# Call for Input to inform the High Commissioner’s report to the Human Rights Council on the impact of casualty recording

# Submission by the Somali Human Rights Association (SOHRA) and Every Casualty Counts

14 February 2023

The Somali Human Rights Association (SOHRA) is an independent, non-governmental organization founded in 2002 and based in Mogadishu, Somalia. SOHRA aims to monitor, investigate, and document the human rights and humanitarian situation in Somalia. SOHRA works closely with international organizations such as UNHCR and OCHA to document civilian casualties (both fatalities and injuries) in the hopes of ending impunity for human rights violations in the country.

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## Methods

Since 2002 SOHRA has been documenting human rights violations, including fatalities, in Somalia. We gather information from primary sources including eyewitnesses, victims (where living) and victims’ families. We also gather information through hospitals, news media and other secondary sources. This information is compiled in a confidential and secure database.

We record information in a standardised format, including details of the date, type of incident, name of victim, age, ethnicity/tribal affiliation, place of birth and current address, suspected perpetrator, weapons(s) used and actions taken in response to the incident. We also note any details concerning a victim’s particular vulnerabilities. A copy of our data form is attached to this submission.

We are not aware of any structured state-led initiative to record casualties comprehensively in Somalia. Police forces record details of human rights violations where these are reported as crimes, but these records are not comprehensive as many fatalities are not reported. Another weakness of the state response to casualties of armed violence is the lack of financial, medical and psychosocial support for victims and their families.

## Protection

SOHRA shares its casualty data with the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster for Somalia, to help inform protection responses. We have specific monitoring programmes in IDP settlements, funded by the Norwegian Refugee Council. We are able to use some of these funds to assist survivors of human rights violations who need medical treatment, which is not free of charge in Somalia.

When SOHRA’s casualty data indicates increasing violence in a particular area, or increased risk to particular populations, we conduct public awareness raising and advocacy. SOHRA participates in radio and television talk shows to make communities aware of the dangers so they can take protective action.

## Advocacy and accountability

SOHRA regularly publishes analysis of its casualty data, and we make submissions to UN human rights monitoring bodies such as the UPR process and the [Committee Against Torture](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=1&CountryID=161). In this way, our casualty records help ensure the Somali government is held to account for its (in)actions in upholding the right to life.

SOHRA also helps families [seek answers and accountability](https://www.justsecurity.org/54297/somalis-harmed-suspected-drone-strike-demand-accountability/) for the killing of civilians by international forces operating in Somalia, including through drone strikes.

Recommendations

Casualty records can provide important information on patterns of violence, as well as supporting individual demands for accountability and reparation. For these outcomes to be realised, it is essential that adequate resources are allocated to support victims and survivors. Access to medical, psychological and legal support must be prioritised and made available to all who need it.

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| CASE REFERENCE NUMBER  (For Internal Use Only) |
|  |

**\* - Indicates Mandatory Fields**

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| **1** | **MONITORING INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY:** | | |
| REPORT DATE:(dd-mmm-yyyy)**\*** | MONITORING ORGANIZATION CODE: (no names please)**\*** | MONITOR CODE: (no names please)\* |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2** | **SOURCE OF INFORMATION / INFORMANT (PERSON GIVING INFORMATION):** | | | | | | |
| SOURCE’S RELATION TO EVENT:  (e.g. victim, witness)  (Check all that apply) | Victim – Primary | Witness- Primary | Family Member- Secondary | | Other Secondary | |
| Explain: | | | | | |
| CONSENT OF VICTIM/INFORMANT TO RECORD THIS INCIDENT WAS OBTAINED AND CONFIDENTIALITY EXPLAINED: | | | | Yes | | No |

|  |  |  |  |  |
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| **3** | **INCIDENT INFORMATION:** | | | |
| START DATE: (dd-mmm-yyyy)**\*** | | END DATE: (dd-mmm-yyyy) | |
| **WHERE DID THE INCIDENT OCCUR?** | | | |
| REGION**\***: | DISTRICT: | PLACE NAME: | PLACE TYPE: |

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| **4a** | **INFORMATION ON VICTIM(S) OF VIOLATION/ABUSE:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **#** | **FULL NAME\*** | **AGE\*** | 1  **SEX\*** | 2  **CIVIL STATUS** | **OCCUPATION** | **VIOLATION CODE**  (Check from the list) | | | | |
| **1\*** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1** - Use the following initials under Sex: [**M**]ale, [**F**]emale  **2** - Use the following initials under Civil Status: [**M**]arried, [**S**]ingle, [**D**]ivorced, [**W**]idowed | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **4**  **b** | TOTAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS: | | | NATIONALITY: | | | | | |
| **OTHER RELEVANT IDENTITY INFORMATION: \*** | | | | | | | | |
| LEGAL STATUS:  (Check one) | Internally Displaced (IDPs) | Migrant(s) (Non Somali National(s) | | | | Migrant (Somali national) | | |
| Refugee(s)/Asylum Seeker(s) | Member of the community (Somali resident) | | | | Returnee(s) | | |
| Orphan(s) |  | | | |  | | |
| VULNERABLE GROUPS:  (Check all that apply) | Female Head of Household(s) | Unaccompanied/Separated Minor(s) | | Minority Clan | | | Older Person(s) | |
| Pregnant/Nursing Woman | Person(s) with disability | | Street Child(ren) | | | Widow | |
| HIV/AIDS Person(s) | Ethnic Minority | |  |  | | |  |
| OTHERS:  (Check all that apply) | Human Rights Defender(s) | Humanitarian Worker(s) | | Journalist | | | Prisoner/detainees) | |
| Political Activist | Politician | | | | | | |

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| **TYPE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION / ABUSE** | | |
| **VIOLATIONS** | | |
| **Description** | | **Code** |
| **A** | **RIGHT TO LIFE** |  |
| 1 | Killing/Manslaughter | **A1** |
| 2 | Execution | **A2** |
| **B** | **RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF PERSON** |  |
| 1 | Illegal Arrest and Detention | **B1** |
| 2 | Kidnapping/Abduction | **B2** |
| 3 | Disappearance | **B3** |
| 4 | Human Trafficking (for the purpose of exploitation such as forced labor, forced prostitution or organ removal) | **B4** |
| 5 | Forced Family Separation | **B5** |
| 6 | Recruitment and use of child soldiers into the Armed Forces or armed groups | **B6** |
| 7 | Excessive use of force (by the authorities or the police) | **B7** |
| **C** | **RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY** |  |
| 1 | Physical assault (attack not resulting in death) | **C1** |
| 3 | Torture | **C3** |
| 4 | Harassment | **C4** |
| 5 | Rape | **C5** |
| 6 | Attempted rape | **C6** |
| 8 | Child Abandonment (Right to care) | **C8** |
| 9 | Domestic Violence | **C9** |
| 10 | Female Genital Cutting (FGC) | **C10** |
| 11 | Forced marriage | **C11** |
| 12 | Sexual Harassment | **C12** |
| 13 | Sexual exploitation and abuse | **C13** |
| **D** | **RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE** |  |
| 1 | Forced Displacement | **D1** |
| 3 | Forced Return | **D3** |
| 4 | Prevented Return | **D4** |
| **E** | **LABOR RIGHT** |  |
| 1 | Child Labor | **E1** |
| 2 | Forced Labor | **E2** |
| **F** | **RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING** |  |
| 1 | Exclusion from or lack of access to sanitation | **F1** |
| 2 | Attack On School(s) and Health Facility(ies) | **F2** |
| 3 | Exclusion from or lack of access to medical care/ health facilities | **F3** |
| 4 | Exclusion from or lack of access to education | **F4** |
| **G** | **HOUSING LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHT** |  |
| 1 | Demolition of House/Intentional Fire on House/Shelter | **G1** |
| 6 | Eviction (Forced) | **G6** |

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| **5**  **a** | **INFORMATION ON ALLEGED PERPETRATOR(S):** | | | | |
| **#** | **FULL NAME\*** | **AGE** | 1  **SEX** | **NATIONALITY** |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |
| **1** - Use the following initials under Sex: [**M**]ale, [**F**]emale | | | | |

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| **5b** | **THE ALLEGED PERPETRATOR(S) IS/ARE ASSOCIATED WITH:\*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| STATE ACTOR (CIVILIAN AND ARMED):  (Check one) | Municipality/Mayor’s Office | | Somaliland Police | | | | Somali National Police Force(SNP) | | | | | TFG Government | |
| Governor’s Office | Puntland Police | | | Somaliland civilian Authority | | | | Puntland civilian Authority | | | | |
| TFG Military | Somaliland Military | | | Puntland Military | | | | | | | | |
| Clan militias associated with the Stat | | | | Elders Councils/Religious leaders associated with the State | | | | | | | | |
| INTERNATIONAL ACTORS:  (Check one) | Ethiopian Army(ENDF) | | | | AMISOM | | | | | | Unknown | | |
| NON-STATE ACTORS: (Check one) | Clan-Based Militias | Ahlul Sunna Wal-Jama’a | | | | Al Shabab | | | |  | | | |
| Pirates | Smugglers | | | | Unknown | | | | | | | |
| UNAFFILIATED PRIVATE PERSON:  (Check one) | Family member | Elder | | Religious Leader(s) Organization(s) | | | | Local Organization | | | | | Landlord(s) |
| Employer | Child | | FGC practitioner | | | | IDP/Refugee | | | | | Unknown |
| IDENTITY INFORMATION: (provide as much detail as possible .e.g. any descriptive features such as title, rank, clothing, uniforms, languages etc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **6** | **POSSIBLE REASONS BEHIND THE VIOLATION:** | | | | | |
| POSSIBLE REASONS FOR INCIDENT:  (Check all that apply ) | Gender based | Conflict within the family/community | | Discrimination against Minorities | |
| Economic | Dispute over land/water/livestock | | Unsafe environment | |
| Armed Conflict | Accident | Religious/traditional | Political | Criminal act |

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| **7** | **SUMMARY - BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED** (Include information on circumstances of event not already reported in this form and for clarification.) **For example: What did the alleged perpetrator do? What happened to the victim? Did the authorities take any action?** |
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| **8a** | **ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE VICTIM OR SOURCE OF INFORMATION:** | | | | | | | |
| **Did the victim or source of information take any action?** | | Yes (Check i. & ii.) | | | | No (Check iii.) | |
| **i) If YES, what action was taken?** (Check all that apply) | | | | | | | |
| Reported to the Police | | Report To Elders | | | | Reported to Religious Leader | |
| Seek Medical Professional/Visit Medical Facility | | Seek Psychosocial Services | | | | Seek Legal Assistance | |
| **ii) If YES, the quality of the service was?** | | Poor | | Good | | Very Good | |
| **iii) If NO, why no actions were taken?** (Check all that apply) | | | | | | | |
| Lack of services | Did not know where to seek help | | Social pressure | | Impunity | | Others, Specify: |

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| **8b** | **ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MONITOR ORGANISATION:** | | | |
| **Did your organization respond?** | | Yes (Check i.) | No |
| **i) If YES, what action was taken?** (Check all that apply) | | | |
| Referred the victims to Medical service | Referred the victims to Psychosocial aid | | Referred the victims for legal Assistance |
| Informed the Police | Informed the elders | | Paid for medical check up |
| Paid for transportation | Others, Specify: | | |

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| **9** | **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** | | | | | | |
| **How did your organization verify the information:** (Check all that apply) | | | | | | |
| Signed Statement Of Victim Or Guardian | | Signed Statement Of The Witness(es) | | | Signed statement of the alleged perpetrator(s) | |
| Medical statement | Police statement | | Court Records | Newspaper Clippings | | Referral NGOs/centre |
| Photos | Visible physical injury | | Other material evidence | | | |

Last Updated: March-2011