

## Somalia: A suicide attack in the Capital

September 30, 2023

29<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Mogadishu: A suicide bomber blew himself up at a shop selling tea in Somalia's capital, killing at least seven people, police and witnesses have said.



*Capital of Somalia: **Mogadishu**; Population: 2.6 Mn.*

The explosion on Friday occurred inside a tea shop in **Bar Bulsho** near the Presidential Palace in central Mogadishu, said police spokesman **Sadik Dudishe**.

“All the casualties were people spending time to drink tea,” Dudishe said. The cafe is frequented by members of the Somali security forces, as well as civilians.

**Al Qaeda-linked al-Shabab group claimed responsibility for the attack** in a statement on its Arabic media unit Shahada News Agency, the SITE Intelligence Group reported on Friday. It put the number of dead at 11 and wounded at 18; its numbers on casualties in attacks often differ from government figures.

**Adan Qorey**, a resident of the Bar Bulsho area, said the tea shop was often crowded in the afternoon and evening with patrons drinking tea and chewing **khat, a mildly narcotic native shrub also known as miraa.**

**Bar Bulsho** is located at a checkpoint on a road leading to the Parliament and the President's office.

Friday's attack came barely a day after five civilians were killed and 13 others wounded in a car bombing near a market in central Somalia. A truck bombing on last Saturday in the central town of Beledweyne killed 21 people, razing buildings and injuring dozens. In June, **al-Shabab, which aims to topple the central government,** killed 54 Ugandan soldiers at their base southwest of Mogadishu.

The spate of attacks came as Somalia's beleaguered government has admitted that it has suffered "several significant setbacks" in its fight against al-Shabab fighters.

Somalia's President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** took office in May last year promising an "all-out war" against the fighter group. His government launched a major offensive against al-Shabab in August last year, joining forces with local clan militias in an operation backed by **African Union (AU) troops** and **US air raids.**



*8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud***

*From 16 September 2012 to 16 February 2017 and from 23 May 2022 to present*  
The group had at one time controlled the capital, until 2011, when it was pushed out by the African Union troops, but it still holds territory in the countryside.

Somalia has been in a state of conflict and war for several decades. It has been without a stable government since the overthrow of President **Siad Barre** in 1991. Since then, various factions and warlords have vied for control of the country, leading to widespread violence, displacement, and human rights abuses.



*Population: 12.7 Mn, GDP: \$7.6 Bn, GDP per capita: \$544 (211<sup>th</sup>)*

**Al-Shabaab** was founded in the mid-2000s as a militant Islamist Group that emerged in Somalia. The group's origins can be traced back to the **Islamic Courts Union (ICU)**, which took control of much of southern Somalia in 2006. Following the **Ethiopian intervention** in Somalia in late 2006, the ICU was ousted from power, and many of its members went into hiding or fled the country. Some of these members went on to form Al-Shabaab, which initially operated as an insurgent group targeting Ethiopian and Somali government forces. Al-Shabaab has carried out attacks in several countries in the region, including **Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda**. The group has also been linked to attacks in **Tanzania and Ethiopia**. Some of the most notable attacks carried out by Al-Shabaab include the 2010 Kampala bombings in Uganda, which killed 74 people, and the **2013 Westgate mall attack in Kenya**, which killed 67 people. The group has also been responsible for numerous bombings, assassinations, and other acts of violence in Somalia and the wider region.

By- **Abel from Burundi**