

SUMMARY

The number of civilian casualties remains relatively low for the third consecutive month. In October, UNSOM HRPG recorded 37 civilian casualties (28 killed and nine injured).<sup>1</sup> Al-Shabaab continued to be the main perpetrator, followed by State security forces and clan militia. Unknown actors were responsible for nine civilian casualties and HRPG recorded the first recorded civilian casualties attributed to AMISOM since May. Three death sentences were pronounced in Mogadishu and Bossaso by Military Courts. Violations of freedom of expression were recorded, with the arrests of eight journalists in Mogadishu, Jowhar, Kismayo, and Garowe. Three journalists, who were arrested in Hargeisa last month and released on bail, left Somaliland for Mogadishu. On a positive note, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) launched a national consultation on the development of the National Disability Bill and the Female Genital Mutilation Bill was submitted to the Cabinet to be tabled for discussion.

KEY FIGURES

## CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS<sup>2</sup>



HIGHLIGHTS

**Al Shabaab:** **30%** from 34 in September to 11 in October

**Unknown actors:** **65%** slight increase from 8 in September to 9 in October

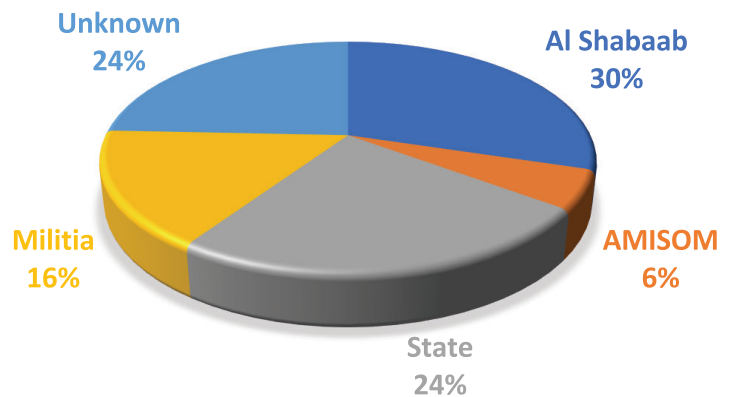
- Includes six civilians killed in airstrikes conducted by unknown aircraft, of which two male civilians reportedly killed and one injured by airstrike in Camayra area (in the Golis Mountains), Bari Region, Puntland. The United States Africa Command issued a press release on a strike they conducted that day in the Golis Mountains in the Bari Region, Puntland and claimed to have killed three terrorists.

**State Actors:** **24%** from 5 in September to 9 in October

**Clan Militia:** **16%** from 5 in September to 6 in October

**Abduction of 148 civilians by Al Shabaab, including 75 children aged between 8-10 years.**

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY PERPETRATOR - OCTOBER 2019



<sup>1</sup>In August, 28 civilian casualties were recorded, and in September 52. <sup>2</sup>Casualty figures are subject to change due to late reporting and additional information received by HRPG after the publication of the brief.

CONCERNS

### DEATH PENALTY



- Three death sentences pronounced by the First Instance Military Courts in Mogadishu and Bossaso:
  - One police officer for killing his commander in Bossaso in April 2014.
  - Two men (one in absentia) for killing the Deputy Commissioner of Hiran in April 2019.
- All defendants were represented by lawyers and were given 30 days to appeal the sentences.

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- Arrest of eight journalists in Mogadishu, HirShabelle, Jubaland and Puntland.
- Three journalists released on bail in September in Hargeisa left for Mogadishu to avoid criminal charges pending against them.
- Four people, including a journalist arrested in Baidoa town in September by the South West State Police for allegedly holding illegal political meetings, were charged under article 322 of the Somali Penal Code and were sentenced to three months imprisonment and payment of \$300 each.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

The UN-AMISOM Joint Working Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy was convened on 10 October to review the implementation of the mitigation measures to prevent and respond to violations by the security forces. The UN-AMISOM Joint Working Group reviewed and adopted the Dhobley UN-AMISOM joint assessment mission report with the call for continued assessment, training of crew and development of SOPs for AMISOM air assets. AMISOM noted progress in ex-gratia payments for the affected victims and relatives and reported that funds were disbursed through the African Union's resources. AMISOM also reported having established boards of inquiry for two incidents involving the alleged killing of five civilians by AMISOM troops.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

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*Visit by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict:* The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), Virginia Gamba, visited Somalia from 27 to 30 October and held discussions with national and international partners on strengthening child protection mechanisms and addressing grave violations against children. SRSG Gamba facilitate the signing of a roadmap by the Federal Government of Somalia for the implementation of the two action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use, and the killing and maiming of children by the SNA. During her visit, SRSG Gamba also inaugurated the Group of Friends of CAAC chaired by Denmark. On 8 October, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child accepted the Federal Government of Somalia's request to review its initial report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The review of the State Party report is scheduled to take place in September 2020 and the list of issues will be sent to the Government of Somalia in February 2020.

**LAUNCHING OF IDP PUBLIC REPORT ON SURVEY RESULTS**

On 29 October, during the *Second Annual Evidence Week*<sup>3</sup> organised by the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, HRPG launched the UNSOM/OHCHR joint report on the survey results on the participation of IDPs in peace and state-building processes in Somalia. The report is based on the survey results of 832 interviews and examines the rights of IDPs related to their participation in peace and state-building processes, views of the role they play and/or might play in the public arena and the obstacles they face.

**MEETINGS and CONSULTATIONS**

- On 2 October, HRPG convened the quarterly Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) meeting in which UN partners discussed and analyzed the CRSV cases documented in the third quarter of 2019.
- On 9 October, HRPG participated in the quarterly Human Rights Coordination meeting organized by the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission. The participants discussed the incidents of rape and other sexual offences in Somaliland which reportedly continue to be on the rise, and what stakeholders can do to address the issue.

**HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING/AWARENESS-RAISING**

- 6 to 8 October - workshop organized by UNSOM Joint Justice and Corrections Section for 53 (9 female) officers of the Custodial Corps in Baidoa.
- 8 October - training sessions for 25 protection monitors (13 females) in Mogadishu.
- 9 to 10 October - in partnership with UNSOM Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Group training on media advocacy and communication for 6 (2 females) members from a local civil society organisation representing marginalized communities in Mogadishu.
- 15 October - workshop for 17 child protection representatives (3 females) representing civil society organizations in Baidoa.
- 15 October - training on protection of children affected by armed conflict for 26 (3 females) SNA child protection focal persons in Mogadishu.
- 20 October - training on gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence for 20 (5 females) district police officers in Mogadishu.



<sup>3</sup>The *Second Annual Evidence Week* was organized under the theme Re-thinking mobility and displacement in Somalia between 27th – 31st October 2019 in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo, Dollow and Hargeisa to support knowledge sharing and research uptake to inform better durable solutions programming and policies based on evidence. The event brought together various stakeholders to discuss evidence collected over the past year on durable solutions and displacement in Somalia to better understand displacement related vulnerabilities.