

SUMMARY

There was an increase in civilian casualties and arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as Al Shabaab (AS) related abductions in February. Violations of freedom of expression continue, with the arrest of two journalists and harassment of two others. Two cases of sexual assault were documented, including one gang rape of a female minor that resulted in the arrest and subsequent release of one of the alleged perpetrators. Two death sentences were pronounced by the First Instance Military Court in Mogadishu, including one suspected AS member for his involvement in the 14 October attack in Mogadishu. Two men on death row were released by the Puntland Supreme Court after they were pardoned by the families of their victims.

## CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION ISSUES

KEY FIGURES

TOTAL  
**93**

KILLED  
**42** 

INJURED  
**49** 

RAPED  
**2** 

ABDUCTIONS  
**79** 

HIGHLIGHTS

Total casualties: **↑31%** from January

AS: **↑37%** from January

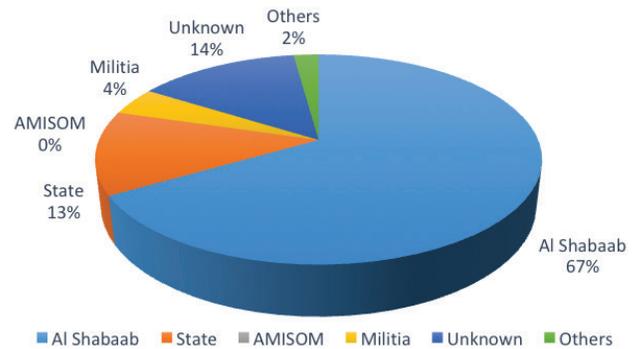
Arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions: **↑77%** from January

AS related abductions: **↑225%** from January

**2 death sentences** issued by the First Instance Military Court in Mogadishu

**2 men on death row** released by Puntland Supreme Court after being pardoned by the families of the victims

Percentage of civilian casualties according to main perpetrator - February 2018



## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- 2 journalists** were arrested and subsequently released in Jubbaland and Somaliland.
- 1 blogger** in Somaliland was arrested for posting supportive messages for Somalia's President on social media.
- 2 journalists** were beaten and harassed in Gaalkayo, Mudug and Garoowe, Puntland.
- Somaliland female poet arrested** on 27 January for composing a poem expressing support for Somali unity continues to be detained.
- 2 journalists** sentenced in January in Somaliland had sentences reduced and converted to fines.

CONCERNS

## ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION



- Arrests: 39** | **17 in Puntland** | **17 in HirShabelle**
- 17 individuals in Puntland** were arrested on suspicion of being AS; **7 were released**, while the other **10 remain in custody** without having been charged or appearing in a court.
- 17 businessmen** who were compelled to meet with AS to discuss payment of taxes were arrested by HirShabelle police.
- 1 adult male** has been detained by Puntland police since 16 September without being charged or appearing before a court.
- 2 other civilians** were arrested in Gedo region, Jubbaland, on 2 February upon returning from an AS stronghold in Luug district, where they had reportedly referred a case to an AS "court" for judgment. They were released 11 days later after paying a fine.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

### HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY



The AMISOM-UNSOS-HRPG Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) technical group reviewed the status of the implementation of measures for the prevention and response to violations recommended in the HRDDP framework including the efforts to strengthen accountability, and agreed on the need for speedy response to allegations of violations. To strengthen accountability for violations, it was agreed that AMISOM will respond to allegation letters within 90 days. Participants also agreed to follow up on mitigation measures identified for the use of AMISOM air assets and to provide an update to the AMISOM-UN Joint Working Group.

### CHILD PROTECTION



The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented a total of **118 incidents of grave violations** affecting 117 children and one school. The violations included **8 killings, 13 cases of maiming, 65 abductions, 22 recruitments and use, and 9 cases of sexual violence**. The majority of the violations were attributed to Al Shabaab (61%), with the remainder being committed by Somali National Army, Somali Police, Jubbaland Forces, Southwest Forces, Galmudug Forces, Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a, Puntland Forces, clan militias and unknown armed groups. As part of the implementation of the Action Plan to End Recruitment and Use of Children by the SNA, HRPG and the Somali Ministry of Defence Child Protection Unit screened 2,037 Puntland Defence Forces to be integrated into the SNA. Seventeen children were identified.

### JOINT PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS



A Joint Programme (JP) on Human Rights, developed with the Federal Government of Somalia jointly by UNSOM, UNDP and UNICEF was approved by the National Development Plan (NDP) Pillar 9 Working Group on Human Rights and Gender on 19 February 2018. The three year JP aims to support the FGS and FMS to strengthen its human rights protection and promotion framework through the implementation of Somalia's human rights commitments under the Universal Periodic Review the Human Rights Roadmap, the Action Plans on Children Associated with Armed Conflict and Conflict Related Sexual Violence, ensuring that human rights are central to Somalia's security architecture. While additional funding is being sought for this programme, the implementation of its initial activities is expected to commence during the second quarter of 2018.

### PRISON MONITORING



**Borama Prison in Somaliland:** prolonged detention, overcrowding, presence of mentally disabled persons, a two-year-old being held with his detained mother, and the continued detention of inmates that have completed their sentences.

**Kismaayo Prison in Jubbaland:** **46 detainees** are held, including a woman and three minors. The prison lacks adequate water, electricity and medical supplies.

### ADVOCACY



HRPG, jointly with ROLSIG, met with Director General of Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs in Jubbaland and the Commander of Jubbaland Custodial Corps, to discuss the Kismaayo prison situation. In Somaliland, HRPG met with the Deputy Governor of Awdal region and the Head of Awdal Regional Appeal Court to bring to their attention human rights concerns identified during a visit to the Borama prison. HRPG also met with the Somaliland Chief Justice to discuss the selection process of the commissioners for the Somaliland Human Rights Commission, the findings of the Borama prison monitoring visit, and concerns linked to the prolonged detention of a female poet.

### HUMAN RIGHTS TRAININGS



**40 traditional elders and religious groups representatives**, focusing on international human rights law and domestic law in Baidoa.

**40 SNA soldiers** on international human rights and international humanitarian law in Baidoa.

**28 participants (10 women and 18 men)** representing local councils and local civil society organizations, on combatting impunity and strengthening accountability in Borama, Somaliland.

A training-of-trainers for **7 SNA officers** in Mogadishu.