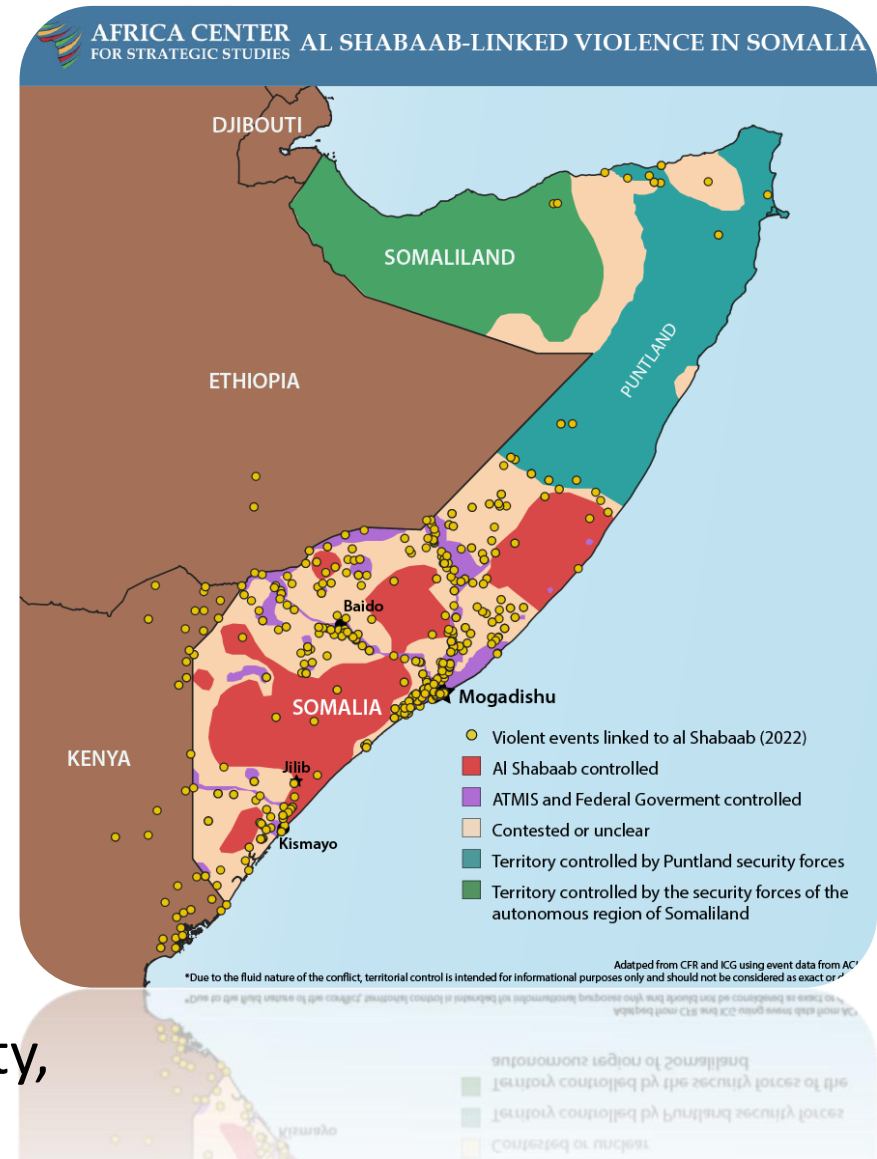




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Al-Shabaab's secret service, the Amniyat (Somalia)

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Objectives

- **Introduction**
- **General Information on the Amniyat**
- **Organizational Structure of the Amniyat**
- **Characteristics of the Amniyat**
- **Interconnectedness of the Amniyat and NISA**
- **Conclusion**



General Information on the Amniyat

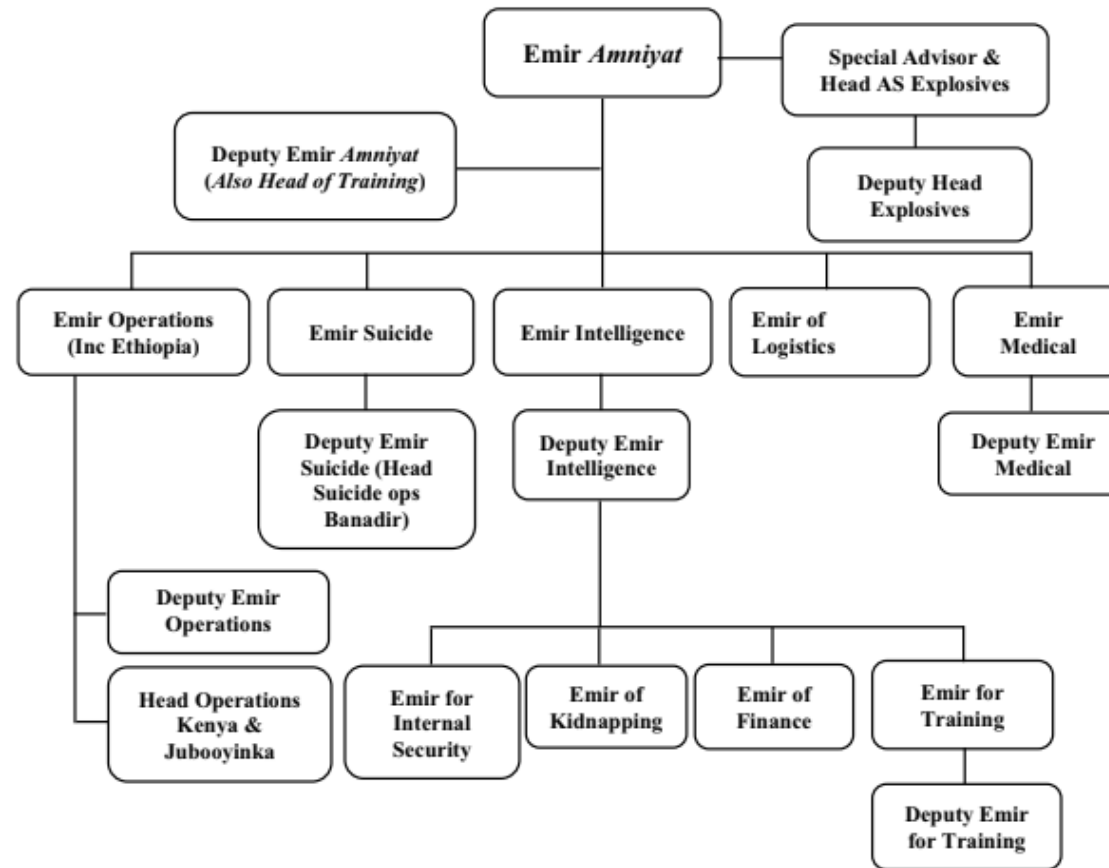
The Amniyat

- al-Shabaab intelligence wing
- „organization within the organization”
- has been active since the 2010s
- independence from other departments





Organizational Structure of the Amniyat





Characteristics of the Amniyat

- the most organized, feared, well-equipped and integral part of al-Shabaab
- reporting directly to the current Emir
- multifaceted role (intelligence/counterintelligence network + operational body + paramilitary force)
- shift to more destructive attacks with higher visibility
- national and regional impact
- carrying out military, administrative, supervisory and intelligence-related tasks
- handling of internal justice (instilling fear, imposing harsh punishments)
- compartmentalization
- infiltration to NISA and AMISOM





Interconnectedness of the Amniyat and NISA

- **Zakariya Ismail Ahmed Hersi** (intelligence chief at the Amniyat – holding a top position in NISA) [2013-2015]
- **Mukhtar Robow** (co-founder and spokesperson of al-Shabaab – minister for religious affairs) [2017-2022]





- *“They [al-Shabaab] only collect tax once and give a receipt of payment to show if somebody asks for it but we never know how much tax and how many times should [be paid] to the SNA and AMISOM. Or even worse, they could confiscate the goods.”*
- *“The good that they [al-Shabaab] do is that you cannot be robbed in the street in Mogadishu, actually, the part they control... You can walk openly with a lot of money, if you are not a target [of al-Shabaab]. So, they do policing. They protect against thieves, they protect property, they do guard.”*



Conclusion

- Somalia has been in war for over several decades → low bar for good governance → more opportunities for al-Shabaab
- provision of security and predictability + local support + efficient use of the Amniyat = long term success for al-Shabaab



Questions

Q1: Do you think if al-Shabaab was defeated, the Amniyat would also cease to exist? Why (not)?

Q2: What do you think about the future of al-Shabaab? Will they decline or become more dominant? What role would the Amniyat play in either scenario?



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Thank you for the kind
attention!

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