

## SCRIPT AMISOM SOMALIA

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### SELLING POINTS

- much footage coming out of Somalia, but no stories
- the challenges of an under manned African Union peace keeping mission in a country with no peace
- rare footage because of current security situation

### PRESENTATION

To keep a peace in a country where there is no peace to keep.  
That is what is the Africa Union mission called AMISOM is doing in Somalia.  
Some 4,300 soldiers are based there to protect the fragile Somali government against Islamist insurgents.  
Although the original request was 8,000, so far other African countries didn't supply yet.  
But countries like Ghana, Zambia and Malawi are said to contribute forces soon.  
The extra troops might be critical for AMISOM since the peace keepers are under continuously under attack by the insurgents because they protect the president of Somalia.  
AMISOM is protecting several locations in Mogadishu.

### BETA LENGTH 2'30"

This is the former Military Academy in Mogadishu.  
Hundreds of peace keepers are based here.  
They can't be seen because of the camouflage.  
These troops are under attack by the Islamist insurgents.  
So all their transports are escorted by armored vehicles.

QUOTE captain armored vehicle

***Because we experience suicide bombers, mines on the road, and snipers.***

We're on the way to the port to supply  
the troops which protect the harbor.  
Through the windows it shows to which extent Mogadishu was destroyed.

### SHOT DRIVING THROUGH TOWN

AMISOM protects the port so the ships can safely unload.  
This food aid will go to all parts of the country.  
Using lorries like this.  
The badly equipped Somali police is happy with the protection.

QUOTE

ABDI ULANI YUSUF  
police officer

***Our government is a weak government.  
We cannot do this action without AMISOM.***

The last attack on AMISOM itself was April this year.  
When 11 soldiers were killed by a car bomb.  
It happened just on the base.

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These are the remains of a small Somali shop...  
where soldiers bought sodas, air time and batteries.

QUOTE

COLONEL PRIME NIYOMGABA

AMISOM

***They entered here.***

***They started doing what they do in the shop.***

***They waited for a moment to kill many.***

***Then they exploded the bom.***

The wreckage of the car is still there.  
AMISOM stayed, and continued the work.

SOUNDBITE CLIMBING STAIRS

The soldiers protect strategic locations against insurgents.  
Officially their mandate does not allow to pursue them.  
But rumor has it that soldiers attack, and even civilians get killed.  
According to a commander this is only self defence.

QUOTE

CAPTAIN MPADUA GAI

AMISOM

***If they attack us we respond. Yes.***

43 soldiers died since the inception of AMISOM in 2007.  
It's not clear how many insurgents were killed.  
This is Ruud Elmendorp reporting from Mogadishu, Somalia.