

### SUMMARY

A total of 240 civilian casualties were recorded in July, with 109 killed and 131 injured. Civilian casualties increased 182 per cent in July compared to June. Al Shabaab is responsible for 192 civilian casualties, most of them occurring in Mogadishu and Jubaland State, with a significant coordinated attack taking place in Kismayo. Ten death sentences were pronounced by a Military Court in Puntland and three executions were carried out by a Military Court in Mogadishu. Eight individuals were arrested in relation to freedom of expression in Somaliland and in Puntland, and two prominent journalists were among people killed in the coordinated attack in Kismayo. The House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia passed the amended version of the Media Law. Arbitrary arrest and detention of individuals continued to be recorded in July, with 27 individuals being arrested and 10 of them were released without charge in Somaliland and in Puntland. A total of 29 individuals arrested in June in Puntland were released due to lack of evidence. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited Somalia between 13 and 19 July and engaged with authorities at the federal level and state level on the prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict. The Independent Expert on the Human Rights Situation in Somalia visited Somalia between 14 and 26 July.

### KEY FIGURES

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

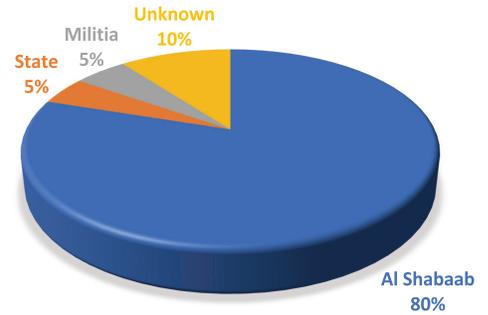


Casualty figures are subject to change due to late reporting and additional information received by HRPg after the publication of the brief.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- State actors:** increase from 8 in June to 11 in July
- Clan Militia:** decrease from 18 in June to 12 in July
- Arrest/Detention:** 27 incidents reported in June, compared to 53 in June
- 16 executions by Al Shabaab following sentences passed by their self-appointed "courts." Call to repent issued by Al Shabaab for elders who participated in the 2016/2017 electoral process

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



### CONCERNS

#### DEATH PENALTY



- Three Al Shabaab suspects were executed by a mixed firing squad composed of elements from the Somali National Army, National Intelligence Security Agency (NISA), Police and Custodial Corps in Mogadishu following the failure of their appeals at the High Military Court. They had been sentenced to death on 30 May 2018 for their involvement in a coordinated attack at a hotel in Mogadishu on 28 October 2017.
- The Bossaso Military Court of First Instance convicted ten defendants, including a Puntland Maritime Police officer, and sentenced them to death on terrorism-related charges. They were legally represented and they were given 30 days to file an appeal.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- The House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia passed the amended version of the Media Law which has been with the Parliament since July 2017. It is now with the Upper House of the Parliament.
- The Hargeisa Regional Court sentenced a prominent freelance journalist to three years and six months imprisonment for defamation and circulation of false news, according to the articles 452 and 328 of the Somali Penal Code.
- Two prominent journalists were killed in an Al Shabaab-coordinated attack in Kismayo.
- The Puntland Police arrested a prominent traditional elder and a freelance journalist in Garowe, Nugal Region, following a statement in the which the elder criticized the Puntland administration and the journalist published it on social media. Both were released after two weeks imprisonment without being charged or being brought before a court.
- The Somaliland Police arrested three journalists and a cameraman in Hargeisa, for reportedly covering complaints by university graduates criticizing the lack of transparency of a recruitment process by a private company working with the Somaliland Government.
- A freelance journalist was arrested in Hargeisa and later remanded by the Hargeisa Regional Court to seven days in custody at the Somaliland Police Counter Terrorism Unit detention facility in Hargeisa, after being accused of working for the NISA and conducting espionage activities for the Federal Government of Somalia.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



## HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY (HRDDP)

The United Nations-AMISOM Joint Working Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy met in May and discussed the progress on the implementation of the agreed mitigation measures to address human rights and international humanitarian law violations. While a decline in alleged human rights violations by AMISOM from 94 allegations received in 2017 to 21 in 2018 was noted, the need to further strengthen the prevention and response measures, including the AMISOM Board of Inquiry, was underscored. UNSOM also supported other UN entities including UNMAS through training and briefing sessions to strengthen implementation of the measures within the framework of their support to Somali security forces and AMISOM.



## CHILD PROTECTION

In July, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting documented a total of 68 incidents of grave violations affecting 125 children (110 boys and 15 girls). The children were victims of abduction (45), recruitment and use (44), killing and maiming (28), rape and other forms of sexual violence (8). In addition, one case of denial of humanitarian access and six cases of detention of children were also documented. Al Shabaab was responsible for most of the violations (73 per cent), Somali security forces (16 per cent) unknown armed elements (14 per cent), while the remaining violations were attributed to regional forces.



## MEETINGS/FIELD MISSIONS

HRPG attended a quarterly coordination meeting organized by the Somaliland Human Rights Commission and raised the issue of freedom of expression and due process of law and advised police to follow the legal process when dealing with the cases of media. It also met with the Spokesperson of the Somaliland Police Force to discuss the freedom of expression, access to police stations and police accountability and held a meeting with the Somaliland Minister of Information and the Director of the Somaliland National Television raising concerns about freedom of the press and progress on the review of the Media Law of 2004. HRPG also met the Chairperson of the Women in Journalists Association in Hargeisa to discuss the situation of the female journalists and the revised Media Law.

HRPG conducted a field mission to Bossaso, Bari Region and Galkayo, Mudug Region, to assess and monitor the human rights situation in these areas through visits of detention facilities, consultations with local partners and meeting with various government officials. During the mission, HRPG trained members from the Protection Cluster, met with representatives of internally displaced persons, visited Bossaso and Galkayo Central Prisons and discussed issues related to situation of children associated with Al Shabaab who are serving prison sentences.

Following allegations of violations of human rights by the Jubaland Police, on 7 July, HRPG met with the Deputy Police Commissioner to assess progress towards implementation of identified Human Rights Due Diligence Policy mitigation measures.



## HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING/AWARENESS-RAISING

- HRPG carried out a two-day human rights training for 120 Jubaland police officers, including 16 female officers, selected to provide security during elections.
- HRPG Child Protection Unit jointly with the Child Protection Unit of the Ministry of Defense concluded a two-day training on child protection and child rights for 40 SNA officers in Jowhar.
- HRPG also conducted a three-day training on International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law for SNA 30 commanders from Battalion 60 in Baidoa, South West State. This is the first training conducted for commanders.



## ADVOCACY

**Independent Expert's Mission to Somalia:** HRPG supported the visit of the Independent Expert on the human rights situation, Mr. Bahame Tom Mukirya Nyanduga in Somalia between 14 and 26 July. This was Mr. Nyanduga's sixth and last mission to Somalia. He held meetings with civil society organizations, the Minister for Justice, the Speaker of the Parliament and the Attorney General's Office and will submit a report to the Human Rights Council in September 2019.

**Visit by the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict:** The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited Somalia between 13 and 19 July and engaged with authorities at the federal level and state level on the prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict. The Federal Government committed to working with the Special Representative's Office and HRPG to develop a new National Action Plan on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict.