

SUMMARY

In September, UNSOM HRPG recorded 52 civilian casualties (30 deaths and 22 injuries) which is 52 per cent lower than the monthly civilian casualties average for 2019. Al Shabaab remained the main perpetrator for the month with 34 casualties (65 per cent) attributed to the group, unknown attackers were responsible for eight casualties (15 per cent) and State security forces and clan militia were responsible for five casualties respectively (10 per cent). Death penalty sentences and executions continued in September amid concerns over due process guarantees. Four death sentences were issued in Mogadishu and Beletweyne and one execution took place in Somaliland – the first since 2017. Arbitrary arrest and detention of individuals continued in the month, with 71 individuals arrested including 55 clan elders and electoral delegates alleged to have had visited AS controlled areas for meetings. Freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly faced challenges in month with arrests of four journalists, closure of three media outlets and issuance of new measures requiring government permission for meetings.

KEY FIGURES

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS¹



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

HIGHLIGHTS

Unknown actors: 15% ↓ from 12 in August to 8 in September

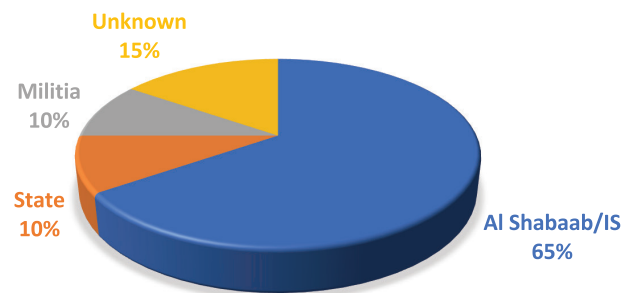
Al Shabaab: 65% ↑ from 5 in August to 34 in September

State Actors: 10% ↓ from 10 in August to 5 in September

Clan Militia: 10% ↑ from 11 in July to 10 in August

One death in police custody reported in Bossasso, Puntland. Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention: increased from 35 in August to 71 in September. Arrest of 55 electoral delegates in Hirshabelle (49) and South West State (6).

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO MAIN PERPETRATOR - SEPTEMBER 2019



CONCERNS

DEATH PENALTY



- Four death sentences issued:
 - Two security forces in Mogadishu for killing civilians.
 - One Al Shabaab member in Mogadishu for involvement in terrorism.
 - One Custodial Corps Officer in Somaliland for killing his commanding officer.
- One person (the Custodial Corps Officer) executed in Somaliland without being given the 30 days legal time to appeal - the first execution since 2017.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- Arrest of four journalists in Somaliland, all released on bail.
- A journalist fled Beletweyne, HirShabelle, after allegedly receiving death threats from Al Shabaab.
- Closure of a TV station in Somaliland and suspension of two websites, in Somaliland and Puntland.
- Issuance of directive instructing media representatives in Somaliland to report news from Somalia as international news.
- Mandatory registration of all media outlets in Puntland.
- Four lawyers suspended from operating in the Hargeisa Region Lower Courts (district, regional and appeal courts, for allegations of having circulated false news, propaganda and public incitement against the courts.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

UNSOm continued to provide support for the implementation of various HRDDP mitigation measures. On 5 September, the UN-AMISOM Technical Working Group on HRDDP raised the need for mitigation measures for the possible deployment of AMISOM to Galmudug state.

CHILD PROTECTION

In September, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented 100 cases of grave violations affecting 95 children (82 boys and 13 girls). The affected children were victims of recruitment and use (28), killing and maiming (27), abduction (27) and rape and other forms of sexual violence (five). In addition, one case of denial of humanitarian access and four attacks on hospitals were documented. AS was responsible for 70 per cent of the cases, unknown armed elements 13 per cent and SNA, five per cent. Federal Member States and clan militia were responsible for the remaining 12 per cent.

The FGS adopted a Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Roadmap that is expected to reinvigorate the implementation of existing CAAC action plans. The Peacebuilding Fund approved two million USD for UNICEF and UNSOM to support screening, separation and community-based reintegration of child soldiers in Somalia.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

The outgoing Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia presented his last report (A/HRC/42/62) to the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council on 25 September. The report highlights the progress in Somalia on the human rights situation and the remaining priorities including the need to strengthen further the human rights legislative and protection framework, reforms in security and political fronts including the constitutional review. On 26 September, the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development convened a side event on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Somalia on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, as a follow up on the ratification of the Convention in June 2019. The side event co-hosted by OHCHR aimed to galvanize support to Somalia in the implementation of the Convention.

**MEETINGS and CONSULTATIONS**

- HRPG participated in a two-day consultation meeting for the preparation of National Protection of Civilians Policy held on 15 and 16 September in Garowe, Puntland, under the Joint Human Rights Programme.
- On 21 September, HRPG participated in a partners' mission to General Gordon Military Training Centre in Mogadishu to assess human rights training conducted for Battalion 31 troops to be deployed to Janale area of Lower Shabelle Region.
- On 30 September, HRPG in partnership with SCPAG held a consultation meeting between the Marginalised Communities Advocates and representatives of leading media outlets in Mogadishu to help create awareness and understanding among media outlets on key human rights issues affecting marginalised communities.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING/AWARENESS-RAISING

- On 4 September, a human rights training was delivered to eight Somali Police Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) team members in line with HRDDP support to UNMAS.
- Under the Joint Human Rights Programme, HRPG supported the Hirshabelle Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development to deliver two human rights training workshops for 53 participants, including 39 females, drawn from civil society organizations, relevant government ministries, clan elders and youth in Beletweyne town, Hiran region.
- In Baidoa, from 24 to 26 September, HRPG conducted a human rights training workshop for 30 Somali Traditional elders from the three regions in South West.
- On 15 and 16 September, HRPG conducted a human rights training workshop for 140 SNA soldiers (all male) from Sector 60 at the British Security Training Centre in Baidoa.
- On 16 and 17 September, HRPG Women Protection conducted a training workshop for 24 participants (including six women) from the Attorney General's Office and the Judiciary in Mogadishu, including judges, prosecutors and police investigators.
- On 17 September, in Kismayo, Jubaland, HRPG supported the Jubaland Ministry of Women, Family Affairs and Human Rights on the relevance of UPR recommendations in Jubaland and facilitated a session on CAAC for 27 staff from the Jubaland government ministries on 30 September as part of the Joint Programme on Human Rights.