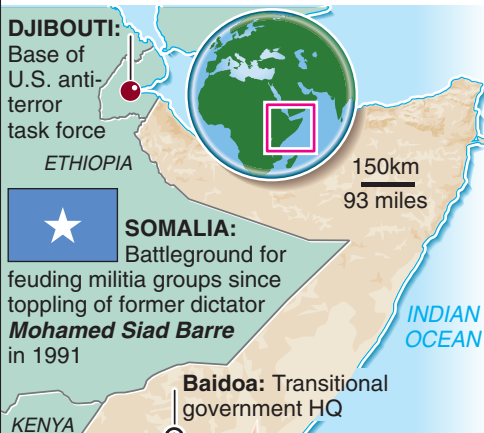


Somalia new battleground in “war on terror”

As Mogadishu is rocked by the worst violence in a decade, analysts believe Somalia is now a new proxy battleground between Islamic militants, with ties to al-Qaeda, and the U.S. – which views the lawless state as a terrorist haven and is widely believed to be funding an alliance of secular warlords



SOMALIA:
Battleground for
feuding militia groups since
toppling of former dictator
Mohamed Siad Barre
in 1991



**President
Abdullahi Yusuf:** Only
controls small area.
Government – formed
in 2004 – too weak to
return to Mogadishu

Baidoa: Transitional
government HQ

Mogadishu:
UN report says
Islamists control
80% of city

FIGHTING FACTIONS

ISLAMIC COURTS' MILITIA

Want to set up Sharia law
to end years of anarchy

Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys:

Courts leader
wanted by U.S. –
says Washington
backing warlords
to avenge killing
of U.S. soldiers in
Mogadishu by al-Qaeda-
backed militants in 1993



ALLIANCE OF WARLORDS

Fighting each other for control
amid power vacuum of last 15
years. Have allegedly handed
over captured terror suspects
to U.S. for questioning



U.S.: Admits alliance
one of several groups
it has engaged with to
capture al-Qaeda militants and curb
rise of Islamic extremism in Somalia