



*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

On 22 May the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and African Union (AMISOM) forces launched a new offensive against Al Shabaab positions in both Afgooye district of Lower Shabelle and around Dayniile airstrip in Mogadishu, Banadir region. Reports confirm that the roads to Mogadishu were accessible throughout May 23 and there were no restrictions of movement on the first day of the offensive. However, the offensive led to a dramatic increase in transportation fees from 6 USD to 40 USD per person, thus indirectly restricting movement of residents.<sup>1</sup> The heavy clashes resulted in the capture of key areas of Afgooye district, including Garasbaley, Km13, Ceelsha, Lafole, Siinka Dheer and Carbiska<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 11,000 people were displaced between 22 and 25 May, despite the fact that the main road linking Mogadishu was closed on 24 May. The majority of residents fled to Mogadishu and districts of Lower Shabelle regions.

In light of the new displacement waves in South and Central Somalia, protection of civilian remains a major concern. The humanitarian community raised concerns that a prolonged military operation could lead to additional influx of IDPs to Mogadishu, further straining the capacity of IDP settlements and the host communities to absorb such new arrivals.

Population Movement Tracking (PMT) trends suggest that the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) arriving from all regions, particularly to the Somali border towns of Dhobley, and Diif increased from 1,100 people during the previous reporting period to 1,500 people over the past two weeks. Residents moved mainly due to lack of livelihood and insufficient access to humanitarian assistance, but also due to fear of increased armed conflict. Concerns were also raised by the humanitarian community with regard to funding constraints in respect of both emergency and transitional shelter gaps already existing in border towns following the continued influx of people to these areas.

During the reporting period more IDPs were evicted. Reports indicate that over 2,600 IDPs were evicted by private landlords from Digfeer, Burhaan<sup>3</sup>, Maqbuul and Barwaaqo camps<sup>4</sup>. Most evictees relocated mainly to Zona K IDP settlement in Hodan district and Badbaado IDP settlement in Dharkenley district.

Despite the current challenging protection and human rights situation in Somalia, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the TFG signed a Memorandum of Understanding, both committing to improve human rights in the country.<sup>5</sup>

## MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

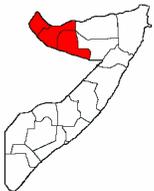
*During the reporting period, heavy armed clashes erupted between TFG/AMISOM forces and Al Shabaab militias in northern part of Dayniile district and Dharkenley district between Sarkuusta area and Dayniile airstrip. Journalists and foreigners continue to be subject to life-threatening risks while working in the capital. A foreign businessman and a Somali journalist were killed in the capital during the reporting period.*



- Unidentified gunmen shot and killed a Turkish businessman in Bakara Market in Hawl Wadaag district. The perpetrators fled.<sup>6</sup> (24 May)
- Unidentified gunmen assassinated a journalist working for Shabelle Media Network in Suuq-Bocle area of Dharkenley district. The perpetrators fled.<sup>7</sup> The incident brings the number of targeted killings of journalists in Somalia to six since January 2012. (24 May)
- A bus driver was shot and killed by an unidentified man near the ex-Coca-Cola factory of Hodan district. The reason behind the attack is unknown. The perpetrator fled. Security officers conducted a search operation following the incident.<sup>8</sup> (14 May)
- Three civilians were injured in Towfiq neighborhood of Yaaqshiid district when TFG soldiers exchanged fire with khat vendors in the area after one of the soldiers reportedly tried to steal some khat.<sup>9</sup> (14 May)
- At least two civilians were killed by stray bullets and four others were injured when fighting erupted between TFG/AMISOM and Al Shabaab forces in Sarkuusta area of Dharkenley district.<sup>10</sup> (12 May)
- Two civilians were killed and at least five others were injured when an unidentified man hurled a hand grenade at TFG soldiers in a restaurant in Hawl Wadaag district.<sup>11</sup> (12 May)

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

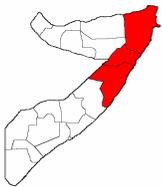
*A land dispute between the Somaliland Government and landowners turned violent in Gacan Libaax area of Hargeisa, Woqooyi Galbeed district after the government tried to sell the land to a businessman. An unconfirmed number of people, including five journalists who reported on the incident were arrested following the clash. Three of the five journalists were subsequently released.<sup>12</sup>*



- Two civilians were reportedly killed and an unconfirmed number of people injured when the Somaliland police clashed with an angry crowd over a land dispute in Gacan Libaax area of Hargeisa, Woqooyi Galbeed district. The clash erupted after the Somaliland police tried to evict the alleged owners from the land.<sup>13</sup> (15 May)

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

*Domestic violence in the IDP camps remains a major problem in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. Over the past two weeks the Protection Monitoring Network (PMN) has recorded 9 cases of domestic violence in a number of IDP settlements in Puntland. The reports indicate that the majority of these cases are due to the use of drugs by male partners, as well as limited livelihood opportunities and insufficient financial means within the family.*



- Approximately 60 IDP families were affected by heavy rainfall which flooded Buulo Bacley IDP settlement in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region. UNHCR and Somali Red Cross Societies distributed Emergency Assistance Packages to those affected by the floods.<sup>14</sup> (14 May)
- An IDP woman and a mother of three who had recently separated from her husband was harassed and beaten by him in Alla Amin IDP settlement in Garsoor village, Gaalkacyo district of Mudug region. PMN data shows 35 cases of domestic violence against IDP women in Puntland since January 2012.<sup>15</sup> (12 May)

## HIRAAAN & GALGADUUD



- Two civilians were killed by a stray bullet and an unconfirmed number of people injured when pro-TFG forces indiscriminately opened fire after an unidentified attacker hurled a hand grenade at their convoy in Belet Weyne district of Hiraan region.<sup>16</sup> (14 May)

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

*TFG/AMISOM forces launched an attack on Al Shabaab positions in Afgooye district on 22 May and took control of a number of locations including Sabyo, Km13, Garasbaley, Ceelesha, Lafole, Siinka Dheer and Carbiska. Between 22 and 25 May approximately 11,000 people fled Afgooye district of Lower Shabelle region and arrived mainly in Mogadishu and other districts of Lower Shabelle region. The heavy fighting resulted in an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties. Reports indicate that male youth fleeing the Corridor were detained by security forces at checkpoints, on suspicion of being Al Shabaab sympathizers.<sup>17</sup>*

## BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

*Sporadic clashes resumed between Al Shabaab militias and pro-TFG forces in Xudur district of Bakool and Qansax Dheere and Baydhaba districts of Bay region. Seven cases of targeted killings, particularly of traditional leaders supporting TFG were reported in Bay region.*



- A businessman was shot and killed by an unidentified gunman at a market in Baidoa town, Bay region. The reason behind the killing is unknown. The assailant fled.<sup>18</sup> (23 May)

- A traditional elder was reportedly assassinated by unidentified gunmen on his way to his home in Unaay village, Baidoa town, Bay region. The elder had recently returned from a TFG conference in Mogadishu.<sup>19</sup> (20 May)
- A village elder who was also the deputy chairman of Berdale neighborhood supporting TFG was assassinated by alleged Al Shabaab members in Berdale village, Baydhaba district of Bay region. Reports indicate that the elder had recently participated in a meeting with pro-TFG commanders in the town.<sup>20</sup> (16 May)
- Clan tensions rose in Qansax Dheree district of Bay region after an Al Shabaab member from the majority clan was executed in Bulo Fur village by fellow Al Shabaab members. The man was reportedly suspected of having links with TFG and of intending to defect from Al Shabaab.<sup>21</sup> (13 May)
- A traditional elder from Hawal Barbar village in Qansax Dheree district of Bay region who had recently traveled to Mogadishu to participate in the drafting of the new constitution was harassed and his property looted by Al Shabaab upon his return to the town.<sup>22</sup> (14 May)
- A female restaurant owner working in Isha Market, Baydhaba district of Bay region was shot and injured by Al Shabaab militiamen after she was spotted selling food to TFG police men in the area. A driver who witnessed the attempted assassination was reportedly also shot. Both victims were taken to Baidoa general hospital for treatment.<sup>23</sup> (13 May)
- Two brothers were executed by Al Shabaab authorities in Labatan Jirow neighborhood of Baidoa town, Bay region after they complained that the financial support of 250 USD required by Al Shabaab was too high and that they were unable to pay due to their low income. The report indicates that the villagers have now taken up arms to revenge the killing of the victims.<sup>24</sup> The situation in the area is tense. (12 May)

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

*Displacement as a result of increased armed conflict in southern Somali regions including Banadir, Bay and Bakool continued to impact the protection situation in the Jubas. As the military operations continued between Al Shabaab and pro-TFG forces, some 1,500 people were displaced mainly to Diif and Dhobley over the past two weeks from other regions. People moved mainly due to lack of livelihood and lack of access to humanitarian assistance, but also due to fear of increased armed conflict. PMT data indicates that approximately 400 people were also displaced and arrived in the Middle and Lower Juba regions following the TFG/AMISOM offensive on 22 May against Al Shabaab positions in Afgooye district of Lower Shabelle region. The most pressing challenges in border areas remain provision of shelter to newly arrived IDPs. Executions of civilians suspected of having links with TFG-allied forces were reported during the reporting period.*



- Two civilians, including one child were killed and three other children were injured when they were playing with a mine which exploded in Hodan neighborhood of Jilib district, Middle Juba region.<sup>25</sup> (19 May)

- A 12 year old child was killed and two others aged 17 and 14 were injured when Al Shabaab militias fired at two criminals in Hawatako village of Jamaame district, Lower Juba region. The children were caught in the cross fire.<sup>26</sup> (17 May)
- An IDP man who was accused of having links with TFG forces in Dhobley was arrested by Al Shabaab militias in Abdihoore IDP camp, Kismaayo, Lower Juba region. The man was reported to have been severely beaten and tortured to confess after he returned from Dhobley where he had visited his family.<sup>27</sup> (12 May)
- A businesswoman working in Hosingo town in Baadhede district, Lower Juba region was killed at night by men believed to be Al Shabaab agents after she was accused of having links with TFG and its allied forces.<sup>28</sup> (12 May)

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<sup>1</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 25 May

<sup>2</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 24 May

<sup>3</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 19 May

<sup>4</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 23 May

<sup>5</sup> Somaliland Press, *Somalia signs Memorandum of Understanding with United Nation*, 13 May, available at <http://somalilandpress.com/somalia-signs-memorandum-of-understanding-with-united-nation-28505>

<sup>6</sup> iOL News, *Gunmen kill Turkish man in Mogadishu*, 24 May, available at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/gunmen-kill-turkish-man-in-mogadishu-1.1303973>

<sup>7</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 25 May  
Reuters, *Somalia fighting kills at least five, journalist shot dead*, 24 May

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/somalia-fighting-kills-at-least-five-journalist-shot-dead>

<sup>8</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 15 May

<sup>9</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 14 May

<http://shabelle.net/2012/05/14/iska-horimaad-ciidamo-ka-wada-tirsan-dkmg-ku-dhexmaray-degmada-yaaqshid/>

<sup>10</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 13 May

<sup>11</sup> Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

<sup>12</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 17 May

<sup>13</sup> Garowe Online, *Land dispute in Somaliland leads to 5 deaths*, 15 May, available at

[http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\\_27/Somalia\\_Land\\_dispute\\_in\\_Somaliland\\_lead\\_to\\_5\\_deaths.shtml](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Land_dispute_in_Somaliland_lead_to_5_deaths.shtml)

<sup>14</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 14 May

<sup>15</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 13 May

<sup>16</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 14 May

<sup>17</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 24 May

<sup>18</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 24 May

<sup>19</sup> Report by IASC protection cluster partner received on, 21/05/2012

<sup>20</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 17 May  
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<sup>21</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 17 May

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<sup>26</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 19 May

<sup>27</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 14 May

<sup>28</sup> Report received by IASC protection Cluster partner on 22 May