

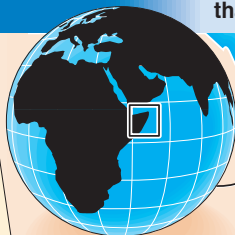
THE HORN OF AFRICA

Somalia: chronicle of misery

Hundreds are dying every day in Somalia, where anarchy created by warring clans has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis. A UN relief operation is about to get underway but aid agencies believe that it will be too late to prevent starvation on a massive scale

Late 1990

- Rebel coalition of four clans led by General Farah Aideded of the United Somali Congress lays siege to Mogadishu. 5,000 civilians killed, embassies shut down and all foreigners evacuated



May 1991: Northern Somalia declares independence



January 1991

- President Siad Barre deposed. Ali Mahdi of the Hawiye clan declared president, outraging northern Somalis

November 1991

- Hawiye clan splits into two sub-groups led by Ali Mahdi and General Aideded. Over 20,000 killed in subsequent fighting, Mogadishu reduced to ruins

March 1992

- Ali Mahdi and General Aideded sign ceasefire

August 1992

- UN team meet Ali Mahdi who agrees to a 500-strong UN multinational force to protect food convoys in area between Shabeelle and Jubba rivers. General Aideded rejects deployment of UN troops

