

SUMMARY

A total of 177 civilian casualties were recorded in March, with 63 killed and 114 injured, a slight decrease from February, but still high in comparison to the beginning of the year. Al Shabaab (AS) is responsible for 136 civilian casualties and for 81 abductions, of which 70 are children. Nine death sentences were pronounced by civil and military courts, of which six were commuted to terms of imprisonment, while two male civilians sentenced to death, were executed. Non-AMISOM Ethiopian National Defense Forces in Hudur District, Bakool Region reportedly shot and injured a civilian male who later died as a result of his injuries. An unidentified aircraft conducted airstrikes that destroyed a Hormuud Telecom communication mast in Lower Juba Region. Five journalists were reportedly arrested, three in Somaliland, one in Jubaland and one in Hirshabelle. In total, 45 cases of arbitrary arrest and/or prolonged detention were documented in March, most of them occurring in Puntland (29) and Jubaland (10).

KEY FIGURES

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS¹

TOTAL
177


KILLED
63 


INJURED
114 


ABDUCTIONS
81 

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:  **31%** decrease from February

State Actors:  **85%** increase from February [from 7 to 13]

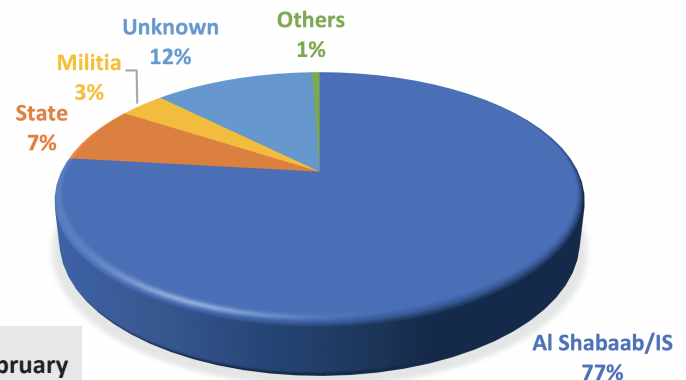
Abductions:  **161%** increase from February [from 31 to 81]

Non-AMISOM ENDF: one civilian casualty

Clan Militia: 3 civilians reportedly killed and 3 injured in clan related violence in Galmudug and Hirshabelle.

Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention:  **7%** increase from February

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MAIN PERPETRATOR - SEPTEMBER 2018



DEATH PENALTY



Nine death sentences were pronounced by civil and military courts, of which six were commuted to terms of imprisonment.

Two male civilians sentenced to death were executed in Puntland and Jubaland respectively. In the Jubaland case, the convicted man was reportedly not permitted to exercise his right of appeal against both the conviction and the sentence.

CONCERNS

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



Five journalists were arrested in March in relation to violations to the freedom of expression:

- **One journalist** was arrested by the Jubaland State Police, for reportedly posting a message on his Facebook account noting that change in the leadership of Jubaland was inevitable.
- **Two journalists** and **one cameraman** were detained by Somaliland Police in Gabiley District, Somaliland, after a dispute between the police and the journalists when a police officer refused to give them access to an event in Gabiley town.
- **One journalist** was arrested by NISA in Beletweyne town, Hiraan Region. He was accused of broadcasting a report critical of the administration.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY (HRDDP)

The AU-UN Joint Review for AMISOM that took place in March examined the progress made by AMISOM and the challenges faced in implementing accountability and compliance measures in line with Security Council Resolution 2431 and the obligations under HRDDP. Progress was noted in the implementation of key measures such as AMISOM's Boards of Inquiry, human rights training, dissemination and adherence to AMISOM's Rules of Engagement, prevention measures for civilian casualties caused by airstrikes, and the payment of amends under the Civilian Casualty Tracking and Response Cell (CCTARC) mechanism. A reduction of allegations of violations against AMISOM in 2018 compared to 2017 was also noted although more efforts are needed to institutionalize the measures and to support compliance within Somali security forces.



CHILD PROTECTION

In March, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented a total of **538 grave violations** affecting **529 children** (472 boys and 57 girls). The children were victims of **recruitment and use** (253), **abduction** (156) **killing and maiming** (26) and **rape and other sexual violence** (22). Seven attacks on schools and two attacks on hospitals were also documented. AS was responsible for most of the violations (81%), unknown armed elements (7%), Somali Police (3% percent), Somali National Army (2%) and clan militia (2%), while the remaining violations were attributed to regional member state forces. During the same period, the CTFMR documented the detention of **17 boys** by Somali Police forces and Somali National Army.



MEETINGS and CONSULTATIONS

HRPG conducted the quarterly Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Working Group meeting chaired by the Ministry of Defense and attended by relevant government ministries and departments, as well as diplomatic missions, the UN agencies, funds and programmes, AMISOM and NGOs.

HRPG held a meeting with the **Jubaland** Minister, and officials from the Ministry of Women, Family Affairs and Human Rights (MoWFHR) at the Ministry's office in Kismayo, to engage with the Ministry on the issues relating to promotion of human rights and justice in Jubaland.

In **Baidoa**, HRPG held a meeting with the new Minister for Women and Human Rights to discuss the activity workplan and the support HRPG can offer to the Minister.

In **Puntland**, HRPG joined government officials and women's groups to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March.



HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING/AWARENESS-RAISING

- HRPG Child Protection jointly with the Ministry of Defence's Child Protection Unit delivered a **two-day training** on child rights and child protection for **30 SNA officers** of Sector 60 from Bay Region.
- With UNPOL and UNDP support, HRPG Women Protection organized a **three-day training** on investigation techniques on Conflict Related Sexual Violence and crimes against children for **30 female police officers** operating in different districts of Mogadishu.
- In support of UNSOM/ROLSIG Police and AMISOM Police, HRPG presented **two sessions** of human rights training to **25 SWS Police officers** in Baidoa, including five SWS police commanders.
- Also in Baidoa, HRPG presented **three sessions** on human rights for **25 trainees** during a training of trainers organized by AMISOM Police.

IN FOCUS

Somali Women Convention, 4 - 6 March 2019

Somali Women Forging Alliances to Safeguard Equal Rights for All

With UN support, the Ministry of Women Human Rights and Development designed, planned and organized the Convention jointly with the Steering Committee comprised of Members of Parliament, Federal Member States, civil society and members of the private sector from across Somalia.

OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTION

- To jointly discuss and deliver a Women's Charter that will become the blueprint to advance the Somali agenda for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.
- To identify issues to be reflected in the new Somali Constitution, the Electoral Law and the Political Parties Law, as the government considers the ongoing legislative reforms a unique window of opportunity to empower Somali women and girls, men and boys to take up the challenges of the future.
- To link it to the National Development Plan: "Peace, stability and development can only be efficiently achieved by addressing the obstacles women face to fully contribute to their country's development."

FACTS AND FIGURES

- 350 participants
- 30% men, 70% women (40% under the age of 40)
- 40 CSOs represented (from all FMS)
- 20 women-owned businesses represented
- 7 plenary sessions
- 8 working group break-out sessions
- 130,000 tweets and re-tweets of hashtag

OUTCOME

The Somali Women's Charter calls for the following objectives to be achieved ahead of the 2020/2021 electoral process:

INCLUSIVE POLITICS

Demand a minimum of 50% women representation (all levels of parliament and government).

EQUALITY AND EQUITY

Demand that affirmative action policies in favour of women and accountability measures be put in place.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Demands that the Constitution make explicit the right to safety and security and for it to include women's right to be protected from gender based violence.

RULE OF LAW

Demand that all harmful customary practices be prohibited by the Constitution.

WOMEN SECURITY AT THE CENTER OF TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Demand that a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with 50% women, be established.

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Demand that affirmative action in favour of women be put into practice in the areas of education, health, housing, employment and access to financial services.

WOMEN AND INNOVATION

Demand that gender inequality through innovation be addressed. Women demand an increase in compulsory attainment of secondary education, access to tertiary education and skills training courses for women and girls and additional affirmative action in securing young girls' exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).