

2013-05-07

Fråga-svar

Somalia. Siad Barre-regimen

Fråga

Information efterfrågas om Siad Barre-tiden. Främst vad gäller dess polis, militär och säkerhetstjänst åren 1970-1980 samt 1990.

Svar

Sammanställning av information:

Center for Justice and Accountability (2012):

Widespread Atrocities: 1978-1991

Throughout the early 1980s, the Barre regime used increasingly repressive tactics to suppress dissidents from all clans, with particular brutality in the northwest. The Isaaq-majority SNM prosecuted a low-intensity guerilla war against the government throughout this period. Though the SNM also committed human rights violations, the overwhelming number of atrocities were committed by Somali government soldiers.^[1]

By 1983, as many as 1.3 million refugees had arrived in Somalia^[8]. The military defeat against Ethiopia and the refugee crisis strained the Somali economy, particularly in the northern areas dominated by the Isaaq clan, where Barre favored Ogaden refugees over the Isaaq in regional government posts.

By 1987, a segment of the Ogaden clan broke from the government to launch its own opposition group (the Somali Patriotic Movement, or SPM), and leaders of the Hawiye clan formed the Somali National Alliance

(SNA). The regime had lost control of most of the country.

After the Ethiopia-Somalia peace agreement in May 1988, the SNM, fearing the collapse of its long insurgency, attacked the major northern towns of Hargeisa and Burao. In what Human Rights Watch characterized as “savage counterinsurgency tactics”, the regime responded with the aerial bombing and strafing of northern towns and villages, including the pursuit and slaughter of civilians fleeing on foot. The assault focused on Hargeisa—the second-largest city in Somalia—where bombing sorties flown by Somali pilots and by South African and ex-Rhodesian mercenaries destroyed an estimated 70% of the city. The attack struck residential neighborhoods the hardest and leveled most of the city; over 5,000 civilians were killed. Nearly half a million Somalis fled to Ethiopia, where they remained for years in refugee camps. At least another half million internally displaced persons streamed to other regions within Somalia.^{[1][6][10]}

Human Rights Watch (2009):

The Issaq-dominated Somali National Movement (SNM) was formed in 1981 and became one of the most formidable armed groups to challenge the Siad Barre government’s power. The government fought back by waging war on the entire Issaq clan. Government intelligence services arbitrarily detained, tortured, or murdered hundreds of Issaq civilians suspected of supporting the rebel SNM from the early 1980s onward. Government forces poisoned wells and slaughtered the livestock rural Issaq depended on for their livelihoods. When the SNM captured parts of Hargeisa in 1988, the Somali government bombed the city with planes that took off from the town’s own airport and strafed columns of fleeing civilians. As Issaq civilians fled, the government systematically repopulated their communities with civilians from other clans. The war claimed tens of thousands of civilian lives across Somaliland, drove at least a million people from their homes, and left the region devastated. (s. 9)

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2006):

Se kapitel: *SIAD BARRE’S DICTATORSHIP AND ROOT CAUSES OF STATE COLLAPSE: 1969-1991* (2003) och *SIAD BARRE’S WAR AGAINST THE ISAAK-DOMINATED NORTHWESTERN SOMALIA IN THE 1980S* (2003) (s. 18ff)

Siad Barre's dictatorship and root causes of state collapse: 1969-1991 (2003)

- Siad Barre military dictatorship installed in 1969 used clan divide and rule tactics in order to hold on to power
- The central state under Barre was notoriously corrupt, authoritarian and patronage-based
- In the 1980s 50% of GNP was foreign aid which allowed Barre to establish a bloated and rent-seeking civil service sector and strong military
- The political class view positions in the state as having a share of the cake not as a responsibility towards citizens
- Barre's regime poor human rights record and genocidal response to an uprising in the north led to a freezing of foreign aid by 1989 which precipitated state collapse
- By 1992 half a million people were killed and an estimated 1.5 million people had fled the country (s. 18f)

Ssereo, Florence (2003):

The security service agents needed no written warrant for arrests. Two-thirds of prisoners in detention were arbitrarily arrested, had no file records and served indefinite prison sentences or were eventually killed depending on the decision of the military tribunal. The normal judiciary system became irrelevant; justice was administered on the basis of rumours, gossip and allegations. As a result, rumours, and plans for revenge concerning apparent miscarriages of justice spread. The government became suspicious of its own citizens and the citizens were mutually suspicious of each other (see Farah 1979: 45). The educated Somali community, and in particular the intellectuals and nationals from other countries were considered by the government to be politically dangerous. For example, the intellectuals were spied on, arrested and detained or forced into exile, especially after the publishing of a memorandum called the 'Manifesto' addressed to the government. They denounced the political role of the army and the appalling sanitary conditions and called for democratic elections and a return to civilian leadership. (s. 33)

The security officials in uniform, both junior and senior were authorised to arrest and detain any person who matched their definition of 'offender', 'traitor' or 'enemy of the state'. Any civilian who caused social disorder or publicly disobeyed or denounced the government was arrested and detained for at least three months before appearing before the military tribunal. The armed and civilian guards were clan-based militiamen, commonly

referred to as the revolutionists.¹² Their task was to ensure security and maintain peace and social order.(s. 33)

The military and the use of rumour became institutionalised conflict management strategies. Progressive Somalis and government critics were humiliated and intimidated by the security personnel. Corruption was also institutionalised and government officers used public funds for private interests.¹³ Armed robbery, violence, drug and firearms trafficking and begging for arms increased as desperate survival strategies overwhelmed the government's capacity for conflict management.(s. 33)

United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (1998):

The Benadir Region National Security Service (NSS) Headquarters in Mogadishu is mentioned in an Amnesty International report, *Somalia: A Long-term Human Rights Crisis*, as the torture center in the country. It is also known as Godka and has a reputation for being a notorious prison in Somalia. It was administered by the NSS during the Siad Barre administration and prisoners were held in underground cells in permanent solitary confinement. This prison was referred to as "The Hole" denoting that it was a place from which it was difficult to escape. It was known as a place of torture, forms of which included severe beatings, electric shocks, submersion in water, wounding with knives, sexual threats and death threats.

United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (1993):

Africa Watch stated that abuses by the Somali Armed Forces under Barre included "aerial bombardment of civilian targets, secret detention in squalid conditions, the burning of villages, the indiscriminate use of landmines, the deliberate destruction of reservoirs and the killing of livestock, the lifeline of the rural population."^[12] Amnesty International has reported that torture methods committed by Barre's National Security Service (NSS) included executions and "beatings while tied in a contorted position, electric shocks, rape of woman prisoners, simulated executions and death threats."^[13]

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (1991):

As reported by the source at the Université de Pau in France, the Red Berets, originally created to provide presidential security, have gradually developed into one of the Barre regime's most important agents of repression (29 Nov. 1991). This source added that the Red Berets are the unit that has perpetrated the most crimes against the Nomads of the north (Ibid.).

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (1989):

Since 1969, Somalia has been governed by a military dictatorship lead by Siyaad Barre. The regime has been repeatedly accused of violations of human rights. The army, police and, in particular, the National Security Service (NSS), have been most frequently identified as the agencies which commit such abuses. [Critique to the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports, 1986, 1987, 1988: Somalia, (Washington: Human Rights Watch, 1986, 1987, 1988); Amnesty International Reports 1979-1988 and Somalia: a long term human rights crisis, (London: Amnesty International, 1979-1988, September 1988); Scientists and Human Rights in Somalia, (Washington: National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine, 1988).] The NSS has unlimited powers of arrest, search and confiscation, and has detained thousands of people for political or unspecified reasons in recent years. [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1988, (Washington: U.S. Department of State, 1989), p. 308.] Prisoners are reported to be subject to torture and extra-judicial executions. [Somalia: a long term human rights crisis, and Critique, various pages.]

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Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

Källförteckning

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