

The Rules of Engagement for UNOSOM II

1. UNOSOM PERSONNEL MAY USE DEADLY FORCE:

- a. To defend themselves, other UN lives, or persons and areas under their protection against hostile acts or hostile intent.
- b. To resist attempts by forceful means to prevent the Force from discharging its duties.

2. CHALLENGING

- a. Whenever practicable, a challenge should be given before using deadly force.
- b. Challenging is done by:
 - (i) Shouting in English: "UN, STOP OR I FIRE" or
 - (ii) Shouting in Somali: "UN, KA HANAGA JOOGO AMA WAA GUBAN"
 - (iii) Firing warning shots in the air.

3. PRINCIPLES FOR USE OF FORCE

When it becomes necessary to use force, the following principles apply:

- a. Action which may reasonably be expected to cause excessive collateral damage is prohibited.
- b. Reprisals is [sic] forbidden.
- c. Minimum force is to be used at all times.

4. SPECIFIC RULES

- a. UNOSOM Forces may use deadly force in response to a hostile act or when there is clear evidence of hostile intent.
- b. Crew-served weapons are considered a threat to UNOSOM Forces and the relief effort whether or not the crew demonstrates hostile intent. Commanders are authorized to use all necessary force to confiscate and demilitarize crew-served weapons in their area of operations.

- c. Within those areas under the control of UNOSOM Forces armed individuals may be considered a threat to UNOSOM and the relief effort whether or not the individual demonstrates hostile intent. Commanders are authorized to use all necessary force to disarm and demilitarize groups or individuals in those areas under the control of UNOSOM. Absent a hostile or criminal act, individuals and associated vehicles will be released after any weapons are removed/demilitarized.
- d. If UNOSOM Forces are attacked or threatened by unarmed hostile elements, mobs and/or rioters, UNOSOM Forces are authorized to employ reasonable minimum force to repel the attacks or threats. UNOSOM Forces may also employ the following procedures: verbal warnings to demonstrators, shows of force including use of riot control formations, and warning shots.
- e. UNATTENDED MEANS OF FORCE. Unattended means of force, including bobby traps, mines, and trip guns, are not authorized.
- f. DETENTION OF PERSONNEL. Personnel who interfere with the accomplishment of the mission or who otherwise use or threaten deadly force against UNOSOM, UN or relief material, distribution sites, or convoys may be detained. Persons who commit criminal acts in areas under the control of UN Forces may likewise be detained. Detained persons will be evacuated to a designated location for turn/over [sic] to military police.

5. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are used:

- a. SELF DEFENCE
Action to protect oneself or ones [sic] unit against a hostile act or hostile intent.
- b. HOSTILE ACT
The use of force against UNOSOM personnel or mission-essential property, or against personnel in an area under UNOSOM

- c. **HOSTILE INTENT**
The threat of imminent use of force against UNOSOM Forces or other persons in those areas under the control of UNOSOM.
- d. **MINIMUM FORCE**
The minimum authorised degree of force which is necessary, reasonable and lawful in the circumstances.
6. Only the Force Commander, UNOSOM, may approve changes to these ROE.

Source: UNOSOM II (1993), *Rules of Engagement (ROE)*, Mogadishu (NT3224), Somalia, 021200C May 1993, Appendix 6, Annex C to UNOSOM II OPLAN 1, pp. C-61-C-63.

³² Lieutenant Colonel Sam Butler, telephone interview with the author, 21 March 1995.

³³ Author's interviews with military personnel who served in Somalia, Geneva, February-May 1995.