



*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

During the past two weeks, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the AMISOM forces have launched a series of offensives against Al Shabaab forces in Southern Somalia, including in the Lower Shabelle, Banadir and Lower Juba regions.<sup>1</sup> The increased offensives came after a devastating truck bomb killed over 100 people and injured more than 150 others<sup>2</sup> in Mogadishu on 5 October. In the past week, fighting has erupted between AMISOM and Al Shabaab militias in the Yaaqshiid and Heliwa districts of Mogadishu, forcing displacement into Afgooye corridor in Lower Shabelle, as well as other districts of Mogadishu.<sup>3</sup> Reports suggest that heavy shelling of Al Shabaab positions by AMISOM forces has put civilians and service providers at risk. A hospital worker was killed and the hospital itself forced to close down following heavy shelling in Heliwa district.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, fighting erupted in the town of Afmadow in Lower Juba region. According to PMT partners, limited displacement took place within the region due to heavy rainfall in Lower Juba, which prevented many families from fleeing.

In the past week, hostilities in Lower Juba region intensified as Kenyan troops crossed into Somalia and launched an offensive following the kidnapping of two aid workers in Dadaab refugee camp in north eastern Kenya.<sup>5</sup> This increased military presence, including a wide range of military forces in Lower Juba, continues to put civilians at risk of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.<sup>6</sup>

Al Shabaab has continued its policy of forced return. On 15 October, the Al Shabaab administration in Lower Shabelle region announced the closure of Ala-Yasir IDP Camp in Afgooye district. The resident IDPs were reportedly urged by Al Shabaab to return to their places of origin in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions in order to cultivate abandoned fields during the Deyr rainy season.<sup>7</sup> Preliminary reports

<sup>1</sup> BBC News, *Somalia Islamists al-Shabab 'driven out of Mogadishu*, 10 October, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15246093>

<sup>2</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 5 October  
IRIN news, *Hospitals overwhelmed as bombing death toll rises*, 5 October, available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=93896>

<sup>3</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 13 October

<sup>4</sup> BBC News, *Somalia clashes force Mogadishu hospital to close*, 11 October, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15263705>

<sup>5</sup> Reuters, *Somali rebels reinforce Afmadow, residents flee*, 18 October, available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/18/us-kenya-somalia-idUSTRE79H29L20111018>  
Reuters, *Gunmen kidnap two Spanish aid workers from Kenya camp*, 14 October, available at <http://af.reuters.com/article/somaliaNews/idAFL5E7LD2RZ20111013?sp=true>

<sup>6</sup> BBC News, *Kenya's incursion into Somalia raises the stakes*, 17 October, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15337464>

<sup>7</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16 October

by PMT partners suggest that some 4,000 IDPs, mainly women and children, may have been forced or persuaded to return to their places of origin, in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions between 13 and 18 October.<sup>8</sup>

In Somaliland, a security crack down on suspected Al Shabaab affiliates continued in Las Anod region, affecting mainly young men. A report suggests that over 70 young men were arrested by the Somaliland police forces during the reporting period.<sup>9</sup>

## MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

*Following last week's deadly truck bomb, Al Shabaab continued its guerilla style attacks in the capital. Such attacks come after many of IDPs began to return to their places of origin in vacated Al Shabaab controlled districts of Mogadishu.<sup>10</sup> Clashes between AMISOM forces and Al Shabaab militants in Heliwa and Yaaqshiid district of Mogadishu resulted in a number of civilian casualties and increased incidents of displacement. One media report estimated that as many as 20 civilians were killed, whilst the fear of being caught in the crossfire forced many to flee.<sup>11</sup> According to PMT reports approximately 4,500 people were displaced from Yaaqshiid and Heliwa districts between 10 and 15 October.<sup>12</sup> Following the offensive, TFG/AMISOM forces managed to gain the control of some strategic locations from Al Shabaab, including Ex-control Bal'ad, SOS hospital, as well as Ramadan hotel located in Yaaqshiid district.<sup>13</sup> Heavy rains continue to affect the IDPs in the capital.*



- Four civilians were killed and ten others injured by a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) near to the headquarters of an international NGO in Wadajir (Madina) district, Mogadishu.<sup>14</sup> (18 October)
- A civilian woman and two TFG soldiers were reportedly killed by an IED in Hodan district, Mogadishu.<sup>15</sup> (17 October)
- A remote-controlled roadside bomb, targeting a vehicle owned by a Somali parliamentarian went off in Hodan district, injuring three persons. The victims included the MP and two civilian women. The victims were taken to Banadir hospital where they are being treated. The bomb is believed to have been planted by Al Shabaab. (14 October)

<sup>8</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partners, 19 October

<sup>9</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 October

<sup>10</sup> Reports received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 9- 18 October  
Somaliareport, *Residents Returning to Mogadishu*, 13 October, available at [http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1759/Residents\\_Returning\\_to\\_Mogadishu](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1759/Residents_Returning_to_Mogadishu)

<sup>11</sup> Associated Press, *Packing up home: Mogadishu residents flee warfare*, 12 October, available at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5htKjypQ3Q32tpQ71q8fsfE1vuUiA?docId=c9135b1a53ff4ef4970eb36e259f5e4a>

<sup>12</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 October  
IRIN news, *Thousands displaced as fighting flares in Mogadishu*, 11 October, available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93938>

<sup>13</sup> Internal UNHCR source

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

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

- Two IDPs, including a pregnant woman were accidentally killed by Al Shabaab militias after they opened fire on a crowd of desperate people waiting in line at a food distribution site in El Maa'an village, 45 km north of Mogadishu.<sup>16</sup> (12 October)
- Three civilians were reportedly killed and eight others injured following mortar fire which landed in Karaan district.<sup>17</sup> (11 October)
- Heavy rains are reported to have destroyed shelters of 4,000 households in Badbaado IDP camp, Dharkenley district. (10 October).<sup>18</sup>
- At least 10 people were killed and another 25 others, including civilians, were injured as a result of fighting in Yaaqshiid district.<sup>19</sup> (10 October)
- A 16 year old IDP girl was raped by two unidentified men in Hodan district, Mogadishu whilst she was looking for firewood outside of her IDP camp. She is currently receiving treatment in Banadir hospital.<sup>20</sup> (8 October)
- Three IDP children died in Tarbuunka IDP settlement as a result of flooding caused by heavy rains in Mogadishu.<sup>21</sup> (9 October )
- A 32 year old man was killed by a stray bullet from unknown forces in Hawl Wadaag district.<sup>22</sup> (8 October)

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

*Similar to previous weeks, a relatively high number of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and child protection related issues were reported.*



- A 15 year old girl was raped by a 34 year old in Odweyne, Togdheer region.<sup>23</sup> (15 October)
- A 10 year old girl was raped by a thief who had broken in to her family home in Borama, Awdal region whilst her mother was at the market selling vegetables. The girl is currently recovering in Borama hospital.<sup>24</sup> (13 October)

<sup>16</sup> Somalia Report, *Two IDPs Killed in Food Rush, 12 October*, available at [http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1751/Two\\_IDPs\\_Killed\\_in\\_Food\\_Rush](http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1751/Two_IDPs_Killed_in_Food_Rush)

<sup>17</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>18</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partners, 10 October

<sup>19</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 10 October

<sup>20</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 10 October

<sup>21</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 9 October

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

<sup>23</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 October

<sup>24</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 October

- A 19 year old girl and mother of two was severely beaten by her 25 year old husband, after she demanded that the husband stop having an affair with another woman. The victim has since recovered in hospital, whilst her husband has fled the area.<sup>25</sup> (13 October)
- A 7 year old boy was held in detention for fifteen hours by his Quran teacher, after the student allegedly disrespected him in Gacan Libaax, school, in Hargeisa town, Woqooyi Galbeed region. The teacher has since been arrested.<sup>26</sup> (11 October)
- A 14 year old IDP girl was raped in a Hargeisa IDP camp, Woqooyi Galbeed district by two boys whilst on her way to the market. She was given psychosocial support through the local health facilities. The police are still searching for the perpetrators.<sup>27</sup> (11 October)
- A 17 year old girl was raped by an unknown man whilst she was herding her family's goats in Odweyne district, Togdheer region.<sup>28</sup> (10 October)
- 20 IDPs were arrested by Somaliland police in Hargeisa, Woqooyi Galbeed region, having arrived in Hargeisa from Burao. The IDPs originate from South and Central Somalia, and were arrested due to the apparent security concerns of local police. The IDPs have since been released.<sup>29</sup> (10 October)

## SOOL & SANAG

*While the security crack down by the Somaliland police continued in Sool and Sanag region, illegal arrest and detention continues to be a major concern in Las Anod, Sool region. According to PMN partners at least 70 people, mainly young men were reportedly arrested during the past two weeks in Las Anod region apparently on suspicion of having ties with insurgent groups in South Central.<sup>30</sup>*



- A 22 year old man attempted to rape a 16 year old girl in Erigavo district of Sanag region as she was walking in the street alone. The girl who finally managed to escape the assault, reported the incident to the police. She was referred to Erigavo hospital for check up by her family. The perpetrator has not yet be identified or arrested.<sup>31</sup>(17 October)
- A 20 year old student was reportedly arrested by Somaliland police at his home in Las Anod, Sool region. The reason for the arrest is unknown.<sup>32</sup> (15 October)

<sup>25</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 October

<sup>26</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 13 October

<sup>27</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 12 October

<sup>28</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 October

<sup>29</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 13 October

<sup>30</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18 October

<sup>31</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17 October

<sup>32</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 October

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

*Clan related disputes continue to be a major protection concern affecting civilians in all regions of Puntland. The number of Ethiopian migrants going to Bossasso in Puntland decreased during the reporting period. A source suggests that the main reason behind the decline in the numbers of migrants is strong presence of forces along the Somaliland-Ethiopian borders.*



- A 40 year old man was killed in Bari, Bossasso following a dispute between two clans within the community.<sup>33</sup> (10 October)
- One man was killed and two others wounded in an inter-clan clash between Sa'ad and Saleban pastoralists in Kabawar area of Mudug Region.<sup>34</sup> (9 October)

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

*Al Shabaab continued its policy of forced forcible return during the past week. In the past week the militant group announced the closure of Ala Yasin IDP Camp, in Afgooye, Lower Shabelle and, according to PMT/PMN reports, began to forcefully return IDP residents to their areas of origin in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions.*



- According to preliminary PMN/PMT reports, some 4,000 IDPs may have been forcefully returned to Qooryoley district, in Lower Shabelle region, following the closure of the Ala Yasin IDP camp.<sup>35</sup> (13 October)
- According to a report received, Al Shabaab reportedly occupied Al-Rahman Primary School in Merka town, Lower Shabelle region, forcing former students of Al-Rahman to be transferred to Awb-Baalle school. The report indicates that Al Rahman School is now a boarding school, hosting hundreds of orphans whose parents had been former Al Shabaab fighters. The children are reportedly being subjected to indoctrination into the Al-Shabaab ideology.<sup>36</sup> (7 October)

## BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

*The right to privacy, including personal relationships, way of dressing and listening to private telephone conversations of civilian residents, in Bay and southern part of Bakool region continues being severely affected and controlled by the policies of Al Shabaab in these areas. Al Shabaab's invasive policies in Bay and the southern part of Bakool continue to infringe upon IDPs and residents freedom of thought,*

<sup>33</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 October

<sup>34</sup> <sup>34</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>35</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16 October

<sup>36</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 7 October

*right to privacy and other freedoms and rights. The Al Shabaab administration in Bay region continued to carry out its policy of forced return during this reporting period.*



- A girl was raped as she was herding her goats in Garasgumag rural area of Baidoa town, Bay region. The perpetrator was caught as he tried to flee and was handed over to the Al Shabaab court. He is currently awaiting his sentence.<sup>37</sup>(15 October)
- A livestock trader was randomly stopped by Al Shabaab security forces in Baidoa town, Bay region and questioned about religious issues. The man, who failed to respond correctly, was arrested and detained for two days.<sup>38</sup>(14 October)
- A 32 year old man was arrested in Wajid district, Bakol region after Al Shabaab accused him of spying for the TFG following a phone conversation he had with a person in Mogadishu. The whereabouts of the man is currently unknown.<sup>39</sup> (10 October)
- A 31 year old woman suffered domestic violence following a dispute with her husband in an IDP camp in Baidoa district, Bay region. The situation is currently being negotiated with local elders.<sup>40</sup> (9 October)
- A 24 year old pregnant woman, who had married a man from a minority clan, was forced by her father to divorce her husband and terminate her pregnancy. Following the divorce, the woman's former husband reported the incident to Al Shabaab; the woman's has since been taken to court.<sup>41</sup> (8 October)
- A woman from a minority clan in Madoy rural village of Qansax Dheere district of Bay region was raped. The survivor was taken to medical centre in Diinsoor district. Her family reported the case to the elders and later to Al Shabaab authorities. The perpetrator who was married was arrested and sentenced to death. He was executed in public.<sup>42</sup> (7 October)
- A 23 year old student from Bay, who had been injured during the bomb explosion in Mogadishu, was stopped at the Baidoa checkpoint by Al Shabaab while travelling back to his home. The student was reportedly prevented from returning to his town in Baydhaba district, Bay region and was forced to return to Mogadishu.<sup>43</sup> (7 October)
- A 12 year old IDP girl who was working as a housemaid was repeatedly mistreated and abused by her employer and held captive. The family of the girl intervened and finally obtained the release the girl.<sup>44</sup> (9 October)

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<sup>37</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 15 October

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

<sup>39</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 October

<sup>40</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 October

<sup>41</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 10 October

<sup>42</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 7 October

<sup>43</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 7 October

<sup>44</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 10 October

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

Heavy fighting broke out between the TFG and allied Ras Kambooni forces and Al Shabaab fighters in Tabta village 65km away from Doble town, Afmadow district, Lower Juba region on 13 and 17 October. Additionally, a new anti-Al Shabaab offensive by the Kenyan Military has heightened protection concerns in the region. The Kenyan army intervened to support an offensive of Isiolo and Ras Kambooni militias on two previously Al Shabaab held towns in Afmadow, namely Tabta and Qaqooni.<sup>45</sup> Meanwhile, Al Shabaab arrested people in Lower and Middle Juba regions for allegedly supporting TFG.<sup>46</sup>



- Five civilians, including two elders and three businessmen were harassed and arrested by Al Shabaab in Afmadow town, Lower Juba region, after being accused of having ties with TFG and Ras Kambooni forces. Some of the detainees were released following the arrest.<sup>47</sup> ( 18 October)
- Two IDP women were harassed and arrested by Al Shabaab forces for not wearing appropriate Islamic clothing whilst travelling from the port town of Kismaayo, Lower Juba, to a nearby nutrition centre. They were ultimately released.<sup>48</sup> (11 October)
- Three men were reportedly arrested in their own houses by Al Shabaab forces in Fanole Village in Kismaayo town, Lower Juba region after they were accused of supporting a former governor of the region. Following negotiations led by local elders, the men were released.<sup>49</sup> (8 October)
- A US drone strike reportedly killed at least 16 civilians and injured 50 others in southern Somalia, near the city of Afmadow, Lower Juba region.<sup>50</sup> (8 October)

<sup>45</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>46</sup> BBC News, *Somali militants al-Shabab threaten Kenya retaliation*, 17 October, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15342091>

<sup>47</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19 October

<sup>48</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 11 October

<sup>49</sup> Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 9 October

<sup>50</sup> Press TV, *US drone strike kills 16 in Somalia*, 8 October, available at <http://presstv.com/detail/203413.html>