

SUMMARY

There was a significant 89 per cent increase in civilian casualties in March, primarily the result of a series of IED attacks carried out by Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu between 22 and 28 March. No death sentences were pronounced or executed in March, and arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention decreased slightly compared to February. The Puntland Media Council was established on 26 March, as required by Article 20 of the 2014 Puntland Media Law. Four IED attacks causing 66 civilian casualties occurred in Mogadishu between 22 and 28 March. Four civilians were injured in an airstrike conducted by unidentified aircraft in AS-controlled areas in Jubbaland. One child was killed and 19 others were wounded when an UXO exploded in an IDP camp in Puntland.

KEY FIGURES

## CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION ISSUES<sup>1</sup>

TOTAL	KILLED	INJURED	RAPED	ABDUCTIONS
175	75	100	0	1

HIGHLIGHTS

Total casualties: **↑ 89%** from February

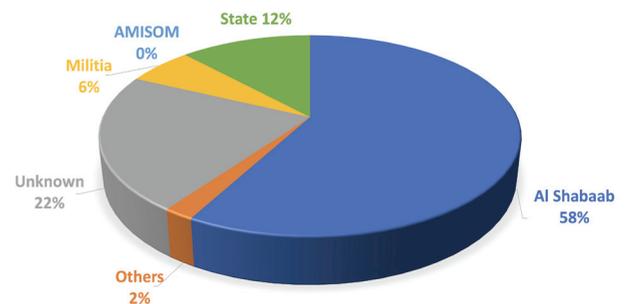
AS: **↑ 61%** from February

Arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention: **↓ 12%** from February

AS-related abductions: **One, compared to 78 in February**

No death sentences issued or implemented

### PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY PERPETRATOR - MARCH 2018



CONCERNS

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



- Although no new cases of arrests related to freedom of expression were recorded this month, serious charges were brought against a blogger who posted criticism of the government on his Facebook account, and a poet who expressed support for Somali unity, both in Somaliland.
- The blogger was charged with offences for subversive or anti-national propaganda and offending the honor or prestige of the Head of State, and faces up to five years' imprisonment if convicted.
- The female poet is being prosecuted for anti-national activity of a citizen abroad, and for bringing the nation or the State into contempt.
- The Media Council in Puntland was established on 26 March, and is responsible for accrediting journalists, developing media standards, promoting ethics among journalists, and handling public complaints against the Puntland media.

### ARBITRARY ARREST AND PROLONGED DETENTION



- **Arrests: 34**, including **21 in Puntland** and **10 in HirShabelle**.
- **Eighteen individuals** (including one woman) accused of involvement in terrorist-related crimes were arrested by state security forces in Gaalkayo, Mudug region and detained for **14 days** without being charged or brought before a court.
- HirShabelle police arrested **ten businessmen** in Gamboole village, 50 km west of Jowhar town, Middle Shabelle region. AS had reportedly ordered the men to attend a meeting to discuss the payment of taxes, although the meeting had not yet occurred. The men were released without being charged.
- **A civilian male**, arrested on 9 March on suspicion of being an Al-Shabaab member, is being detained in Kismaayo at the Fiat center operated by the Jubbaland Intelligence and Security Agency (JISA).

<sup>1</sup> Due to security constraints, HRPG is sometimes unable to verify information on casualties, and the figures reported should be considered as the absolute minimum.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



## HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY

As a follow-up to the launch of the Human Rights Compliance Office (HRCO) of the Mogadishu Security Joint Operations Coordination Center (JOCC), HRPG discussed areas of cooperation in implementing measures to prevent and respond to violations with relevant stakeholders, as recommended in the HRDDP framework. The HRCO aims to address violations during JOCC operations and seeks support for the development of Standard Operating Procedures and human rights training. Furthermore, UNSOM provided additional information requested by AMISOM to enable further investigation of several alleged violations reported in 2017.



## PRISON MONITORING

Child Protection joint monitoring mission to Garowe (Puntland) prison: of the **256 inmates**, 20 were estimated to be children (18 boys and two girls) aged 15 to 18 years but recorded as being adults. The children were being held on charges of **gang rape, theft, drug consumption**, and **family disciplinary issues** (for which there is no legal basis). The monitoring team advocated with the Puntland Minister of Justice to ensure the implementation of the juvenile justice law, recently adopted by the Puntland Parliament, to guarantee the rights of children in conflict with the law.



## HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

- Two-day **training on human rights** for **85 SNA soldiers** from 9th Brigade, 60th Division in Baidoa, carried out with the support of the UK SNA Support Team
- Five-day **training-of-trainers on human rights** in Mogadishu for **five SNA soldiers** and **six medics** from the Danab Battalion
- One training session in Mogadishu on **child rights and protection of children** affected by armed conflict for 30 SNA soldiers from various regions in Somalia

## IN FOCUS: SOMALILAND

Key human rights concerns in Somaliland include **violations of freedom of expression, excessive use of force** by the police and **poor detention conditions**, the latter due in part to lack of knowledge and capacity within the custodial corps. As such, prison monitoring has been critical to identifying capacity development needs for prison personnel. Following a series of assessments of five prisons in Somaliland, UNSOM conducted a two-day human rights training for **32 custodial corps** (including ten women). The training aimed at enhancing the role of custodial corps officers in ensuring respect for inmates' human rights, in line with international principles, with an emphasis on the implementation of Somaliland's Prison Law and accountability standards. The training was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court of Somaliland.

UNSOM also organized two workshops attended by **150 participants**, following the enactment in December 2017 of the Police Law that provides an opportunity to address a wide range of human rights violations attributed to police forces. Members of the Parliament, civil society, local councilors, legal practitioners, custodial corps, and the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission discussed the role of Somaliland Parliament in the implementation of the Police Law. The participants also deliberated on how to make the Parliament more accountable for and responsive to specific human rights issues, such as freedom of expression, and minority and women rights.