

SUMMARY

April saw a significant decrease in the number of civilian casualties, with 89 (40 killed and 49 injured). Al Shabaab (AS) is reportedly responsible for 51 per cent of the civilian casualties, while 18 per cent are attributed to clan militia (16 casualties). HRPG noted an increase in the number of civilian casualties attributed to security forces, totalling 21. Six individuals were sentenced to death (one police officer and five civilians, including a woman) by civilian and military courts in Puntland and Mogadishu, while two other individuals had their sentences commuted to six months imprisonment by a Puntland Court. With respect to violations of the right to freedom of expression, one journalist was arrested in Somaliland and two others were convicted and sentenced to one year and six months by a court in Gabiley (Somaliland).

KEY FIGURES

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

TOTAL  
**89**

KILLED  
**40** 

INJURED  
**49** 

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

HIGHLIGHTS

**Al Shabab:** decrease from 134 in March to 45 in April

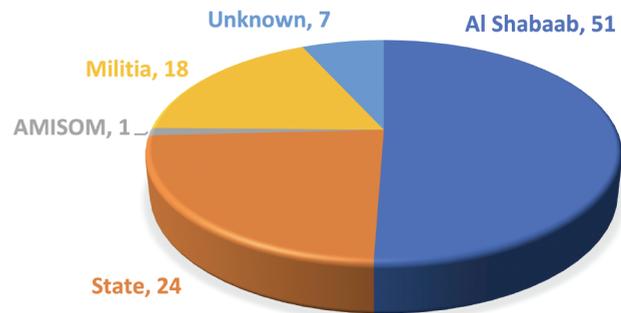
**State Actors:** increase from 13 in March to 21 in April

**Clan Militia:** increase from 4 in March to 16 in April

**AMISOM:** one person injured

**Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention:** increase from 45 in March to 62 in April

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MAIN PERPETRATOR - APRIL 2019



## DEATH PENALTY



**Six people** were sentenced to death (one police officer and five civilians including a woman):

- **two sentences** were pronounced by civilian courts in Puntland.
- **three sentences** were pronounced by a civilian court in Mogadishu.
- **one sentence** pronounced by the Military Court in Mogadishu.

**Two sentences** were commuted to six years imprisonment by a Puntland Court.

CONCERNS

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- **Two journalists** were arrested in Somaliland.
- **Two journalists** were convicted and sentenced to one year and six months prison terms by a court in Gabiley (Somaliland). They were all released after their prison term was changed to fines which the journalists paid immediately.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY (HRDDP)**

A technical review of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) pre-deployment training curriculum facilitated by the United Nations Support Office for Somalia, AMISOM and UNSOM, held in Nairobi from 22 to 24 of April addressed a range of accountability and compliance topics including HRDDP obligations. The curriculum will be handed over to the Troop Contributing Countries once finalized and is part of the efforts to strengthen AMISOM's compliance with HRDDP requirements including in the context of the transition and transfer of security responsibilities to Somali security forces.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

In April, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented a total of 144 grave violations affecting 130 children (113 boys and 17 girls). The children were victims of abduction (52), recruitment and use (51), killing and maiming (30) and rape and other sexual violence (7). Three attacks on schools and one case of denial of humanitarian access were documented. AS was responsible for most of the violations (79%), unknown armed elements (8%), and Somali security forces (6%) while the remaining violations were attributed to regional forces and clan militias. During the same period the CTFMR documented seven incidents of detention affecting 14 boys detained by SPF (eight), SNA and Jubaland forces (three each).

**MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS**

- HRPG Child Protection was part of a panel discussion and participated in a training for United Nations Staff on Youth and Peace Security Programming jointly organized by the Resident Coordinator's Office and the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy. Following the launch of the global campaign "ACT to Protect Children Affected by Conflict" by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict in April, HRPG started consultations with relevant government ministries to launch the campaign in Somalia.
- HRPG convened an outreach meeting with community representatives from Hudur Town, Bakool Region to discuss the human rights situation, verify reports received of human rights violations and abuses as well as to strengthen networks with the communities.
- 22 representatives of civil society attended the bi-monthly civil society information sharing and coordination forum convened by HRPG in Mogadishu. The forum brought together members of Somali civil society and UN entities to discuss, coordinate and share information about human rights in the country. The United Nations Integrated Electoral Support Group briefed the forum on the preparations for the 2020/2021 universal elections and the technical support they give to the National Independent Electoral Commission.

**HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING**

- Human rights training for 20 members of the South West State Parliamentary Committee responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, rule of law implementation of the laws, advocacy and accountability (13 women and seven men), following an official request from the Speaker of the Parliament.
- Training session on Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) for 80 Sierra Leonean Formed Police Unit members that had newly arrived in Kismayo.
- Human rights training for 25 Protection Monitors (including ten female) from the Protection Cluster in Kismayo.
- Human rights training for civil society representatives from Galmudug State, attended by 11 participants in Mogadishu. This was the first such training for civil society in Galmudug State.

## IN FOCUS



## International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action – 4 April

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) commemorated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Somalia. As part of the commemorations, UNMAS presented the findings of a joint report it produced with the Somali Explosives Management Authority (SEMA), the Victim Assistance Assessment Report 2018.

During the commemoration, the Ministry of Interior stated that the signing of the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Somalia is a positive step in the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Minister further stated that there is a need for programmes to be developed to support persons with disabilities. Some of the findings of the UNMAS-SEMA Victim Assistance Assessment Report 2018 include the following:

- That there are no accurate statistics for the number of victims of explosive hazards or the number of persons with disabilities in Somalia;
- It is recognized and understood that victims of explosive hazards have been through a traumatic experience and could experience mental health problems as a result;
- Persons with disabilities and their families are stigmatized. Persons with disabilities can feel worthless or are made to feel worthless and are excluded or exclude themselves from public life; and
- There is frustration among victims of explosive hazards, persons with disabilities and the organizations providing assistance or advocating for disability rights about the number of surveys and pieces of research that have been conducted without seeing tangible results or an increase in assistance.