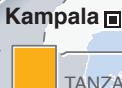


# Somalia's Al Shabaab



Area controlled by Shabaab and Hizbul Islam



■ **Al Shabaab:** Islamist militia fighting Ethiopian and African Union (AU) forces that support UN-backed **Transitional Government** of Somalia. Ugandan troops provide bulk of 6,100-strong peacekeeping force

■ **Al Shabaab – “Youth” in Arabic – emerges from other Al Qaeda-linked militant groups in 2006**

■ Al Shabaab's interpretation of Islamic law has shocked many more moderate Somalis. Group has carried out punishments such as stoning to death women accused of adultery and amputating hands and legs of thieves

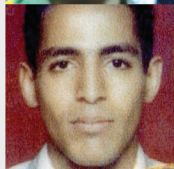
■ **Strength:** 3,000-4,000 Somalis, plus estimated 2,000 foreign fighters from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Gulf region, United States and Britain

■ **Leaders:** **Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed**, seriously wounded in May 2009; **Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Abuu Mansuur** – spokesman and commander (*main picture*)

■ **2008:** Al Shabaab leader **Aden Hashi Ayro** (*right*) killed in U.S. air strike



■ **2009:** Al Shabaab insurgents strike main AU base in Mogadishu with twin suicide car bombs, killing 17 peacekeepers. Rebels claim attack is revenge for U.S. killing of **Salah Ali Saleh Nabhan**, (*above*) leader of Al Qaeda in Somalia



■ **2010:** UN World Food Programme suspends work in southern Somalia after Al Shabaab issues threats against its staff

■ **Jul 11, 2010:** Bombs in two bars packed with soccer fans watching World Cup final in Uganda's capital, Kampala, kill at least 64 people. Police blame attacks on Al Shabaab