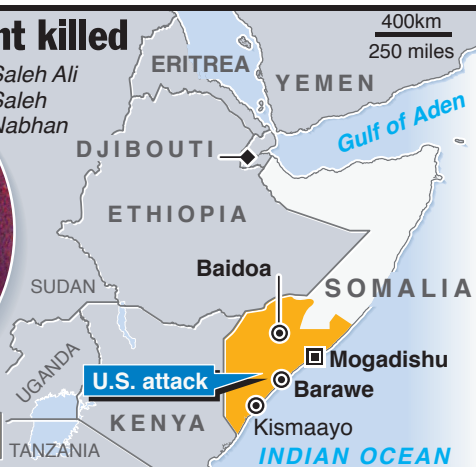


Top Shabab militant killed



◀ Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan



Area controlled by

Shabab and Hizbul Islam



■ **Al Shabab:** Islamist militia is fighting Ethiopian and African Union (AU) forces that support UN-backed **Transitional Government of Somalia**

■ **2006: Islamic Courts Union (ICU),** led by moderate **Sharif Sheikh Ahmed**, formed as rival administration to government. Military wing fights war lords and gangs in Mogadishu

■ **Jan 2007:** ICU defeated by Ethiopian and government forces at Kismaayo. Hardliners split from ICU to form **Shabab** and **Hizbul Islam** to continue war against government

■ **Jan 2009:** Sharif Sheikh Ahmed is elected Somali president – Shabab launches major assault against government in Mogadishu

■ **Jul 14:** Two French security agents kidnapped in Mogadishu handed to Shabab. One escapes in August after killing three guards

■ **Sep 14:** U.S. special forces in helicopters strafe vehicle in town of Barawe, killing two men and capturing two others who are wounded. **Among dead is believed to be Shabab commander and Al Qaeda-linked militant Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan**

28-year-old Kenyan is wanted over 2002 attacks on hotel and Israeli airliner in Mombasa, Kenya. Some reports suggests Nabhan was also involved in 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed more than 250 people

■ **May 2008:** Shabab leader **Aden Hashi Ayro** (left) killed in U.S. air strike

■ **Aug:** Shabab fighters overrun Kismaayo

