

SUMMARY

HRPG documented 67 civilian casualties in January (22 killed and 45 injured), which represents a 47 per cent decrease if compared to the 2018 monthly average. Al Shabaab (AS) was responsible for 46 per cent of the casualties and 80 reported cases of abduction (75 minors and five men). Four civilian casualties are being attributed to Islamic State. Civilian casualties perpetrated by State actors represent 21 per cent. Three male civilians were reportedly injured in airstrikes conducted by unidentified airplanes in Bu'ale District, Middle Juba Region. With respect to the Puntland Presidential election, it was reported to UNSOM that the members of the Puntland State Assembly cast their vote in secret and free from overt intimidation or inducements.

KEY FIGURES

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS¹

TOTAL
74

KILLED
20

INJURED
54

ABDUCTIONS
80

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

HIGHLIGHTS

AS: 60% decrease compared to 2018 monthly average

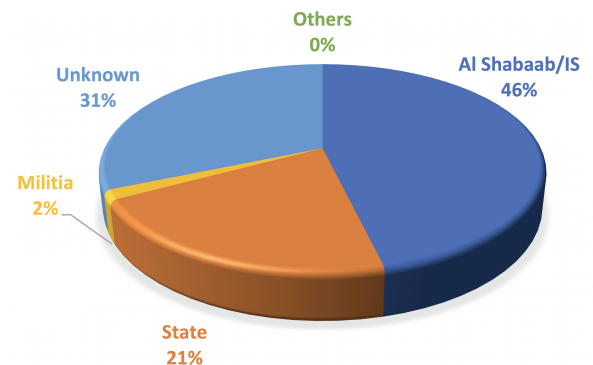
Abductions: 105% increase from the 2018 monthly average

State Actors: 36% decrease compared to 2018 monthly average

IS: 4 civilian casualties (1 killed, 3 injured) claimed in Bossaso, Bari

Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention: 8 incidents, compared to 299 in December and 48, the monthly average in 2018.

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MAIN PERPETRATOR - JANUARY 2019



DEATH PENALTY



Ten death sentences were pronounced in January (compared to 3.5 monthly average in 2018). The Military Court in Bossaso sentenced five youths to death after finding them to be members of AS.

Two executions were carried out:

- 2 AS suspects were executed on 7 January following the High Military Court's dismissal of their appeals.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



Two arrests related to violations of freedom of expression were documented:

- a former Sool governor was arrested for criticizing the current Puntland administration on social media. He was released after six days.
- a poet in Hargeisa was arrested for his poems criticizing the police behaviour and the President. The poet was still remanded at the end of the month.

Criminal charges were brought against the editors of a local newspaper in Hargeisa for criticizing the government's plan to relocate the presidential palace.

CONCERNS

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY (HRDDP)

Subsequent to the events of 13 to 15 December 2018 in South-West State (SWS), two different committees have been established by the Federal Government and SWS to investigate the circumstances and the human rights violations that occurred. The Federal Government Committee is composed of senior government officials including from the Ministries of Women and Human Rights, Justice and Internal security, representatives of the Human Rights Committee of Parliament, the Somali Police and two civil society representatives.



CHILD PROTECTION

In January, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented a total of **319 grave violations affecting 315 children** (277 boys and 38 girls). The children were victims of **recruitment and use** (137), **abduction** (107), **killing and maiming** (52), and **rape** (19). There were two cases of attack on schools, one attack on a hospital and one case of denial of humanitarian access. The violations were reportedly committed by AS (69%) unknown armed elements (13%), SNA (6%) and Somali Police (4%). The remaining violations were attributed to regional member State forces and clan militias. During the same period, the CTFMR documented **10 incidents** of detention affecting 17 boys by Somali Police (nine), SNA (three), Jubaland forces (four) and Galmudug forces (one).



CONSULTATIONS

On 9 January, HRPG organized a consultation with persons with disabilities, who highlighted some of the barriers they face such as employment, enrolment in schools, or accessing affordable health care.

On 29 January, HRPG met with representatives of IDPs and marginalized communities, who raised concerns about the protection risks they faced. HRPG coordinated with the Protection Cluster and brought forward their concerns.



ELECTORAL PROCESS

With respect to the Puntland Presidential election that took place on 8 January, it was reported to UNSOM that the members of the Puntland State Assembly cast their vote in secret and free from overt intimidation or inducements. While HRPG received reports from civil society organizations alleging isolated incidents of campaigning taking place when the election was being conducted and vote buying, these could not be substantiated.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING



- Five-day training of trainers on strengthening internal capacity and raising awareness on international human rights and international humanitarian law compliance for 33 Somali National Army officers in Kismayo.
- Two-day workshop to improve access to justice for victims of sexual violence in rural areas in Burao, Togdheer region, Somaliland in collaboration with the Community Development and Human Rights Organization, for 40 participants (22 women and 18 men).

IN FOCUS

The Somali Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development submitted the first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) midterm report to the UN Human Rights Council on 29 January 2019. The report provides an update on the progress made in implementing the UPR recommendations received by Somalia during the 2015-16 UPR review process as well as the remaining challenges to implement its UPR commitments. The report follows an extensive data collection process that started after the 2016 UPR review process and the consultations conducted in 2018 by the Ministry with support from the UNSOM Human Rights and Protection Group. The Ministries consulted, who provided input on progress and challenges in various areas, include Defense, Justice, Internal Security, Religious Affairs, Constitutional Affairs, Planning, Education, Health and the Attorney General's Office. Progress on the policy, legislative and institutional reforms, human rights treaty ratification and initial discussions on measures to minimize civilian casualties during operations among others were highlighted. The report is also one of the priorities of the Joint programme on Human Rights spearheaded by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights.

