

PROXY ADVISERS |

The State Department has indirectly financed a private firm to train African Union troops battling al-Shabab.

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The New York Times

RMOGADISHU, Somalia — ichard Rouget, a gun for hire over two decades of bloody African conflict, is the unlikely face of the U.S. campaign against militants in Somalia.

Rouget, 51, a former French Army officer, commanded a group of foreign fighters during Ivory Coast's civil war in 2003, was convicted by a South African court of selling his military services and did a stint in the presidential guard of the Comoro Islands, an archipelago plagued by political tumult and coup attempts.

Now he works for Bancroft Global Development, a private U.S. security company the State Department has indirectly financed to train African Union (AU) troops who have fought in Mogadishu against al-Shabab, the Somali militant group allied with al-Qaida.

Employees of Bancroft, based in Washington, D.C., have been working to help train AU troops, who

SHADOW FORCE ACTS FOR U.S. IN SOMALIA

