

Fighting Pirates and Terror: The Development of the Puntland Maritime Police Force, 2010-2023

by [Ido Levy \(/experts/ido-levy\)](#)

October 2025

Also published in Defense & Security Analysis

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Ido Levy \(/experts/ido-levy\)](#)

Ido Levy is an associate fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy focusing on counterterrorism and military operations, particularly relating to jihadist groups.



Articles & Testimony

An expert traces the PMPF's evolution from a maritime-focused entity to a potent counterterrorism force, exploring why it has been more effective than other local forces.

The Somali region of Puntland is notable for its stability relative to the chronic insecurity characterizing the rest of Somalia. A major component of its security environment is the UAE-funded Puntland Maritime Police Force. Originally formed with a counter-piracy and maritime security mandate, the PMPF shifted its focus to counterterrorism and played important roles in preventing the jihadist groups al-Shabaab and the Islamic State from seizing significant territory in Puntland. This study traces the development of the PMPF, focusing on the important role of the United Arab Emirates in creating, funding, and supervising the force. The essay argues that the PMPF has proven itself an effective fighting force, less beholden to clan interests and corrupt politicians than other Somali security forces...

[Read the full article on the Taylor & Francis website.](#)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14751798.2025.2560256> ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

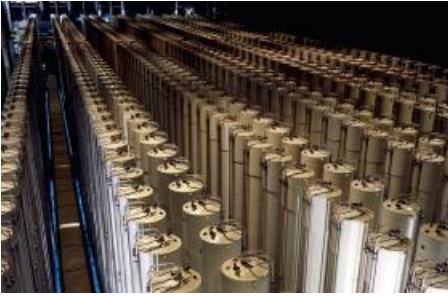
The Gaza "First Phase" Agreement: Assesments and Implications

October 10, 2025, starting at 9:30 a.m. EDT (1330 GMT)



Michael Herzog,
David Makovsky,
Nickolay Mladenov,
Neomi Neumann,
Ghaith al-Omari

(/policy-analysis/gaza-first-phase-agreement-assesments-and-implications)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Four Keys for Iran Snapback Implementation

Oct 8, 2025



Richard Nephew

(/policy-analysis/four-keys-iran-snapback-implementation)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Time to Unify the Kurdish Northeast with the Rest of Syria

Oct 7, 2025



James Jeffrey,
Devorah Margolin

(/policy-analysis/time-unify-kurdish-northeast-rest-syria)

TOPICS

Terrorism (/policy-analysis/terrorism)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[North Africa \(/policy-analysis/north-africa\)](/policy-analysis/north-africa)