

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. Benadir region had the highest number of violations attributed to State actors. One death sentence was issued in absentia in Puntland, and another death sentence was confirmed by the High Military Court in Benadir. The Jubbaland Military Court sentenced to death and carried out the execution of a Darawish soldier. 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. One civilian was injured in an airstrike by unidentified aircraft in Lower Jubba, and another by AMISOM in ISWA. Children aged nine to 17, who were attending an AS madrassa in Baidoa district, were transferred to a United Nations implementing partner in Baidoa by the Ministry of Internal Security.

KEY FIGURES

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION ISSUES<sup>1</sup>

TOTAL

98

KILLED

32

INJURED

66

ABDUCTIONS

16

HIGHLIGHTS

Total casualties: from March

AS: 49% from March

State Actors: 55% from March

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

Clan militia-related abductions: 13

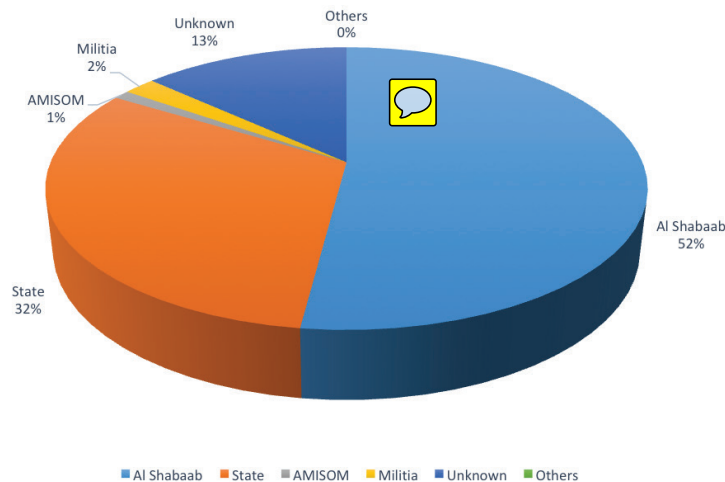
1 civilian casualty attributed to AMISOM

1 civilian injured in an airstrike conducted by unknown aircraft

2 death sentences pronounced or sustained, and execution

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

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY PERPETRATOR



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

April 2018

CONCERNS 

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

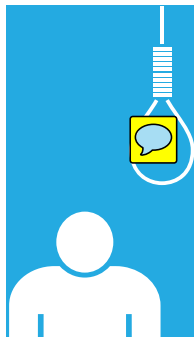


- ~ **1 journalist**, accused of publishing false news, was re-arrested by Somaliland police (previously released on bail on 28 December 2017).
- ~ **2 journalists** covering a protest against the arrest of a clan leader, were arrested and released by police the same day in Sanaag Region.
- ~ **1 journalist** from Middle Shabelle, reporting a clash between security forces, was arrested then released following negotiations between journalists and authorities.
- ~ **1 traditional leader**, arrested for a statement he made regarding Somaliland military operations in Sanaag region, was convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment by the Hargeisa Regional Court. The elder was reportedly denied access to legal representation.
- ~ The female poet who spent almost two months in pre-trial detention for her views supporting Somalia unity, was sentenced to three years in prison for anti-national activity of a citizen abroad and was 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 for criticising the Somaliland president on social media was sentenced to 18 months for offending the honour or prestige of the head of state.

## ARBITRARY ARREST AND PROLONGED DETENTION



- ~ **Total of 25 arbitrary arrests and/or detentions (17 in Puntland), among which:**
  - ~ **14 individuals** were arrested in the Galgala area, 50 km northwest of Bossaso, Bari region, and transferred to a base in Bossaso.
  - ~ **1 senior AS operative** was arrested by Puntland police on the outskirts of Bossaso and transferred to the PIS base, where he is still being held without charges and has not appeared in court.
  - ~ **2 men** were 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, was 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 issued by the First Instance Court of Armed Forces 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.

## 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 focusing on implementation, 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

- ~ 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 ten 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**, of which 37 are female inmates, the majority of whom 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 three on death row) and 82 awaiting trial. **17 AS** suspects have been in prison for two years without charges. HRPG observed that eight detainees aged 15 to 17 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 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.