



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 to inform and prompt programming and advocacy initiatives by the humanitarian community and national authorities.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

During the reporting period, fighting continued between Al-Shabaab forces and forces supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Lower Juba, Banadir and Bakool regions resulting in the displacement of people, mainly within these regions and an unknown number of civilian casualties.

Heavy fighting erupted between Al Shabaab and Ethiopian forces in Xudur district of Bakool region. The heavy fighting resulted in an unconfirmed number of casualties and the occupation of Xudur district by the pro-TFG forces who subsequently imposed a night-time curfew.¹

Indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population, including IDPs remained a major concern over the past two weeks. At least 11 people were killed and 12 others injured during the past two weeks owing to mortars landing in Beerta Darawiishta IDP settlements of Banadir region. Al Shabaab forces are reported to have instructed IDPs to move away from areas surrounding the presidential palace as they intended to continue their attacks.²

Fighting also erupted between Al Shabaab and Ahlul Sunna Wal-jama'a (ASWJ) in Dhuusamarreeb district of Galgaduud region resulting with approximately 300 displacements arriving mainly in Gaalkacyo district of Mudug and Garowe district of Nugaal region. The pro-government forces regained control of the town.³ The situation is tense in the area due to fear of potential retaliation by Al Shabaab forces.

Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the presidential palace bombing that killed four people and injured many others on 14 March 2012. The suicide bomber, an alleged Al-Shabaab volunteer was identified as Hassan Abdikadir. He was accompanied by an employee of the presidential palace who had joined the government after allegedly deserting Al Shabaab. Both died in the attack.⁴

MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

A number of civilian casualties were reported during the past two weeks owing to mortars landing in IDP settlements. These attacks were orchestrated by Al-Shabaab and aimed at pro-government installations in Mogadishu including Wardhigleey and Yaaqshiid districts of Mogadishu and Afgooye (Lower Shabelle). IDPs continued to arrive in Mogadishu from

Afgooye corridor (Lower Shabelle) and Balcad districts (Middle Shabelle). The majority of IDPs fleeing Afgooye have reportedly settled in Zona K IDP camp in Hodan, the Ex-US Embassy compound located in Wadajir and Odweyne IDP camp in the Dayniile district of Mogadishu. During the reporting period approximately 4,200 people arrived in Mogadishu from Lower and Middle Shabelle regions.

A journalist was seriously injured after being shot in the chest by unknown assailants in Mogadishu while leaving the radio station where he works. This is the fourth attack on a journalist this year in Somalia.



- Two civilians and two soldiers were seriously injured following a land mine explosion at a check point on Fagah junction in Yaaqshiid district.⁵ (26 March)
- Two people were killed in an IDP settlement known as Squalid in Wardhigleey district after mortars landed in their IDP camp. The third of such attacks this month.⁶ (26 March)
- Three people, including a father and his three year old child were killed and eight others injured after mortar shells targeting the presidential compound landed in the Beerta Darawiishta settlement of Wardhigleey district.⁷ (26 March)
- A broadcast journalist working for Radio Shabelle was seriously wounded when he was attacked by a gunman in Wadajir district of Mogadishu. Mohyadin Hassan Husni was shot in the chest as he attempted to flee.⁸ (25 March)
- In two separate incidents, one person was killed in Bondhere district and another wounded in Wardhigleey district after alleged Al Shabaab fighters opened fire on youths who were playing video games in entertainment centres.⁹ (24 March)
- Two civilians were killed and several others injured after TFG soldiers exchanged fire in Wadajir district.¹⁰ Since the beginning of the year eight similar cases of civilians have been reported. (23 March)
- One person was killed and another injured after a car bomb exploded on Maka Al-Mukarram road in Waaberi district.¹¹ (21 March)
- Six IDPs were killed and five others injured after mortar shells targeting the presidential palace in Mogadishu landed in an IDP camp in Wardhiigleey district.¹² (19 March)
- A young girl was reportedly raped by two TFG soldiers in Hodan district. She was referred to a medical centre for treatment and the perpetrators are being sought.¹³ (16 March)

SOOL & SANAG

The tense situation in Laas Canood district continued during the reporting period with Somaliland security forces arresting people suspected of incitement.¹⁴



- A government official – the mayor of Dararweyne - was physically assaulted while on his way home by an identified perpetrator who has since been arrested.¹⁵ (28 March)

HIRAAAN & GALGADUUD

Al Shabaab briefly took control of Dhuusamarreeb after overpowering ASWJ. This was the second time in 2012 that Al Shabaab had seized Dhuusamarreeb from ASWJ fighters. However, a few hours later, a reinforced ASWJ retaliated and regained control.



- A traditional leader was shot and killed in Gadon village of Dhuusamarreeb by unknown militia men.¹⁶ (24 March)
- At least seven civilians were reportedly killed following intense fighting between ASWJ and Al Shabaab in Dhuusamarreeb district of Galgaduud region.¹⁷ (20 March)

LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

PMT reports indicate that over the past two weeks over 580 IDPs arrived in Mogadishu from Balcad district of Middle Shabelle region fearing an offensive against Al Shabaab by AMISOM/TFG. Continued fighting in Afgooye also resulted in approximately 3,700 IDPs arriving in Mogadishu during the reporting period.



- At least three people were killed and many others seriously injured when Al-Shabaab exchanged fire with local farmers at Boodale village in Jowhar district of Middle Shabelle region following a land dispute between the locals and Al-Shabaab.¹⁸ (17 March)

BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

Heavy fighting erupted between Al Shabaab and Ethiopian forces in Xudur of Bakool region - resulting in at least 70 casualties. A night curfew was imposed following the tensions. During the reporting period of executions by the Al Shabaab administration in Bay and Bakool regions were reported.



- One man was stoned to death in Diinsoor district of Bay region by Al-Shabaab after he was accused of rape. The victim was also a member of Al-Shabaab. This is the second execution in a month.¹⁹ (23 March)

- Two civilians were killed following clashes between Al-Shabaab and pro-government forces in Teed village of Bakool region.²⁰ (21 March)
- A woman was shot and seriously injured by an Al Shabaab member in Tayeeglow district of Bakool region following a physical confronting between the two. The confrontation allegedly arose as a result of the man trying to forcibly marry the young girl against her will.²¹ (16 March)
- A civilian was killed and three others injured following a hand grenade attack at Berdale area of Bay region.²² (19 March)
- At least 70 people were killed in Xudur following intense fighting between pro-government forces and Al Shabaab.²³ (22 March)

LOWER & MIDDLE JUBA (JUBA HOOSE & DHEXE)

The trend of Somali refugees returning from Kenya to border towns of Lower and Middle Juba regions increased over the past two weeks with 1,070 people arriving in the border town of Dhobley compared to 740 during the first two weeks of March.



- At least six people were killed in Hosingo village of Lower Juba following clashes between pro-TFG forces and Al Shabaab²⁴ (17 March)
- One minor was killed and his four siblings were injured when a warplane struck Dhaytubako village of Jilib district of Middle Juba region.²⁵ (17 March)
- A mentally handicapped man was found executed and his bullet riddled body dumped on a beach in Lower Juba following accusations that he was a spying for Kenyan forces. The man had been detained and tortured during four days prior to his execution.²⁶ (16 March)

¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22 March 2012

SomaliaReport, *Allied forces take Hudur*, 22 March available at

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/3127>

Africa Review, *Somali Islamists lose Hudur town*, 22 March available at

<http://www.africareview.com/News/Somali+Islamists+lose+another+town/-/979180/1371630/-/4w4I70z/-/index.html>

² Kulmiye Radio, *Al-Shabab claims the deadly mortar attacks in Mogadishu*, 21 March available at

<http://www.kulmiyeneews.com/?nid=6195>

³ Somali report, *ASWJ retake Dhusamareeb*, 20 March available at

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/3109>

All Africa, *Somalia: Al Shabaab Temporarily Seize Dhuso Mareb*, 20 March available at

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201203210076.html>

⁴ Reuters, *Somali rebels resume barrage on presidential palace*, 20 March available at

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E82J03R20120320>

⁵ Shabelle, *4 injured in Mogadishu bomb attack*, 26 March available at

<http://shabelle.net/2012/03/26/4-injured-in-a-bomb-attack-in-mogadishu/>

⁶ Shabelle, *Mortar shell kills 2 near somali palace in Mogadishu*, 26 March available at

<http://shabelle.net/2012/03/26/mortar-shells-kill-2-near-somali-palace-in-mogadishu/>

Capital fm, *Somali Islamists kill two in Mogadishu mortar attack*, 26 March available at

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/03/somali-islamists-kill-two-in-mogadishu-mortar-attack/>

⁷ News Blaze, *Mortar Attacks Kill Three People in Somalia's Capital*, 26 March available at

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20120328065452mina.nb/topstory.html>

UNHCR, *UNHCR calls for respect for civilian life and aid agencies as mortar attacks continue in Somali capital*, 27 March available at

<http://www.unhcr.org/4f7199ed9.html>

⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25 March 2012

Gant Daily, *Somali radio journalist seriously wounded in shooting*, 25 March available at

<http://gantdaily.com/2012/03/25/somali-radio-journalist-seriously-wounded-in-shooting/>

Somali Report, *Journalist survives assassination attempt*, 25 March available at

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/3151/Journalist_Survives_Assassination_Attempt

⁹ Shabelle, *Al Shabaab kills 2, wounds another in Mogadishu*, 24 March available at

<http://shabelle.net/al-shabab-kills-2-wounds-another-in-mogadishu/>

¹⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23 March 2012

¹¹ Barkulan, *Car bomb injures two in Mogadishu*, 21 March available at

<http://www.bar-kulan.com/2012/03/21/car-bomb-injures-two-in-mogadishu/>

Reuters, *Car bomb rocks Somali capital, al Shabaab says responsible*, 21 March available at

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/21/us-somalia-conflict-idUSBRE82K0N220120321>

¹² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19 March 2012

All Africa, *Somalia: Mortar Attack At Presidential Palace, Kills Six IDPs*, 19 March available at

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201203190561.html>

¹³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16 March 2012

¹⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17 March 2012

¹⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 March 2012

¹⁶ Raxanreeb, *Local elder assassinated in central Somalia*, 24 March available at

<http://www.raxanreeb.com/2012/03/somalia-local-elder-assassinated-in-central-somalia>

¹⁷ Somali report, *ASWJ retake Dhusamareeb*, 20 March available at

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/3109>

¹⁸ All Africa, *Three Die in Al-Shabaab Conflict With Farmers*, 17 March available at

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¹⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16 March 2012

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²⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21 March 2012

²¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16 March 2012

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²⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17 March 2012

²⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17 March 2012

²⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16 March 2012