediate US intervention aimed at restoring a modicum of stability, followed by a handoff to a strengthened UN mission, as a preferable alternative. Second, the Somalia intervention was not pushed by



President Bush; instead, it was recommended and indeed conceived by the US military under the leadership of General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Third, the documents indicate that Bush initially envisioned Restore Hope as a short-term operation of only a few weeks. But such a temporally limited operation would have done little to diminish pressure for US intervention in Bosnia – hence, the Somalia-for-Bosnia argument is problematic. According to CNN (2018), the US stepped up military involvement in the long-fractured Horn of Africa nation since Donald Trump approved expanded operations against the group early in 2017. The US had carried out at least 19 drone strikes in Somalia from January 2017 to October 2017. The United States had about 400 troops in Somalia. In April 2017, the US announced it was sending dozens of regular troops to Somalia in the largest such deployment to the country in roughly two decades. There has been a significant increase in US airstrikes in Somalia since President Donald Trump authorized the military to carry out precision strikes targeting Al-Shabaab in March 2017 in an effort to bolster the Somali government. Prior to that the US military was authorized to conduct airstrikes only in defense of advisers on the ground.

## Guide Questions

1. Why is USA helping Somalia so much, what is this country achieving?
2. How has the Somali Civil War affected the surrounding countries?
3. Why are the rebel groups against its own government and US?
4. How willing are the rebel groups, the Somali government and the US military to reach an agreement?
5. Why is Somalia so open to receiving military troops in its territory?
6. What does the country that you represent propose so that innocent civilians are not killed or injured?
7. How could the country that you represent help to solve the problem in Myanmar from an economic/political stance?

## Resolutions

1. In this resolution you will read about the attack of Al-Shabaab on Somalia and how it is struggling with the flow of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia. Also, about the violation of the arms embargo including when they result in supplies to Al-Shabaab and affiliates.  
[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2444.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2444.pdf)

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