

SUMMARY

There were 130 civilian casualties recorded in August. Al-Shabaab (AS) was responsible for 48 casualties, state authorities for 34, clan militias for 30, and 18 casualties were attributed to unknown perpetrators. The number of civilian casualties by clan militias in August is the highest recorded since September 2017, and originated mostly from land disputes in Jubbaland. An airstrike by unidentified aircraft reportedly killed one civilian male in Jubbaland. One individual reportedly died while in the custody of the SNA in Jubbaland. Eighteen individuals were reported to be arbitrarily arrested and/or held in prolonged detention. HRPG recorded three incidents of sexual violence, in Jubbaland (1) and in South West State (2). On a positive note, the Somaliland President signed into law the Sexual Offences Bill, which provides for punishments for perpetrators up to 20 years and prohibits traditional justice settlements for these crimes. The Puntland President pardoned 34 children formerly associated with AS, and modalities for their release are still being negotiated.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND OTHER PROTECTION CONCERNS¹



¹ Casualty figures are subject to change due to late reporting and/or additional information received by HRPG after publication of the brief.

HIGHLIGHTS

AS: **48%** decrease from July

State Actors: **5%** decrease from July

Abductions: **27%** increase from July

Arbitrary arrests and/or prolonged detention: **64%** decrease from July

Clan militia: **30 civilian casualties**, compared to **23 casualties** from January to July 2018

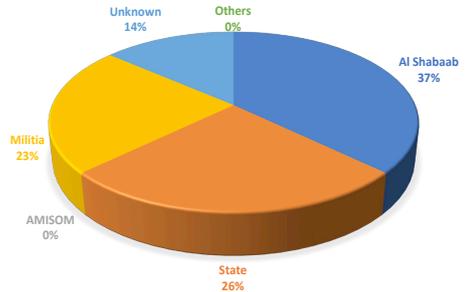
AS publicly executed **3** individuals

Death sentences/executions: **3** death sentences pronounced

Death in custody/ill-treatment: **1 individual** suspected of AS affiliation, in SNA custody in Jubbaland

Reported destruction of a **Hormuud communication mast** by non-AMISOM Kenyan Defence Force in Lower Shabelle, the fourth since September 2017

PERCENTAGE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BY MAIN PERPETRATOR - AUGUST 2018



ARBITRARY ARREST AND/OR PROLONGED DETENTION



- An aid worker detained for six days in Gedo region, after reportedly travelling to AS-controlled area;
- 12 individuals arrested and still detained in Garowe and Bossaso, and other three in North Galkayo on suspicion of terrorist activities/being AS members;
- The Special Assistant to the Federal Government Deputy Prime Minister arrested in Hargeisa, after his return from Mogadishu;
- One man arrested and detained in Gedo for reportedly complying with AS orders in a dispute settlement.

DETENTION-RELATED CONCERNS



- 9 prisoners on hunger strike in Hargeisa protested continuing detention after completing their sentences;
- Detainees in Garowe prison protested about inadequate food, water supply and health care services for detainees and guards complained about unpaid salaries – authorities addressed the issue of food, but the others remain unaddressed;
- Bossaso prison guards prevented family and lawyers' visits in a protest over unpaid salaries.

CONCERNS

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY

The AMISOM-UNSOS-HRPG technical working group reviewed implementation of the HRDDP mitigation measures and agreed on a visit to Dhobley to assess measures on AMISOM air assets. These recommended measures for air assets were emphasised in the Letter of Assist extension between UNSOS and the African Union. The need to mainstream HRDDP in UNSOS's support to non-UN security forces in Somalia was highlighted during UNSOS review. HRPG held a briefing session on HRDDP for UN entities providing support to non-UN security forces in Puntland.

CHILD PROTECTION



In August, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented a total of **442 cases** of grave violations of children's rights affecting **434 children (368 boys and 66 girls)**. The violations included **36 cases of killing, 43 cases of maiming, 161 cases of abduction, 172 cases of recruitment and use of children, and 22 cases of sexual violence**. The CTFMR also documented three attacks on school personnel, two on medical personnel, and three cases of denial of humanitarian access. The violations were attributed to AS (349), Somali police (15), SNA (24), unknown armed groups (21), clan militias (10), Galmudug forces (seven), AMISOM KDF (three), Jubbaland forces (11) and one each to HirShabelle forces and Ethiopian National Defence Forces.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS



On 28 August, the Somaliland President signed into law the Sexual Offences Bill, which had been approved by the Somaliland Lower House on 29 July 2018. The draft law was initially passed by the Lower House on 6 January 2018 and submitted to the Upper House, which made amendments not accepted by the Lower House, deemed not in conformity with human rights standards. The law provides for punishments of up to 20 years for perpetrators, compensation for victims and prohibits traditional justice settlements for these crimes.

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS



On 12 August, the Somaliland Chief Justice sworn in the seven newly appointed members of the 'Somaliland' National Human Rights Commission, appointed by the Somaliland President on 3 July. The main opposition party and a local human rights group criticised the appointments, stating that the selection process was flawed and legal procedures were not followed. On 28 August, the new commissioners took office.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING



- Three two-day sessions in Jubbaland, benefitting 74 regional police officers (including 24 women), focused on: human rights and law enforcement; human rights and arrest/detention; investigation of sexual and gender-based violence; and protection of children in armed conflict.
- A three-day session in South West State focused on human rights/international humanitarian law and benefited 50 members of the Somali police and South West Special Police Force.
- Four training sessions on child rights and child protection for 164 newly arrived UN guards in Mogadishu, as part of their induction.

IN FOCUS

'SECURING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOMALIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESSES'



On 13 August, UNSOM HRPG launched *'Securing Political Participation: Human Rights in Somalia's Electoral Processes'*, its third public report on human rights violations in Somalia, and the first to focus on violations during the electoral period. The report details human rights violations and abuses by state security forces and non-state actors before, during and after 2016-2017 parliamentary and presidential elections. **Read the report here:** <https://bit.ly/2PO65xR>