A fierce gunbattle began after al-Shabaab terrorists bombed a hotel in the heart of Somalia's capital, with notable death tolls.

Who are the al-Shabaab?

- Al-Shabaab translates as 'The Youth' in Arabic.
- It started as the extremist youth wing of the now-defunct Islamic Courts Union (ICU).
- ICU was a grouping of sharia courts that seized control of a large portion of Somalia, including the capital Mogadishu, for some months in 2006.
- The ICU retreated after intense repression by Somali and Ethiopian troops.