

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	973
Land:	Somalia
Kilde:	Amnesty International
Titel:	A ten human rights agenda. For the new government of Somalia
Udgivet:	November 2022
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	14. marts 2023

2022

A TEN HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

FOR THE NEW
GOVERNMENT
OF SOMALIA



De Martino, the only hospital in Mogadishu where all COVID-19 related cases were managed during the first wave of the pandemic in early 2020
©Amnesty International, 2021



INTRODUCTION

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 10 million people which mobilizes the humanity in everyone and campaigns for change so we can all enjoy our human rights. We are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

The armed conflict between the Somali authorities, with support of allied regional and international forces, against the armed group Al-Shabaab continues to have a devastating toll on civilians. Previous governments and their international partners have not paid enough attention to address the violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by the various parties to the conflict.

All the previous Somali governments have committed to reforms that could improve the human rights situation in the country, including through National Development Plans. However, no meaningful reforms have been made to prevent violations of human rights, to promote accountability, or provide access to justice and redress to victims of human rights abuses.

The election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in May 2022 presents an opportunity for the new administration to address many of the country's outstanding human rights challenges, with international support. The new government has already presented goals and activities across six pillars, including security, justice, reconciliation, economic and social development, among others. While some of these pillars could address some human rights concerns in the country, more commitment is required from the new government to improve and prioritize human rights and ensure accountability for violations and abuses and protection of civilians.

1. **Prioritize protection of civilians in conflict**

The ongoing conflict between the government, its regional and international partners, and the armed group Al-Shabaab, continues to have devastating impact on the civilian population. All parties to the conflict continue to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law with no accountability.¹

Hundreds of civilian casualties in the context of the conflict are reported each year.² Over the years, Amnesty International has documented indiscriminate attacks, unlawful killings of civilians³, torture, rape and other violations by Somali security forces and allied militia in military operations.⁴ While successive governments committed to security reforms, no meaningful improvements were made, and impunity for these violations remain widespread.

Al-Shabaab continues to regularly target civilians and civilian infrastructure, launching indiscriminate attacks, and carrying out summary killings of those it perceives to be linked to the government, as well as other civilians. Since 2011, there has been an increase in Al-Shabaab's attacks on locations frequented by civilians including hotels and restaurants in Mogadishu and other cities, attacks that have left thousands of civilians dead and wounded.⁵

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Prioritizes protection of civilians in the conflict. The government must ensure that all Somali security forces receive appropriate training in human rights and humanitarian law. The government should also instruct all security forces not to target civilians and civilian objects during military operations. The government should also ensure members of the military, police, and other government officials allegedly responsible for human rights violations, including killings of civilians, destruction of civilian property and sexual violence are brought to justice in fair proceedings in civilian courts, without recourse to the death penalty.

¹ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses", Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.

² Amnesty International annual report on Somalia, April 2021 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/somalia/report-somalia/>.

³ Amnesty International, "Routinely targeted Attacks on civilians in

Somalia," 2008, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/afr520092008eng.pdf>

⁴ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Rape and sexual violence in Somalia – An ongoing epidemic" August 2013, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/009/2013/en/>.

⁵ Amnesty International, "The Hidden US War in Somalia, Civilian Casualties from Air Strikes in Lower Shabelle" 19 March 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/9952/2019/en/>.

2. **Strengthen accountability, reform the judiciary and address impunity for human rights violations**

Somalia continues to heavily rely on the military court to adjudicate on any cases it deems related to national security, including cases against civilians.⁶ In most instances, proceedings in this court fall short of international fair trial standards such as arbitrary restrictions on the right to be represented by legal counsel, delays in being tried and, in some instances, prolonged pre-trial detentions. The National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) continues to arrest, detain, and prosecute civilians including journalists in the military court.⁷ In July 2020, NISA arbitrarily arrested, detained, and prosecuted journalist Mohamed Abdiwahab Nur (Abuja) in the military court.⁸

The formal judicial system in the country remains weak and underfunded.⁹ Perpetrators of human rights violations get away with their crimes entrenching a culture of impunity. While significant progress has been made in reviewing the 2012 provisional constitution, the review process has not been completed.¹⁰

The review of the penal code which contains vaguely worded and outdated

criminal offences authorities often use to crack down on freedom of expression, stagnated under the previous administration.¹¹

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Effectively addresses the culture of impunity and deliver justice to victims of human rights violations and other crimes, the new government with support from its international donors needs to invest in creating a credible, fair and independent civilian judicial system. Authorities should also end the practice of trying civilians, including journalists, in military courts.

⁶ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Authorities must immediately release journalist Mohamed Abdiwahab Nur (Abuja)" July 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/2649/2020/en/>.

⁷ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Authorities must immediately release journalist Mohamed Abdiwahab Nur (Abuja)" July 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/2649/2020/en/>.

⁸ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Authorities must immediately release journalist Mohamed Abdiwahab Nur (Abuja)" July 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/2649/2020/en/>.

⁹ Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, 19 August 2022, para 47-57.

¹⁰ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses", Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.

¹¹ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses", Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.

3. **Ensure justice and reparation for crimes committed by foreign forces including AMISOM and AFRICOM**

Foreign forces who are party to the conflict in Somalia including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and US (AFRICOM) (the US military's Africa Command, responsible for military operations including those in Somalia), have committed various violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations in the country.¹²

Amnesty International documented violations committed by AMISOM in Somalia including unlawful killings. For example, in August 2021, AMISOM soldiers had targeted and killed seven civilians in a retaliation attack against Al-Shabaab in Golweyn town, in the Lower Shabelle region.¹³ In November 2018, AMISOM soldiers unlawfully killed four civilians in Mogadishu.¹⁴ Countries contributing forces to AMISOM have exclusive jurisdiction over their own forces in Somalia, however they have not done enough to investigate serious violations, to bring perpetrators to book or to offer reparations to families of victims of their attacks.

Since 2017 US AFRICOM escalated the use of drones and manned aircraft to carry out air strikes in Somalia. Some of these attacks resulted in civilian casualties. In just nine of those air strikes, Amnesty International found 21 civilians were killed and 11 others injured. Due to pressure and demands for transparency and

accountability by the US Congress and various organizations, including Amnesty International, AFRICOM has since April 2019 admitted to killing five Somali civilians and injuring 11 others in five separate air strikes. However, none of those families or victims have received justice or any form of reparation by the US or by the Somalia government.¹⁵

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Conducts independent and impartial investigations into all credible allegations of civilian casualties resulting from US air strikes and from AMISOM attacks. In the case of AFRICOM, the government must ensure that all air strikes carried out in Somalia are in line with international humanitarian law and that necessary measures are taken to protect civilians. As a matter of priority, the government should seek reparations including compensation from the US government and from AMISOM for survivors and families of victims of unlawful attacks.

¹² See, Amnesty International, "Somalia: Fatal shooting of four civilians by AMISOM troops must be investigated," November 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2018/11/somalia-fatal-shooting-of-four-civilians-by-amisom-troops-must-be-investigated/>; and, Amnesty International, "The Hidden US War in Somalia, Civilian Casualties from Air Strikes in Lower Shabelle" 19 March 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/9952/2019/en/>.

¹³ Amnesty International annual report on Somalia, April 2021 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/somalia/report-somalia/>.

¹⁴ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Fatal shooting of four civilians by AMISOM troops must be investigated," November 2018, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2018/11/somalia-fatal-shooting-of-four-civilians-by-amisom-troops-must-be-investigated/>.

¹⁵ See, Amnesty International, "The Hidden US War in Somalia, Civilian Casualties from Air Strikes in Lower Shabelle" 19 March 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/9952/2019/en/> and Amnesty International, "Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses", Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.

4. **Respect the right to freedom of expression**

For many years, the right to freedom of expression has been severely suppressed in Somalia. Journalists and other media workers were beaten, harassed, intimidated, threatened, and subjected to arbitrary detention, including by the police, military and other government officials throughout south central Somalia and in Puntland. Authorities restricted access to information and suppressed media freedom, including by bribing media outlets to self-censor and by harassing journalists and other critics both online and offline. Authorities also raided and temporarily closed media outlets to prevent or discourage coverage of news events and as retaliation for their critical reporting. In the past five years, more than 12 journalists were killed. There is often no accountability for these violations. Somalia tops the Committee to Protect Journalists' (CPJ) Global Impunity Index on countries where those who kill journalists routinely escape prosecution.¹⁶

Despite initiatives from successive governments to address the risks and challenges faced by journalists and other media workers, including through legal reforms and the establishment of protection mechanisms such as the office of the prosecutor for crimes against journalists,¹⁷ threats and attacks against journalists persist. On 8 October 2022, the Ministry of Information issued a directive prohibiting the "dissemination of extremist ideology messages from both traditional media broadcasts and social media". Several media freedom advocates, including the SJS's secretary general, Abdalle Ahmed Mumin, publicly expressed their concerns about its impact on media freedom and the safety of journalists. Abdalle Mumin was subsequently arrested at Aden Adde International Airport and prevented from travelling to Nairobi. He was charged with several offences under the penal code including bringing the nation or the state into contempt and instigating to disobey laws. He was released on bail on 22 October but is banned from travelling out of the country until

his case is concluded by the court.¹⁸

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Issues clear instructions to all government officials and security forces to stop harassing, threatening or physically attacking media outlets, journalists, and other media workers. They should ensure that all government institutions, including the security forces, respect, protect and promote the right to freedom of expression of everyone without discrimination. The newly established prosecutor for crimes against journalists should be fully resourced and empowered to carry out prompt, thorough, independent, and effective investigation of abuses and attacks, including killings and threats against journalists, and must address the failure to adequately investigate and prosecute suspected perpetrators of such abuses and attacks, including government officials and members of the security forces. The new government should also take urgent steps to review the problematic provisions in the new media law, the penal code, and all other laws and directives that unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression and bring these laws in line with Somalia's constitution and international human rights obligations.

¹⁶ Amnesty International, "We Live in Perpetual Fear: Abuses and Violations Against Freedom of Expression in Somalia", February 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR5214422020ENGLISH.PDF>.

¹⁷ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses", Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.
A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

¹⁸ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Authorities must immediately and unconditionally release journalist Abdalle Ahmed Mumin," October 14, 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/somalia-authorities-must-immediately/>.

5. Guarantee and adequately resource access to the right to health for everyone

Due to the prolonged conflict, Somalia's healthcare system is one of the weakest in the world. Many of its health indicators, including access to reproductive, maternal and child healthcare, are very poor.¹⁹ Somalia has the sixth highest maternal death risk and the highest child mortality rate globally.²⁰ The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was 22% in 2017, with only one surgeon per 1,000,000 people.²¹ Only an estimated 15% of people have access to medical care in rural areas.²² The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 exposed and exacerbated these pre-existing broader structural issues facing the country's healthcare system.²³

However, Somalia, as a Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) that had over USD\$5.2 billion of external debt, is now eligible for additional budget support and grant financing for reaching the decision point for debt relief under the HIPC Initiative in early 2020. Debt relief, if harnessed correctly, has the potential to transform Somalia's delivery of a range of social goods and services, including healthcare.²⁴

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Ensures a sufficient portion of debt relief proceeds, and new grants made available because of this, are used to improve the right to health, in line with the government's roadmap towards Universal Health Coverage. The government should also start by increasing health budgets from the 2% pre-COVID19 allocations with progressive increments over time in line with ultimately meeting the Abuja Declaration target of 15% of the annual budget.²⁵ It is key that the government ensure sufficient access to well-equipped health facilities for all, across the country, including in both urban and rural areas, without discrimination. This also will enable the effective treatment and control of epidemic and endemic diseases such as COVID-19. As part of this process, the government must urgently seek to make COVID-19 vaccines readily available and free of charge for all, while prioritizing those at high risk, including health workers, older populations, and marginalized groups such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and people with disabilities.

¹⁹ World Health Organization (WHO), "Humanitarian Response Plan 2015", available at <https://www.who.int/hac/donorinfo/somalia.pdf>.

²⁰ The Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) and City University of Mogadishu, "Somalia's Healthcare System: A Baseline Study & Human Capital Development Strategy" May 2020, p. 8, <http://www.heritageinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Somalia-HealthcareSystem-A-Baseline-Study-and-Human-Capital-Development-Strategy.pdf>.

²¹ The Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) and City University of Mogadishu, "Somalia's Healthcare System: A Baseline Study & Human Capital Development Strategy" May 2020, p. 19, <http://www.heritageinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Somalia-HealthcareSystem-A-Baseline-Study-and-Human-Capital-Development-Strategy.pdf>.

²² International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "Somalia: Killing of

health workers from rural clinic an appalling tragedy", 29 May 2020, <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/somalia-killing-health-workers-rural-clinic-appalling-tragedy>.

²³ Amnesty International, "We Just Watched Covid-19 Patients Die" – Covid-19 Exposed Somalia's Weak Healthcare System But Debt Relief Can Transform It, August 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/4602/2021/en/>.

²⁴ Amnesty International, "We Just Watched Covid-19 Patients Die" – Covid-19 Exposed Somalia's Weak Healthcare System But Debt Relief Can Transform It, August 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/4602/2021/en/>.

²⁵ "The Abuja Declaration" <https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/32894-file-2001-abuja-declaration.pdf>

6. **Protect internally displaced people and end forced evictions**

The conflict, compounded by recurrent droughts and floods, barriers to accessing humanitarian aid and the worst locust invasion in 25 years, created nearly three million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia. The IDP population, because of this displacement and dispossession, is subject to an ongoing significant risk of exploitation and abuse. Women and children in IDP camps and settlements are particularly vulnerable to such abuse, marginalization, exclusion, and sexual violence.²⁶

Another serious problem faced by IDPs is forced evictions carried out by government security forces and private landowners. According to the UN, thousands of IDPs are evicted from their homes each year, most of them forcibly.²⁷

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Immediately ensures that both their own forces and private actors do not carry out forced evictions including of displaced people across the country. In addition, the government should ensure that anyone rendered homeless because of a forced eviction is immediately provided with alternative adequate housing.

Due to their preexisting vulnerability, IDPs are also being disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with lack of access to jobs, inadequate water and sanitation, and health services. As part of its response to the pandemic the government should ensure that the rights to an adequate standard of living, water, sanitation, health, and adequate housing for IDPs are fulfilled, in line with international human rights law and standards.

²⁶ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Internally displaced people surviving by "the grace of God" amidst COVID-19", 21 July 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/somalia-internally-displaced-people-surviving-by-the-grace-of-god-amidst-covid19/>

²⁷ Amnesty International annual report on Somalia, April 2021 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/somalia/report-somalia/>; and, Amnesty International, A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

"Somalia: Internally displaced people surviving by "the grace of God" amidst COVID-19", 21 July 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/somalia-internally-displaced-people-surviving-by-the-grace-of-god-amidst-covid19/>. Also, see data on forced evictions in Somalia, <https://evictions.nrcsystems.net/riskmap.php>.

7. Address sexual violence against women and girls

Sexual violence against women and girls is widespread in Somalia. Attacks often go unreported due to a climate of impunity, as well as the stigma and fear associated with the crime which prevents many survivors from speaking out and from reporting it. The ongoing drought in the country increased the risks of sexual violence faced by women and girls.²⁸ Women and girls who travel long distances to fetch water for their families are at heightened risk of sexual violence and abuse.²⁹

Despite pledges by the Somalia authorities to strengthen laws on sexual violence, in August 2020, the federal parliament introduced a “Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill” that contained disturbing provisions breaching international law and regional standards relating to rape and other forms of sexual violence including some provisions that may allow child marriages. It also contained flawed definitions of offences.³⁰ This Bill was rejected by parliament and a modified version of the law has not been reintroduced.

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Protects women's and girls' rights and prioritizes enacting laws and regulations that prohibit all forms of violence against women and girls. Any proposed laws should include prevention, protection, care, treatment, support mechanisms, access to justice and remedies for survivors of sexual violence, as well as adequate punishment of convicted perpetrators without resorting to the death penalty. The new government should also immediately scrap the proposed “Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill” and ensure that any law that is reintroduced is in conformity with international law and regional standards relating to rape and other forms of sexual violence. The government should also consult with civil society organizations working with survivors of sexual

²⁸ Amnesty International, “Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses”, Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.

²⁹ UN report on gender-based violence in Somalia, April 2020. <https://somalia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Gender->

[Based%20Violence%20in%20Somalia%20-%20V3%20-%20Digital.pdf](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/).
³⁰ Amnesty International, “Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses”, Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 38th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/3315/2020/en/>.

8. **Safeguard children's rights**

Children in Somalia continue to face various human rights violations. Parties to the conflict including the government and Al-Shabaab continue to recruit and use children as soldiers.³¹ Children linked to armed groups such as Al-Shabaab are ill-treated, detained, and subjected to persecutions including in military courts.³²

Many children in Somalia do not have access to education, and nearly two thirds of the school-age population is out of school, leading to the risk of child labor. Children are also at extremely high risk of impacts from the climate crisis due to their exposure and vulnerability to environmental shocks. According to UNICEF, children in Somalia are the fourth most vulnerable in the world, due to high levels of exposure to soil and water pollution and riverine flooding.³³ Young girls continue to face additional obstacles, such as early marriages, especially in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab, where the group abducts girls and young women, leading to lower school attendance.³⁴

Previous governments have made efforts to protect children including by developing action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers and killing and maiming of children in 2012, and by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2015.

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Fast tracks the Child Rights Bill to strengthen protection of children and prohibit the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The government should also finalize and accelerate the Female Genital Mutilation Bill.

³¹ Office of the Special Representative Situation of Children of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict: "Situation of Children in Somalia Alarming: New Report Details Staggering Levels of Grave Violations" 14 June 2022, <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/2022/06/situation-of-children-in-somalia-alarming-new-report-details-staggering-levels-of-grave-violations/>.

³² Office of the Special Representative Situation of Children of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict: "Situation of Children in Somalia Alarming: New Report Details Staggering Levels of Grave

Violations" 14 June 2022, <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/2022/06/situation-of-children-in-somalia-alarming-new-report-details-staggering-levels-of-grave-violations/>.

³³ UNICEF, "Children in Somalia at 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of the climate crisis – UNICEF" August 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/press-releases/children-somalia-extremely-high-risk-impacts-climate-crisis-unicef>.

³⁴ Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, 19 August 2022. Para 76-79.

9. Prioritize mitigating the impact of the climate and other crises

The failure of four consecutive rainy seasons, combined with the war in Ukraine restricting food imports, have created a dire humanitarian crisis in the country. According to the UN, nearly 8 million people in Somalia – half of the entire population – need humanitarian assistance to survive.³⁵ More than three million livestock, which pastoralist families rely on for their livelihood, have perished. Catastrophic levels of food insecurity have been confirmed in parts of the country. Over 700 children have died in nutrition centers across Somalia in 2022 alone.³⁶ The crisis is compounded by restrictions of Al-Shabaab on humanitarian assistance in the areas they control.³⁷

Positively, the new government responded by creating a new ministry (the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) and appointing a special presidential envoy for drought response to address the situation. However, more local and international coordination is needed to seek assistance and solidarity for those

impacted by the drought.

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Seeks more international assistance and support to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis on civilians. The government must ensure transparency and accountability for all the funds allocated to mitigate the climate crisis including those received from Somalia's bilateral and multilateral donors.

³⁵ Statement by Special representative of the Secretary-General James Swan to the security council on the situation in Somalia, 7 September 2022, <https://unsom.unmissions.org/statement-special-representative-secretary-general-james-swan-security-council-situation-somalia-7>.

³⁶ UN, "Catastrophic hunger levels leave 500,000 children at risk of dying

in Somalia" September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126491>.

³⁷ Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, 19 August 2022, para 29.

10. Establish and operationalize the National Human Rights Commission

Despite progress in identifying some members of the National Human Rights Commission, the government has yet to endorse the list of nominees to fully operationalize the Commission. Amnesty International believes the non-operationalization of the commission greatly undermines human rights protections in Somalia. ³⁸

Amnesty International recommends that the new government:

Demonstrates commitment to addressing the myriad of human rights challenges in the country by making it a priority to finalize the establishment and the operationalization of the Commission, including by providing it with sufficient human and financial resources, and guaranteeing its independence, effectiveness and is in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

³⁸ Amnesty International, "Somalia: Conflict Exacerbated Human Rights Violations and Abuses", Amnesty International Submission for the UN
8 A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA



Women, walking with what possessions they can carry, arrive in a steady trickle at an IDP camp erected next to an AMISOM military base near the town of Jowhar, Somalia, on November 12. Photo ©Tobin Jones, 2014