



This update provides information on the protection environment in Somalia, including apparent violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law as reported during the last two weeks through the IASC Somalia Protection Cluster monitoring systems. Incidents mentioned in this report are not exhaustive. They are intended to highlight credible reports in order to inform and prompt programming and advocacy initiatives by the humanitarian community and national authorities.

General Overview

The Somali civilian population, particularly the internally displaced and migrants continue to be affected by the deteriorating protection environment, increased fighting and drought in southern and central Somalia. In particular, the past two weeks were marked by several major incidents, including the bomb blast in Mogadishu on 4 October. The attack which left dozens of people, mainly civilians, dead and injured has been described as the deadliest incident in the capital since 2006.¹ Incidents of involuntary or forced return of IDPs by Al Shabaab in Baidoa also continued during the reporting period. The Al Shabaab administration forcefully returned IDPs mainly to districts of Qansax Dhere and Diinsoor, Bay region following its announcement on 19 September that all IDPs must return to their places of origin to cultivate their land. Moreover, the restriction of movement previously announced by the militant group also continued to be implemented in Bay region.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), food assistance has now reached nearly half the Somalis in need.² As a result of famine relief, a reduction in famine-related displacement was recorded during the last two weeks. While the number of drought-related displacements finally began to decline during the past two weeks, insecurity-related displacement increased due to conflict in southern and eastern parts of Somalia. Al Shabaab continued its offensive against Transitional Federal Governments (TFG) and AMISOM forces in Mogadishu and Gedo, while fresh fighting erupted between the TFG forces and allied Ras Kambooni militias, and Al Shabaab forces between 29 and 30 September in the border town of Dobley, Lower Juba region. The fighting resulted in spontaneous displacement and civilian casualties in the area. According to various sources, those residents who as a result of fighting fled to Liboi and Kismaayo towns, returned to Dobley following the defeat and withdrawal of Al Shabaab militias on 30 September.³

In Somaliland, the announced expulsions by the Somaliland government on 4 September of all 'undocumented' Ethiopian migrants by early October continued to cause apprehension among the immigrant community. A number of incidents reported by PMN partners also confirm that the announcement inflamed some members of the public to commit acts of aggression targeting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees indiscriminately. Moreover, the *Deyr* rainy season which began over a

¹ CBS news, *Somalia car bomb kills scores*, 4 October, available at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/10/04/501364/main20115192.shtml>

² UN OCHA, *Somalia Situation report* (27 September 2011), 27 September, available at , <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/SituationReports/tabid/2715/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 30 September

month ago in Hargeisa, has subjected IDPs in the capital and the surrounding villages to a number of protection risks, including loss of shelter and death caused by watery diarrhea or pneumonia. Approximately 1500 IDPs are believed to have been affected by the floods so far.⁴

Particular concerns were raised during the reporting period with regards to protection for women and children in Somalia by Dr Maryan Qasim, former Somali Minister for Women and current adviser in the TFG of Somalia.⁵ She expressed that one of the greatest risk to women's lives, particularly in Mogadishu was not war, but birth, while she pointing out that in Somalia, a woman's lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes is 1 in 14.⁶ Risk of getting shot or raped, as well as the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) are other major protection issues faced by the Somali woman she added⁷. In northern regions, where insecurity related to military conflict is significantly lower, incidents of domestic violence and physical assault on women remain commonplace.⁸

MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

During the past week Al Shabaab has resumed guerrilla-style attacks in the capital.⁹ On 4 October, the group carried out one of its deadliest attacks in years by using a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), killing approximately 70 people and injuring dozen of others. Protection concerns arose this week surrounding indiscipline and fighting amongst TFG and AMISOM troops. This week AMISOM soldiers from Burundi were found to be behind the killing of a Malaysian journalist earlier this month,¹⁰ while illegal activities and disputes amongst the TFG forces, such as unauthorised tax collection, harassment of IDPs or setting up of illegal checkpoints have added to a weak protection environment for civilian residents of the capital.¹¹ Despite an alarming level of insecurity in the city, a number of PMT reports suggest a slight increase in the number of returnees from Lower Shabelle and Somaliland to Mogadishu, including vacated areas during the past week.



- At least 70 people were reportedly killed and 42 injured following the detonation of a truck bomb outside a building that hosted eight TFG ministries in Madina district of Mogadishu. Reports indicate that several TFG soldiers, students and employees of the ministries, were amongst the dead.¹² (4 October)

⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27 September

⁵ Fresh Ideas, *Dr Maryan Qasim, former Somali Women's Minister, speaks at Labour Party Conference*, 26 September, available at <http://fresh-ideas.org.uk/dr-maryan-qasim-former-somali-womens-minister-speaks-at-labour-p>
http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid69900095001?bckey=AQ~~.AAAAAEabvr4~.Wtd2HT-p_VhJQ6tgdYkx3j23oh1YN-2U&bclid=0&bctid=1190737918001

⁶ The guardian, *The women of Somalia are living in hell*, 18 June, available at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/17/women-somalia-hell-worst-world>

UNICEF, *Maternal and Newborn health: The State of the World's Children Report 2011* available at, http://www.unicef.org/esaro/5479_maternal_newborn_health.html

⁷ The guardian, *The women of Somalia are living in hell*, 18 June, available at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/17/women-somalia-hell-worst-world>

⁸ Shabelle Media Network, *Al shabaab blocks ICRC from helping famine victims in parts of Somalia*, 26 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=11250>

⁹ Reuters, *Somali's al Shabaab kills 70 in Mogadishu bomb*, 5 October, available at

http://www.hiiraan.com/news2/2011/Oct/somali_s_al_shabaab_kills_70_in_mogadishu_bomb.aspx

¹⁰ Shabelle Media Network, *Troops in Somalia killed journalist, report says*, 26 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=11266>

Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

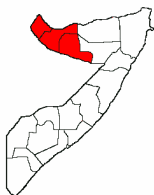
¹¹ Shabelle Media Network, *Somali president warns govt soldiers [not] to harm civilians*, 27 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=11302>

¹² UNHCR internal source

- 16 people were reportedly killed following a land mine explosion in Karan market, Mogadishu.¹³ (3 October)
- A 37 year old woman was killed by her husband following a dispute of unknown origin at their home in Hamar Weyne district, Mogadishu. The husband was subsequently arrested by TFG police forces.¹⁴ (1 October)
- Four IDPs and three members of the TFG security forces were killed, and three others injured, as two separate groups of TFG forces clashed in an IDP camp in Howl Wadaag district of Mogadishu following a dispute over control of the camp.¹⁵ (28 September)
- Four Burundian soldiers who were found responsible for the killing of a Malaysian journalist, Noramfaizul Noor in Mogadishu early September, were discharged from their posts following an investigation carried out by AMISOM. According to a report the soldiers will be returned to Burundi to face trial.¹⁶ (26 September)
- Two civilians were injured following a clash between two groups of TFG soldiers regarding ownership of food and medical aid in Hodan district, Mogadishu.¹⁷ (25 September)

NORTH-WEST (AWDAL, WOQOYI GALBEED & TOGDHEER)

The rainy season in Hargeisa, Woqooyi Galbeed region of Somaliland continued to pose protection risks to the IDP population in the area. A number of people were reportedly killed and many IDPs left homeless as the result of floods which followed. As the 4 October deadline set for the deportation of undocumented Ethiopian migrants approached, many migrants have reportedly began return to Ethiopia in the face of increasing hostility from the general public and to avoid mistreatment by the government. Spontaneous returns were reported in Jijiga town in eastern Ethiopia. A number of cases of abandoned children were also recorded during the past two weeks in Woqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer regions, indicating increased economic destitution amongst many families, but also possibly due to stigmatization of unmarried women who become pregnant.



- Two girls aged 6 and 7 were reportedly raped by a 28 year old man after they were left in his care as their mother went to fetch water in Borama district, Awdal region. Upon her return, they allegedly informed her of what had happened, after which point the authorities arrested the alleged perpetrator.¹⁸ (5 October)

Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 October
 CBS News, *Somalia car bomb kills scores*, 4 October, available at
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/10/04/501364/main20115192.shtml>

¹³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 6 October

¹⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 3 October

¹⁵ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

¹⁶ CBS news, *Troops in Somalia killed journalist, report says*, 26 September, available at
http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501710_162-20111589.html

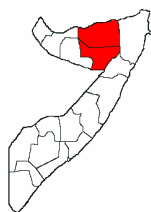
¹⁷ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

¹⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 6 October

- An abandoned child was found in a dumping site for trash near to Hargeisa police station, Woqooyi Galbeed region. A police woman who discovered the baby is currently caring for the child.¹⁹ (2 October)
- A 20 year old woman was arrested in Burco, Togdheer region, after she was found guilty of attempting to kill her new born child, who had been born outside of wedlock.²⁰ (29 September)
- According to sources²¹ at least 10 people were killed when the floods swept away their cars while travelling from Hargeisa to Djibouti in Agabar Valley Gebiley district of Somaliland.
- A 3 year old boy died following burn injuries sustained from his mother as she attempted to use traditional practices to help him recover from an illness. The child died in Borama hospital.²² (26 September)
- A 7 year old boy from Borama district, Awdal region was physically punished and burnt by his mother, for talking loudly as she slept at her home. A neighbour who discovered the serious condition of the child took him to the local hospital, whilst the child's mother was detained.²³ (26 September)
- An abandoned child was found dead in Borama district, Awdal region near to a local mosque. The search for the perpetrator remains ongoing.²⁴ (24 September)
- A 29 year old woman who sells vegetables was reportedly physically assaulted by her husband in an incident of domestic violence. The husband, who is unemployed, allegedly assaulted her in front of their children following a dispute over sharing resources.²⁵ (24 September)

SOOL & SANAG

Incidents of IDP deportations originating from South Central Somalia were recorded in Sool region. Cases of gender-based violence, mainly committed against women and girls continued to be reported during the reporting period.



- A 41 year old judge of the Court of Appeal in Las Anod, Sool region, was reportedly shot dead by an unknown man after leaving a mosque following evening prayers. The judge was rushed to a hospital in Hargeisa, but died during transit. Another civilian man was also injured in the shooting, and is being treated in Hargeisa.²⁶ (6 October)
- According to reports received from PMT partners, approximately 70 IDPs were

¹⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 5 October

²⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 3 October

²¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27 September

Somaliareport, heavy rain kills dozens in Somaliland, 27 September, available at

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1656/Heavy_Rain_kills_Dozen_in_Somaliland

²² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 September

²³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 September

²⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25 September

²⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25 September

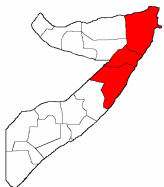
²⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 6 October

reportedly forcibly displaced from Las Anod town, Sool region, to Tukarag village in Garowe district in Puntland. Humanitarian agencies are following up.²⁷ (5 October)

- A 35 year old woman was physically assaulted by her husband in Erigavo district, Sanag region. The woman was reportedly in a serious condition after walking 150 kilometres from her family home to Erigavo town. The case is currently being addressed in the Erigavo courts.²⁸ (3 October)
- A 22 year old woman and her uncle were physically assaulted by her husband in a court in Erigavo, Sanag region, as they attempted to resolve a previous incident of domestic violence at their family home. The woman's uncle was acting as her legal advocate.²⁹ (25 September)
- A 16 year old girl was raped by a 24 year old pastoralist whilst she was outside tending to her livestock at her home in a rural area of Erigavo district, Sanag region. The incident has since been report to local police.³⁰ (25 September)

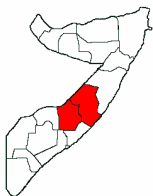
NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

Reconciliation talks took place in Gaalkacyo town on 25 September between TFG representatives, local elders, and delegates from the Puntland administration and Leelkase clan to address the clan disputes that have resulted in a large number of displacements and civilian casualties in the town during the last past two months. A peace agreement, which was concluded in the past week has brought some calm to the area.



- An 18 year old girl from a minority clan was raped near a police station in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region after travelling north from Mogadishu by mini-bus. The incident was reported to the police.³¹ (2 October)
- Unknown gunmen assassinated the Chief of Security of Bossasso Court inside his house in Bossasso, Bari region. The motive for the killing is currently unknown.³² (28 September)

HIRAAAN & GALGADUUD



Protection concerns in Galgaduud rose following the fighting that erupted in Dhusamareb after an attempt by Al Shabaab to seize the town from Ahlu Sunnah wal Jamaa (ASWJ).³³ After withdrawing, ASWJ were able to retake the town. Although it is not known how many civilians were killed, an initial statement from ASWJ has suggested that civilians were 'massacred'.³⁴

²⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 5 October

²⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 5 October

²⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 26 September

³⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27 September

³¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 3 October

³² Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Somalia Report, *Ahlu Sunnah Regains Dhusamareb Control*, 3 October, available at

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1697/Ahlu_Sunnah_Regains_Dhusamareb_Control

LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)



- Five farmers were reportedly arrested by Al Shabaab forces in Wanle Weyne district, Lower Shabelle for supporting other farmers who had refused to pay the Islamic *Zakat* tax.³⁵ (2 October)
- An IDP man in Calamada area of Afgooye, Lower Shabelle had one hand and one leg amputated by Al Shabaab authorities after he was sentenced without trial for stealing two mobile phones and a pistol. The man who denied the allegations.³⁶ (29 September)
- Ten businessmen were reportedly arrested in Afgooye district, Lower Shabelle region by Al Shabaab police after they failed to comply with Al Shabaab orders to replace their shop signboards written in Somali, with signboards written in Arabic.³⁷ (28 September)

BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

On 29 September fighting broke out in the border town of Doble, Lower Juba region, between Al Shabaab on the one hand and TFG and allied Ras Kambooni forces on the other - a clash which resulted in an unknown number of civilian casualties and spontaneous displacement, mainly to Liboi, Kenya. The attack is believed to have been initiated by Al Shabaab as an attempt to disrupt humanitarian activities in the area. In Gedo region, civilians also continue to be affected by the conflict between Al Shabaab and TFG forces. At least ten people were reportedly killed or injured in the village of Rays-Kode in Garbahaarey district of Gedo region.³⁸ As the planting for the Deyr rainy season begins, Al Shabaab has maintained its policy of forced return of IDPs to their original settlements from Baidoa IDP camps in Bay region to the neighboring district of Qansax Dheere in Bay.³⁹



- A 20 year old pregnant woman was reportedly arrested and sentenced to death by the Al Shabaab administration in Hudur district of Bakool region after the birth of her child on the grounds that she had become pregnant outside of marriage. The woman allegedly claimed to have a husband in Mogadishu.⁴⁰ (5 October)
- A 52 year old man was killed and two other men, including the former district commissioner of Belet Hawa, injured after unknown persons fired a pistol at them whilst they sat outside a café in Belet Hawa district, Gedo region.⁴¹ (5 October)

³⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 October

³⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 5 October

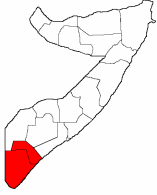
³⁷ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

³⁸ Somalia Report, *Al Shabaab Fighters Killed in Fresh Clashes*, 28 September, available at http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1665/Al-Shabaab_Fighters_Killed_in_Fresh_Clashes

³⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 24 September

⁴⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 6 October

- A 57 year old businessman was reportedly arrested by Al Shabaab after allegedly refusing to pay tax. He was subsequently released following an agreement to pay.⁴² (4 October)



- Al Shabaab reportedly closed businesses in Baidoa town, Bay region for a period of four hours and allegedly forced people to pray for rain.⁴³ (3 October)
- Three telecommunication companies were placed under a 24-hour embargo by Al Shabaab in Baidoa, Bay region for allegedly failing to make a large payment to the group. The telecommunication companies subsequently re-opened, though it is unknown whether they agreed to extend the deadline for the fee or if it was paid.⁴⁴ (2 October)
- A 20 year old woman was raped by her neighbor at knifepoint whilst returning home to her farm in Baidoa, Bay region. After being identified the perpetrator was arrested and jailed by Al Shabaab authorities in the area.⁴⁵ (2 October)
- A 23 year old woman was physically assaulted by her father at her home in Baidoa, Bay region. The woman's father became angry following the discovery that his daughter had a secret partner, after he had arranged for her to marry his brother's son. The woman has since recovered and the forced marriage is reportedly set to take place.⁴⁶ (September 27)
- A 42 year old elder was reportedly arrested and beaten in front of his local community by Al Shabaab in Baidoa district, Bay region after he allegedly accepted to facilitate a land transfer. Al Shabaab militia members warned the community not to use elders as land brokers, and that they must be contacted to ratify land agreements.⁴⁷ (24 September)

LOWER & MIDDLE JUBA (JUBA HOOSE & DHEXE)

- According to reports, a US spy drone reportedly crashed in the Al Shabaab- controlled port city of Kismaayo in Lower Juba region. No casualties were reported. According to the residents of the area the frequency of drones flying over Kismaayo has increased in the past few weeks.⁴⁸ (27 September)

⁴¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 5 October

⁴² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 6 October

⁴³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 October

⁴⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 October

⁴⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 3 October

⁴⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 3 October

⁴⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 29 September

⁴⁸ Reuters, *US spy drone crashes in Somali city*, 27 September, available at

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-27/us-spy-drone-crashes-in-somalia/2945474>

ACTIONS AND RESPONSE

- Between 24 and 28 September, Relief International distributed small business grants for 330 beneficiaries each receiving USD 250 in Galkayo. For north Gaalkacyo, beneficiaries were from Arafat, Alanley 2, Mustaqbal 2 and Cirjfe settlements while the south they were from Alanley, Bulo Jawanley and Bulu Bisharo settlements.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR provided assistance to eight IDP women who had been subjected to gender based violence during the clan conflict in Gaalkacyo in the past two months. Three minors were among the assisted cases (two rape and one FGM survivors)
- On 27th September, UNHCR distributed blanket and mats to 235 persons with disability in Agaran and Margaga IDP settlements in Gaalkacyo.
- In response to the forced displacements in Baidoa, UNICEF, Islamic Relief and ICRC distributed NFI family kits and food to the returned IDPs in Qansax Dhere district of Bay region.
- During the reporting period 507 migrants were registered and left Hargeisa for Ethiopia under IOM's assisted voluntary return programme in Hargeysa, Somaliland