



*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

Increased violence and insecurity coupled with heavy rains during the past two weeks, increased vulnerability of civilians, particularly in Southern regions of Somalia. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and other foreign forces, including Kenyan, French and American,<sup>1</sup> intensified their offensive against Al Shabaab in southern regions of Somalia. The increased military operations in Lower Juba, Banadir and Lower Shabelle regions continues to put civilians at risk of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, while creating multiple displacements and further complicating humanitarian operations.<sup>2</sup>

Following the warnings of retaliation attacks by Al Shabaab against Kenya, air strikes<sup>3</sup> landed on the towns of Baadhede, Kismaayo and Jilib<sup>4</sup>. In addition, on 27 October, heavy fighting erupted between AMISOM/TFG forces and Al Shabaab in the Dayniile district of Banadir region. While the air strikes in Lower Juba resulted in at least 55 civilian casualties and engendered displacements within Lower Juba, the fighting in Dayniile district resulted in a number of deaths and forced over 2,000 IDPs to flee Afgooye corridor and move to other regions or return to their original homes. Due to the recurrent insecurity on the Somali side of the Somalia-Kenya border, the Kenyan Government reportedly

<sup>1</sup> Associated Press, *Kenyan Forces Push Into Somalia*, 16 October, available at

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204479504576635301627490590.html>

NY times, *Kenyan Offensive Is Not Welcome, Somalia's President Says*, 24 October, available at

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/world/africa/grenade-attack-on-kenyan-bar-raises-fear-of-widening-conflict.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/world/africa/grenade-attack-on-kenyan-bar-raises-fear-of-widening-conflict.html?_r=1)

Associated Press, *French forces join fight against Somali militants*, 23 October, available at,

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gvbkDb-0crOeUt89SgmpAaSHGRWw?docId=b4ba92ffa0874ae39d8e6c6e13f41caf>

<sup>2</sup> BBC News, *Somali fighting and rain 'worsens drought crisis'*, 26 October, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15470027>

<sup>3</sup> Al Jazeera, *Police link al-Shabab to Nairobi attack*, 24 October, available at

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2011/10/2011102405349143812.html>

<sup>4</sup> BBC News, *Kenya air raid in Somalia Jilib town 'kills civilians'*, 31 October, available at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15513430>

MSF, *Somalia: MSF treats wounded after camp for displaced is hit by bombardment in Lower Juba*, 30 October, available at

<http://www.msf.org/msf/articles/2011/10/msf-treats-wounded-after-camp-for-displaced-is-hit-by-bombardment-in-southern-somalia.cfm>

intensified border controls, particularly at the border town of Liboi, resulting in a decline in the movement of refugees into Kenya compared to previous weeks.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to the precarious security situation in Somalia's southern regions, increasing heavy rainfall, as well as Al Shabaab restrictions posed serious challenges to the operating environment for humanitarian agencies over the past two weeks. Particularly in Mogadishu, timely delivery of humanitarian aid to populations in need has been complicated by the introduction by Al Shabaab of taxation on trucks destined for Mogadishu. Additionally, IDPs are affected by lack of access to medical services. Heavy rainfall has resulted in flooding and destruction of shelter, coupled with the spread of diseases such as cholera in crowded IDP settlements, particularly in Belet Weyne district of Hiraan<sup>6</sup> region, as well as Hodan, Hawl-Wadag and Waberi districts of Mogadishu.<sup>7</sup> Sanitation is worrisome and poses major health and protection challenges, as some of the few medical service providers have been forced to evacuate and suspend their services, following the attacks in Dayniile district and in the town of Jilib.<sup>8</sup>

## MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

*Ongoing intense fighting between AMISOM troops and Al Shabaab in Dayniile district is causing anxiety among the civilian population. Children remain the main victims of Somalia's prolonged warfare and seasonal drought. According to Somali doctors working in Mogadishu's main hospitals, 89 people with weapons-related injuries were admitted to hospitals during the reporting period. About 12 cases were children under the age of five.<sup>9</sup> Measles combined with malnutrition is the main cause of death among children in Somalia.<sup>10</sup>*



- A 42 year old minibus driver was severely beaten by the Police Commissioner near the Karan police station after the driver attempted to pass the Police Commissioner's parked vehicle. The Police Commissioner reportedly boarded the passenger bus while pointing his loaded AK47 at the driver and the passenger.<sup>11</sup> (31 October)

<sup>5</sup> Voice of America, *UN: Fighting on Somalia-Kenya Border Restricting Famine Relief*, 26 October, available at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/UN-Fighting-on-Somalia-Kenya-Border-Restricting-Famine-Relief-132605583.html>

<sup>6</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 29 October 2011  
BBC News, *Somali fighting and rain 'worsens drought crisis'*, 26 October, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15470027>

Somaliareport, *45 Trucks Stranded by Floods, Fighting*, 26 October, available at [http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1876/45\\_Trucks\\_Stranded\\_by\\_Floods\\_Fighting](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1876/45_Trucks_Stranded_by_Floods_Fighting)

<sup>7</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

<sup>8</sup> Voice of America, *Doctors Without Borders Suspends Somali Measles Vaccination*, 23 October, available at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/Doctors-Without-Borders-Suspends-Somali-Measles-Vaccination-132404788.html>

<sup>9</sup> SOYDA, *Mogadishu Fighting Greatly Effected Afgoi Corridor, Residence flee*, 23 October, available at <http://www.soyda.net/view.php?id=83>

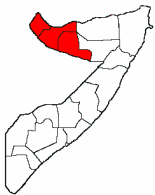
<sup>10</sup> Voice of America, *Doctors Without Borders Suspends Somali Measles Vaccination*, 23 October, available at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/Doctors-Without-Borders-Suspends-Somali-Measles-Vaccination-132404788.html>

<sup>11</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 1 November 2011

- A 20 year old man was killed by an unidentified armed person who tried to steal his mobile phone in Dharkenley district of Benadir region. The victim was allegedly shot after he refused to hand over his phone. There has been an increase in the number of similar violations committed against civilians by armed militants in Dharkenley district since the increased movements of IDPs into the district in particularly in July.<sup>12</sup>(28 October)
- The bodies of three civilians were found at a village in Dayniile district. The reason behind the killings and the perpetrators of the crime are unknown.<sup>13</sup> (25 October)
- The international medical aid agency, Doctors without Borders, suspended its measles vaccination campaign in and around the Dayniile area on the outskirts of Mogadishu, following intense fighting there. The measles vaccination campaign was intended to reach 35,000 children.<sup>14</sup> (23 October)

## NORTH-WEST (AWDAL, WOQOOYI GALBEED & TOGDHEER)

*Over 10,500 newly arrived IDPs have settled in Mohamed Mogeheh IDP camp in Hargeisa. The IDPs who were mainly displaced as a result of drought in some parts of Somaliland or due to the conflict in South Central Somalia, are facing eviction threats by the private landlords. During an assessment carried out in the new IDP settlement by the Hargeisa IDP Working Group and the authorities, IDP women and girls stated that in addition to inadequate shelter, they feel unsafe walking long distances to access latrines or collect firewood. The increase in the number of GBV cases reported in Somaliland further confirms the unsafe environment women face in North-western regions.*



- A 21 year old girl was gang raped by a group of three boys in Hargeisa, Woqooyi Galbeed region while she was on her way home. The police have so far arrested two of the perpetrators and are searching for the third.<sup>15</sup> (29 October)
- A woman was severely assaulted in her home by her unemployed husband using a piece of wood with nails in it. She had apparently complained that he was using money she had earned to buy khat, instead of allowing her to buy food for the children. The woman was referred to Borama hospital where her head was stitched 15 times.<sup>16</sup> (24 October)
- A five year old girl was raped near her house, in Zaylac district of Awdal region. The offender was reported to the police by the child's mother and later arrested. The child was referred to the Borama hospital.<sup>17</sup> (22 October)

<sup>12</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

<sup>13</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 25 October 2011

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*,

Somali MSF, Vaccination campaign suspended due to fighting in Dayniile , 23 October, available at,

<http://www.somali.msf.org/2011/10/soomaaliya-%E2%80%93-ololaha-talaalka-dayniile-oo-la-joojiyey-dagaalada-awadood/>

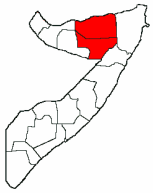
<sup>15</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 29 October 2011

<sup>16</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 26 October 2011

<sup>17</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 23 October 2011

## SOOL & SANAG

*Despite the peace negotiations that took place in August in Erigavo district of Sanaag region, Somaliland, clan conflict remains a major protection risk to civilians in both Sool and Sanag regions. Gender based violence and protection of children continue to be a challenge.*



- Three men, including one Somaliland police officer were reportedly arrested by clan militias in Erigavo district of Sanag region. The police officer was subsequently reportedly killed to avenge another militia man who was killed in August. The two civilians were beaten and later released.<sup>18</sup> (2 November)
- According to a report received, a hand grenade was thrown near the Demi police station compound in Laas Anod district of Sool region. The hand grenade exploded and injured a 31 year old man who was passing by the police station. The police are searching for the offender.<sup>19</sup> (31 October)
- An 11 year old girl was raped by a man from the same clan in Caadsaaran rural area of Shimbiraale town, 95km east of Erigavo district of Sanag region. The elders are in the process of resolving the issue through customary law.<sup>20</sup>(28 October)
- A 25 year old woman was gang raped by three unidentified men in Tuqarak area in Laas Anod region, Sool district of Somaliland. The men are still on the run.<sup>21</sup> (27 October)

## NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

*A number of cases of rape and domestic violence, especially in the IDP camps, were recorded over the past two weeks with few arrests made, demonstrating an environment of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of such cases in Puntland. The kidnapping of two aid workers in Gaalkacyo town, Mudug region raised the security stakes for aid workers.*



- A 23 year old rape survivor from Qardho district of Bari region continues to be threatened and intimidated by the alleged perpetrator in a bid to ensure that the woman drops the case. The issue is still pending.<sup>22</sup> (20-28 October)
- Two aid workers of the Danish Demining Group (DDG), a Danish man and an American woman, were kidnapped in Gaalkacyo by armed gunmen after a workshop.<sup>23</sup> (25 October)

<sup>18</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 3 November 2011

<sup>19</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 2 November 2011

<sup>20</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 31 October 2011

<sup>21</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 28 October 2011

<sup>22</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 28 October 2011

<sup>23</sup> Somaliareport, *3 Aid Workers Kidnapped in Galkayo*, 25 October, available at

[http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1865/3\\_Aid\\_Workers\\_Kidnapped\\_in\\_Galkayo](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1865/3_Aid_Workers_Kidnapped_in_Galkayo)

CNN News, *Aid workers kidnapped in Somalia are alive and well*, 30 October, available at

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/10/30/world/africa/somalia-aid-workers/>

DDG, *Somalia: Two kidnapped DDG employees alive and well*, 31 October, available at

<http://www.danishdemininggroup.dk/news/news/artikel/somalia-two-kidnapped-ddg-employees-alive-and-well/>

- A 45 year old IDP woman was raped by an unidentified man in her residence. She reported the case to elders and later received medical support and counselling.<sup>24</sup> (24 October)
- A 30 year old IDP woman, who was sleeping in a makeshift shelter in Ala Amin IDP camp in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region, was raped by an unidentified man in the early hours of the morning.. The survivor was referred to a local NGO for medical check-up and psychosocial counselling.<sup>25</sup> (24 October)
- A 45 year old IDP woman was raped by an unidentified man in her shelter in Bulo Jawanle IDP camp, Gaalkacyo, Mudug region.<sup>26</sup>(24 October)
- A 25 year old IDP woman was severely assaulted by her husband with a glass bottle during an argument in Inji village, Bossasso, Bari region. Despite the host community's support and intervention to report the offender to the police, the victim refused to press charges, fearing further retaliation in case the husband was released.<sup>27</sup> (23 October)
- A 34 year old IDP woman was beaten and severely injured by her husband in Bulo Bishara IDP camp in Gaalkacyo Mudug region, after the she complained to her husband that he was not providing financial support to the family. The woman was referred to the local hospital.<sup>28</sup> (23 October)
- A 20 year old IDP woman and mother of six children was severely beaten in front of her children and threatened by her husband in 100 Bush IDP camp in Bossasso, Bari region. The woman was assaulted after she complained to her husband that he was spending all his money on khat, while the children had no food to eat.<sup>29</sup> (22 October)

## HIRAAAN & GALGADUUD

*Humanitarian aid workers and civilians continue to face constraints in delivering assistance in Hiraan region following increased deployment of Al Shabaab militia in major towns, particularly in the Belet Weyne district. During the reporting period, aid workers were arbitrarily arrested and female staff banned from taking field trips.<sup>30</sup> Civilians in Belet Weyne, district of Hiraan region were further forced by Al Shabaab administration to close all shops, schools and hotels to attend a public meeting. As the heavy rains continued in Hiraan regions, the World Health Organisation reported a dramatic increase in the number of cholera and acute diarrhea cases among children in the IDP camps, particularly in Belet Weyne district.<sup>31</sup> According to a report received the floods caused by heavy rains destroyed many makeshift IDP shelters in Belet Weyne district.<sup>32</sup>*

<sup>24</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 24 October 2011

<sup>25</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 25 October 2011

<sup>26</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

<sup>27</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 23 October 2011

<sup>28</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 24 October 2011

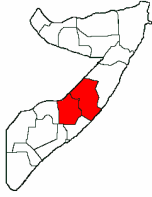
<sup>29</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 25 October 2011

<sup>30</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

<sup>31</sup> Press TV, *Cholera: 214 more children die in Somalia*, 23 October, available at

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/206108.html>

WHO, *Rains and floods in Somalia*, 25 October, available at



- A nine year old girl who was reportedly abducted in Cabudwaaq district, Galgaduud region was found raped by three unidentified men. The case was reported to the police and the girl was referred to a private hospital in Gaalkacyo where she is currently receiving medical assistance.<sup>33</sup> (27 October)

- Al Shabaab militants ordered the people and business owners to close all business centers, shops, schools, hotels and attend a public meeting that focused on the militants' new policies, including the policy of forced return in Belet Weyne district of Hodan region.<sup>34</sup> (27 October)

- Sources indicate that the local Al Shabaab administration has banned humanitarian female staff from going on field trips in Belet Weyne district, Hiraan Region. The female staff is apparently now only allowed to work in offices.<sup>35</sup> (22 October)

- Two former members of Ahlul Sunna Wal Jama'a (ASWJ), who were imprisoned and accused of spying for Al Shabaab, were executed by ASWJ militiamen in Dhuusamarreeb district, Galgaduud region. A report indicates that the execution was condemned by the District Commissioner and the ASWJ Executive Chairman of Dhuusamarreeb who vowed that the perpetrators would be brought to justice.<sup>36</sup> (22 October)

## LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

*According to PMT data, some 5,400 people were displaced over the past two weeks from Calamada, Ceelasha, Lafoole, Haawo Abdi areas of Afgooye corridor, mainly due to the fear of an extension of armed clashes from Dayniile towards the Afgooye, Lower Shabelle region. Additionally, over 3,500 people were displaced from Sarkusta and KM15 areas of Dayniile district, due to fighting between AMISOM forces and Al Shabaab in the area. In an apparent attempt to improve its image amongst the local population, the Al Shabaab administration in Middle Shabelle reportedly released at least 50 detainees in Jowhar district. The detainees had been mainly imprisoned for selling khat, smoking cigarettes or other minor 'offenses'.<sup>37</sup>*



- Five children between the ages of 14 and 17 were captured and later slaughtered with knives by Al Shabaab members in Makokori village in Mahaday district of

<http://www.who.int/hac/crises/som/en/>

<sup>32</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

<sup>33</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 27 October 2011

<sup>34</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 28 October 2011

<sup>35</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

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

<sup>36</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>37</sup> Somalia report, *Al-Shabaab Releases Dozens of Prisoners*, 26 October, available at

[http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1872/Al-Shabaab\\_Releases\\_Dozens\\_of\\_Prisoners](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1872/Al-Shabaab_Releases_Dozens_of_Prisoners)

Middle Shabelle region. According to resident witnesses, the children were executed after they tried to escape forced recruitment.<sup>38</sup> (29 October)

- Al Shabaab administration in Elasha Biyaha area, in Afgooye corridor, arrested at least 15 businessmen who apparently intended to relocate their businesses to Mogadishu. The arrests came after a number of businessmen had relocated their businesses from the area.<sup>39</sup> ( 23 October)

## BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

*Following severe famine in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions, internal divisions within Al Shabaab and public discontent over the group's strict punishments, support for the militant group is believed to be diminishing rapidly. Al Shabaab organized a public meeting in Baidoa town, Bay region apparently in an attempt to increase its standing among the residents in the area. A heavy rain coupled with intense increased fighting has adversely affected the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions.*<sup>40</sup>



- A 14 year old IDP girl, who was working as a maid, was apparently being sexually exploited by the relatives of the employer in Baidoa town, Bay region. The girl's family later reported this to Al Shabaab who arrested the perpetrator. He is now waiting sentencing.<sup>41</sup> (29 October)
- A truck driver was killed and an unknown number of passengers on board were injured when an Al Shabaab check point guard fired at the vehicle in Diinsoor district, Bay region. The incident happened after the driver refused to pay fees to the guard. The victims were taken to Diinsoor district hospital where they received medical support.<sup>42</sup> (27 October)
- A 24 year old woman was attacked with a knife and raped while on her way back to her village, 25 km from Baidoa town, Bay region. A passing van driver took the survivor to Baidoa general hospital where she was given medical treatment. She reported the case to Al Shabaab who arrested the perpetrator. He is awaiting sentencing.<sup>43</sup> (27 October)
- 29 heavy goods vehicles carrying food from Qansax Dheere district, Bay region to the Lower Juba region were reportedly stranded by the floods in the area, impacting the general food security in the region.<sup>44</sup> (26 October)
- A shopkeeper was arrested and fined USD 50 by Al Shabaab in Baidoa town, Bay region for refusing to attend a public meeting which had been organized by the group to condemn the Kenyan military intervention..<sup>45</sup> (23 October)

<sup>38</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 31 October

<sup>39</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 30 October 2011

Somaliareport, *Al Shabaab arrests businessmen in Elasha Biyaha*, 24 October, available at, <http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1841>

<sup>40</sup> Somaliareport, *45 Trucks Stranded by Floods, Fighting*, 26 October, available at [http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1876/45\\_Trucks\\_Stranded\\_by\\_Floods\\_Fighting](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1876/45_Trucks_Stranded_by_Floods_Fighting)

<sup>41</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 1 November 2011

<sup>42</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 30 November 2011

<sup>43</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 November 2011

<sup>44</sup> ibid

<sup>45</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25 November 2011

*Tensions rose during the reporting period in Middle and Lower Juba regions, as the Kenyan army continued its pursuit of Al Shabaab insurgents. Air strikes reportedly resulted in at least 55 of civilian casualties in towns of Jilib and Kismaayo, most of whom were women and children. At the same time, the rains in both Juba regions made roads impassable, while impeding the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is suggested, that the floods are likely to affect tens of thousands of Somalis who will require increased humanitarian assistance.*



- Five civilians died and 45 others were injured following an air strike in the town of Jilib, Middle Juba region. Various sources confirmed that 31 children and 13 adults were injured when the bomb hit an IDP settlement in Jilib. The injured were transferred to Marare Hospital for treatment. Among the five children who were taken to the hospital for treatment, 4 died at the hospital and 1 died on her way to Mogadishu.<sup>46</sup> ( 30 October)
- Some bus drivers in the town of Dhobley, Lower Juba region were prevented from working, while others were interrogated and detained for two days at a Dhobley checkpoint by Al Shabaab, who accused them of spying for TFG in Lower and Middle Juba Regions.<sup>47</sup> ( 28 October)
- A 32 year old Somali-born Kenyan was arrested in the town of Kismaayo by Al Shabaab and accused of ‘having links’ with the Kenyan army. The man is in custody.<sup>48</sup>(25 October)
- At least 10 civilians died and scores of others were injured when heavy fighting broke out between forces loyal to the TFG and Al Shabaab militants in Dhobley. A few people were able to flee to IDP settlements in the towns of Afmadow and Kismaayo, as well as Abdi Dhore, Qudus and Berhani IDP settlements in rural areas of Dhobley. Many others were apparently prevented from fleeing as a result of the heavy rains.<sup>49</sup> ( 23 October)
- On 23 October, two planes, believed to be Kenyan, bombed the port town of Kismaayo in Lower Juba region. No casualties were reported, but the attack increased the tensions and fear among the civilians.<sup>50</sup> (23 October)

<sup>46</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, October  
Reuters Africa, *Air strike on Somali IDP camp kills 5, wounds 45 – MSF*, 31 October, Available at, <http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE79U2KT20111031>

<sup>47</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 30 October

<sup>48</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25 October

<sup>49</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 26 October

<sup>50</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 24 October

Radio Netherlands, *Kenya bombs Shebab targets in Somalia*, 23 October, available at <http://www.rnw.nl/africa/bulletin/kenya-bombs-shebab-targets-somalia>