



Protection Cluster Update

08 May 2009

IASC Somalia

- Population Movement Tracking (PMT)
- Protection Monitoring Network (PMN)

Objective

This update highlights key population displacement trends and human rights violations reported in Somalia during the last week. Incidents reported in this update are not exhaustive, nor do they pretend to amount to legal proof required by national or international legal mechanisms. Rather, they are intended to highlight credible reports of abuses taking place in order to trigger action by the international community and concerned national authorities, including calling for more in-depth investigations that would contribute to establishing exact details and responsibility for such acts. The dates in parenthesis represent the dates on which the incidents or movements occurred.

General overview of the week

A faction of Islamist group Hizbul Islam, lead by Mohamed Hassan Amey, was reported to have met with Somalia's president and prime minister in Mogadishu, agreeing to support the government's efforts to enact Islamic law. The faction also reportedly agreed to work with the government to provide security in Mogadishu. The president was reported to have reached out to other Islamic groups to work with the government. Although some agreed, including the Hizbul faction, others have reportedly rejected the invitation.¹

Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, who recently returned to Somalia from exile in Eritrea, was reported to have refused to engage in talks with President Sheikh Sharif, stating that the president's politics has deviated from the ideologies that the two had initially shared when they were joint leaders of the Union of Islamic Courts in 2006. Aweys called on Islamists to continue fighting against the government.² Similarly, Al-Shabaab spokesperson in Kismaayo, Sheikh Hassan Yakub, was reported to have said that fighting in Somalia will continue whether or not AMISOM forces withdraw from the country because the jihad is equally against the government, which Islamic hardliners view as an obstacle to Islamic rule.³

Meanwhile, reports indicate that due to the great devaluation of the Somali Shilling and hyperinflation of recent months, Somalia's government reached an agreement with the government of Sudan to mint new Somali Shillings. The agreement was allegedly signed in Khartoum last month. It is reported that currently, only 500 and 1000 Shilling bills are being used. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the new currency will include smaller notes. The deputy speaker of Somalia's parliament, Osman Elmi Boqorre, however, reportedly rejected the agreement, stating that the government cannot mint new currency without parliamentary approval and must, thus, pass the motion through parliament first.⁴

¹ Report received from a IASC Protection Cluster partner; VOA News, *Militia Leaders Say They'll Help the Unsteady Somalia Government*, 07 May 2009, available at <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-05-07-voa30.cfm>.

² BBC, *Islamist Rules Out Somalia Talks*, 4 May 2009, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8032265.stm>.

³ Report received from a IASC Protection Cluster Partner; Garowe Online, *Somalia: Al Shabaab to 'Continue War' Even if African Union Withdraws*, 06 May 2009, available at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Al_Shabaab_to_continue_war_even_if_African_Union_withdraws.shtml.

⁴ Report received from a IASC Protection Cluster partner; Garowe Online, *Somalia Govt to Mint New Currency, Parliament Demands Approval*, 03 May 2009, available at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_govt_to_mint_new_currency_parliament_demands_approval.shtml.

MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

Population Movements

- The number of returnees to Mogadishu in 2009 reported by PMT monitors stands just over 74,000. These returnees are coming from all areas of Somalia and beyond. The largest groups of returnees have come from the Shabelles, Mudug, Hiraan, and Galgaduud. (7 May)
- Airplanes have regularly been bringing returnees from locations such as Nairobi, Hargeysa, Yemen, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.. (7 May)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- Reports from Mogadishu indicate that at least 2 people were killed and approximately 55⁵ others wounded after heavy fighting broke out between insurgent groups on the Factory Road near Bakara Market and spread to other areas in Mogadishu. The fighting reportedly erupted after an Al-Shabaab officer escaped an assassination attempt.⁶ (7 May)
- At least one bodyguard was killed, and several other people wounded after unidentified gunmen reportedly opened fire on the vehicle of an Islamic Courts Union (ICU) officer, triggering retaliatory fire from his bodyguards. No civilian casualties have been reported so far, and no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷ (5 May)
- Reports state that an African Union (AU) peacekeeper was killed by unknown men. Details regarding how he was killed, however, have not been revealed.⁸ (5 May)
- One civilian was killed after fighting reportedly broke out between Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam forces, on the one hand, and militias loyal to warlord Yusuf Indha Ade (who recently broke off from Hizbul Islam), on the other. The fighting reportedly erupted near the ex-pasta factory in Mogadishu, an area controlled by the warlord. Reports indicate that Al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam were attempting to expand their control into the warlord's territory.⁹ (4 May)

LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

Population Movements

- Over 120 people were displaced by clan-related fighting between the Xahadle and Burale clans. The fighting took place near Ceel Baraf, Mahaday district and Ceel Dhere, Adan Yabal district. (21 Apr)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- No events/incidents reported.

LOWER & MIDDLE JUBA (JUBA HOOSE & DHEXE)

Population Movements

- Despite reports of IDP return to Mogadishu and the return of Somalis from abroad, there is still a steady flow of Somalis crossing the border through Doblely to enter Kenya. Nearly 26,000 Somalis have reportedly been registered in the Dadaab refugee camps this year. (7 May)

⁵ No precise casualty figures are currently available. The reported figures are based on consistent statistics provided by media reports.

⁶ Report received from several IASC Protection Cluster partners; AllAfrica.com, *Somalia: Fighting Between Al-Shabab and Islamic Courts Union is Continuing in Mogadishu*, 07 May 2009, available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200905070640.html>; AFP News, *Four Killed, Dozens Wounded in Somali Fighting*, 07 May 2009, available at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5joyyNKaFBT5KdRqe40eVdrrCDUAg>.

⁷ Ibid; AllAfrica.com, *Somalia: One Killed After Unknown Gunmen Attack Islamic Courts Officer*, 05 May 2009, available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200905060011.html>; Garowe Online, *Somalia: One Killed After Unknown Gunmen Attack Islamic Courts Officer*, 05 May 2009, available at

⁸ Report received from a IASC Protection Cluster partner; News 24, *Peacekeeper Killed in Somalia*, 06 May 2009, available at http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0_2-11-1447_2511871.00.html; Inside Somalia, *AU Says Peacekeeper Killed in Somalia*, 06 May 2009, available at <http://insidesomalia.org/20090506886/News/Aid/AU-says-peacekeeper-killed-in-Somalia.html>.

⁹ Report received from a IASC Protection Cluster Partner; Garowe Online, *Somalia: Former Allies Involved in Mogadishu Skirmish*, 4 May 2009, available at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Former_allies_involved_in_Mogadishu_skirmish.shtml.

- Nearly 800 people were displaced due to drought resulting in the loss of livestock. They left the areas of Kismaayo and Badhade district and moved either to Kismaayo town or across the border to the Dadaab refugee camps. (29 Apr)
- Over 170 people were displaced by clan fighting between the Cormale and Harti clans in Bulo Xaaji. (21 Apr)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- No events/incidents reported.

BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

Population Movements

- Over 340 Somalis left Gedo Region and went to the UNHCR camp in Dolo Ado, Ethiopia. The reason for movement given by PMT monitors was a “lack of Livelihood” opportunities in Gedo. (6 May)
- A group of 95 refugees from Al Kharaz camp in Yemen have reportedly returned on their own to Belet Xaawo. UNHCR is not promoting or assisting in the repatriation of any refugees to South/Central Somalia. This is a spontaneous return initiated by the refugees and not an organised return by UNHCR. (23 Apr)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- Reports indicate that more than 50 women, aged between 15 and 25, have been arrested by Al-Shabaab in Baydhaba for failing to wear a veil. The women had reportedly been given a deadline by which time they should all have bought veils. Unconfirmed reports reveal that amongst them was a breast-feeding mother who was forced to take her baby into jail with her.¹⁰ (3 May)
- Unknown gunmen allegedly launched a rocket and mortar attack on an airstrip and a police station in Xudur, Bakool region. Both target locations are under the control of Al-Shabaab. Unconfirmed reports indicate that one woman was wounded. No other casualties have been reported.¹¹ (1 May)

HIRAAAN & GALGADUUD REGIONS

Population Movements

- Over 1,900 people were displaced from Jowlo town in Xaradheere district after fighting erupted between the Al-Shabaab and Al-Sunna groups. Most fled to nearby areas, but some returned to Mogadishu, where they had been living before being displaced to Xaradheere. (25 Apr)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- No events/incidents reported.

NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

Population Movements

- Nearly 3,900 IDPs have moved to Gaalkacyo since **1 March 2009**. They came from various locations in South/Central. Other groups of IDPs and migrants have been reported in Garoowe and Bossaso. Most of these new arrivals in Puntland are planning to leave Somalia via Bossaso. (7 May)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

¹⁰ Report received from several IASC Protection Cluster partners.

¹¹ Garowe Online, *Somalia: Al Shabaab Base in Bakool Region Attacked*, 02 May 2009, available at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Al_Shabaab_base_in_Bakool_region_attacked.shtml; Mareeg News, *Somalia: Armed Groups Attack Al-Shabaab Base in Southern Town*, 02 May 2009, available at <http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?sid=11813&tirsan=3&PHPSESSID=edf21b3d851351f778767dec004d8f2d>.

- A woman was reportedly raped by four men armed with knives and pistols after she left her tea-selling kiosk in Isha village, Baydhaba. The woman is reported to have received medical treatment at a midwifery clinic.¹² (2 May)
- A businessman, who at the time of the incident was at his shop in the Gaalkacyo market, was reportedly killed by armed militias who transported him to Ceel Farah Geed, on the outskirts of Gaalkacyo, and shot him dead. The motive behind the killing has yet to be confirmed.¹³ (02 May)

SOOL & SANAAAG

Population Movements

- No significant population movements reported.

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- No events/incidents reported.

NORTH-WEST (AWDAL, WOQOYI GALBEED & TOGDHEER)

Population Movements

- Nearly 40 Somalilanders were reported as going to Djibouti as a means of travelling to Saudi Arabia. (4 May)
- Unconfirmed reports say that approximately 1,000 livestock herders from the border area between Somaliland and Ethiopia were relocated to Dacar Budhuq after they lost their livestock due to drought conditions. (5 May)

Protection/Humanitarian Concerns

- At least four people, including a woman, were reported to have been killed after clan fighting erupted in Buuhoodle, Togdheer region. The heavy fighting reportedly broke out when two men from different clans began exchanging gunfire in the middle of town.¹⁴ (5 May)
- Somaliland police allegedly opened fire on students demonstrating against the government's plan to sell off an old section of the Sheikh Bashiir elementary school to a private investor in Hargeysa. Unconfirmed reports indicate that several students were beaten and 10 students were reportedly detained for one hour. Reports estimate that the students were between the ages of 8 and 17.¹⁵ (4 May)

¹² Report received from several IASC Protection Cluster partners.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid; Somaliland Press, *Four Die in Buuhoodle Clan Fighting*, 05 May 2009, available at <http://somalilandpress.com/4987/somaliland-four-dies-in-buuhoodle-clan-fighting>; Inside Somalia, *Somaliland: Four Die in Buuhoodle Clan Fighting*, 05 May 2009, available at <http://insidesomalia.org/20090505879/News/Politics/Somaliland-Four-Dies-In-Buuhoodle-Clan-Fighting.html>.

¹⁵ Report received from several IASC Protection Cluster partners; Somaliland Press, *Somaliland: Police Open Fire on Students*, 05 May 2009, available at <http://somalilandpress.com/4974/somaliland-police-open-fire-on-students>.

