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### DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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### COI QUERY RESPONSE

#### SOMALIA – AL SHABAAB

In August 2024 a report issued by the *Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation* includes listing security incidents for the first quarter of 2024.”<sup>1</sup>

A report issued in August 2024 by the *Africa Defense Forum* states that: “A major offensive against al-Shabaab by government forces and local clan militias in 2022 led to a relative lull in the terror group's activities. The calm ended in March when the group attacked a popular hotel near the presidential palace in Mogadishu.”<sup>2</sup>

The *Associated Press* in August 2024 points out that: “Al-Shabab still controls parts of southern and central Somalia and continues to carry out attacks in Mogadishu and other areas while extorting millions of dollars a year from residents and businesses in its quest to impose an Islamic state.”<sup>3</sup>

In August 2024 the *Guardian* points out that: “At least 37 people have been killed and more than 200 injured in a suicide bombing and gun attack at the popular Lido beach in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, police said. The attack happened on Friday night, when residents of the city typically gather at cafes near the seaside. Agence France-Presse reported that police and witnesses said the bomber detonated his device late on Friday on the beach before gunmen stormed the area. State media said government forces “neutralised” the attackers after a gunfight. The al-Qaida-linked al-

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<sup>1</sup> Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (7 August 2024) Somalia, second quarter 2024: Update on incidents according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)

<sup>2</sup> Africa Defense Forum (6 August 2024) *Al-Shabaab Attacks Increase in Somalia Amid ATMIS Troop Drawdown*, p.2

<sup>3</sup> Associated Press (5 August 2024) Hundreds gather at Somalia beach to condemn attack that killed 37 and demand stronger security

Shabaab group, a jihadist organisation which the Somali government has been fighting since 2007, claimed responsibility for the attack...”<sup>4</sup>

This document also states that: “Somalia’s president vowed to eradicate al-Shabaab during his election campaign in 2022, but has faced setbacks in recent months as the group has rolled back government gains in southcentral Somalia. This attack is one of its deadliest in the capital this year.”<sup>5</sup>

*BBC News* in August 2024 states that: “At least 32 people were killed in a suicide attack carried out by al-Shabab militants at a popular beachfront location in the Somali capital...Al-Shabab controls large parts of southern and central Somalia. The group is affiliated to alQaeda and has waged a brutal insurgency for nearly 20 years against the UN-backed government in Somalia.”<sup>6</sup>

A report issued in August 2024 by the *International Crisis Group* states that: “Militants also carried out attacks in capital Mogadishu including 13 July jail break attempt that left eight dead, and car bomb that killed five and injured 20 next day near Presidential Palace.”<sup>7</sup>

In July 2024 the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data* notes: “...395 political violence events and 1,082 reported fatalities from 1 June to 26 July 2024. Most political violence centered in the Lower Shabelle region, where al-Shabaab attacks targeting security forces remained at high levels.”<sup>8</sup>

In July 2024 *Agence France Presse* states that: “There had been a relative lull in attacks in recent months as the government presses on with an offensive against the Islamist militants.”<sup>9</sup>

This document also states that: “But the offensive has suffered setbacks, with Al-Shabaab earlier this year claiming it had taken multiple locations in central Somalia. Although driven out of Mogadishu by AU forces in 2011, Al-Shabaab still has a strong presence in rural Somalia.”<sup>10</sup>

The *United Nations Security Council* in June 2024 states that: “During the reporting period, a total of 166 improvised explosive device attacks were recorded, resulting in 300 casualties.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Guardian (3 August 2024) At least 37 killed in terrorist attack on popular Mogadishu beach

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> BBC News (3 August 2024) Beach attack in Somali capital kills dozens

<sup>7</sup> International Crisis Group (August 2024) Crisis Watch August 2024 {Somalia}

<sup>8</sup> Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (31 July 2024) Situation Update | July 2024 The looming threat: A resurgence of Islamic State and inter-clan fighting in Somalia, p.1

<sup>9</sup> Agence France Presse (15 July 2024) *Somalia cafe attack toll climbs to nine: security sources*

<sup>10</sup> ibid

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Security Council (3 June 2024) Situation in Somalia, Report of the Secretary-General, p.3

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