

SCRIPT AMISOM MOGADISHU

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PRESENTATION

A fast implementation of the prolonged peace keeping mandate in Somalia.
The president of the embattled country in East Africa has vowed for that.
The Security Council last week approved to 8 months more of AMISOM peace keeping force in Somalia.
The battle there has increased over the last few weeks, with many people dead.
Islamist fighters in the country try to take over, and now possess almost the whole of Southern Somalia.
The news of a prolonged and even improved stay is a relief for the troops who now for 2 years protect a peace which is not there.

BETA LENGTH 2'30"

SOUNDBITE CARRYING BOY WITH GUN SHOT WOUND

An AMISOM health post in a Mogadishu suburb.
This boy was hit by a gun shot.
He is only one of the many casualties in the recent fighting.
This 7-years old boy has mortar shrapnel in his leg.
This women was shot at on the market.

SOUNDBITE LYING WOMAN

'Bullet!'

The doctor says most patients are here because of the violence.

QUOTE JOSEPH ASEA, head health post
***If we put it in terms of percentage.
90 per cent of the cases are related to the war.***

The people here at least are safe.
Unlike in other parts of town.
AMISOM can only guard a few locations.
The rest is controlled by Islamists, who terrorize the population.
Like shown here in their propaganda video.

SOUNDBITE FIRING MORTAR

Dozens people died or got wounded in recent attacks.
Even on the ever busy Bakara Market is it quiet.
Business is low, complains this tailor.

QUOTE TAILOR

***I'm facing difficulties due to the fightings.
I have not been able to find another job.***

Just a few streets away there is almost nobody left.
Just some grazing cattle.
The people who fled are scared to talk about it.

QUOTE

***I am a woman. I cannot talk about these things.
That will give me problems.***

AMISOM would like to do more.
But does not have any men.
And a mandate that doesn't allow to pursue Islamists.

QUOTE MAJOR BA-HOKU BARIGYE, AMISOM

***- Isn't that frustrating?
It's frustrating because we're here two years now and didn't do what we expected.***

Also there is a lack of hardware.
And the soldiers need additional training.

SOUNDBITE TRAINER

Get ready. Fire!

SOUNDBITE FIRING MACHINE GUNS

Main goal of AMISOM is protecting the president of Somalia.
He is hiding in his villa in the centre of Mogadishu.
He vows for a fast implementation of the UN resolution.

QUOTE Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, president Somalia

***- What happens if the assistance doesn't come soon?
We know the influx of Al Qaeda here continues.
If they succeed to take over this country you can understand what could be the results
from that.***

Even with additional support.

The threath of Islamists remain.

And it can take long before peace returns to these streets.

This is Ruud Elmendorp from Mogadishu - Somalia.