

SOMALIA: 1,700 victims of rape in Somalia last year
By Abdi Muse, RBC Radio
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Mogadishu (RBC) Violence against women and girls is pervasive in Somalia and are of great concern which needs more national attention, UN says.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on sexual violence in conflict, Zainab Bangura, visited Mogadishu in early April.

She expressed serious concern about the reports of rape in Somalia and specifically about the high number of rapes targeting displaced women and girls. The SRSG said that there were at least 1,700 victims of rape in Somalia last year.



Badbaado camp is the largest IDP camp in Somalia capital.

The extent of sexual violations was also highlighted in March by Human Rights Watch. A report issued on 27 March, which was based on over a year's research in Mogadishu, stated that most of the violations against already vulnerable displaced people were perpetrated by various militias and security forces, often affiliated with the Government and gatekeepers.

The report recommended that the Federal Government of Somalia takes all necessary measures to ensure sufficient, competent and trained police to protect the people and that protection agencies step up efforts to support the Government in this endeavour.

The Somali President in a statement welcomed the HRW report and reiterated his commitment to the restoration of civil security and protection of human rights, highlighting that the Government will hold to account those found violating human rights.