

SUMMARY

HRPG recorded a 44 per cent drop in the total number of civilian casualties and a 55 per cent increase in the violations attributed to Somali security forces. Banaadir region had the highest number of violations attributed to State actors. Freedom of expression violations continue to be reported, with five persons arrested (four in Somaliland), and three sentences to significant terms of imprisonment being issued. Children aged nine to 17 years who were attending an AS madrassa in Baidoa district were transferred to a United Nations implementing partner by the Ministry of Internal Security.

KEY FIGURES

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION ISSUES¹

TOTAL
98

KILLED
32

INJURED
66

ABDUCTIONS
16

HIGHLIGHTS

Total casualties: **44%** ↓ from March

AS: **49%** ↓ from March

State Actors: **55%** ↑ from March

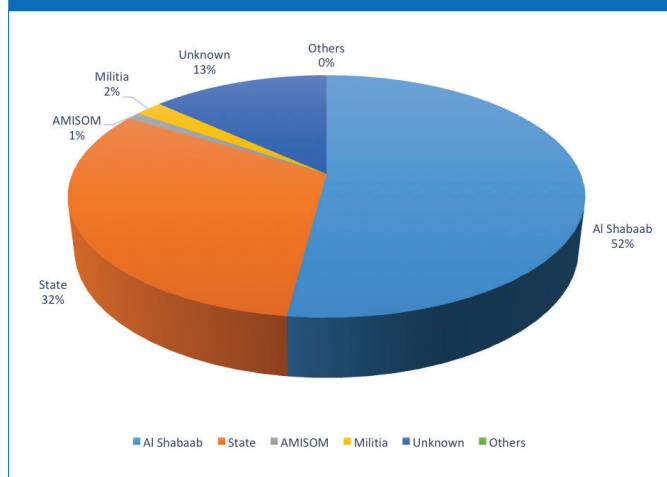
Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention: **26%** ↓ from February

1 civilian injured in an airstrike conducted by unknown aircraft

1 civilian casualty attributed to AMISOM

A 16-year-old boy had his arm and leg amputated by AS for theft

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY PERPETRATOR



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- 1 **journalist** accused of publishing false news re-arrested by Somaliland police (released on bail on 28 December 2017).
- 2 **journalists** covering a protest arrested and released by police the same day in Sanaag Region.
- 1 **journalist** from Middle Shabelle reporting a clash between security forces arrested then released following negotiations between journalists and authorities.
- 1 **traditional leader** arrested for his statement on Somaliland military operations in Sanaag region, convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment by the Hargeisa Regional Court. He was reportedly denied access to legal representation.
- The female poet who spent almost two months in pre-trial detention for expressing her views in support of Somali unity was sentenced to three years in prison, but later released following a presidential pardon. She reported ill-treatment by police during her confinement at the Hargeisa Central Police station.
- The blogger arrested on 7 February sentenced to 18 months for offending the honour or prestige of the head of state.

CONCERNS

ARBITRARY ARREST AND/OR DETENTION



- 14 **individuals** arrested in the Galgala area, 50 km northwest of Bossaso, Bari region, and transferred to a PIS base in Bossaso.
- 1 **senior AS** operative arrested by Puntland police in Bossaso and transferred to the PIS base, where he is still being held without charges and has not appeared in court.
- 2 **men** arrested in North Galkaayo, Mudug region, during a routine security operation and released after more than 12 days without charges or a court appearance.
- 1 **clan elder** suspected of being affiliated with AS arrested in Mogadishu and held without charges for eight days in a NISA detention facility inside Villa Somalia. His arrest was reportedly connected to the campaign for the election of the Speaker of the Federal Parliament on 30 April 2018.

DEATH SENTENCE / EXECUTION



- The High Military Court in Mogadishu confirmed the death sentence against a soldier convicted of killing a Somali Navy Commander in Mogadishu.
- The Nugaal Military Court of First Instance in Garoowe convicted and sentenced a Puntland police officer to death in absentia for defecting from Puntland Anti-Terrorism Forces to Somaliland.
- The Jubbaland Military Court sentenced a Jubbaland Darawish officer to death for killing his unit commander on 6 April in Lower Jubba region. He was executed on 8 April.

¹Due to security constraints, HRPG is sometimes unable to verify information on casualties, and the figures reported should be considered as the absolute minimum.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY



Engagement on prevention of and response to violations recommended in the HRDDP framework continued in Baidoa on 9 April, with UNSOM discussing its role in monitoring, reporting and advocacy with AMISOM Sector 3 Commander. A briefing on prevention and response measures was delivered to Somali Police Professional and Development Board (PPDB) on 30 April. Regarding HRDDP measures for air assets, the process to strengthen tracking through satellite and cross-checking information on movement of AMISOM air assets was also initiated. Participants at the UN-AMISOM HRDDP technical meeting held on 15 April agreed to strengthen implementation of mitigation measures.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting documented **106 incidents** of grave violations affecting **204 children (173 boys, 31 girls)** in April. The children were victims of **killings (13), maiming (26), abductions (30), recruitment and use (22), rape (14)** and there was one attack on a school. Most of the violations (72%) were attributed to AS, while the remainder were committed by the Somali National Army, unknown armed groups, clan militia, Galmudug Forces, Jubbaland Forces, Somali Police, Liyuu Police and Kenyan Defence Forces.

As part of the implementation of the standard operating procedures for the reception and hand-over of children formerly associated with armed forces or groups, **11 children** aged nine to 17 were transferred to a United Nations implementing partner in ISWA on 22 April 2018. The children were attending an Al Shabaab madrassa.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

Capacity building:

- In collaboration with ROLSIG and UNDP, HRPG trained **25 judges** and prosecutors as part of a training package delivered to Somaliland Armed Forces Court personnel in Hargeisa.
- In collaboration with UNSOM Corrections unit, HRPG trained **20 correction** officers from the Baidoa prison service.
- In collaboration with Southwest State Ministry of Women and Human Rights, HRPG trained **20 staff members** of the Ministry on basic principles of human rights.
- HRPG trained **10 CSO representatives** on human rights data collection and documentation in Mogadishu.
- A training of trainers on human rights was conducted for **20 SNA trainers** in Baidoa.

PRISON MONITORING

HRPG visited:

- **Gabiley prison**, Somaliland, to assess the general situation of female inmates and met with the convicted female poet. Gabiley prison hosts **162 inmates**, including 37 women. The majority of women were convicted of drug and alcohol trafficking and/or consumption. Prison officials reported that one female has a mental disability, and that female inmates lack basic hygiene materials.
- **Garoowe General Prison**, which holds **263 inmates** (including seven women). There are **181 convicts** serving sentences (including 3 on death row) and **82 awaiting trial**. **17 AS suspects** have been in prison for two years without charges. **8 detainees** aged 15 to 17 years are imprisoned for "family disobedience," which has no legal basis. Convicts and pre-trial detainees are detained together, in violation of the minimum standards of detention. HRPG raised concerns over violations of the detainees' due process rights with the Puntland Military Prosecutor, who committed to visit the prison and review all pre-trial cases.

INDEPENDENT EXPERT'S VISIT

Between 28 April and 2 May, the Independent Expert on the Human Rights situation in Somalia met with government authorities, civil society, UN partners, and AMISOM. As per the system of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, independent human rights experts have the mandate to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social.