

Somalia

Somalia is a Member State of the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States (Arab League) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System and Arab System



Somalia has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Somalia has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. Although Somalia is a Member of the Arab League, it has not ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights and is therefore not subject to monitoring by the Arab Human Rights Committee.

Individuals and groups may submit complaints of human rights violations committed by Somalia to the [African human rights system](#). The Commission has not decided any complaints concerning Somalia.

Somalia has not submitted any [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has not conducted any [missions](#) to Somalia.

Somalia has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Somalia is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). In 1993, the UN Human Rights Council established the [Independent Expert](#) on the situation of human rights in Somalia, whose mandate is to work with the Somali government to implement human rights obligations. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Somalia's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

Somalia has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Somalia has submitted a reservation, derogation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the [CRC](#).

Somalia has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Somalia has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Somalia has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Somalia has also ratified the [Optional Protocol](#) to the ICCPR, allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Somalia has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT.

On April 13, 2016, Somalia extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Somalia. The Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination visited Somalia in December 2012, and published a [report](#) in July 2013 on the activities of private military and security companies in Somalia.

For more information on Somalia's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/SOIndex.aspx>.

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