

Kenya and the regional conflict areas:

Peace Broker, Refugees Destination and Kenya's Interest in the Somalia Conflict

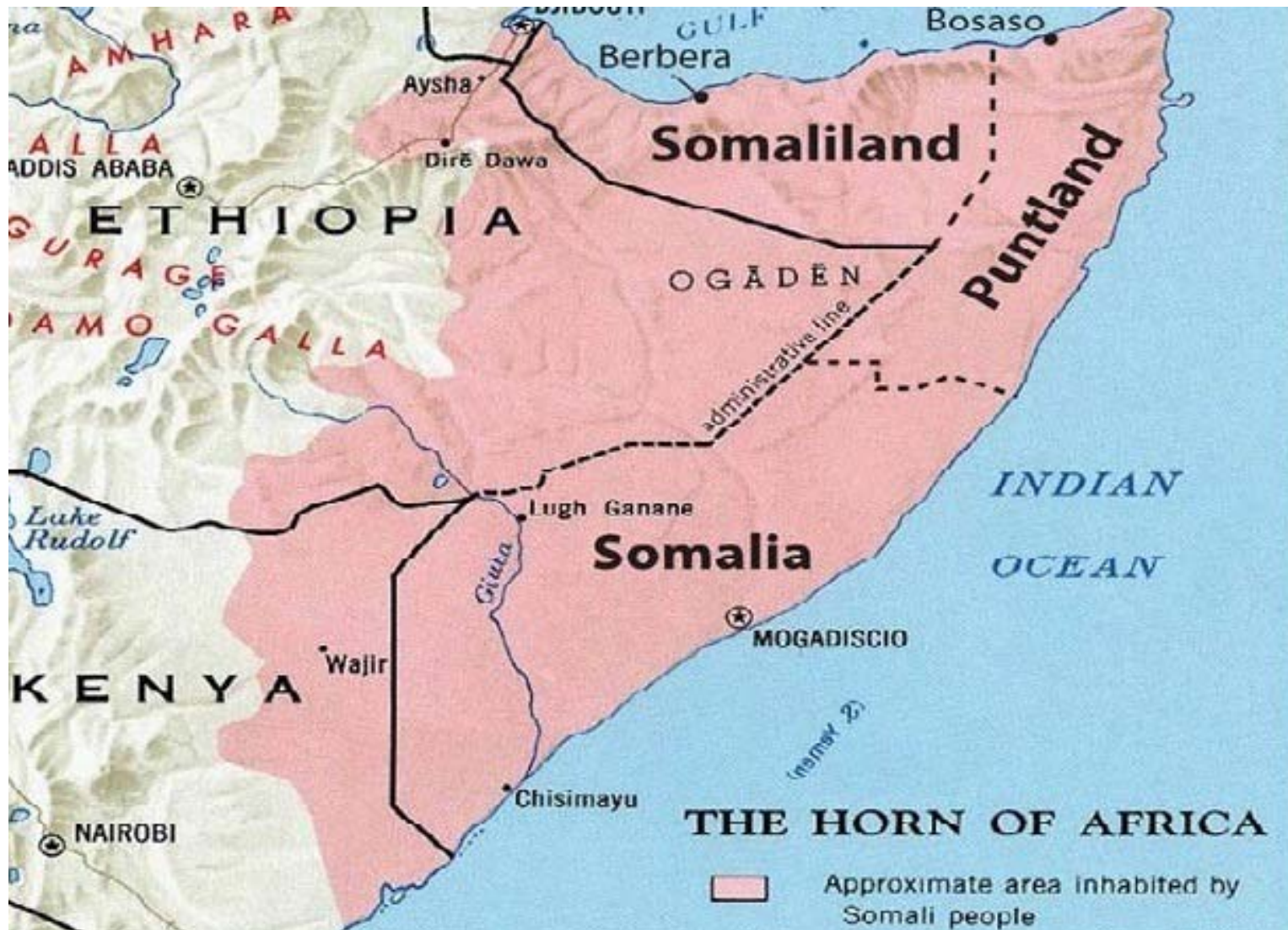
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MA. Int. Politics, Peace and Conflict Studies

The Outline

1. **Understanding the origins: displacement of Somalis to Kenya**
2. **The terror network: al-shabaab**
3. **Kenya's reaction to the Al-Shabaab's terror threats**
4. **Kenya's interest in Somalia**

Map of Kenya/Somalia

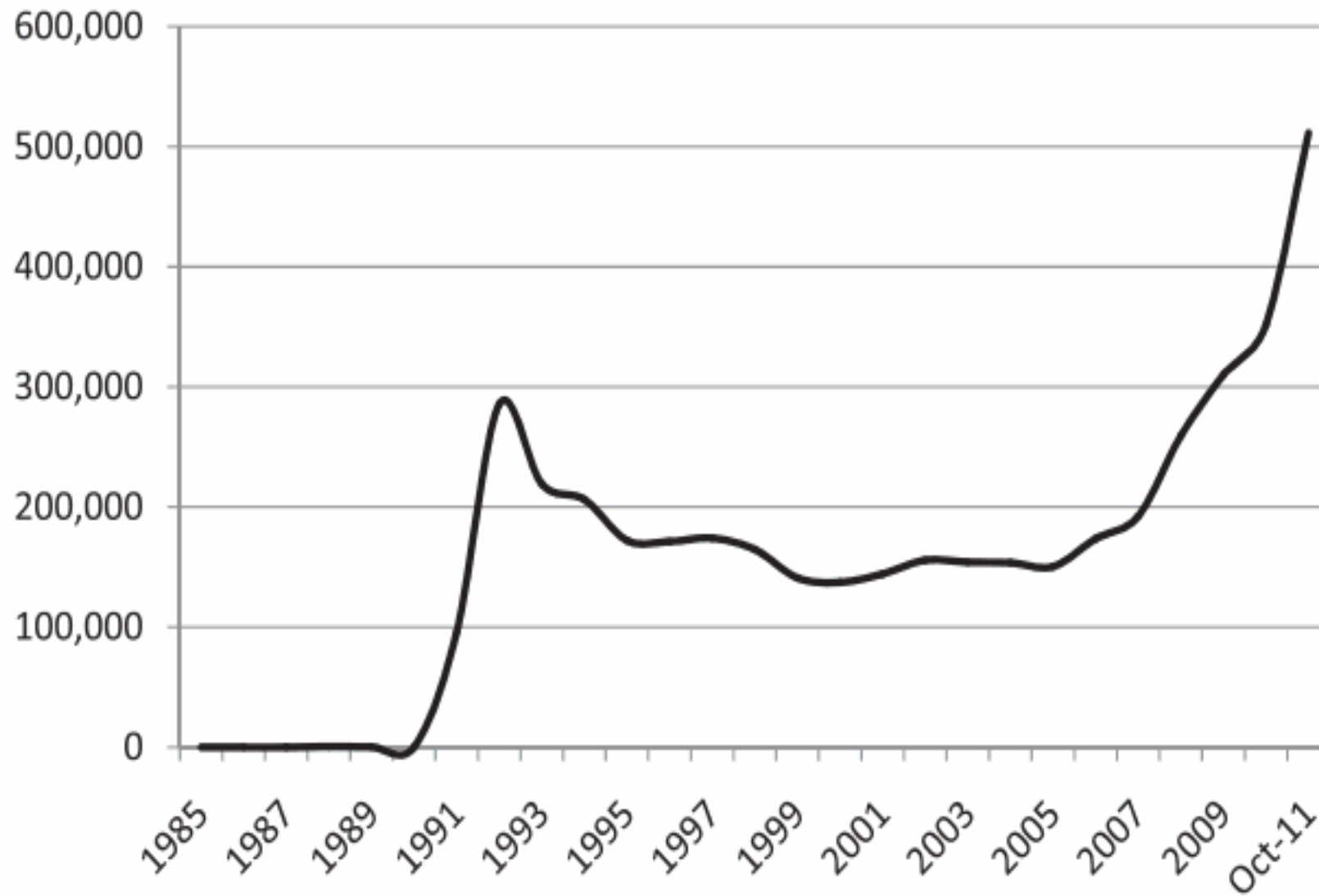


Source: <http://hornaffairs.com>

1. Understanding the origins: displacement of Somalis to Kenya

- Overthrowing of Mohamed Sayid Barre's regime in 1991
- 1992 and 1995, futile international community efforts in the restoration of state institutions and security
- Withdrawal of international community in 1995 → Massive displacement of 285,000 Somalis to Kenya
- Ethiopian invasion 2006-2008 → Framework of the international war on terrorism
- Major drought in Somalia in September 2011 → another massive displacement of Somalis

Somali refugee population in Kenya 1985–2011.



Source: <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>



Registered Somali Refugee Population



Country

Total Somali Refugee
Population

Somali Refugee
Arrivals in 2014

➤ Kenya

427,550

Individuals



117,903

Households

🕒 Last Updated 31
Oct 2014

10,923

Individuals



6,136

Households

2. THE TERROR NETWORK: AL-SHABAAB

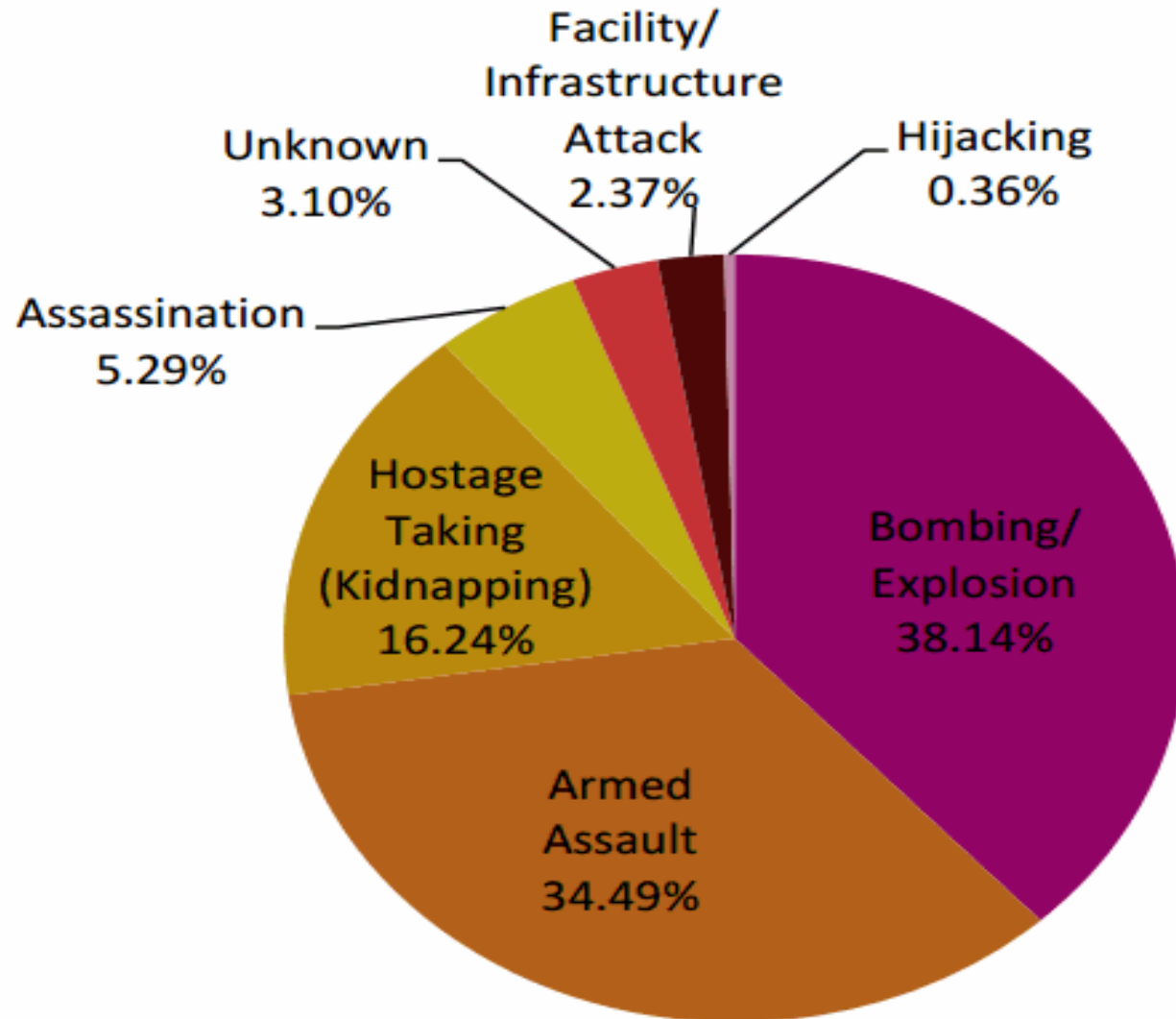
Al-Shaabab Attacks 2007-2012

- Increment of terrorists attacks by Al-Shabaab following the splintering of ICU in 2007
 - Nearly 550 attacks resulting to 1,600 deaths and 2,100 casualties
- By 2012, one-quarter (i.e. 22.7%) of attacks took place
 - Most in Garissa (13 attacks), Nairobi (8 attacks), Wajir (4 attacks), Mandera (4 attacks) and Ifo (4 attacks)

Al-Shaabab Attacks Targets 2007-2012

- Private citizens and property (25.9%), military (22.4%), general government (13.9%), police (9.9%), business (5.1%), diplomatic entities (4.0%)
- As from 2013 more frequent attacks in Kenya e.g. the West Gate Attack on 21st September 2013

Al-Shaabab Attacks types between 2007-2012



Source: The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

3. KENYA'S REACTION TO THE AL-SHABAAB'S TERROR THREATS

3. Kenya's reaction to the Al-Shabaab's terror threats

- Closure of the Kenya-Somalia border
- Securitisation of refugees → closure of refugee registration centers
- Invasion of Somalia by **Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)** on October 17th 2012 (**Operation Protect Nation**)
 - As act of “*self-defence*” as embodied in Article 51 of the UN Charter
 - Stopping frequent cross-border kidnapping and killings of tourists and aid workers
- Ban Ki Moon: “Kenya’s efforts were geared towards the stabilisation of Somalia”

Operation Linda Nchi “Operation Protect the Nation”

Triggers of the operation

- Al-Shabaab’s frequent terrorists attacks in Kenya
- Frequent cross-border kidnapping and killings of tourists and aid workers in the coastal and north eastern province → threats to trade and tourism

Goals of Operation Linda Nchi

- Counter terrorism through military intervention → creation of a buffer zone in the Juba area in Southern
- Breaking down of Al-Shabaab’s revenue sources: profits from charcoal exports and commercial imports through the port of Kismayo
- Halting piracy

Operation Usalama Watch “Operation Peace Watch”

- Introduced on 2nd April 2014 after an explosion that killed 6 people in Eastleigh, Nairobi
- Forceful relocation of urban refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya to Dadaab or Kakuma refugee camps
- Security crackdown on illegal foreigners, especially refugees from Somali and Kenyan Somalis

4. KENYA'S INTEREST IN SOMALIA

Kenya's Interest in Somalia

- Protection of Kenya's political economy
 - by stopping piracy, terrorism and kidnappings of tourists
- Paving the way for oil exploration
 - Some areas where oil explorations are on going along the country's coast lie in Somalia waters
- Garnering of voter support for the 2013 general elections

Kenya's Interest in Somalia

- Demonstration of military capability and ability in tackling regional security threat
 - Seeking influence in Lower and Middle Juba and parts of Gedo regions
- Counter-terrorism through military intervention
 - Fear of spread of Al-Shabaab, remininces of 1998 terrorists attacks in Nairobi

Kenya's Interest in Somalia

- Need for the creation of a buffer-zone
 - Along Juba and Gedo regions approx. 682km borderline with Kenya
 - Stabilisation of Juba and Gedo regions → countering direct threat of al-shabaab militias
- The refugee question
 - Social and economic crisis
 - Infiltration of al-Shabaab militias into camps
 - Stabilisation of somalia → relieving social, political and economic costs of hosting refugees

Operation Linda Nchi, a diplomatic blunder?

Consequences of Kenya's military intervention in Somalia

- An increase of insurgent campaigns in Kenya → stirring up of resentments towards the government
- Increased risks in the alienation of Kenyan Somalis
- Kenya's financial stability dilemma
 - Pressure on country's budget → budget deficit and diversion of Kenya's welfare fund to the war
- Radicalisation of Kenyan Somalis and Muslims in general

Operation Linda Nchi, a diplomatic blunder?

Consequences of Kenya's military intervention in Somalia

- **The mandate dilemma:** Djibouti Peace Agreement between TFG and the Opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia
 - Prohibition of neighbouring countries contribution to any peacekeeping force
 - AMISOM's Mandate: Conducting peace support operations → creation of conducive conditions for the humanitarian activities
 - Dilemma : KDF part of AMISOM but with another goal

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Thank you for your Attention

