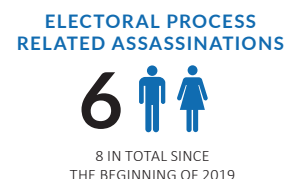


SUMMARY

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

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

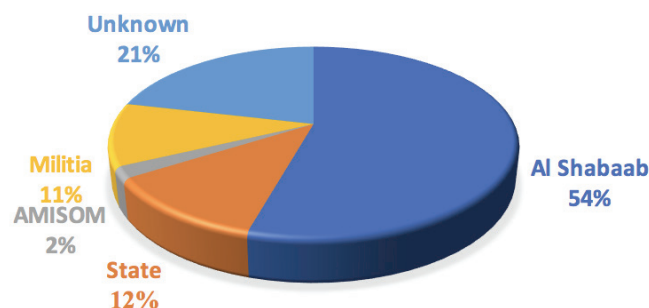


Casualty figures are subject to change due to late reporting and additional information received by HRPG after the publication of the brief.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Al Shabaab:** increase from 45 in April to 56 in May **11**
- State actors:** decrease from 21 in April to 12 in May **9**
- Clan Militia:** decrease from 16 in April to 11 in May **5**
- 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)

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO MAIN PERPETRATOR - MAY 2019



CONCERNS

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.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

The UN-AMISOM Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy met and discussed the progress on the implementation of the agreed mitigation measures to address human rights and international humanitarian law violations. While the participants noted a decline in alleged human rights violations by AMISOM from 94 allegations received in 2017 to 21 in 2018, the need to strengthen further the prevention and response measures including AMISOM's Board of Inquiry was underscored. AMISOM made a presentation on actions taken to monitor air assets mitigation measures and a joint monitoring mission to support implementation of the air assets measures was agreed.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

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 Members 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 SRSR 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.

MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS

**JUBALAND**

- HRPG conducted a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders aimed at promoting the rule of law and human rights in Jubaland, chaired by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and attended by 25 participants, including directors general from various ministries, the Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorney General, members of Parliament and civil society representatives.
- HRPG met with the Jubaland Minister of Justice and Religious Affairs to discuss the Ministry's role in ensuring justice, redress and accountability for human rights violations during the electoral period.
- HRPG met with the Jubaland Minister of Security, and representatives from the Jubaland Ministry of Interior to discuss the Minister's request for human rights guidelines on crowd control and security of political candidates in the ongoing electoral process.

**SOUTH WEST STATE**

- HRPG together with the Integrated Electoral Support Group and the Integrated Gender Unit met with the South West State Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for people with disabilities, to discuss concerns affecting persons with disabilities with respect to the forthcoming elections.
- HRPG held a meeting with the Chairperson of Women Association Baidoa and the Chairperson of Bay Women Development Network, to discuss women's political participation in the forthcoming elections.

ADVOCACY

On 18th May, the Federal Parliament of Somalia passed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ratification now awaits Presidential assent.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING/AWARENESS-RAISING



- 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.