

### SUMMARY

In August, HRPG recorded the lowest number of civilian casualties since 2016. There was a total of 28 civilian casualties, with 16 killed and 12 injured. Unknown actors were the main perpetrators of civilian casualties with 12, followed by State actors with 10 reported casualties. Two journalists were arrested in Puntland and one freelance journalist who had been held in prolonged detention in Somaliland was released. Two death sentences were pronounced in Mogadishu and three individuals who had been previously sentenced to death were executed in Mogadishu. In Galkayo, eight individuals lost their appeals against the death sentence. Arbitrary arrest and detention of individuals mostly suspected of being affiliated with Al Shabaab continued, with 35 individuals arrested including six clan elders alleged to have had a meeting with Al Shabaab.

### KEY FIGURES

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



The lowest number of civilian casualties ever recorded by HRPG.

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

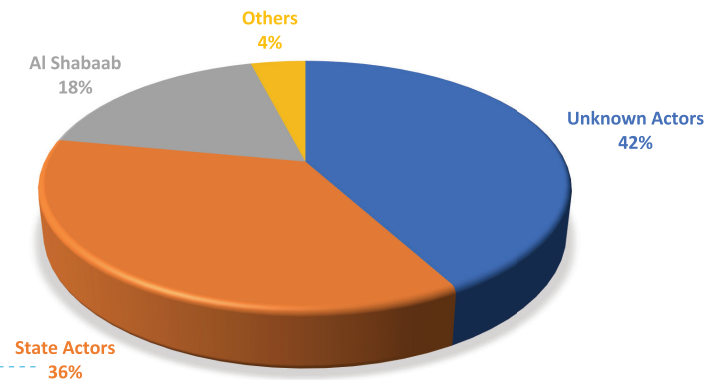
**Unknown actors:** 42% ↓ from 24 in July to 12 in August

**Al Shabaab:** 18% ↓ from 191 in July to 5 in August

**State Actors:** 36% ↓ from 11 in July to 10 in August.

**Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention:** increased from 27 in July to 35 in August.

#### PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO MAIN PERPETRATOR - AUGUST 2019



### CONCERNS

#### DEATH PENALTY



- Two men were sentenced to death:
  - One by the First Instance Military Court in Mogadishu.
  - A police officer by the Somaliland First Instance Military Court for murder.
- Three men were executed. Two were Al Shabaab convicts who had been found guilty of their involvement in incidents that killed at least 70 persons and injured 156. The third man was executed for the murder of a civilian female in Galkayo.
- Eight people had their appeals against the death sentence dismissed.

#### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- Two journalists were arrested in Puntland.
- One journalist was held in prolonged detention in Somaliland.

### IN FOCUS

#### Jubaland State Assembly and Presidential Elections:



HRPG observed that the Jubaland State Assembly election (13 August) and the Jubaland presidential election (22 August) took place with no security-related incidents. Freedom of movement of the general public was affected 48 hours prior to election day because of the closure of the air, land, and sea entry points into Kismayo. Some presidential candidates and civil society organisations expressed their lack of confidence in the impartiality and transparency of the election administration. On 23 August in Elwak town, Gedo Region, the Jubaland Security Forces shot into the crowd to stop protestors demonstrating against the reelection of President Madobe. A civilian female was reportedly killed and one injured (male).

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

On 21 August, the Federal Ministry of Women Human Rights and Development held a roundtable to initiate consultations to develop a Protection of Civilians' Policy for Somalia with representatives from eight relevant ministries and institutions. The policy is being developed as part of the activities of the Joint Programme on Human Rights and is in line with the prevention and response measures to violations identified in the HRDDP. HRPG conducted a human rights assessment of the 66th Battalion of the SNA in Mogadishu and observed that the troops trained by human rights trainers were aware of their obligations. HRPG also trained 15 explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams for the SPF in Mogadishu on 5 August in the framework of its collaboration in the HRDDP.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

In August 2019, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented a total of 114 grave violations affecting 90 children (73 boys and 17 girls). The children were victims of recruitment and use (36), abduction (38) killing and maiming (26) and rape (nine). Three attacks on schools and two cases of denial of humanitarian access were also documented. Al Shabaab was responsible for most of the violations (75%), unknown armed elements (6%), SNA (6%), Somali Police (5%), clan militia (3%), Galmudug Police (3%) and Jubaland forces (2%). During the same period the CTFMR documented nine incidents of detention affecting 15 boys, detained by Somali police (14) and SNA (one).

**MEETINGS and CONSULTATIONS**

- On 3 August, HRPG met with the Puntland Minister of Women Development and Family Affairs in Garowe and shared the findings of its prison visits to Bossaso, Qardho and Galkayo.
- On 8 August, HRPG and ROLSIG met the Deputy Chief Justice and the Puntland Attorney General and shared the relevant findings of the prison visits with the two officials.
- On 22 August, HRPG participated in the working group meeting in Baidoa for developing the South West State to help the South West State Ministry of Security in developing the police strategy on promotion and protection of human rights.
- On 29 August, UNSOM met with the Change Group (former South West State Presidential Candidates) in Baidoa to discuss the conditions in which Mukhtar Robow is being kept under house arrest by NISA. The Change Group also confirmed that the South West State government has agreed to pay diya (compensation) to the families of the victims killed or injured in the December 2018 incidents, but compensation for property damage has not yet been agreed on. HRPG raised concerns regarding the right of the victims to be heard and to participate in these discussions.

**HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING/AWARENESS-RAISING**

- On 1 August, HRPG concluded a two-day training workshop for 30 SNA soldiers (including eight females) of Sector 43 in Kismayo, Lower Juba Region, on international human rights law and international humanitarian law in line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to Non-United Nations security forces.
- On 14 and 15 August, HRPG conducted a training on human rights attended by 35 members from different Puntland ministries, the police, the custodial corps, the Office of Puntland Human Rights Defender, the Garowe District Administration, community policing, legal aid lawyers and civil society. The training was supported by UNDP, UNICEF and HRPG under the auspices of the Joint Programme on Human Rights.
- On 24 August, the Civil Society Forum's Women and Child Cluster, with technical support from HRPG, convened a high-level meeting in Mogadishu attended by 31 females and 11 males including five Members of Parliament (four from the Lower House and one from the Upper House) aimed at advocating for the Parliament to pass the Federal Sexual Offences Bill (the Bill). The Chair of the Parliamentary Committee of Human Rights for the House of the People briefed the meeting on the steps that have been taken to ensure that the Bill is passed. The meeting agreed on action to take in order to continue the advocacy for the adoption of the Bill.
- On 27 August, HRPG with the support of UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group conducted a training workshop for the national Independent Electoral Commission and members of the Secretariat on the rights of persons with disabilities.