

## Somalia

### **The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence (S/2018/250), issued on 23 March 2018<sup>1</sup>**

62. In 2017, the United Nations verified cases of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated against 329 girls and 1 boy, attributed to unknown armed actors (125), Al-Shabaab (75), Southwest State forces (26), Jubbaland forces (28), unidentified clan militia (19), Galmudug forces (5), Puntland forces (3), Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (1), Somali Police Force (1), Ethiopian Liyu Police (10) and the Somali National Army (37). Three members of the national armed forces who raped an 11-year-old boy have since been arrested. The following patterns have emerged regarding conflict-related sexual violence: it disproportionately affects displaced women and girls from marginalized groups; most perpetrators are described as men in military uniform; most cases involve rape or gang rape, with forced marriage continuing to be perpetrated by Al-Shabaab; the perpetrators are rarely investigated; and survivors generally do not receive assistance to support their recovery. The United Nations received reports of women and girls being trafficked by Al-Shabaab from the coastal regions of Kenya to Somalia, where they were forced into sexual slavery, having been deceived by false promises of work abroad. Some of those women were reportedly held as sex slaves, while others were forced to become the "wives" of insurgents. Many of the forced "wives" and their children are deeply traumatized, yet reluctant to seek assistance for fear of persecution. Public recrimination by the authorities has exacerbated the stigma faced by current and former wives of Al-Shabaab and their children. On 9 May, police in Baidoa, Southwest State, registered the wives of Al-Shabaab militants and asked them to leave the camp where they lived. On 10 May, the District Police Commissioner confirmed that a group of wives of Al-Shabaab had been summoned by the police and told to either persuade their husbands to surrender or to leave the area. On 29 July, the Security Minister of Jubbaland, on national television, threatened to expel "Al-Shabaab wives and children" from Government-controlled towns, describing them as "enemies of the State" for allegedly providing intelligence to the insurgency.

### **The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2017/1109), issued on 26 December 2017<sup>2</sup>**

64. The United Nations continued to receive reports of sexual violence from across the country, mostly affecting displaced women and girls living in settlements for internally displaced persons. The monitoring and reporting mechanism, through its analysis reporting arrangements, received six reported cases of conflict-related sexual violence in September and October. Fifty-nine incidents of rape and other sexual violence, involving 58 girls and one boy, were reported by the country task force on monitoring and reporting. In September and October, the gender-based violence subcluster provided services to 13,083 girls, 6,806 boys, 23,257 women and 8,231 men on prevention and capacity-building activities in relation to gender-based violence. Underreporting of cases due to fear of reprisals and limited access to police services is a major concern. While the provision of support services for survivors of sexual violence has improved in Somalia, it remains a protection gap in areas

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<sup>1</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>2</sup> Full text available [here](#)

under Al-Shabaab control, such as the Bakool and Bay regions in South-West State. A consultative forum to review Somalia's national action plan on ending sexual violence in conflict was held on 28 and 29 November in Mogadishu, during which the action plan was adopted by Puntland, Galmudug and HirShabelle.

**The information below is based on the Report on the Protection of Civilians: Building the Foundation for Peace, Security and Human Rights in Somalia, issued on December 2017<sup>3</sup>**

69. The protracted conflict in Somalia has resulted in the prevalence of sexual violence against women, men, boys and girls, with women and girls particularly affected. Continued insecurity, weak rule of law and lack of humanitarian access have aggravated sexual violence. Gender inequality, power imbalances, slow progress in fulfilling Somalia's obligations under international human rights treaties, displacement of large populations as a result of both the conflict and the drought, as well as the return of refugees from Kenya to mainly Baidoa, Luuq and Kismayo, all contribute to an environment in which women and girls are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. Women and girls who are displaced or from marginalized groups suffer the most due to inadequate protection mechanisms, lack of or limited access to available formal and informal justice mechanisms, and weak clan protection.

70. The Monitoring, Analysis, Reporting Arrangements (MARA)<sup>4</sup> received reports of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) from UNSOM and the Country Task Force on the Monitoring and Reporting on Children and Armed Conflict (CTFMRM).<sup>5</sup> During the reporting period, UNSOM document 35 victims of CRSV comprising 32 females and three males, 14 of whom were children (11 girls and three boys).<sup>6</sup> Perpetrators included AMISOM ENDF, South West State Darawish forces, SP, unidentified armed men in uniform, SNA elements and Al Shabaab.<sup>7</sup> By contrast, the CTFMRM documented 228 incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence constituting CRSV affecting 230 girls.<sup>8</sup> Half of the rapes recorded by CTFMRM were attributed to unidentified armed elements.

81. CTFMRM documented the rape of 535<sup>9</sup> children (533 girls and two boys) and, in 35.8 per cent of the cases, the perpetrators were unidentified armed elements.<sup>10</sup> The remaining were

<sup>3</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>4</sup> The UNPFA-Gender Based Violence information management system collects additional information that is incorporated into MARA for informative purposes and programmatic response.

<sup>5</sup> The differences in the CRSV figures between MARA, UNSOM and CTFMRM is due to the ways each mechanism operates in Somalia depending on security and access. Information captured by CTFMRM is obtained from a network of monitors deployed in conflict areas. They have a much larger reach and are within the communities, which allows the most comprehensive information. The information collected by UNSOM and MARA is gathered mostly from reports from various sources that come to the United Nations. Efforts are underway to consolidate the data.

<sup>6</sup> UNSOM started documenting CRSV cases in September 2016 following the implementation of the consolidation of protection functions within its human rights component.

<sup>7</sup> On 22 July 2016, a boy was raped by two Al Shabaab members near Afgooye town, Lower Shabelle region. He was accused of possessing videos containing homosexual pornography. One of the perpetrators was stoned to death by Al Shabaab while his accomplice was put in Al Shabaab custody. On 10 January 2017, Al Shabaab publicly raped and executed two males, aged 15 and 20 years, for homosexual conduct, in Lower Juba region. On 14 October, three SNA soldiers raped an 11 year-old boy in Hawo tako neighbourhood, in Beledweyne, Hiraan region. SNA commander arrested the soldiers who were identified by the survivor.

<sup>8</sup> From 1 January to 30 September 2017.

<sup>9</sup> The scale of sexual violence affecting children is believed to be underreported due to fear of stigmatization, reprisals, and the lack of adequate support services for survivors.

<sup>10</sup> Breakdown by perpetrators: unidentified armed elements (192 victims), clan militia (111), SNA (113), Al Shabaab (83), Jubbaland forces (19), Southwest armed forces (19), ASWJ (four), Puntland forces (two), Galmudug forces (three), AMISOM Ethiopian contingent (three), AMISOM Djibouti contingent (one) and ENDF (one).

attributed to clan militia (20.7 per cent), SNA (21.1 per cent), Al Shabaab (15.8 per cent), State forces (8.9 per cent), ASWJ (0.7 per cent), AMISOM (0.7 per cent) and ENDF (0.1 per cent).

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), issued on 24 August 2017<sup>11</sup>**

138. The United Nations verified incidents of sexual violence affecting 310 girls and 1 boy, attributed to unknown armed elements (96), clan militias (94), the Somali National Army (81), Al-Shabaab (33), Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (3) and Puntland armed forces (1), while 3 cases were attributed to AMISOM. Rape and forced marriage often occurred in the context of abductions; for example, on 16 June, a sixteen-year-old girl, abducted from her house, was gang raped by 5 Somali National Army soldiers in the Bakool region.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2017/249), issued on 15 April 2017<sup>12</sup>**

55. Between January and September 2016, the United Nations verified information on conflict-related sexual violence against 200 girls and 1 boy. The violations were attributed to unknown armed elements (55), clan militia (60), Al-Shabaab (21), Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (3), and the Somali National Army (59). Three rapes of girls were also attributed to the African Union Mission to Somalia, as addressed in my report (A/71/818). In the last quarter of 2016, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia documented 14 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, including five gang rapes, allegedly committed by Al-Shabaab, the Interim SouthWest Administration of the Puntland Army, and the Somali national police. The perpetrators were prosecuted in two of those cases, while in three others the suspects were released owing to clan pressure or lack of evidence. Al-Shabaab responded to the rape of a boy by one of its fighters by summarily stoning the perpetrator to death.

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/2016/1098), issued on 22 December 2016<sup>13</sup>**

44. The country task force on monitoring and reporting verified that 780 children, including five boys, were victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence between 2012 and 2016. Twenty-seven per cent of the cases were verified in 2012 (211), with a downward trend in 2013 (154) and 2014 (76). The numbers spiked in 2015 (174) and in the first half of 2016 (165). Unknown armed elements were responsible for almost half the cases (344), followed by the Somali National Army (284), Al-Shabaab (124), Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (12) and regional forces (11)<sup>1</sup>. The rape of five girls was attributed to AMISOM (contingents of Ethiopia (three), Uganda (one) and Djibouti (one)). The scale of sexual violence affecting children is believed to be underrepresented owing to fear of stigmatization and reprisals and to the lack of adequate support services for survivors.

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<sup>11</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>12</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>13</sup> Full text available [here](#)

**The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2016/361/Rev.1), issued on 22 June 2016<sup>14</sup>**

55. Conflict-related sexual violence remains widespread throughout Somalia and affects displaced women and girls in particular, who comprised 74 per cent of the victims recorded in 2015 and 81 per cent in 2014. [...]

**The information below is based on the Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Shamsul Bari (A/HRC/24/40), issued on 16 August 2013<sup>15</sup>**

49. During the reporting period, the expansion of service provision for survivors of sexual violence to urban areas and Mogadishu in particular has permitted the UNPOS Human Rights Unit to consolidate its data collection. The data for 2012 confirm the existence of a significant pattern of sexual violence, identified already in 2011. In Mogadishu and surrounding areas, between January and November 2012, United Nations partners and service providers registered over 1,700 rape cases.

50. Almost one third of the recorded incidents were against children, including a few reported cases of sexual violence against boys. The majority of the victims of sexual violence documented by protection partners were women and girls who live in IDP camps. Most of the reported incidents took place at night while the victims slept in their huts. In some cases, it is reported that victims were subjected to multiple acts of sexual violence.

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<sup>14</sup> Full text available [here](#)

<sup>15</sup> Full text available [here](#)