Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 30 July 2013

Information on available state protection in Somalia.

An *Amnesty International* report in April 2013 notes:

> "In August 2012, the eight-year 'transitional' period in Somalia ended with the appointment of a new Somali administration in September 2012." (Amnesty International (25 April 2013) *Human Rights Agenda for the Post-Transition Somali Government*, p.1)

This document also states:

> "Despite the new administration, in much of south and central Somalia, civilians continue to face extreme insecurity, characterized by violence, kidnappings, killings, rape and extortion by members of al-Shabab. Government forces and aligned militia are failing to protect the civilian population from abuse, and some members of these forces are themselves responsible for violations such as violence, extortion, arbitrary arrests and rape, in part a result of poor discipline and lack of command control." (ibid, p.1)

In May 2013 *Amnesty International* notes:

> "The risk of human rights violations and abuses remains real in most areas of south and central Somalia, given limited government control, the significant continued presence of al- Shabab, and the ongoing armed conflict. Though there have been improvements in the security situation in Mogadishu, they remain fragile and volatile." (Amnesty International (15 May 2013) *Returns to South and Central Somalia: A Violation of International Law*, p.1)

The *Jamestown Foundation* in June 2013 states:

> "Over the past two years, Somalia's fragile security has improved slightly following the retreat of the al-Qaeda-associated insurgent group al-Shabaab from the Somali capital of Mogadishu and other urban areas of south and central Somalia." (Jamestown Foundation (14 June 2013) *Mogadishu's Dilemma: Who's in Control?*)

A report issued by *BBC News* in July 2013 points out that:

> "…it was not until 2012, when a new internationally-backed government was installed, that the country began to enjoy a measure of stability once more." (BBC News (4 July 2013) *Somalia profile*)

In July 2013 *BBC News* notes:

> "Al-Shabab is fighting to create an Islamic state in Somalia - and despite being pushed out of key cities in the past two years still remains in control of smaller towns

and large swathes of the countryside." (BBC News (12 July 2013) *Somali capital Mogadishu hit by 'suicide attack'*)

A report published by the *United Nations Security Council* in May 2013 states:

"The security situation remained fragile during the reporting period." (United Nations Security Council (31 May 2013) *Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia*, p.3)

This document also points out that:

"During the reporting period, the human rights situation continued to be very challenging. Civilian casualties and extrajudicial killings in conflict areas were frequently reported." (ibid, p.8)

The reporting period of this publication is from 16 January to 15 May 2013.

A document issued in July 2013 by the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* notes:

"The security situation in southern and central Somalia remains volatile and unpredictable." (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (15 July 2013) *Humanitarian Bulletin Somalia/June 2013*, p.1)

A document released in May 2013 by *IRIN News* notes:

"After two decades of war and the near-complete collapse of state institutions, Somalia faces profound challenges reforming its security sector. Issues include an underdeveloped national command and control system, competing clan-based loyalties, limited equipment and resources, and discipline concerns. Additionally, the Somali security forces, alongside their AMISOM counterparts, are fighting a violent insurgency." (IRIN News (13 May 2013) *Analysis: Somali security sector reform*)

A report in June 2013 by the *Institute for Economics and Peace* states:

"Almost all of Somalia's measures of societal safety and security continue to receive very poor GPI tallies." (Institute for Economics and Peace (11 June 2013) *Global Peace Index 2013 (Somalia excerpt)*)

GPI is an acronym for Global Peace Index.

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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