

SUMMARY

HRPG recorded an eight per cent increase in civilian casualties attributed to Al Shabaab (AS) and a 39 per cent decrease in those attributed to state actors. Abductions decreased by 69 per cent from April, and arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detentions decreased by 32 per cent. Three death sentences were pronounced by a military court in Mogadishu. Sixty-one individuals were arrested for issues related to the freedoms of expression and assembly - all but one occurred in Somaliland - and were later released. AS accused a woman of having been married to nine men simultaneously and stoned her to death in Lower Shabelle. Five male civilians were killed and four others were injured in an operation carried out by joint US Forces-SNA in Afgooye district. On 8 June, US Africa Command stated that these allegations of civilian casualties were investigated and determined to be not credible. Two individuals accused of being AS members and having attempted an IED attack were reportedly extra-judicially executed after having been captured by Somali National Army soldiers in Lower Shabelle.

KEY FIGURES

## CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS<sup>1</sup>

TOTAL

95

KILLED

46

INJURED

49

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

2

ABDUCTIONS

5

<sup>1</sup> Casualty figures are subject to change due to late reporting and/or additional information received by HRPG after publication of the brief.

HIGHLIGHTS

AS: **8%** increase from April

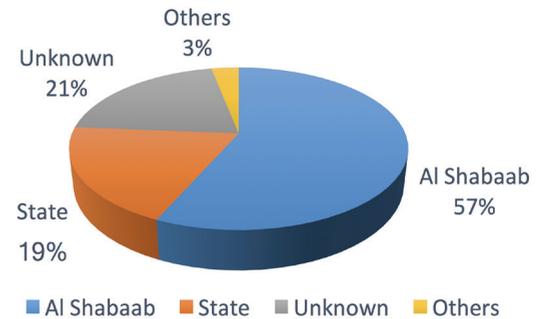
State Actors: **39%** decrease from April

Abductions: **69%** decrease from April

Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention: **32%** decrease from April

One civilian casualty attributed to non-AMISOM forces (ENDF)

## PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MAIN PERPETRATOR - MAY 2018



CONCERNS

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



**Sixty-one individuals** were arrested for issues related to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly: **60 in Somaliland** and **one in Puntland**:

- **57 demonstrators** arrested by Somaliland authorities in Sool region for having staged protests in support of Somali unity, with some chanting slogans in support of Puntland. All were later released;
- **1 journalist** expressing support for Somali unity arrested and released the same day in Somaliland;
- **1 journalist** was arrested in Somaliland for preparing a report on the fighting in Tukaraq between Somaliland and Puntland forces, and 1 cameraman arrested for posting a piece on the future of Sool region on social media. They were released without being charged;
- **2 private TV stations** accused of broadcasting propaganda and false news regarding the dispute between Somaliland and Puntland in Tukaraq, Sool region were banned in Somaliland;
- Somaliland Appeal Court reduced the sentence of a clan elder convicted for asking Somaliland and Puntland to withdraw their forces from Tukaraq;
- Somaliland President pardoned the female poet convicted of advocating for Somali unity;
- **1 journalist** arrested for criticising a Puntland government official and released on bail.

## ARBITRARY ARREST AND PROLONGED DETENTION



**17 arbitrary arrests** and/or **detentions** (**9 in Jubbaland** and **8 in Puntland**). Among them:

- **Five civilians** (including three women), family members of Jubbaland soldiers that deserted, were arrested and then released;
- **Four civilian males**, family members of a Jubbaland soldier who reportedly joined AS, were arrested; three of them were later released;
- **Six people** suspected of being AS members were arrested and detained without having been charged or brought before a court.

## CONCERNS

## DEATH SENTENCES/EXECUTIONS



The **First Instance Military Court** in Mogadishu sentenced three AS suspects to death for their involvement in a complex attack claimed by AS in Mogadishu on 28 October 2017. The court notified the defendants that they have 30 days to appeal the judgments.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY



In May, UNOPS and HRPG collaborated to support International Human Rights Law/International Humanitarian Law (IHRL/IHL) briefings for **1,368 SNA soldiers** eligible for stipends payment in **Sector 3**, South West State. The briefings were delivered by **20 SNA** instructors trained by HRPG in line with HRDDP requirements and the biometric profile of briefed soldiers was updated by UNOPS as part of the mitigatory measures identified in the SNA risk assessment. The AU-UN Joint Review on AMISOM discussed human rights accountability. Challenges identified include investigations on allegations of violations, and it was recommended to use the 2017 joint matrix on compliance to monitor progress on HRDDP measures. HRPG provided inputs to a Code of Conduct for SNA soldiers and officers developed by the SNA and international actors and to a Common Training Syllabus, which includes IHRL/IHL training as part of the basic training curriculum for soldiers, co-signed by the EU, Turkey, US and UK. Both documents are among key mitigation measures identified in the SNA risk assessment.

## CHILD PROTECTION



The **Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)** documented and verified a total of **679 incidents** of grave violations affecting **673 children (614 boys, 59 girls)**. The violations included 26 cases of killing, 34 of maiming, 102 cases of abduction, 483 of recruitment and use of children, 28 cases of rape, three attacks against schools, two attacks against hospitals, and one case of denial of humanitarian access. Most of the violations (83%) were attributed to AS.

On **8 May**, Child Protection/HRPG hosted the inaugural meeting of the **“Friends of the CAAC”** network. This forum brings together child protection stakeholders with the aim to enhance information sharing as well as discussing joint advocacy activities and action-oriented initiatives to address cross-cutting child protection issues.

## WOMEN'S PROTECTION



The Women's Protection Unit/HRPG convened the second Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (MARA) Technical Working Group meeting to review the trends and patterns of conflict-related sexual violence reported in Somalia. The participants noted that IDPs, particularly women and girls, continue to be the most vulnerable. Additionally, a strategy to implement the recommendations of the Secretary General's Report on Conflict Related Sexual Violence issued in April was adopted. On 30 May, the Council of Ministers passed the **Sexual Offences Bill**, which now goes to Parliament for debate.

## HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING



From **8 to 10 May**, HRPG conducted a human rights training for CSOs in Mogadishu. A total of **22 participants** including journalists, human rights defenders, youth, and persons with disabilities attended the training. The objective was to contribute to improve the CSO representatives' understanding of key human rights and protection instruments and strengthen their capacity in the implementation of their human rights activities, particularly in monitoring and reporting, advocacy, and engagement with national authorities.