

The Blue Committee: Topic A Primary Sources

Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner- Djibouti

This source is a link to the country page for Djibouti at the United Nations Human Rights Office. It has a variety of resources to reports about human rights in Djibouti or to statements made by UN officials or officials from Djibouti about human rights. In the Djibouti and UN Treaty Bodies section, one can read about how Djibouti has fulfilled its commitment under a variety of international accords. Under *the Committee Against Torture* report for example, one can read that while torture is not legal in Djibouti, it is often perpetrated by security forces against citizens and opponents of the state.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/DJIndex.aspx>

Source #2: Eritrea Special Rapporteur Statement on Peace Deal

After the conclusion of the agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia to normalize relations, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Eritrea released a statement that she hoped the agreement would be Eritrea's first step towards the creation of a country that respects and cherishes fundamental rights. In particular, the Special Rapporteur highlights that the families of those disappeared in Eritrean prisons should be told the fate of their loved ones; those who have left Eritrea due to forced conscription should be welcomed back to Eritrea without fear of violence or imprisonment; and a plan should be put in place to demobilize those who are currently conscripted.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23584&LangID=E>

Source #3: Resolution 2383 (2017)

This Security Council resolution authorized international naval forces to continue to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. Specifically commended for their efforts to fight the pirates are forces from the African Union, European Union, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). However, the treaty also notes and affirms that it is the primary responsibility of Somalia to fight pirates, noting that until they can control the pirates on their own, the government must cooperate with partner forces to manage the pirates. Additionally, the resolution also highlights that countries should cooperate with INTERPOL and share information through INTERPOL's global piracy database.

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2383.pdf

Source #4: AMISOM Background

This web page discusses the history of the African Union mission in Somalia. Started in 2007, it was initially only supposed to last for six-months; however, this mission has been continually extended. AMISON's goals were to help stabilize Somalia so that the central government could stabilize and begin to exert control over the country. The end goal was for Somalian officials to provide security without the help of the African Union. In August 2017, the Security Council

passed resolution 2372 that started the process of handing power from AMISOM to the Somalian security forces.

<http://amisom-au.org/amisom-background/>

Source #5: Human Rights Report on Ethiopia

This write-up from Human Rights Watch summarizes key events in the past couple of years regarding human rights conditions in Ethiopia. The piece notes that since 2018 there have been serious improvements in human rights in Ethiopia. The previously authoritarian and brutal government has released political prisoners, legalized some opposition parties, and reduced restrictions on speech and access to the internet. These are all positive steps. The report also notes that work remains to be done as the ruling party still controls all of Parliament and no-pathway has been set forward to establish accountability for those who have perpetrated human rights abuses in the past.

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/ethiopia>

Source #6: UNICEF Horn of Africa Page

This webpage from UNICEF-USE has links to other pages regarding food and humanitarian issues in the Horn of Africa. In its 'fast facts' banner, the page highlights that nearly 2.3 million Somalians in 2014 were extremely vulnerable to food shortages. Below the banner there are pages that outline what UNICEF has done to reduce hunger among children and how a strategic response to humanitarian issues in the African Horn can help avert a catastrophe.

<https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/food-crises/horn-africa-famine>