



*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

Heavy fighting in southern regions between Al Shabaab and Transitional Federal Government (TFG) has led to heightened protection concerns throughout the reporting period. In Ceel Waaq, 43 people were killed and almost 80 wounded and an unknown number displaced following fighting between the TFG and Al Shabaab forces.<sup>1</sup> The civilian population continues to face insecurity due to the ongoing conflict compounded by limited access to basic services and humanitarian support.

In other regions, the famine has continued to take its toll on the Somali population. This week the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) stated that Somalia has the worst international mortality rate for children.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, local sources in the district of Eldher town, Galgaduud region reported that 30 people had died as a result of starvation and malnutrition-related health complications.<sup>3</sup> Friction over limited resources has also increased. Reports from Mogadishu suggest that the aid from various international agencies coming into Somalia from the city's port was being blocked by harbour authorities for unknown reasons.<sup>4</sup>

Concerns regarding increase in protection cases related to recruitment of child soldiers, separated and unaccompanied minors fleeing the conflict have grown following reports that 80 per cent of the Somali refugee population fleeing to Kenya and Ethiopia are children.<sup>5</sup> Forced recruitment remains a major protection issue in Southern and Central Somalia as last week more youth were reported to have been recruited by Al Shabaab in Middle Shabelle.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 13 September

Shabelle Media Network, *Al Shabaab vacates southern Somalia town after taking over*, 11 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10688>

<sup>2</sup> Hiiraan Online, *Most difficult place to grow up: Somalia has the world's highest child mortality rate*, 16 September, available at [http://www.hiiraan.com/news2/2011/Sept/most\\_difficult\\_place\\_to\\_grow\\_up\\_somalia\\_has\\_the\\_world\\_s\\_highest\\_child\\_mortality\\_rate.aspx](http://www.hiiraan.com/news2/2011/Sept/most_difficult_place_to_grow_up_somalia_has_the_world_s_highest_child_mortality_rate.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> Shabelle Media Network, *Over 30 people die of starvation in central Somalia*, 19 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10937>

<sup>4</sup> Shabelle Media Network, *Mogadishu harbor authorities block trucks loaded with aid*, 19 September, available at <http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=10935>

<sup>5</sup> All Africa, *80 Percent of Refugees From the Country Are Children – UN*, 13 September, available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201109130794.html>

<sup>6</sup> Somalia Report, *Al Shabaab Seizes 10 Youths in Middle Shabelle*, 18 September, available at [http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1593/Al-Shabaab\\_Seizes\\_10\\_Youths\\_In\\_Middle\\_Shabelle](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1593/Al-Shabaab_Seizes_10_Youths_In_Middle_Shabelle)

*The fighting between Al Shabaab and TFG/AMISOM, especially in Dharkenley district of Mogadishu has continued over the past two weeks resulting in a number of civilian casualties. As was reported in the two previous PMN reports, increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), remain a growing problem which continues to subject civilian population at risk of indiscriminate attacks. Last week two civilians were reportedly killed, by an IED explosion.<sup>7</sup> Another media report has highlighted the continuing problem of armed militias wearing TFG uniforms<sup>8</sup> and using the cloak of authority to threaten civilians and extract resources from them.*



- A 34 year old woman was injured after being hit by a stray bullet in Hamar Jabjab district, Mogadishu. The woman is being treated in Madina Hospital.<sup>9</sup> (21 September)
- A 28 year old IDP man was reportedly killed by a TFG soldier in Hodan district of Mogadishu after the man disobeyed the TFG soldier's order which prohibited him from constructing a makeshift shelter for his family. The TFG soldier has since been arrested by the police authorities.<sup>10</sup> (19 September)
- A 15 year old girl was raped at knifepoint in Waaberi district on her way to a shop. Reports suggest that the incident was reported to the police by the girl's parents and district elders. The started to investigate the case following the report.<sup>11</sup> (19 September)
- A 22 year old student was seriously injured by a stray bullet fired by TFG soldiers policing a food distribution. The man was admitted to Banadir Hospital for treatment.<sup>12</sup> (19 September)
- At least three people were killed, and six others injured, including IDPs, when fighting erupted between Al Shabaab and TFG/AMISOM forces in Mogadishu's Dharkenley district.<sup>13</sup> (17 September)
- Two civilians were reported killed, and two others injured in Dharkenley district after a TFG soldier fired at the passenger. The soldier reportedly shot at the mini-bus after the driver tried to force its way through a check-point. The report suggest that soldier has since been arrested.<sup>14</sup> (16 September)

<sup>7</sup> Somalia Report, *Suspected IED Kills 3 in Mogadishu*, 17 September, available at

[http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1590/Suspected\\_IED\\_Kills\\_3\\_in\\_Mogadishu](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1590/Suspected_IED_Kills_3_in_Mogadishu)

<sup>8</sup> Shabelle Media Network, *Armed militias dressed in govt military uniforms arrested in Mogadishu*, 20 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/index.php?archive=1&lang=en>

<sup>9</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22 September

<sup>10</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21 September

<sup>11</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19 September

<sup>12</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20 September

<sup>13</sup> Somalia Report, *Fierce Fighting Leaves 3 Dead*, 17 September, available at

[http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1589/Fierce\\_Fighting\\_Leaves\\_3\\_Dead](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1589/Fierce_Fighting_Leaves_3_Dead)

<sup>14</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name with-held

- Four civilians were reportedly killed and six others injured following Al Shabaab attacks on a TFG/AMISOM position in Dharkenley district, Mogadishu.<sup>15</sup> (16 September)

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

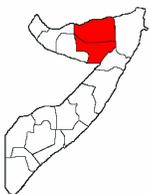
*The lack of personal security, particularly for women and girls, continues to be major factor behind protection violations in the North-West of Somaliland. Incidents of domestic assaults and rape have highlighted the insecurity faced by Somalis woman living in Somaliland despite its relatively peaceful reputation.*



- A 15 year old girl was forcibly married to an elderly man by her father after she became pregnant following a relationship with another man who had refused to marry her. Subsequently, her husband sent her back to her family home after refusing to accept her child as his own.<sup>16</sup> (19 September)
- A 15 year old girl was raped by an unknown man whilst returning home at night in Burao district, Togdheer region.<sup>17</sup> (17 September)
- A 23 year old woman was physically assaulted, in Borama, Awdal region by her husband after he come home drunk and the woman's attempt to confront him about his drinking habits.<sup>18</sup> (16 September)
- In Borama district of Awdal region, a 7 year old girl faced serious complications after her mother subjected her to Female Genital Cutting.<sup>19</sup> (16 September)
- A 16 year old girl was raped in Baki district of Awdal region following her flight from her family home after being physically assaulted by her father for not working. The incident took place on her journey to Borama.<sup>20</sup> (10 September)

## SOOL & SANAG

*The lack of personal security continues in Sool and Sanag region as clan militias and Somaliland military continue to control the disputed borders between Sool and Sanag regions.*



- A 22 year old woman was raped on the outskirts of her village in Caynabo district, Sool region. The woman was subsequently taken to a nearby medical centre.<sup>21</sup> (20 September)
- Four people, including a 34 year old woman and her 12 year old child along with

<sup>15</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name with-held

<sup>16</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21 September

<sup>17</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17 September

<sup>18</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18 September

<sup>19</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18 September

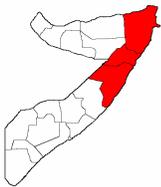
<sup>20</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 September

<sup>21</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22<sup>nd</sup> September

two other men, were reportedly killed in Las Anod district by unknown militia members after they fired and targeted the vehicle in which they were travelling with. Five others were reportedly injured and taken to the nearby hospital.<sup>22</sup> (19 September)

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

*Puntland government officials recently met with UN humanitarian coordinator for Somalia (OCHA). The meeting was initiated to discuss how to assist IDPs<sup>23</sup> and how to address the protection concerns related to gender based violence and other protection risks that may result from crowded settlements, including lack of livelihood in existing IDP settlements. Nevertheless, one report has reflected positively on the community response in Bossasso towards the long-standing problem of child poverty.<sup>24</sup>*



- A 30 year old man was physically assaulted and seriously injured at his home in the Shabelle IDP camp in Garowe town, Nugaal Region. The man, who works in construction, was attacked by a man he resided with after the former was seen talking to the latter's former wife.<sup>25</sup> (19 September)
- A 16 year old girl residing in an IDP camp in Garowe, Nugaal region, was physically assaulted and survived an attempted rape by an unknown man. The incident occurred when the girl was outside collecting firewood.<sup>26</sup> (17 September)
- A female radio journalist working for Radio Gaalkacyo was severely wounded in Garsoor village, Gaalkacyo district, Mudug region, when returning from work. The woman, aged 20, was hit by four bullets and was reported to have been threatened for her coverage of the conflict in the area over previous weeks.<sup>27</sup> (14 September)
- A 22 year old IDP woman residing in an IDP settlement in Bossasso, Bari region, was physically assaulted by her husband following a dispute concerning financial problems.<sup>28</sup> (13 September)

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

*Protection concerns relating to the activities of insurgent militias, including harsh and disproportional punishments continue to be high in Lower and Middle Shabelle regions. One media report this week focused on allegations that Al Shabaab has seized farms from civilians in villages close to Jowhar and*

<sup>22</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19 September

<sup>23</sup> Shabelle Media Network, Somalia: *Puntland and UN discuss over helping IDPs*, 14 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10770>

<sup>24</sup> Somalia Report, *Rehabilitating Bosaso's Street Children*, 20 September, available at [http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1604/Rehabilitating\\_Bosasos\\_Street\\_Children](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1604/Rehabilitating_Bosasos_Street_Children)

<sup>25</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19 September

<sup>26</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18 September

<sup>27</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18 September

Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name with-held

Star Africa, *Somalia / Female Broadcast Journalist seriously wounded in Galkayo Town Mogadishu*, 14 September, available at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/article/somalia-female-broadcast-journalist-se-189904.html>

<sup>28</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 14 September

Bal'ad districts of Middle Shabelle to ensure that the lands are cultivated during the Deyr seasonal rains.<sup>29</sup>



- A 34 year old woman who was found guilty of adultery was reportedly stoned to death by Al Shabaab in Janaale village, Lower Shabelle region. The 25 year old man with whom she was alleged to have committed adultery with was further given a hundred lashes.<sup>30</sup> (20 September)
- An unknown number of civilians were reportedly killed during clashes between Al Shabaab and the local residents of Mir-Takwa, a village in Jowhar district, Middle Shabelle region.<sup>31</sup> (20 September)
- One child was reported dead, and another missing following a fire in the village of Jama Sheikh Bashir, Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle region. An unknown number of households have lost their homes in the fire.<sup>32</sup> (17 September)
- A 34 year old man was reportedly killed by Al Shabaab militias in Qoryooley district, Lower Shabelle region, after he allegedly refused to make the Zakat al-fitr payment to Al Shabaab forces.<sup>33</sup> (17 September)
- A male student accused of spying for TFG was reportedly killed by a group of militants believed to be Al Shabaab in the Afgooye Corridor, Lower Shabelle region.<sup>34</sup> (11 September)

## BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

In addition to movement restrictions reported in the previous PMN update, the Al Shabaab administration also announced the plan to forcefully return the IDPs in Baidoa on the grounds that they must plant their land for the Deyr rainy season.<sup>35</sup> The plan to forcefully return the IDPs began on 20 September and has since affected more than 2000 IDP household. The number is expected to rise in the coming weeks. In addition, humanitarian agencies continue to face obstacles imposed by the authorities as they attempt to provide assistance to the affected IDPs in Bay region.



- Two aid workers were reportedly arrested and detained by Al Shabaab authorities in Baidoa, Bay region for allegedly not informing the administration of their arrival in the area.<sup>36</sup> (21 September)

<sup>29</sup> Somalia Report, *Al-Shabaab Seizes Farms in Middle Shabelle*, 22 September, available at

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1614/Al-Shabaab-Seizes-Farms-in-Middle-Shabelle>

<sup>30</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22 September

<sup>31</sup> Somalia Report, *Clashes Injure Dozens of Rebels in Mir-Takwa*, 20 September, available at

<http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1608/Clashes-Injure-Dozens-of-Rebels-in-Mir-Takwa>

<sup>32</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18 September

<sup>33</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19 September

<sup>34</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 13 September

<sup>35</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22 September

<sup>36</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22 September

- A number of reports have confirmed that 1200 IDP families have been forcibly returned to their homes in Qansax Dheere, Bay region from which they were originally displaced. (21 September)
- A report has suggested that 1500 IDP families were forcibly returned to their original settlements in Qansax Dheere district, Bay region, from IDP camps in Baidoa. The families allegedly lack sufficient food supplies for resettlement, whilst the report has also stated that at least 700 families escaped the relocation to Mogadishu.<sup>37</sup> (20 September)
- A 19 year old girl from Baidoa was forcibly married to a business associate of her father after she had fled from Baidoa and was tracked down by Al Shabaab in Buur Hakaba district of Bay region.<sup>38</sup> (16 September)
- A clan elder was allegedly kidnapped from his home and tortured by Al Shabaab in Baidoa, Bay region. The kidnapping was reportedly the result of negotiations meeting that took place in the previous week between elders and Al Shabaab over the issue of re-opening the road between Gedo and Bay region, and allowing travel and business to resume. The elder was allegedly targeted due to his outspoken comments at the meeting.<sup>39</sup> (12 September)
- According to a report, a 26 year old woman who had recently miscarried was initially refused medical treatment by hospital staff in Baidoa, Bay region, as she had broken Al Shabaab laws prohibiting her to travel to visit her husband, who is a TFG soldier, in Gedo region. The hospital staff refused to treat her due to fear of reprisals from Al Shabaab.<sup>40</sup> (10 September)

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



- A driver of a public mini bus, who was reported to have been involved in the transportation of IDPs from Mogadishu to the border, was allegedly shot dead in Dobleby by a member of the Ras Kambooni Brigades. The perpetrator has since been arrested.<sup>41</sup> (17 September)
- A report has suggested that nine civilians have been killed in Kismaayo town, Lower Juba region, following U.S. drone strikes in and around the port.<sup>42</sup> (17 September)

<sup>37</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22 September

<sup>38</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20 September

<sup>39</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 September

<sup>40</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 14 September

<sup>41</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name with-held

<sup>42</sup> Hiiraan Online, *Nine civilians killed in US drone strike against Somalia*, 17 September, available at [http://www.hiiraan.com/news2/2011/Sept/nine\\_civilians\\_killed\\_in\\_us\\_drone\\_strike\\_against\\_somalia.aspx](http://www.hiiraan.com/news2/2011/Sept/nine_civilians_killed_in_us_drone_strike_against_somalia.aspx)