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Termination

War-weary Somalis find respite at beach

'PEOPLE ARE FEELING
DELIGHTFUL'

Symbol of how far

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The New York Times

MOGADISHU, Somalia -

After years of surviving un-

der the yoke of individualism

is here are getting their

Mogadishu is a museum of war. Its buildings look like old ruins, except that the city has not eroded slowly over

packed years. For many residents, the last five have been spent under a particularly oppressive regime, the extremist Islamist group known as al-Shabab, which rose up in 2006 as a popular nationalist movement to kick troops from Ethiopia out of the country.

against Somalis themselves, and it became evident that it

"I had never thought of coming here," said Said Yare, rolling in the sand at Lido. Going to Lido Beach on Friday used to be a weekly pastime for Somalis. Before the fall of President Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, Lido Beach was packed with clubs and cafes. Somalia has the longest coastline on the continent of Africa, and Mogadishu was known as the "pearl of the Indian Ocean." But civil war gutted leisure

activities, and by 2005, with Mogadishu carved up under the control of competing warlords, Lido Beach was a veritable ghost of its former self. Then came an Islamist

government, then fighting with Ethiopian soldiers; then al-Shabab; then fighting with African Union peacekeepers. Somalis started returning to

Lido only last month.
The African Union peace-keeping mission in the country has taken the opportunity to promote Lido Beach's resilience as a testament to

Clinton says U.S. to work with Arab Spring's Islamist parties

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