



Forum: Security Council

Issue: Strengthening African Union Troops

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Introduction

The issue of strengthening African Union troops has become an issue in recent years. The African Union troops are a relatively small force, where the majority of these troops work in the AMISON operation, and the UNAMID operation. Just recently (June 2016), the funding needed for AMISON encountered various obstacles, and as a result, these troops were not paid for a period greater than 6 months. These series of effects of course led to a slight trust instability.

Because the African Union plays a major role in the stabilization of some 55 African Countries, these peacekeeping troops play a vital role in protecting innocent civilians from the harm and grasp of various terrorist groups, as well as from the nation's own government. With the current political situation in many African countries, these peacekeeping operations will always exist, and it is up to the UN to aid the African Union in continuing to strengthen these troops in existing peacekeeping operations, and future peacekeeping operations, whether it is financially, or strategically.

Key Terms

African Union (AU): The African Union is a continental union consisting over 55 countries to achieve unity and solidarity between the African countries and African people. The African Union has various agencies that control many fields and sectors; to name a few: agriculture, science, economic affairs, peace, security, trade, and industry. To view the African Union's objectives, see Appendix 1.

AMISOM: This is the African Union Mission to Somalia. It is a multidimensional peace keeping operation that was set up with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and the United Nations. To view the agency's mandate, see Appendix 2.

African Union Troops: The African Union Troops are peacekeepers that work to secure to promote peace, security, and stability on the continent. There are around 22



thousand troops. Currently, the African Union Troops are fighting Al-Qaeda linked militants in Somalia that are posing a threat to the nation's peace. According to various sources, the EU funds the troops that are deployed in the AMISOM mission.

Peacekeeping Operations (PKO's): These operations provide security, political, and peace building support needed to help nations make the transition from conflict to peace.

Countries and Organizations Involved

Countries:

Somalia: The AU currently has a peacekeeping operation in Somalia titled AMISOM. This operation is to provide support for the Federal Government of Somalia in its efforts to stabilize the country. In addition to political support, the African Union Troops also facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and create the necessary conditions for the reconstruction and sustainable development of Somalia.

Sudan: Another peacekeeping operation that the African Union Troops are currently part of is the UNAMID mission.

Burundi: The African Union deployed some 5000 troops during the Burundian Civil War. The Burundian government at the time, Nkurunziza's administration, swiftly refused the deployment and said sending troops without its consent would be viewed as an attack.

Organizations and Operations:

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UNAMID: The UNAMID is the United Nation's mission to Darfur where African Union Troops are tasked with protecting civilians without prejudice from the

Government of Sudan, mediating between the Government of Sudan and non-signatory armed movements, supporting the mediation of community conflict, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protecting these humanitarian personnel.

The E.U.: The European Union has funded many peacekeeping operations for the African Union Troops. However, recently, the European Union has somewhat been slacking on paying these troops. Could this mean that the European Union is losing interest in the very agency/force that it helped to form? Or is it a monetary issue, where the AU was solely relying on the EU to fund the various peacekeeping missions, and a possible solution would be for the UN, the AU, and the EU to draft monetary policies in cohorts with the World Bank and/or the IMF to develop a funding plan?

The World Bank: Similarly to the EU, the World Bank has helped support the African Union Troops by providing the AU with funding. In 2014, the World Bank signed a \$25 million deal with the AU commission to assist in the funding of its various organs, including peace and security missions (African Union Troops).

AMIB: The African Union Mission in Burundi was a peacekeeping mission during the Burundian Civil War (deployed in 2003). Around 5000 troops were deployed.

NATO: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. They have been providing assistance to various African Union Peacekeeping operations since 2005.

Countries that Oppose Strengthening the African Union Troops

Burundi, and North Sudan

General Overview

The African Union is only fifteen years old, having been launched in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002. In the intervening years it has established a range of bodies, mechanisms, protocols and institutions. A sufficient amount of effort has been focused on creating peace and security architecture to combat the multitude of challenges that the AU is facing. Current efforts by the AU invite comparisons with its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In a Strategy Research Report by Colonel John Peter Matthews Kobbie, he states that "...the readiness of the African Union (AU) to participate in African peacekeeping operations (PKOs) in the context of the current African Peace and Security Architecture. An assessment of AU PKOs in Burundi and Sudan affirms that the organization is subject to constraints on the political, institutional, and conceptual levels that detract from the effectiveness and readiness of the AU. However, as the leading continental organization, it has a moral and institutional responsibility to contribute prominently to African peacekeeping requirements." Already, the African Union has started to see its PKO's are becoming hindered due to many political bodies not agreeing on one general consensus. Perhaps a solution to this is for a resolution that would further outline strategies for African Countries to implement the African Union Mandates, rather than just ratify them.

One of the largest peacekeeping missions that the African Union Troops are apart of is AMISON. Many reports suggest that from March 2007 to January 2015, the operation lost "perhaps 4000 soldiers" troops, where as the UCDP Conflict Encyclopedia suggests that there have been roughly 13,384 battle-related fatalities during the same period. With such large variations in statistics, the problem is not going to be solved.

Since 2007, NATO has accepted to assist the AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by providing strategic airlift and sealift support to AU member states willing to deploy in Somalia under AMISOM. NATO has, for instance, put into practice airlift support from Burundi to Mogadishu and has escorted an AU ship that carried Burundian military equipment for one of the battalions that it had airlifted into Mogadishu. NATO has also provided subject-matter experts for the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD). The PSOD is responsible for the planning, conduct and management of AU operations and missions, including AMISOM.

NATO experts, working side by side with AU counterparts, offered expertise in specific areas for a period of six to twelve months, renewable at the AU's request. NATO has been providing expert and training support to the African Standby Force (ASF) at the AU's request. The ASF is intended to be deployed in Africa in times of crisis. It is part of the AU's efforts to develop long-term peacekeeping capabilities. ASF represents the AU's vision for a continental, on-call security apparatus with some similarities to the NATO Response Force. The Alliance offers capacity-building support through courses and training events and organises different forms of support to help make the ASF operational, all at the AU's request. NATO is, *inter alia*, assisting the AU with the evaluation and assessment processes linked to the operational readiness of the ASF brigades. This continental force is being operationalized and could be seen as an African contribution to wider international efforts to preserve peace and security. But in all cases, with these troops having some power in nations, it is vital that the UN develop some methods of controlling those

actions that these troops have. Farha A., a victim of rape by an AMISOM soldier in Mogadishu in February 2014 said, “I was scared he would come back and rape me again or kill me. I want the government to recognize the power these men have over us and for them to protect us from them”.

The United Nations, Human Rights Watch, and other organizations have documented high levels of sexual and gender-based violence against Somali women and girls, particularly the displaced. But the involvement of AMISOM soldiers has largely been overlooked, including by the mission’s leadership and international donors. As this report shows, some AMISOM soldiers, deployed to Somalia since 2007 to help restore stability in the war-torn capital, Mogadishu, have abused their positions of power to prey on the city’s most vulnerable women and girls. As the United Nations, we must not only strengthen the African Union Troops in terms of general warfare and tactics, but also morally and ethically.

Related UN resolutions and Previous Approaches to Solving the Issue

Currently, the United Nations have not passed many resolutions that aim at solving the issue, however, the topic of strengthening African Union Troops has started to become a more conversed topic at several security council meetings. Currently, all UN resolutions or mandates have been to extend peacekeeping operations in these various countries. In a Security Council Presidential Statement released last year, António Guterres, the current Secretary General of the United Nations suggested that, “African Union peace operations would be better able to pave the way for those of the United Nations if afforded predictable, sustainable and flexible funding through assessed contributions from Member States, but also through greater mobilization of resources on the continent.”

Seeing as the African Union only formed 16 years ago, the Union still has a lot to learn. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Kenya’s ambassador to the UN said that the UN Peacebuilding Commission had worked closely with the African Union to increase synergies and coherence of joint peacebuilding efforts. A statement that released by Mr. Kamau says, “We will aim to arrive at an agreed framework for regular consultations, exchange of information and analysis, and opportunities for joint initiatives aimed at sustaining peace,” which will strengthen the African Union Troops.

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Appendix

Appendix 1:

- To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa;
- To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of its Member States;
- To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;
- To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples
- To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

- To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent;
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance;
- To promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments;
- To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations:
- To promote sustainable development at the economic, social, and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;
- To promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples;
- To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union;
- To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular science and technology;
- To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.

Appendix 2:

1. Reduce the threat posed by Al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups.
2. Provide security in order to enable the political process at all levels as well as stabilisation efforts, reconciliation and peace building in Somalia.
3. Enable the gradual handing over of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces contingent on abilities of the Somali security forces.
4. To continue to conduct offensive operations against Al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups.
5. To maintain a presence in the sectors set out in the AMISOM Concept of Operations in order to establish conditions for effective and legitimate governance across Somalia, in coordination with the Somali security forces.
6. To assist with the free movement, safe passage and protection of all those involved with the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, and ensure the security of the electoral process in Somalia as a key requirement.



7. To secure key supply routes including to areas recovered from Al Shabaab, in particular those essential to improving the humanitarian situation, and those critical for logistical support to AMISOM, underscoring that the delivery of logistics remains a joint responsibility between the United Nations and AU.
8. To conduct joint operations with the Somali security forces, within its capabilities, in coordination with other parties, as part of the implementation of the Somali national security plans and to contribute to the wider effort of training and mentoring of the security forces of the FGS.
9. To contribute, within its capabilities as may be requested, to the creation of the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance.
10. To engage with communities in recovered areas, and promote understanding between AMISOM and local populations, within its capabilities, which will allow for longer term stabilization by the United Nations Country Team and other actors.
11. To provide and assist, as appropriate, protection to the Somali authorities to help them carry out their functions of government, and security for key infrastructure.
12. To protect its personnel, facilities, installations, equipment and mission, and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel, as well as of United Nations personnel carrying out functions mandated by the Security Council.
13. To receive on a transitory basis, defectors, as appropriate, and in coordination with the United Nations.

Appendix 3:

