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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Somalia*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.[1] It is a summary of 19 stakeholders' submissions[2] for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Arab Council Foundation (ACF) stated that the effective implementation of the obligations under key international human rights treaties that Somalia had acceded to remained severely limited due to weak institutional capacity, insecurity, and insufficient funding.[3]

3. Just Atonement Inc. (JAI) recommended that Somalia ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[4]

4. JS5 recommended that Somalia ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[5]

5. ACF recommended that Somalia accelerate the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[6]

6. JS3 recommended that Somalia accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.[7]

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7. The UPR Project at Birmingham City University (UPR BCU) recommended that Somalia ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).[8]

8. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) recommended that Somalia sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.[9]

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

9. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) recommended that Somalia immediately adopt a constitution that fully protected the rights of all its citizens, not just Muslims.[10]

10. JS7 recommended that Somalia enact a human rights compliant Female Genital Mutilation Bill and Sexual Offences Bill without delay, allocating resources for prevention, survivor support, and prosecution of offenders.[11]

11. Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights (Maat) recommended that Somalia expedite the adoption of the Children's Law, addressing issues such as child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and the use of children in illegal activities.[12]

12. ADF International recommended that Somalia repeal article 559 of the Penal Code criminalizing blasphemy.[13]

13. JS4 recommended that Somalia review the Anti-Terrorism Law to bring it into line with best practices and international standards on right to freedom of expression.[14]

14. JS4 recommended that Somalia adopt a law on the protection of human rights defenders.[15]

15. JS6 recommended that Somalia enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that explicitly prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.[16]

16. JS2 recommended that Somalia develop and enact a Mental Health Act.[17]

17. JS5 recommended that Somalia decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults, at the federal and state levels.[18]

18. JS7 recommended that Somalia expedite the passage of the Internally Displaced Persons Bill into law.[19]

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

19. JAI stated that Somalia had yet to adopt a permanent constitution, establish a constitutional court or implement a functioning human rights commission to promote and protect human rights. The country’s capacity to protect human rights was constrained due to its lack of effective territorial, fragmented authority, and endemic violence due to inter-clan conflict and violent extremism.[20]

20. Maat recommended that Somalia ensure the administrative and financial independence of the National Human Rights Commission, enabling it to fulfil its oversight role in accordance with the Paris Principles.[21]

21. JS7 recommended that Somalia establish an Independent Police Oversight Unit with civil-society representation to investigate complaints of abuse, torture, and excessive force.[22]

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

22. JS7 stated that marginalized communities in Somalia including minority clans, occupational groups, and socially excluded populations continued to experience systemic discrimination, poverty, and exclusion from political, social, and economic participation. Those groups often lived in segregated neighbourhoods or informal settlements with little access to safe water, sanitation, education, or health care. Their members were frequently subjected to verbal abuse, social stigma, and exploitation, and they were largely absent from decision-making structures and public employment.[23]

23. ACF recommended that Somalia increase spending on education and healthcare, ensuring that essential services were accessible to rural and impoverished areas.[24]

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

24. JS5 stated that Somalia had not abolished the death penalty, implemented a moratorium on executions, or limited the death penalty to instances of intentional homicide. Somali courts continued to sentence people to death. Official records of the number of people under sentence of death and executed by the Government were not complete.[25]

25. The University of Notre Dame International Human Rights Clinic (UNDUPRC) stated that the Penal Code permitted the use of the death penalty for crimes including treason, espionage, and endangerment of public safety. It could also be imposed by Islamic courts for crimes violating Sharia law, including same-sex sexual relations, adultery, theft, alcohol and drug consumption, drug dealing and banditry. Military courts at the federal and regional levels had issued death sentences to civilians.[26]

26. JS5 recommended that Somalia abolish the death penalty and, in the interim, adopt a moratorium on the death penalty.[27]

27. Elizka Relief Foundation (ERF) stated that the fragile security situation in Somalia resulted in an increase in violence against civilians. Clashes and conflicts undermined the right of civilians to life, as they were subjected to attacks, indiscriminate shelling, suicide bombings, and assassinations.[28]

28. JAI stated that there were ongoing allegations of torture and ill-treatment perpetrated by security forces and armed groups.[29]

29. JS7 recommended that Somalia safeguard the rights of those arrested and detained and prohibit any form of torture.[30]

30. JS7 recommended that Somalia investigate all extrajudicial killings and deaths in custody, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide reparations to victims' families.[31]

31. JS7 stated that law enforcement agencies often detained individuals without warrants or access to legal counsel, and civilians continued to be tried before military courts, rather than civilian court.[32]

32. JS5 stated that prison conditions across Somalia were "harsh and life threatening," with concerns of overcrowding, poor hygiene, and lack of adequate food, water, and medical care.[33]

33. JS5 stated that prison officials detained people in prison blocks and/or cells without regard to age or gender, resulting in violence, including sexual violence, against women and children in detention.[34]

34. JS5 recommended that Somalia step up efforts to align detention conditions with the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok rules, prioritizing access to suitable food, water, and health care.[35]

35. JS5 recommended that Somalia ensure that in all detention facilities people under the age of 18 were segregated from adults, with the exception of children who were housed with a parent, and that women were segregated from the general prison population.[36]

International humanitarian law

36. ADF International stated that terrorist groups, including Al-Shabaab and Daesh-affiliated factions, exerted de facto control over large parts of the country and enforced an extremist ideology. Their human rights abuses included summary executions, abduction, forced recruitment of boys, sexual violence, and forced marriage.[37]

Human rights and counter-terrorism

37. JS4 stated that the Anti-Terrorism Law's overly broad definitions of "terrorism" and sweeping powers granted to security agencies allowed authorities to conflate legitimate journalistic activity with criminal conduct. Journalists reporting on security issues, armed groups, or military operations risked prosecution for "propagating terrorist ideas" or "supporting terrorist narratives." Its vague provisions fostered a climate of fear and left journalists at constant risk of criminalisation.[38]

38. JS5 stated that Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency was alleged to regularly conduct mass security sweeps related to counter-terrorism efforts, holding people in detention for prolonged periods and mistreating people during interrogations.[39]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

39. JAI recommended that Somalia end impunity for attacks against journalists, civil society and human rights defenders, women and LGBTQ+ individuals.[40]

40. Maat stated that the judicial system continued to face fundamental challenges, including limited judicial independence due to political and clan interference, the lack of qualified human resources, and inadequate judicial infrastructure, including a shortage of trained judges and legal staff. This led to delays in judicial proceedings, in addition to the legal inconsistencies and weak legal structures and institutional frameworks. Furthermore, security risks and corruption, along with limited resources and infrastructure, exacerbated the challenges.[41]

41. JS5 stated that the provisional constitution provided for an independent judiciary, but local courts sometimes had to rely on dominant clans to wield authority or to enforce judgments. Clans operated a "customary justice" system called "xeer", which was an oral set of laws that clan elders agreed to and implement. The xeer justice system settled more than 80% of all civil and criminal cases. The influence of clan politics and corruption often inhibited the fairness of trials.[42]

42. JS5 recommended that Somalia prohibit military courts from trying and imposing judgments on civilians.[43]

43. JS2 stated that persons with disabilities faced significant barriers to justice. Courts and police stations lacked sign language interpreters and disability-friendly infrastructure, while many persons with disabilities were unaware of their rights. Legal aid was rarely accessible, court processes were complex, and documents were not adapted for those with visual or intellectual disabilities.[44]

44. JS1 stated that Somalia had a weak formal child justice system, due, in part, to the limited budget for access to justice. The limited budget affected the establishment of formal Courts, particularly in remote areas. Additional challenges included the limited capacity of the judiciary, the absence of specialized child courts, a lack of a comprehensive child protection system, a shortage of trained legal professionals, and weak law enforcement that lacked child-sensitive procedures. There was also a lack of awareness about available justice services and how to access them, which is a significant issue in remote areas.[45]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

45. JS7 stated that the freedoms of expression, opinion, and association in Somalia remained under significant restriction. Journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists continued to face harassment, intimidation, and arbitrary arrest despite constitutional guarantees. Censorship of the media, suppression of protests, and misuse of national security laws persisted as major obstacles to democratic participation and transparency.[46]

46. JS4 stated that Somali journalists continued to endure arrests, harassment, torture, sexual violence against female reporters, and even murder. Those unwilling to censor themselves were particularly vulnerable to targeted attacks by Al-Shabaab, the main perpetrator of journalist killings, or to arbitrary detention by state authorities. Reporters investigating sensitive issues such as corruption were at heightened risk.[47]

47. JS4 recommended that Somalia create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders, in accordance with the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and relevant Human Rights Council resolutions.[48]

48. JS4 recommended that Somalia immediately and unconditionally release all human rights defenders, including journalists and bloggers detained for exercising their fundamental rights to the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression.[49]

49. JS7 recommended that Somalia amend or replace the Media Law to ensure full compliance with international human rights standards and establish an independent and functional Somali Media Council through a merit-based and inclusive process that guarantees representation of journalists, CSOs, and media houses.[50]

50. ADF stated that the Constitution guaranteed that every person was free to practice his or her religion yet simultaneously prohibited the propagation of any religion other than Islam. It stated that societal and familial antagonism towards Christianity was felt throughout the country. It meant that Christians in Somalia were compelled to conceal their faith entirely. Private prayer, possession of religious materials, and expression of religious beliefs carried significant risk of discovery and retaliation from family, including extended family members, and the community at large.[51]

51. ADF International stated that Christians in Somalia faced systemic civil discrimination. Registering life events such as births, marriages, or deaths risked exposing a person's non-Muslim identity, subjecting them to retaliation. Children born to Christian parents were automatically registered as Muslim and attempts to amend religious affiliation exposed families to significant danger. Christian burials were often carried out in secrecy, as public ceremonies could provoke threats or violence. This had led to numerous cases where Christians were denied burial according to their beliefs.[52]

52. ECLJ stated that in addition to the threat that al-Shabaab posed to Christians, those who converted to Christianity were also persecuted within their communities and by their family members.[53]

53. The Global Freedom Group (GFG) stated that women candidates and voters faced harassment, intimidation, gender-based violence and sexual assault during electoral cycles. Women voters especially received threats when voting independently of their husbands or clans. In areas under or near Al-Shabaab control, women had been unable to campaign safely, further shrinking the political space available to them.[54]

54. JS7 stated that marginalized groups including minority clans, youth, and persons with disabilities continued to face regular exclusion from political participation. The electoral law provided no special representation or reserved seats for those communities.[55]

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

55. Maat stated that different parties continued to recruit children and exploit them in forced labor, including the terrorist group Al-Shabaab.[56]

56. Maat expressed concern regarding the high rates of child labour in Somalia. Its prevalence was due to the weak capacity building of labour inspectors.[57]

57. Maat stated that Somalia lacked laws prohibiting child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and their use in illegal activities.[58]

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

58. ERF stated that the right to work continued to face structural challenges in Somalia, including weak productive sectors, widespread unemployment, especially among youth and women, and the absence of effective mechanisms to support decent work. It noted however that the Somali Parliament had approved a new labour law, which formed an important foundation for labour market reform and enhancing worker protection, particularly in urban contexts and informal sectors.[59]

59. JS7 recommended that Somalia establish a labour inspection mechanism and ensure compliance in both formal and informal sectors.[60]

Right to social security

60. JS7 stated that vulnerable communities in Somalia, including rural populations, displaced families, and those affected by poverty and climate shocks, continued to face persistent exclusion from social protection and development programs.[61]

Right to an adequate standard of living

61. ACF stated that nearly 70% of the population lived below the poverty line and that the majority of households depended on humanitarian assistance. The worsening food insecurity and recurrent droughts had directly endangered the lives of millions, especially women and children.[62]

62. ACF recommended that Somalia adopt a national poverty reduction strategy, with strengthened transparency and accountability in the management of humanitarian assistance.[63]

63. Save the Children Somalia (SCSom) stated that there were many cases of hunger and malnutrition in Somalia, which, together with the lack of health care, meant that children missed vaccinations, treatment, and nutrition guidance.[64]

64. JS5 stated that Somalia had continued to engage in systematic forced evictions and unlawful confiscation of land and other properties from civilians, including people with verified title deeds. Authorities had resold or allocated those properties to politically connected business elites, resulting in widespread displacement and deepening socioeconomic inequality.[65]

65. The Somali Awareness and Social Development Organization (SASDO) stated that many citizens lacked access to clean water and sanitation. The lack of access to clean water had adverse effects on the population with frequent outbreaks of cholera, acute watery diarrhoea and dysentery.[66]

Right to health

66. JS2 stated that most people in Somalia did not have access to adequate healthcare due to conflict, poverty, and lack of infrastructure and trained professionals. Due to the privatization of most healthcare facilities, many people could not afford basic healthcare.[67]

67. ACF stated that the healthcare system was at a near collapse. The healthcare infrastructure was unable to meet basic needs. Many regions lacked hospitals or primary health facilities, leaving millions of children without essential health services. Somalia had one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates globally.[68]

68. SCSom stated that many children in Somalia were unable to access or afford healthcare services. The few available health facilities were mostly privately owned. Consequently, children were deprived of critical services such as vaccinations, medical treatment, and nutrition counselling, leading to deteriorating health outcomes and hindering their overall growth and development.[69]

69. ERF stated that technical and infrastructural capacities in healthcare were limited, resulting in the spread of epidemics and infectious diseases, including measles and cholera, and high rates of child and maternal mortality.[70]

70. JS1 recommended that Somalia make healthcare accessible and affordable.[71]

71. JS7 recommended that Somalia provide access to free health care, particularly for the most vulnerable in society.[72]

72. JS2 recommended that Somalia ensure that new health facilities meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.[73]

73. UPR BCU recommended that Somalia integrate female genital mutilation prevention and management into maternal health services to reduce obstetric complications and improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.[74]

74. JS2 stated that Somalia faced a significant mental health crisis because of decades of conflict, instability, displacement, unemployment, and poverty. Despite this, mental health services in Somalia were inadequate. Societal stigma further exacerbated the problem, often leading to individuals being isolated, neglected, and hidden from society. The absence of a mental health law at both the federal and state levels was a significant barrier to accessing adequate mental health services, despite a draft proposal being presented by the Federal Ministry of Health in 2023.[75]

75. JS2 recommended that Somalia integrate mental health into primary health care so that services were available in district-level health centers, not only in urban hospitals.[76]

76. JS2 recommended that Somalia launch national anti-stigma campaigns promoting awareness of mental well-being and countering harmful beliefs about mental illness.[77]

Right to education

77. ACF stated that more than three million Somali children were out of school, primarily due to ongoing conflict, large-scale displacement, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of qualified teachers. Primary school enrolment rates did not exceed 30% in some rural areas. Girls were disproportionately affected, as many were pushed into early marriage rather than continuing their education.[78]

78. JS1 stated that school dropout rates were elevated among displaced children, resulting in increased child labour and forced/early marriages.[79]

79. SCSom stated that children in Somalia faced barriers to accessing quality education. This was primarily due to poverty among families, which limited their ability to pay school fees, uniforms, and learning materials. Limited government support for free or subsidized education compounded the situation. Additionally, most teachers lacked the necessary skills.[80]

80. JS1 stated that children with disabilities faced barriers to education due to inadequate government funding for inclusive education, a lack of teacher training in disability awareness, inaccessible school infrastructure, and a shortage of learning materials such as Braille, large print, and sign language. Cultural and societal stigma further prevented families from sending their children to school, while weak enforcement of education policies complicated the problem. Illiteracy and school dropout rates were elevated among children with disabilities, leading to limited opportunities for future employment and independence.[81]

81. JS7 recommended that Somalia guarantee free and inclusive primary education for all children, with targeted measures to increase enrolment for girls, children with disabilities, and internally displaced persons.[82]

82. SCSom recommended that Somalia provide free education for all children, ensure access to education, establish schools with adequate resources, including the provision of school feeding programs, promote education for girls, and develop training programs for teachers.[83]

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

83. JS7 stated that Somalia remained among the countries most severely affected by climate change in the Horn of Africa. Recurrent droughts, floods, and desertification continued to destroy livelihoods, displace communities, and deepen food insecurity. The environmental shocks directly threatened fundamental human rights, including the rights to life, health, housing, food, and water, particularly among pastoralists, farmers, women, and children.[84]

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

84. SASDO stated that gender-based violence remained widespread, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, early marriage, and human trafficking. Survivors faced physical, psychological, and social consequences, including trauma, loss of education, and reduced economic opportunities. That was due to cultural norms and gender inequality, conflict and insecurity and weak legal protections. Laws existed, but enforcement was inconsistent, and survivors often feared stigma or retaliation which prevented reporting and support-seeking.[85]

85. UPR BCU stated that despite existing domestic provisions prohibiting female genital mutilation, Somalia continued to have one of the highest prevalence rates globally. The procedure was most commonly performed on girls between infancy and the age of 15.[86]

86. JS1 stated that survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were marginalised and faced serious barriers to accessing the justice system. Police often failed to record or investigate cases. Corruption and clan influence resulted in informal settlements that denied survivors justice. The absence of adequate shelters, psychosocial support, and legal aid left survivors unprotected.[87]

87. JS1 recommended that Somalia enact and strictly enforce comprehensive laws that address sexual and gender-based violence.[88]

88. SCSom recommended that Somalia ensure that all cases of sexual and gender-based violence were handled only through formal courts and not by elders or religious leaders.[89]

89. SASDO recommended that Somalia provide survivors of gender-based violence with medical, psychosocial, and legal support, specifically establishing special gender-based violence units in the police and judiciary.[90]

90. JS1 recommended that Somalia establish a clear referral pathway for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, from the police to medical services, legal aid, and psychosocial support, and strengthen the police Gender Desks by deploying more trained female officers.[91]

91. JS1 recommended that Somalia allocate dedicated funds for shelters, forensic services, and rehabilitation programs for survivors.[92]

92. GFG stated that women continued to be underrepresented in senior decision-making positions, with limited participation across district, state and federal levels of governance. Their effective participation remained constrained by systemic and institutional barriers, violence against women, and the persistence of clan-based power structures.[93]

93. UNDUPRC stated that women accounted for only 20% of the Somali Parliament, significantly hindering legislative reforms, particularly those related to sexual violence and early or forced marriage.[94]

Children

94. SCSom stated that many girls in Somalia were subjected to early and forced marriages. In most cases, it was the father who decided that a girl should get married, without consulting the mother, under pressure from the community and cultural leaders.[95]

95. ACF recommended that Somalia reform national legislation to prohibit early marriage and criminalize violence against children.[96]

96. ACF stated that the recruitment and use of children by Al-Shabaab and other armed groups remained widespread. Some government forces had also been accused of using child soldiers.[97]

97. ACF recommended that Somalia urgently develop a national action plan to combat child recruitment, including strict accountability mechanisms for perpetrators and comprehensive reintegration programs for former child soldiers.[98]

98. JS1 recommended that Somalia develop programmes that targeted children at risk of being recruited, including strengthening birth registration and ID systems to verify ages and prevent under-18s from enlisting.[99]

99. SCSom stated that child labour was very high in Somalia. Many families living in poverty sent their children to work to support the family, resulting in the children dropping out of school.[100]

100. JS1 stated that child labour was prevalent in Somalia, mostly in markets (street vending), domestic labour, agriculture, and the transport of goods, including khat. Most of those children had never enrolled in education or ended up dropping out of school.[101]

101. JS7 recommended that Somalia prohibit all forms of child labour and strengthen labour inspection mechanisms to protect children from exploitation.[102]

102. SCSom recommended that Somalia establish and support alternative care systems for orphaned children and provide such children with free education, food, clean water, and other essential services.[103]

103. SCSom stated that children in street situations often lacked access to healthcare, education, parental care, and other essential opportunities. Many of them became addicted to drugs and were exposed to danger, rape, exploitation, and abuse.[104]

104. JS1 recommended that Somalia allocate a dedicated budget for street children's programs and social welfare programs in the Federal and State budgets, as well as in social welfare budgets.[105]

Persons with disabilities

105. JS2 stated that persons with disabilities were among the most marginalized groups in Somalia, facing systemic discrimination, exclusion, and structural barriers that limited their full participation in society. They were excluded from equal participation in education, employment, healthcare, and community life. There was a pressing need to ensure access to quality healthcare, nutritious food, safe water, adequate shelter, and public spaces that were accessible.[106]

106. SCSom stated that children with disabilities in Somalia continued to face widespread discrimination and neglect. Many were unable to access essential services such as education and healthcare. They were also highly vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and exclusion from community and social life, which contributed to feelings of frustration and discouragement. Children with physical disabilities often lacked assistive devices needed to support their mobility and participation in education. They were frequently bullied by other children. There was little to no provision for them to access education.[107]

107. JS7 stated that public facilities and transportation remained physically inaccessible for persons with disabilities. Government information was rarely available in accessible formats such as Braille or sign language.[108]

108. SCSom recommended that Somalia develop infrastructure and programmes for children with disabilities, train teachers on Special Needs Education, provide Braille and other assistive devices, conduct sensitizing and awareness campaigns on the rights of children and persons with disabilities, and provide transport for children with disabilities to and from school.[109]

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

109. JS6 stated that the criminalization of private consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults left sexual and gender minorities at serious risk of harm and systematic

exclusion. LGBTQ+ individuals in Somalia reported cultural exclusion, threats, violence, and could face the death penalty in parts of Somalia and Somaliland. Local militia groups enforced violent punishments for LGBTQ+ individuals and those who supported them, leading to significant limitations on free expression. Somalia's criminalization of same-sex sexual activity enabled a culture where LGBTQ+ individuals were subject to conversion therapy, disownment, and violence, and many such individuals eventually sought safety outside of the country.[110]

110. JS6 stated that LGBTQ+ persons who experienced harassment, sexual violence and physical violence by state actors or nonstate actors very rarely reported such incidents due to fear of retaliation, imprisonment or death.[111]

111. JS5 stated that Islamic courts throughout the country could impose death sentences for hadd crimes, or crimes requiring mandatory punishment under Shari'ah law, including consensual same-sex sexual conduct. Authorities were arresting an increasing number of people for same-sex sexual conduct.[112]

Internally displaced persons

112. JAI stated that the combined effect of violence and climate shocks continued to push displacement and damage livelihoods, putting millions of people in desperate need of help. Many communities previously displaced by drought or conflict had relocated for a second or third time due to floods or fresh violence. Many people needed shelter, food, health care, protection, and assistance with their livelihoods.[113]

113. ACF stated that the fragile security and political situation had resulted in the internal displacement of more than three million people, while over six million individuals relied on urgent humanitarian assistance for survival. Displaced communities were deprived of education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.[114]

114. JS7 stated that living conditions in settlements for internally displaced persons were dire, characterized by inadequate shelter, unsafe water, and limited access to education and health services. Many displaced families faced sexual and gender-based violence, forced evictions by landowners, and exploitation by gatekeepers who diverted humanitarian aid.[115]

115. ACF recommended that Somalia establish a national mechanism for the protection of internally displaced children, ensuring their access to education, healthcare, and essential social services.[116]

116. SCSom recommended that Somalia support the children in camps for internally displaced persons with basic necessities, including shelter, food, water, and access to education.[117]

3. Specific regions or territories

117. JS5 stated that most executions of children occurred in Puntland, where regional authorities accused children of affiliation with Al-Shabaab.[118]

118. JS4 stated that in "Somaliland" and Puntland, local authorities exerted especially heavy pressure on local media, further entrenching repression and silencing independent voices.[119]

Notes

[1] A/HRC/48/11, A/HRC/48/11/Add.1, A/HRC/48/2.

[2] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

ACF	The Arab Council Foundation, Geneva (Switzerland);
ADF International	ADF International, 1202 Geneva (Switzerland);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, The, Strasbourg (France);

ERF	Elizka Relief Foundation, Ashanti Region (Ghana);
GFG	The Global Freedom Group, Honolulu (United States of America);
ICAN	The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New York (United States of America);
Maat	Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
SASDO	The Somali Awareness and Social Development Organization, Mogadishu (Somalia);
SCSom	Save the Children Somalia, Mogadishu (Somalia);
UNDUPRC	The University of Notre Dame International Human Rights Clinic, Washington, DC (United States of America);
UPR BCU	The UPR Project at Birmingham City University, Birmingham (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by:** Somali Child Rights Coalition, Mogadishu (Somalia);
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by:** Somali Disability Empowerment Network, Mogadishu (Somalia); Dhimris Disability Displacement Association (DDDA); BENADIR YOUTH DISABILITY ASSOCIATION (BYDA); Galmudug Disability Organization GalDo; Golaha barbaarta araga la, (GBA); Disability Aid Association (DAA); Somali woman disability empowerment (SWDE); Somali Autism children care organisations.(SAACO); Saacid Disability Care Organization (SDCO); Somalia Disability Rights Advocacy (SODRA); care organization for the disabled in central regions (CDC); Ururka naafada gobolka mudug (UNGM); Somali association for the blind (SAB); Somali Disability Foundation (SDF); Mustaqbal Center for Special Needs; Somali Disability Rights Advocacy(SODRA);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Parliamentarians for Global Action, New York (United States of America); Coalition for the International Criminal Court;
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by:** East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Kampala (Uganda); Coalition of Human Rights Defenders in Somalia (Defenders Coalition Somalia);
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Montreuil (France); The Advocates for Human Rights; The Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders;
JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis (United States of America); ILGA World;
JS7	**Joint submission 7 submitted by:** Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization, Baidoa , Somalia (Somalia).

[3] ACF, p. 2.
[4] JAI, para. 25. See also JS1, para. 35.
[5] JS5, para. 48.
[6] ACF, p. 11. See also JAI, para. 25.
[7] JS3, para. 9. See also JS5, para. 48.
[8] UPR BCU, p. 8.
[9] ICAN, p. 1.
[10] ECLJ, para. 25
[11] JS7, para. 3.3.
[12] Maat, p. 7. See also JS1, para. 45.
[13] ADF International, para. 29 (d).
[14] JS4, p. 8.
[15] Ibid., p. 8.
[16] JS6, para. 27.
[17] JS2, para. 39.
[18] JS5, para. 48. See also JS6, para. 27.
[19] JS7, para. 6.4.
[20] JAI, para. 13.

[21] Maat, p. 7.
[22] JS7, para. 4.1.
[23] Ibid., para. 6.5.2.
[24] ACF, p. 4.
[25] JS5, para. 2.
[26] UNDUPRC, paras. 19 and 22.
[27] JS5, para. 48.
[28] ERF, p. 1.
[29] JAI, para. 20.
[30] JS7, para. 4.1.
[31] Ibid., para. 4.1.
[32] Ibid., para. 4.1.1.
[33] JS5, para. 34.
[34] Ibid., para. 37.
[35] Ibid., para. 48.
[36] Ibid., para. 48.
[37] ADF International, para. 5.
[38] JS4, para. 2.5.
[39] JS5, para. 26.
[40] JAI, para. 26.
[41] Maat, p. 4.
[42] JS5, paras. 27 and 28.
[43] Ibid., para. 48.
[44] JS2, para. 14.
[45] JS1, para. 9.
[46] JS7, para. 6.7.2.
[47] JS4, para. 1.5.
[48] Ibid., p. 7.
[49] Ibid., p. 8.
[50] JS7, para. 6.8.
[51] ADF International, paras. 8 and 11-12.
[52] Ibid., para. 18.
[53] ECLJ, paras. 16 and 22.
[54] GFG, pages 5 and 7.
[55] JS7, para. 8.1.4.
[56] Maat, p. 6.
[57] Ibid., p. 6.
[58] Ibid., p. 6.
[59] ERF, pages 3 and 4.
[60] JS7, para. 5.6.
[61] Ibid., para. 6.5.3.
[62] ACF, p. 2.
[63] Ibid., p. 4.
[64] SCSom, para. 39.
[65] JS5, para. 47.
[66] SASDO, para. 22.
[67] JS2, para. 33.
[68] ACF, pages 2 and 7.
[69] SCSom, para. 30.
[70] ERF, p. 3.
[71] JS1, para. 50.
[72] JS7, para. 5.2.
[73] JS2, para. 26.
[74] UPR BCU, p. 8.
[75] JS2, para. 38.
[76] Ibid., para. 30.
[77] Ibid., para. 32.
[78] ACF, p. 6.
[79] JS1, para. 23.
[80] SCSom, para. 33.
[81] JS1, para. 18.
[82] JS7, para. 3.3.

[83] SCSom, paras. 34-35 and 37-38.
[84] JS7, para. 7.1.1.
[85] SASDO, para. 14.
[86] UPR BCU, para. 10.
[87] JS1, para. 28.
[88] Ibid., para. 34.
[89] SCSom, para. 14.
[90] SASDO, para. 15.
[91] JS1, para. 31.
[92] JS1, para. 33. See also SASDO, para. 17.
[93] GFG, p. 2.
[94] UNDUPRC, para. 4.
[95] SCSom, para. 53.
[96] ACF, p. 4.
[97] Ibid., p. 6.
[98] Ibid., p. 7.
[99] JS1, para. 39.
[100] SCSom, para. 6. See also SASDO, para. 3.
[101] JS1, para. 42.
[102] JS7, para. 3.3.
[103] SCSom, paras. 20 and 21.
[104] Ibid., para. 25.
[105] JS1, paras. 85 and 86.
[106] JS2, para. 5.
[107] SCSom, para. 47.
[108] JS7, para. 6.1.2.
[109] SCSom, paras. 48-52.
[110] JS6, para. 2.
[111] Ibid., para. 21.
[112] JS5, para. 19.
[113] JAI, para. 2.
[114] ACF, pages. 4 and 8.
[115] JS7, para. 6.3.3.
[116] ACF, p. 7.
[117] SCSom, para. 18.
[118] JS5, para. 41.
[119] JS4, para. 1.5.