

Fears of regional war in Horn of Africa

SOMALIA



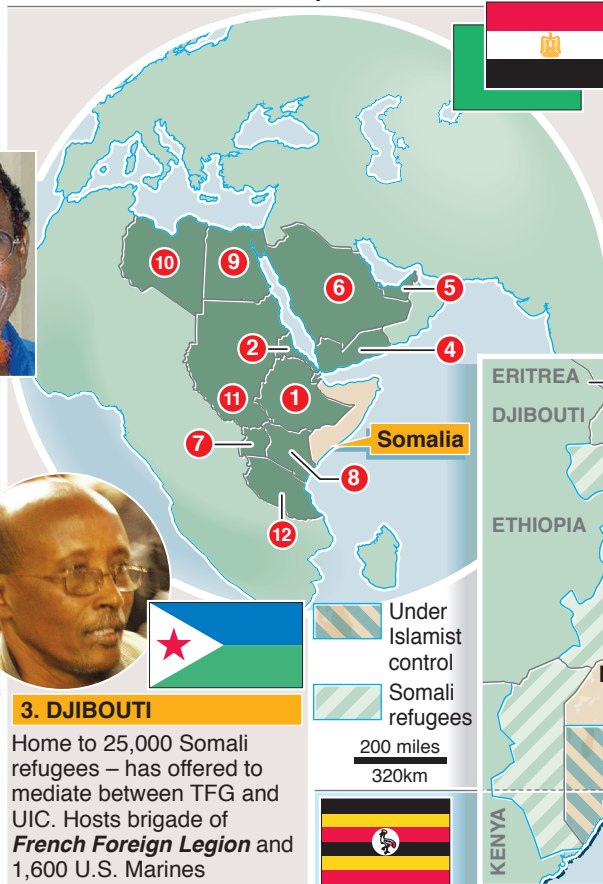
Mohammed Gedi: Prime minister of UN-backed **Transitional Federal Government (TFG)** based in provincial town of Baidoa

Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys: Fundamentalist **Wahhabi** cleric and leader of **Union of Islamic Courts (UIC)**. Aweys is on America's list of terrorist suspects for allegedly sheltering **al-Qaeda** members after attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998

Abdi Hassan Awale Qeydid: Most powerful U.S.-backed Mogadishu warlord – defects to UIC in June 2006. Other militia chiefs flee capital



The struggle in Somalia between the Transitional Government and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) threatens to ignite a regional war, drawing in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Sudan. A new report prepared for the U.S. State Department warns the conflict could involve up to 12 other countries



9, 10. EGYPT, LIBYA



Egyptian President **Hosni Mubarak** (left) and Libya's President **Muammar Gaddafi** back AU force – Saudia Arabia, Sudan do not

11. SUDAN



President **Omar el Bashir** – head of Arab League – is mediating peace talks aimed at power-sharing deal

1. ETHIOPIA



Country of 77 million people – half Muslim – is fearful of fundamentalist state developing next door. UIC claims **Ogaden** region for Somalia. Prime Minister **Meles Zenawi** has flouted UN arms embargo, sending weapons and ammunition plus some 8,000 troops to support TFG forces



3. DJIBOUTI

Home to 25,000 Somali refugees – has offered to mediate between TFG and UIC. Hosts brigade of **French Foreign Legion** and 1,600 U.S. Marines

4. YEMEN



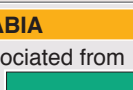
Accused of playing both sides – equipping TFG and funding Islamists. Home to 84,000 Somali refugees

5. UAE



Financial centre for UIC

6. SAUDI ARABIA



Officially disassociated from UIC militias but some Wahhabist charities are allegedly bankrolling UIC

7. UGANDA

Pledge of 1,000 troops for proposed **African Union (AU)** peacekeeping force

8. KENYA



30,000 Somalis, mostly Bantus, have entered northeastern region since January, pushing total number of Somali refugees to 160,000. Kenya supports TFG, driven by fears that conflict could spill over its eastern border

12. TANZANIA

Supports 600,000 Somali Bantus – descendants of Tanzanian slaves – who are being persecuted by Somali Arabs

UNITED STATES



Since 2002, fearing that Aweys will turn Somalia into haven for al-Qaeda terrorists, U.S. has covertly armed Somali warlords. **In policy change, Washington has now started talking with moderate Islamist leaders**