



## **Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 8 March 2019**

### **Information on indiscriminate violence**

A compilation of COI sources issued in January 2019 by the *Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation* includes stating that:

“The security situation in Somalia remains volatile...” (Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (31 January 2019) *Security Situation in Somalia*, p.4).

This document also notes that:

“Civilians were targeted or faced indiscriminate attacks during clan violence [in 2018]...” (ibid, p.4).

A document issued by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia* notes that:

“Al-Shabaab remains the biggest source of insecurity in Somalia. Despite the ongoing operations to degrade the terrorist group, it still has the capacity to conduct indiscriminate attacks on Somali citizens, and to target electoral delegates, the Somali security forces and AMISOM” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (3 January 2019) *Statement of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Nicholas Haysom, to the UN Security Council on 3 January 2019*).

A report issued in December 2018 by the *United Nations Security Council* states:

“The security situation in Somalia remains volatile, and Al-Shabaab remains the main threat to the country's security” (United Nations Security Council (21 December 2018) *Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia*, p.3).

*Action on Armed Violence* in March 2018 states that:

“On February 28th 2019, a suicide car bomb detonated at a hotel in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, leaving 29 dead and 80 wounded...In 2018, Somalia was one of the countries that saw a significant decrease in civilian harm from explosive violence (with a 48% decrease in civilian casualties from 1,582 to 825). Nevertheless, Somalia was still the sixth worst impacted country from explosive weapons, with 825 civilian casualties from such violence. Of these civilian casualties, 94% were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) – 64% were from incidents using suicide attacks” (Action on Armed Violence (1 March 2019) *Suicide car bomb attack kills at least 29 in Mogadishu*).

A report published in January 2019 by the *Middle East and North Africa Financial Network* states that:

“...conventional attacks have been largely stymied he said, with Al-Shabaab now relying on assassinations and improvised explosives, but 'indiscriminate attacks'”

were still a constant threat” (Middle East and North Africa Financial Network (5 January 2019) *'Milestones are clear' for 'significant progress' in Somalia during 2019, Security Council hears*).

*Plus Media Solutions* in January 2019 states that:

“Attacks continue to occur in Mogadishu and elsewhere in Somalia. Terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate, including in crowded places, high-profile events, events involving government officials and in places visited by foreigners” (*Plus Media Solutions* (14 January 2019) *Foreign travel advice Somalia Updated (11-01-19)*).

In March 2019 *Deutsche Presse Agentur* states in a report that:

“At least seven civilians were killed when a car bomb exploded near a popular cafe and the national theatre in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, police said Thursday...Al-Shabaab, which is affiliated with the international al-Qaeda terrorist network, launches regular attacks on civilians, foreigners and government officials within the volatile East African nation” (*Deutsche Presse Agentur* (7 March 2019) *At least 7 civilians killed by al-Shabaab car bomb in Mogadishu*).

The *Norwegian Refugee Council* in February 2019 comments on Somalia that:

“The number of civilians who fled their homes due to conflict and insecurity increased to 320,000 in 2018...” (*Norwegian Refugee Council* (28 February 2019) *320,000 Somalis fled conflict and insecurity in 2018*).

A report issued in November 2018 by the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* points out that:

“Civilians are exposed to indiscriminate attacks, including through Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), other explosive hazards, and aerial bombardments. Often, communities living in areas regained by government forces and their allies are left without protection once those forces withdraw, which has drawn a troublesome cat-and-mouse pattern across the conflict” (*United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (November 2018) *2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview; Somalia*, p.12).

## References

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<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/suicide-car-bomb-attack-kills-least-29-mogadishu>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any

particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

### **Sources Consulted**

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