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DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

COI QUERY RESPONSE

SOMALIA AL-SHABAAB

A report published in April 2024 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the preceding year states that: "...al-Shabaab inhibited movement and exposed citizens to looting, extortion, harassment, and violence."¹

In February 2024 the *United Nations Security Council* notes that: "During the reporting period, 755 security incidents were recorded, including 216 terrorist incidents. Since the beginning of December, an increase in Al-Shabaab activity has been recorded, notably in the Shabelle Hoose and Bay regions in SouthWest State."²

In February 2024 the *Africa Defence Forum* states that: "One of the world's richest militant groups, al-Shabaab generates between \$100 million to \$150 million a year through extortion, taxing local businesses and individuals, facilitating illicit trade, and collecting fees on goods at road checkpoints and ports in its territory. Al-Shabaab controls large swathes of the center and south of the country, where agriculture drives steady commerce..."³

In April 2024 *Agence France Presse* comments on: "...Al-Shabaab...[generating] over \$100 million per year by extorting local businesses and individuals..."⁴

A report issued in April 2024 *Agence France Presse* commented on: "...a relative lull in attacks by Al-Shabaab militants in the face of a major offensive against them launched in 2022 by government forces

¹ United States Department of State (22 April 2024) 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, p.13

² United Nations Security Council (2 February 2024) Situation in Somalia, p.3

³ Africa Defence Forum (6 February 2024) Dismantling al-Shabaab Finances a Tough Task For Somalia

⁴ Agence France Presse (12 March 2024) US sanctions 16 financiers of Al-Shabaab militants

and local clan militias...Al-Shabaab...retains a strong presence in rural Somalia and has carried out numerous attacks against political, security and civilian targets”⁵

In April 2024 the *Institute for Security Studies* states that: “Al-Shabaab, with its links to al-Qaeda, raises around US\$100 million annually through roadblock ‘tolls’, extortion and illegal charcoal sales.”⁶

The *Agence France Presse* in April 2024 states that: “...the offensive against the Al-Shabaab, made early gains before suffering setbacks last year. Although forced out of Mogadishu by an African Union force in 2011, the jihadists retain a strong presence in rural Somalia and have carried out numerous attacks against political, security and civilian targets.”⁷

In April 2024 the *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project* notes that: “ACLED records more than 205 political violence events and at least 539 reported fatalities from 23 March to 19 April. Most political violence centered in the Lower Shabelle region, where al-Shabaab increased attacks targeting security forces.”⁸

A report issued in May 2024 by the *United Nations Human Rights Committee* comments on: “...violations of Covenant rights in the areas under the control of Al-Shabaab...”⁹

In May 2024 the *Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development* states that: “Despite government authorities regaining control of some limited areas, including major cities such as Baidoa and Kismayo, the situation remains critical. Indeed, many territories are still under the control of the rebel group, Al-Shabaab, especially rural areas.”¹⁰

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⁵ Agence France Presse (4 April 2024) *Somalia names new spy chief*

⁶ Institute for Security Studies (15 April 2024) *East Africa: Somalia's EAC Contribution Depends On Cutting Organised Crime*

⁷ Agence France Presse (26 April 2024) *Somalia detains US-trained officers over stolen rations*

⁸ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (26 April 2024) *Somalia: Dispute Over Constitutional Amendment and Increased al-Shabaab Attacks*, p.1

⁹ United Nations Human Rights Committee (6 May 2024) *Human Rights Committee: Concluding observations on the initial report of Somalia*, p.2

¹⁰ Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (13 May 2024) *Somalia: Promoting social reconciliation in Somalia through local peacebuilding efforts*, p.1

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