In May, HRPG noted a slight increase in the number of civilian casualties compared to April, with 103 recorded casualties (36 killed and 67 injured). Al Shabaab is responsible for 54 per cent of the civilian casualties and for the abduction of at least 380 people. Four persons were sentenced to death during the month. Six persons that participated in the 2016/2017 electoral process were assassinated by unknown individuals and three journalists were arrested by State authorities in relation to reported violations of freedom of expression. The Federal Parliament of Somalia passed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which now awaits Presidential assent.

### KEY FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Casualty</th>
<th>103</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KILLED</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INJURED</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABDUCTIONS</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTORAL PROCESS RELATED ASSASSINATIONS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Al Shabaab**: increase from 45 in April to 56 in May
- **State actors**: decrease from 21 in April to 12 in May
- **Clan Militia**: decrease from 16 in April to 11 in May
- **AMISOM**: 2 civilians injured in Lower Shabelle
- **Abductions**: at least 380 people in Galgaduud
- **Assassinations**: 6 persons who participated in the 2016/2017 electoral process (8 in total since the beginning of 2019)

### DEATH PENALTY

- **1 person** sentenced to death by the First Instance Military Court in Mogadishu.
- **3 persons** were sentenced to death by the Garowe District Court.
- **2 death sentences** upheld by the High Military Court in Mogadishu for two persons convicted of being members of Al Shabaab and of carrying out attacks.
- **6 death sentences** upheld by the Puntland Military Appellate Court.
- **2 death sentences** for men convicted of being members of AS and carrying out attacks commuted to Life Imprisonment by the Military Court in Bossaso.

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Three journalists were arrested in May and they were all subsequently released.

- **In Somaliland**, a reporter was arrested for allegedly interviewing residents who participated in a protest against a member of Parliament in Laascaanood. He was remanded for 7 days, and released after 13 days of detention following a mediation process initiated by his family.
- **In Jubaland**, a journalist was arrested when interviewing the parents of a murder victim. He was released the same day.
- **In Banadir**, a journalist appeared before a court to face accusations of publishing misleading information on the national examinations. The Court nullified the charges against him and ordered his release within 48 hours.
HRPG Child Protection in conjunction with UNICEF submitted a project to the Peace Building Fund aimed at screening Somali National Forces and regional security forces to ensure that there are no children associated with them. The project is to be implemented in collaboration with the federal Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development. It will also build the capacity of community members and line ministries of the Federal Government of Somalia and the targeted Federal Member States to prevent and respond to the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups.

Following the launch of the global campaign “ACT to Protect Children Affected by Conflict” by the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict in April, on 19 May HRPG held consultations with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, the Child Protection Unit of the Ministry of Defence, the Defectors Rehabilitation Programme in the Ministry of Internal Security, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education to plan the launch of the campaign at national level.


HRPG conducted a three-day training workshop for 20 staff from the Puntland Human Rights Defender Office on human rights monitoring.

HRPG’s Women Protection Unit delivered a training session on conflict-related sexual violence for 20 members of the Gender-Based Violence Working Group in the context of the National Action Plan on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict and its link to sexual and gender-based violence.