

## **AMISOM**

Following the defeat of the Islamic Courts Union in December 2006 – January 2007 the international community began to gather both fiscal commitments as well as military forces for the mission. Nations of the African Union (AU) outside the IGAD community were drawn on to provide support.

On January 17, 2007, the US ambassador to Kenya, Michael Ranneberger, announced the US pledged \$40 million to support the deployment of a peacekeeping force for Somalia. By January 20, the European Union followed with a pledge of 15 million euros.

On January 19, 2007 the mission was formally defined and approved by the African Union at the 69th meeting of the Peace and Security Council.

On January 22, 2007 Malawi agreed to send a half-battalion to a battalion (ranging widely anywhere between approximately 400 to 1,200 troops) for a peacekeeping mission to Somalia.

On January 24, 2007 Nigeria pledged a battalion (a force between 770 and 1,100 troops) to join the Somali peacekeeping mission.

On February 1, 2007 Burundi committed to the peacekeeping mission, pledging up to 1,000 troops. By March 27, it was confirmed that 1700 Burundian peacekeepers would be sent to Somalia.

On February 2, 2007, the United Nations Security Council welcomed the advent of the African Union and IGAD-led peacekeeping mission.

On February 5, 2007 Tanzania offered to train Somali government troops, but not to deploy peacekeepers.

On February 9, 2007 a gathering of 800 Somali demonstrators in north Mogadishu, where Islamist support was strongest, burned U.S., Ethiopian, and Ugandan flags in protest of the proposed peacekeeping mission. A masked representative of the resistance group, the Popular Resistance Movement in the Land of the Two Migrations, said Ethiopian troops would be attacked in their hotels; the same group had made a video warning peacekeepers to avoid coming to Somalia.

By this date, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi and Burundi had committed to the peacekeeping mission, but the total force was about half of the proposed 8,000-strong force.

Uganda had pledged 1,400 troops and some armored vehicles for a mission lasting up to 9 months, and the AU had pledged \$11.6 million.

On February 16, 2007 Uganda announced it would deploy 1,500 well-seasoned troops. The first contingent under the command of Major General Levi Karuhanga arrived in Mogadishu in March 2007. The troops had been training for two years in preparation for the mission.

On December 23, 2007, an advance force of 100 Burundians was deployed and another 100 soldiers arrived on 2007-12-24. By late 2008, 1,700 Burundian soldiers were deployed to Mogadishu.

In a closed door meeting in Kampala on 22 July 2010, AU ministers agreed to expand the mission's mandate from a peacekeeping focus to a peace-enforcement focus that would engage al-Shabaab more directly. The decision came soon after deadly bomb attacks in the Ugandan capital.

On July 23, 2010, Djibouti and Guinea pledged troops to AMISOM. On 17 September 2010, an AU envoy said in Nairobi that AMISOM's size had grown from 6,300 to 7,200 troops after an additional battalion from Uganda joined the force.

In March 2011, Burundi sent 1,000 extra soldiers to AMISOM, bringing the total number of Burundi troops deployed to 4,400.

In February 2012, the U.N. Security Council boosted the number of troops deployed from 12,000 to 17,731.

In October 2011, a coordinated operation between the Somali military and the Kenyan military began against the Al-Shabaab group of militants in southern Somalia. The mission is officially being led by the Somali army, with the Kenyan forces providing a support role.

On 12 November, the Kenyan government agreed to send troops to AMISOM in March 2012.

In December 2013, the U.S. government established a military coordination cell in Mogadishu at the request of AMISOM and the Somali government. The unit consists of a small team of fewer than five advisers, including planners and communicators

between AMISOM and the Somali authorities. It is intended to provide consultative and planning support to the allied forces in order to enhance their capacity and to promote peace and security throughout the country and wider region.

## **Troop contributing countries**

### **1. Uganda**

Uganda was the first to deploy troops under AMISOM into Somalia in March 2007. So far, Uganda has provided all four AMISOM Force Commanders with the recent outgoing being Lt. Gen. Andrew Gutti who was replaced by Lt. Gen. Silas Ntigurirwa from Burundi.

The Ugandan contingent remains the largest contingent in AMISOM with 6,223 troops based in Sector 1 which comprises of Banadir (Mogadishu), Middle and Lower Shabelle regions. They are led by Sector Commander, Brig. Dick Olum, who replaced Brig. Michael Ondoga. The current Deputy Force Commander Operations and Planning Major General Geoffrey Baraba Muheesi hails from Uganda.

From 2007, Uganda has deployed 12 battle groups into the Mission area. The recently deployed Battle Group 12 joined their Burundian counterparts in Baidoa.

### **2. Burundi**

The Burundi contingent is the second largest within AMISOM with 5,432 troops. The country was also the second to deploy troops into Somalia, its first soldiers having arrived in Mogadishu in December 2007.

Based in Baidoa and commanded by Col. Jean Luc Habarugira, the contingent is primarily responsible for operations in Sector 3, which covers Bay and Bakool regions but also maintains troops in Sector 1 where they work closely with the Ugandan forces.

Burundi has so far sent six battle groups in Somalia and has provided three Deputy Force Commanders. Lt. General Silas Ntigurirwa from Burundi is the AMISOM Force Commander. He recently took the command of mission from Lt. Gen. Andrew Gutti from Uganda.

### **3. Djibouti**

In December 2011, Djibouti became the third country to contribute to AMISOM. The country has deployed a contingent of 960 troops into Somalia and they are based

in Beletweyne which serves as Sector 4 headquarters which covers the Hiiran region. The contingent is commanded by Colonel Osman Doubad.

Djibouti has also contributed several officers to the AMISOM Force Headquarters including Chief Of Staff Major General Osman-Noor Soubagle and Colonel Ali Aden Houmed the Force Spokesman.

In 2018, the contingent came to the aid of civilians in Beletweyne, helping to organize evacuations after heavy rains caused massive flooding in the region.

#### **4. Ethiopia**

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia became the latest troop contributing country to the Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). An advance team of 100 uniformed personnel arrived in Somalia on the 1st of January 2014 while the other three battalion-strong contingent deployed soon after.

The Ethiopia National Defence Forces (ENDF) has provided 4395 uniformed personnel will be located in AMISOM sector 3 region allowing Burundian and Ugandan forces to move into parts of Lower and Middle Shabelle allowing for the creation of Sector 5 in line with the AMISOM concept of operations.

Ethiopian troops constitute AMISOM's sixth contingent, after Burundian, Sierra Leoneans, Djiboutian, Kenyan and Ugandan contingents.

#### **5. Kenya**

October 16th 2011, Kenya Defence Forces moved into Southern Somalia to pursue insurgents group Al Shabaab after a series of kidnappings of tourists along the border. One month, later Kenyan government agreed to re-hat its forces under the African Union Mission in Somalia.

The troops from Kenya were later formally integrated into AMISOM on February 22, 2012 after the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2036.

AMISOM's Sector 2, which has its headquarters in the port city of Kismayo, is comprised of Lower and Middle Juba. Currently there are 3664 troops from Kenya after they pulled out a battalion when 850 Sierra Leonean troops arrived.

## **Police contributing countries**

Individual Police Officers (IPOs) role is to build the capacity of the Somali Police Force (SPF) by mentoring and advising SPF on police duties, such as human rights observation, crime prevention strategies, community policing, search procedures and investigations. They also conduct training and refresher course for SPF middle level officers and new recruits as well as running courses in traffic management and criminal investigation techniques.

### **1) Uganda**

Uganda first deployed police officers into the mission area in 2010. The country has deployed 201 police officers, 140 Formed Police Units, 60 Individual Police Officers and 1 Senior Leadership Team officer. In October 2013, six of the IPO's were deployed to Baidoa and Beletweyne.

The police component is headed by the acting Police Commissioner Benson Oyo-Nyeko from Uganda.

### **2) Ghana**

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 6 Ghanaian individual police officers were deployed to Baidoa and Beledweyne and are co-located with the Somali Police Force.

### **3) Kenya**

Kenya is the fifth and last country to contribute Police to AU Mission in Somalia. The first batch comprising of 21 Individual Police Officers (IPO) arrived in December 2013.

Six of the recently deployed IPOs are currently serving at the Mission Headquarters and 21 more stationed in the various AMISOM sectors.

### **4) Nigeria**

In 2010, Nigeria deployed its first police officers to Somalia. The first batch of Individual Police Officers (IPO) arrived to serve under the AMISOM umbrella.

The West African country has also deployed Formed Police Unit (FPU) to AMISOM currently based in Mogadishu. An FPU team comprises of 140 police formed Unit, the first to be deployed by the African Union.

The FPU within Somalia play a crucial role in ensuring improved security in the liberated areas through joint patrols with the Somali Police Force (SPF), assisting in

Public Order Management and provision of VIP escorts as well as providing protection to AU Individual Police Officers (IPO) to co-locate with the SPF in as many police stations as possible.

Nigeria is the second of such unit to arrive in Somalia and after the Ugandan Formed Unit, and currently has 200 police officers serving with AU police in Somalia comprising of 140 FPU, 59 IPO's and 1 senior leadership team officer Rex Dundun as the chief of staff of the AMISOM police component.

Six of the Individual Police Officers from Nigeria are stationed in Baidoa and Beletweyne.

### **5) Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone deployed their first police officers within AMISOM to Mogadishu in 2010. The country which is also a troop contributing country has 47 Individual Police Officers serving in the mission with 6 of the 47 deployed to Baidoa and Beledweyne in October 2013.

Sierra Leone also provides 850 troops to AMISOM and are currently based in the port city of Kismayo in southern Somalia.

### **UPDF IN AMISOM**

- **August 31, 2019:** AMISOM Sector One, which is under the command of UPDF held a gala marked by traditional dance performances and a cultural exhibition to display how peace and unity can prevail in culturally diverse communities.
- **March 15, 2019:** AMISOM declared three days of mourning in honour of the late Acting Police Commissioner Christine Alalo, who was killed in an Ethiopian Airlines flight crash.
- **December 21, 2018:** Brig. Gen. Michael Kabango, a new contingent commander of the Ugandan troops deployed in Somalia formally took office. Brig. Gen. Michael Kabango succeeded Brig. Gen. Paul Lokech.
- **December 19, 2017:** Brig Paul Lokech took office as Contingent Commander of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF).
- **August 30, 2017:** AMISOM hailed a contingent of Individual Police Officers (IPOs) from Uganda for their outstanding contribution in stabilising the country. The officers were decorated at a function held in Mogadishu presided over by the AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, Rex Dundun.

- **August 2, 2017:** The bodies of 12 UPDF soldiers killed in the line of duty in Somalia were flown back home. The soldiers under AMISOM had been killed three days earlier in a brutal ambush on the troops by Al-Shabaab militants.
- **March 30, 2016:** A fresh battle group from the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), serving under the African Union in Somalia (AMISOM), arrived in Mogadishu.
- **October 6, 2010:** President Yoweri Museveni called for financial support to increase troop levels in the African Union force in Somalia.
- **March 31, 2007:** Ugandan peacekeepers reported their first death, five more were injured, two of them seriously, when mortar shells pounded the presidential palace they were guarding.