

CLASSIFIED

Department of State



U.S. Embassy, Mogadishu Somalia

10th of September, 2023

Ref: #9102023

To the Congress of the United States:

In recent weeks, an Organization known as the NLF or “Naval Liberation Force” has rapidly captured territory in the North Eastern Section of Somalia, headquartered in the port city of Bossaso. Their existence can be traced back to an incident that occurred in January of 2022, where their Leader, Edward Aden proclaimed the start of a new war against maritime trade in the gulf of aden. Security Forces in the region have since battled against them, but have seen little success as the NLF managed to force out other political and state opposition to their power.

1. This all culminated with an incident where in the early morning hours of 9/17/2023, a U.S. Destroyer was engaged by mercenaries with Small Arms and Rocket Propelled Grenade fire. This resulted in the U.S. Warships returning fire, and calling for allied navies to come to their assistance. Royal Navy and Spanish Navy vessels responded subsequently, and USAFRICOM mustered assets to conduct counter-piracy. The following day on 9/18/2023, a raid conducted onshore by Marines from the United States Marine Corps and British Royal Marine Commando isolated a weapons cache locating hundreds of small arms and some heavy artillery pieces. The intelligence gathered from the raid highlights the presence of some suspected 20,000 Pirates and Fighters spread throughout North Eastern Somalia.

A Bill to allow limited interventions against the NLF

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.**

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3 A. The Department of Defense and the Combatant Commands of the United States
4 Military are authorized to conduct Special Operations, Limited Intervention, and
5 Foreign Internal Defense Missions against the Somali Naval Liberation Force.

6 B. The Department of State is authorized to build an international coalition of friendly
7 nations to combat the NLF threat.

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9 **SECTION 2.**

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11 A. The Naval Liberation Force shall be defined as the Pirate State located in North
12 Eastern Somalia under the leadership of Edward Ali.

13 B. Special Operations shall be defined as raids, counter piracy, and limited strikes
14 against NLF targets.

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16 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense and Department of State shall oversee the
17 enforcement of this legislation.

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19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passing All laws in
20 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Nova Speech and Debate.

A Bill to Wage War against the NLF

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall enter into a state of war against the Non-State Actor
2 known as the Naval Liberation Force “NLF.” The Department of Defense
3 shall prepare combatant commanders with the necessary Naval and Land
4 forces to fully and thoroughly quell the threat of piracy.
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6 **SECTION 2.** The Naval Liberation Force shall be defined as the Pirate State located in
7 North Eastern Somalia under the leadership of Edward Ali.
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9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall oversee the implementation of this
10 legislation.
11

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in
13 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Nova Speech and Debate.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, morning clouds giving way to sunshine by the afternoon, high 65. Tonight, cloudy, low 54. Tomorrow, clouds giving way to sunshine, high 70. Weather map is on Page 23.

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US WARSHIP FIRED UPON, WORLD AWAITS RESPONSE

By Alberto Fermin

October 1, 2023

In a major escalation of tensions off the coast of Somalia, a US destroyer was engaged by mercenaries with small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire in the early morning hours of September 30, 2023. The US warship returned fire and called for allied navies to come to their assistance. Royal Navy and Spanish Navy vessels responded subsequently, and USAFRICOM mustered assets to conduct counter-piracy operations in the region.

The incident occurred near the Gulf of Aden, a major shipping route that is often targeted by pirates. The US destroyer was conducting a routine patrol when it was attacked by the mercenaries. The attack was brief, but it highlighted the growing threat posed by armed groups in the region.

In the wake of the attack, the US Navy and its allies launched a joint operation to search for the mercenaries and their weapons cache. On October 2, 2023, Marines from the United States Marine Corps and British Royal Marine Commandos conducted a raid onshore and isolated a weapons cache containing hundreds of small arms and some heavy artillery pieces.

The intelligence gathered from the raid suggests that there are as many as 20,000 pirates and fighters spread throughout northeastern Somalia. These groups are well-armed and increasingly sophisticated, and they pose a serious threat to shipping in the region.

The US Navy and its allies are determined to crack down on piracy and other maritime crime in the Gulf of Aden. The joint operation following the attack on the US destroyer is a clear signal that the international community is taking this threat seriously.

Analysts Weigh In

The attack on the US destroyer and the subsequent raid onshore have sparked a debate among analysts about the nature of the threat posed by armed groups in northeastern Somalia. Some analysts believe that the attack was a deliberate provocation by the mercenaries, and that it is part of a broader effort to destabilize the region. Others believe that the attack was more opportunistic, and that it was simply a case of pirates trying to take advantage of a vulnerable target.

Regardless of the motivation behind the attack, it is clear that the situation off the coast of Somalia is becoming increasingly dangerous. The presence of large numbers of armed groups with sophisticated weapons is a major threat to shipping and other maritime activity in the region.

What Comes Next?

The US Navy and its allies are likely to continue to conduct counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden in the coming weeks and months. They will also work to strengthen cooperation with regional partners to combat piracy and other maritime crime.

In addition, the international community needs to address the root causes of piracy in Somalia. This includes addressing poverty, unemployment, and political instability in the country. It is also important to provide support for social and economic development in Somalia, in order to create alternative opportunities for young people and prevent them from turning to piracy.

The attack on the US destroyer is a reminder that the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden remains real. The international community needs to work together to address this threat and to create a more secure environment for shipping and other maritime activity in the region.

POLITICO

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NEW PIRATE STATE: NLF

By Storm Dalberry

October 1, 2023

In a worrying development, the Naval Liberation Force (NLF), a shadowy militia group, has rapidly expanded its control over territory in northeastern Somalia in recent weeks. The NLF is headquartered in the port city of Bossaso, and its leader, Edward Aden, has declared war on maritime trade in the Gulf of Aden.

The NLF's rapid expansion has raised alarms among security forces in the region, who have struggled to contain the group's advance. The NLF has reportedly forced out other political and state opposition to its power, and it now controls a significant portion of northeastern Somalia.

The NLF's rise has been attributed to a number of factors, including the group's ability to exploit local grievances and the weakness of the Somali government. The NLF also appears to have benefited from the support of external actors, such as arms dealers and regional powers.

The NLF's expansion poses a number of challenges to the international community. The group's war on maritime trade could disrupt shipping in the Gulf of Aden, a major choke point for global trade. The NLF's growing power could also destabilize the Horn of Africa region and create a safe haven for terrorists.

The international community must take steps to address the NLF threat. This includes providing support to the Somali government and its security forces, and working to isolate the NLF from external support. The international community should also work to address the root causes of the NLF's rise, such as poverty, unemployment, and political instability in Somalia.

What Comes Next?

It is unclear what the NLF's ultimate goals are. The group has not issued a clear political platform, and its leader, Edward Aden, has made contradictory statements about his intentions.

Some analysts believe that the NLF is simply interested in profiteering from piracy and other maritime crime. Others believe that the group has more ambitious goals, such as establishing a separate state in northeastern Somalia or overthrowing the Somali government.

The NLF's rapid expansion has caught the international community off guard. The group's future course remains uncertain, but it is clear that the NLF poses a serious threat to the stability of the Horn of Africa region.

Politico Take

The NLF's rise is a major setback for the Somali government and its international partners. The group's rapid expansion has exposed the weakness of the Somali state and the inability of the international community to effectively address the threat of piracy and maritime crime in the Gulf of Aden.

The NLF's threat is not just a regional problem. The group's war on maritime trade could have a significant impact on global trade, and its growing power could destabilize the Horn of Africa region and create a safe haven for terrorists.

The international community must take urgent action to address the NLF threat. This includes providing more support to the Somali government and its security forces, and working to isolate the NLF from external support. The international community should also work to address the root causes of the NLF's rise, such as poverty, unemployment, and political instability in Somalia.

The NLF's rise is a wake-up call for the international community. It is clear that the world cannot afford to ignore the threat of piracy and maritime crime in the Gulf of Aden. The international community must work together to develop a comprehensive strategy to address this threat and to ensure the security of global shipping.

Billions in Revenue lost to Emerging Pirate State

AP Associated Press

Mogadishu, Somalia; September 27, 2023 Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. EST

BOTTOM LINE: The Somali Government has forwarded a letter to the United States Government and United Nations following a massive takeover of territory in the Northern Eastern area of Somalia. A group known as the Naval Liberation Force “NLF” has fought by land and sea, capturing the major port city of Bossaso and is led by one Edward Ali.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: During the Henry Administration, President Makai Henry directed USAID to assist Somalia providing over \$1 Billion dollars in aid to the Somali People. U.S. Special Forces subsequently found themselves assisting local security forces in counter-terror and foreign internal defense. This support for Somalia began to decline after the 2020 Election where President Miles Bloomfield took office, where funds were cut below \$100 Million dollars, and U.S. Forces were withdrawn to nearby bases in Kenya and Djibouti.

CHANGING NARRATIVE: Recently, Edward Ali has become more hostile to the growing presence of Navy’s patrolling the Gulf of Aden. Throughout the past 8 months, he has consolidated fleets of small craft which have attacked merchant vessels transiting the waters off east Africa. These actions have had a profound impact on trade corridors between the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

ECONOMIC OUTCOME: Quantifiably, throughout the ongoing crisis some \$9.6 Billion Dollars worth of trade have been lost due to pirate attacks. The Somali GDP is projected to drop by some \$2 Billion Dollars from \$7.628 Billion to \$5.520 Billion.

CONCLUSION: With all these developments, it is up to the Internal Community now to respond to the Somali call for help. International Governments will now have to contemplate the factors affecting the ongoing situation, and it will be up to them to deal with the NLF.