

Response from the 100% Coverage Coalition, *Rebuilding Somalia for Everyone, Everywhere for Everybody*

Background: The Coalition is comprised of Bantu, Nilot, Barawe, Banadiri, and Bajuni peoples who inhabit the Juba and Shabelle valleys, the Coast from Ras Kamboni to Marka, and villages across Hiraan, Bay and Bakool. Altogether, the Coalition asserts that these peoples comprise more than 3 million individuals, or almost 40% of the population of South Central Somalia.

While there has been systematic, widespread, and long term brutality against the Bantu-Nilot people, and while it is often hard to document the truth under such insecure and consciously deceptive local environments, we offer the following statements to support our contentions that the Bantu-Nilot people are subjected to worse treatment than other Somalis.

We respectfully request that these statements be incorporated into the consolidated report as part of the Universal Periodic Review UN-Geneva.

1. The Rights of Children, Women, Gender Equality: Addressing Vulnerabilities

- Incidence of recruitment of Child Soldiers (22)

One example: children 13 years old and over are continued to be forced to be trained to be militants by Al Shabab in Jubaland area. In a 2014 incident there were three boys aged between 17, 19, and 21 old who managed to escape Al Shabab in Bualle and got to Kismayo where they were captured and killed by Ahmed Madowbe's military. Today there is a lot of child recruitment going on in parts of Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo and parts of Middle and Lower Shebelle where they are targeting the Somali Bantus youth and children as young as 10,11,12,13 and up. Right now Coalition members are helping the kids escape from being forced to be in the army. The kids are running away from the area now and are reaching the refugee camps. We have been informed that as many as 100 kids who got to Dadaab in 2013 and 2014 and up to today are running from Al Shabaab.

- Identify specific needs of vulnerable groups (women, children, and disabled, elderly) (23)

With humanitarian help being stopped the poor people are dying for lack of medication, clean water and food. In towns like Bardhere, Sakow, Bualle, Salagle, and Jillib, the disabled, elderly, and women are lined up in front of Mosques to beg. They are expected to turn their money over to Al Shabaab. They can't leave the area and they cannot keep the money they get from begging because if they do, they will be accused by Al Shabaab and sentenced for aiding “non-Muslims”.

Bantu-Nilot women are forced to wear heavy full hijabs that cover their faces. If they do not, they are beaten, flogged, and even tortured. We know their children are forced to watch and we know that radicalized youth are forced to beat their own mothers if they do not comply with strict interpretation of Islamic practices such as the form of prayer, the place of prayer, and the length of prayer.

- Take steps to ensure that governing authorities are representative of all Somalis including women and minority groups (30)

In Jubbaland Administration, there is only one minister who is Bantu and he is there for “show.” He is harassed and we have an eye witness who saw him slapped by a guard in front of others. There is no respect for the Bantu-Nilot anywhere. We rely on the UN to take steps to ensure we are represented in the national government and the Jubbaland government.

2. Promotion of Social, Economic Rights including Provision of Humanitarian Assistance and Rights of IDPs

In Middle Juba and parts of Gedo and Lower Juba people are prevented from leaving from or moving freely within the areas of AS control. If they try to leave and are found, we have the evidence that they are tried in local AS convened Sharia Courts (Bantu-Nilot have no access to or representation in Sharia courts) and they are sentenced to death either by mutilating and cutting off limbs or cutting off their heads.

- Confronting the problem of poverty and unemployment in the country, provide basic needs to the population and ensure economic, social, and cultural rights (42)

I (Bantu) attended a meeting of farmers in 2010 who decided that they will not produce enough for the people to eat because the food was being stolen, storage looted, and people killed and their food taken. For security reasons people are limiting production to such an extent that they can't do without humanitarian assistance. In another case we have heard that people were diverting the river onto the crop land so that they get humanitarian assistance. In another case people were asked to produce limited amounts so that the NGOs can claim production is low making the huge need for humanitarian assistance. It is our belief that as much as 45% of the disasters are manmade.

3. Protection of Civilians and Compliance with International Humanitarian Law (seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict on civilians)

- Ensure that security forces and allied militias comply with IHL (46)
- In cooperation with AMISOM take necessary measures to protect the life of citizens and minimize their suffering (47)

There were massacres that took place in Bu'alle in 2011-2012: we ask the UN to go to the bridge of Bu'alle and dig on either side; there are mass graves of our people. We need responsible officials to dig up those mass graves and punish those who were responsible.

We ask that AMISOM publicly assert and behave in ways to prove that they are there for all Somalis not for specific tribes. There are allegations that AMISOM massacred a certain group in Jowhar because of their minority status and not because there was evidence of wrongdoing.

- Ensure full respect, integrate IHL and provide training to TFG and AMISOM forces (48)

We Bantu-Nilot believe that TGF should be made up of all the people in order to serve all the people. There are no Bantu or Nilot in the Somali National Army. There is no training of any soldiers to our knowledge that informs them or restrains them in their treatment of Bantu-Nilot people.