



## KENYA

### Background

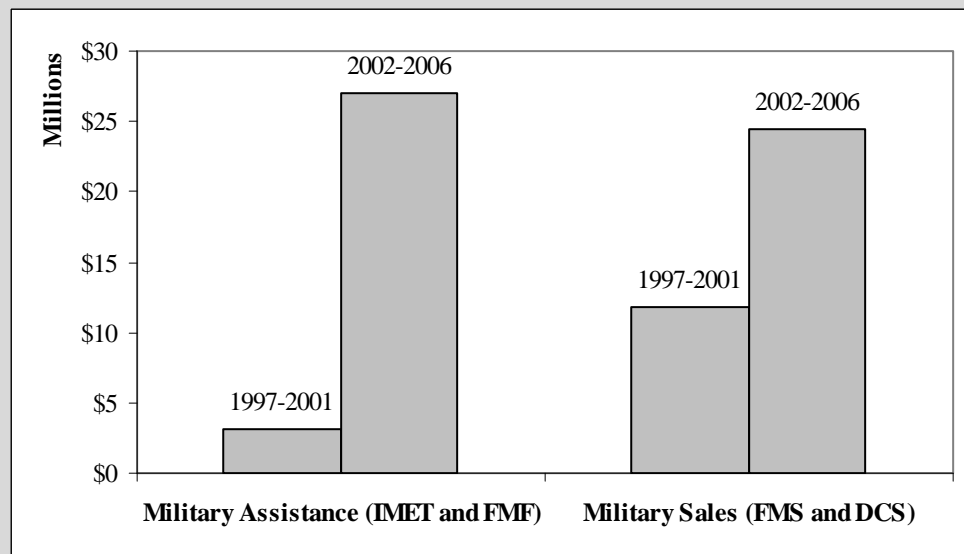
Kenya gained its independence from the British Empire in 1963, electing Jomo Kenyatta as its first president. Although a coalition of ethnic minorities and a leftist opposition group were created after independence, they were almost immediately banned or subsumed into the ruling party, the Kenya African National Union (KANU). In 1982, Kenya formally became a one-party state, although protests led to the elimination

of that designation from the constitution in 1991; in 1992, multiparty elections were held for the first time since independence. It took several more years, however, for a viable political opposition to develop after so many years of KANU domination of Kenyan politics.

Daniel Arap Moi became president after Kenyatta died in 1978 and ruled Kenya for 24 years, during which time the government became increasingly authoritarian and corrupt. Moi survived a 1982 coup attempt and, even after other parties besides KANU were allowed to participate in elections, won reelection in both 1992 and 1997 because the opposition was so fractured. However, in the 1997 legislative elections the opposition won enough seats to force KANU to form a coalition government with members of the opposition. In 2002, members of KANU split off to form an entire opposition coalition, known as the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC).

In 2002, Kenyans elected Mwai Kibaki – a member of the NARC – as the third president of Kenya since independence. Elections were deemed free and fair and the U.S. government called the election Kenya’s “most important political transition in its 38 years as an independent nation.” Kibaki was the

**U.S. Military Assistance and Sales to Kenya,  
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first non-KANU candidate to be elected president. Kibaki dissolved parliament in November 2005 in order to reconvene a more cohesive legislature. The NARC split apart and reformed as the Orange Democratic Movement of Kenya (ODM-K) when parliament reconvened.

In its 2006 report on human rights, the U.S. State Department noted that while human rights were generally respected in many areas and improvements were made in others, some serious problems remained. Security forces, particularly the police, commit serious human rights abuses including extrajudicial killings, torture and rape, and prison conditions can be life threatening for detainees. However, government forces did not commit any politically motivated killings during the year as they had in previous years. Police impunity is a major problem, although the government did arrest and prosecute a limited number of police officers for abuses. Corruption is a substantial problem in Kenya and citizens consider the police to be the most corrupt branch of the government.

The government discriminates against certain ethnic groups while supporting others, creating interethnic tensions that many times end in violent conflict. The executive branch dominates the government and the president has faced criticism for bypassing parliament and naming ministers without consultation. The judiciary is corrupt and under the influence of the executive branch; the executive often ignores its rulings. The government restricts freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Journalists practice self-censorship in order to avoid intimidation or physical assault by government security forces. Freedom of assembly is likewise restricted. The government must be notified of any public gatherings in advance and the authorities are known to disrupt sanctioned gatherings, sometimes with excessive force.

Due to the relative stability in Kenya, the country has served as the main regional host to Somali, Sudanese, and Ethiopian refugees. However, over the past decade, several thousand people have also been killed in Kenya due to ethnic clashes that are often incited by political competition. Other factors that have contributed to interethnic conflicts include the proliferation of small arms, cattle rustling, shrinking economic prospects, drought, and a growing bandit culture. In 1992, tribal conflict in the west of Kenya led to thousands of deaths. Violent clashes between rival ethnic groups were sparked in 2001 over tenancy disputes in the slums of Nairobi. Nomadic groups in the north of Kenya engage in frequent armed clashes, which have recently been exacerbated by drought and a subsequent lack of resources.

Kenya has suffered terrorist attacks on its own soil. In 1998, the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi was bombed along with the embassy in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, by terrorists believed to be affiliated with al-Qaida. More than 200 people were killed – most of them Kenyans – and over 4,000 were injured. In 2002, an Israeli airliner was attacked with a shoulder-fired missile when taking off from Mombassa airport and an Israeli hotel in Nairobi was simultaneously bombed. Although the plane avoided a direct hit, the attempt highlighted the existence of serious terrorist threats in the Horn of Africa. In 2003, the Kenyan government confirmed the presence of al-Qaida cells within the country and also confirmed that Kenyan citizens had participated with al-Qaida members in the 1998 and 2002 terrorist attacks. The United States and Kenya have long-standing defense ties, which have deepened as a result of recent counterterrorism cooperation.

## **U.S. Military Assistance Prior to Sept. 11, 2001**

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Kenya did not report any imports of major U.S. conventional weapons systems to the UN Register of Conventional Arms between 1990 and 2001.

Kenya received funding for International Military Education and Training (IMET) consistently between fiscal year 1990 (FY 90) and FY 01, totaling \$6.1 million. Foreign Military Financing (FMF), however, was only appropriated in FY 90 and FY 01, totaling \$1.4 million.

Kenya concluded consistent amounts of arms sales with the United States between FY 90 and FY 01, totaling nearly \$2 million in Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) and over \$62 million in Foreign Military Sales (FMS) during this period. Kenya received no U.S. weaponry through the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program during this period

In October 2000, the United States closed its embassy and temporarily suspended its presence in Kenya (and Djibouti) in the wake of the attack on the U.S.S. Cole in the Gulf of Aden, which followed the dual bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 by al-Qaida.

### **U.S. Military Assistance Since Sept. 11, 2001**

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Before resigning as U.S. Secretary of Defense in late 2006, Donald Rumsfeld laid out his vision for an Africa Command that would be added to the existing U.S. military commands in order to maintain order and stability in the often overlooked continent. After Sept. 11, 2001, the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen) was specifically identified as the area of Africa most at risk for becoming a safe haven for terrorists. Moreover, the region is already largely inundated with small arms and light weapons – the weapons of choice for terrorists. The U.S. government has increasingly sought out African allies to train in counterterrorism due to the potential threat terrorists could pose in the absence of such bolstered capacity. Kenya is considered a vital U.S. ally in the war on terror and has supported U.S. counterterrorism efforts by sharing intelligence, providing overflight rights and granting access to airfields and bases. The State Department considers Kenya to be a “front-line state” in the war on terror and this counterterrorism cooperation has yielded an increase in U.S. military assistance for Kenya since Sept. 11, 2001.

In the five years after Sept. 11, Kenya received nearly eight times the amount of military assistance it received in the five years prior to Sept. 11. This increase has been marked by exceptionally large FMF appropriations in FY 02 and FY 04. Since FY 05, however, IMET and FMF appropriations have dwindled. The 2006 State Department Terrorism report points out that Kenya’s counterterrorism cooperation with the United States “was uneven and constrained by domestic political pressures and considerations.”

Between FY 02 and FY 05, Kenya concluded \$5.8 million in DCS and over \$15 million in FMS with the United States. An additional \$1.6 million in DCS and \$7 million in FMS are projected over the two upcoming fiscal years. Kenya has not received any U.S. defense articles through the EDA program since FY 02.

The United States provides Kenya with specific counterterrorism funding and training although neighboring Djibouti houses the U.S. army’s Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), which works to train the region’s militaries in order to expand their counterterrorism capabilities. Kenya is a beneficiary of the Regional Defense Counterterrorism Fellowship Program

(CTFP) and received \$300,000 in FY 05, with \$250,000 budgeted in FY 06, and \$275,000 currently requested for FY 07. Kenya receives funding to expand its counterterrorism capabilities through the Foreign Operations budget's Anti-Terrorism Assistance program (NADR-ATA), which is part of the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Activities account. Kenya received \$3.2 million from this account in FY 06 and is slated to receive approximately \$3 million in FY 07 and \$5.5 million in FY 08. Kenya is a participant in the East Africa Counterterrorism Initiative (EACTI), launched in 2004. Like the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative, EACTI is designed to improve regional capacity and cooperation in carrying out counterterrorism operations. Additionally, since FY 04, Kenya has received funding through the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program, which is part of the Peacekeeping Operations account in the Foreign Operations budget.

<b>U.S. Military Assistance and Sales to Kenya, FY 90 - FY 08</b>					
	<b>IMET</b>	<b>FMF</b>	<b>DCS</b>	<b>FMS</b>	<b>EDA</b>
<b>1990</b>	\$1,032,000	\$379,000	\$675,000	\$11,435,000	n/a
<b>1991</b>	\$718,000	\$0	\$94,000	\$6,668,000	n/a
<b>1992</b>	\$775,000	\$0	\$28,000	\$15,142,000	n/a
<b>1993</b>	\$652,000	\$0	\$218,000	\$812,000	\$0
<b>1994</b>	\$288,000	\$0	\$23,000	\$7,143,000	\$0
<b>1995</b>	\$283,000	\$0	\$419,000	\$5,833,000	\$0
<b>1996</b>	\$297,000	\$0	\$19,000	\$3,959,000	\$0
<b>1997</b>	\$304,000	\$0	\$128,000	\$1,961,000	\$0
<b>1998</b>	\$443,000	\$0	\$68,000	\$3,925,000	\$0
<b>1999</b>	\$462,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$1,717,000	\$0
<b>2000</b>	\$422,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$1,496,000	\$0
<b>2001</b>	\$443,000	\$1,000,000	\$20,000	\$2,214,000	\$0
<b>1990-2001</b>	\$6,119,000	\$1,379,000	\$1,997,000	\$62,305,000	\$0
<b>1997-2001</b>	\$2,074,000	\$1,000,000	\$521,000	\$11,313,000	\$0
<b>2002</b>	\$486,000	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$798,000	\$0
<b>2003</b>	\$596,000	\$1,500,000	\$11,000	\$2,607,000	\$0
<b>2004</b>	\$635,000	\$8,635,000	\$1,887,000	\$4,252,000	\$0
<b>2005</b>	\$134,000	\$0	\$3,933,000	\$7,492,000	\$0
<b>2006</b>	\$0	\$0	\$1,888,000	\$1,600,000	\$0
<b>2002-2006</b>	\$1,851,000	\$25,135,000	\$7,719,000	\$16,749,000	\$0
<b>2007</b>	\$45,000	\$25,000	\$867,000	\$2,525,000	\$0
<b>2008</b>	\$550,000	\$800,000	\$3,108,000	\$25,000	n/a

## Sources

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