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2.6.3. Puntland - Checkpoints and road security

Checkpoints in Puntland are likely to be many more than those shown on [Map 4](#), according to an interview with P. Schouten in March 2025.[1221](#) For an overview on checkpoints at country level see section [1.7](#).

Puntland security forces intercepted an illegal arms and ammunition transport on the way to Bossaso city in May 2024;[1222](#) they also confiscated five 'suicide' drones during a raid on a convoy on the road between Garowe and Gaalkacyo in August 2024, detaining seven individuals suspected of having links to Al-Shabaab or the ISS.[1223](#) Police forces and suspected militiamen clashed at a checkpoint in Garowe in March 2025;[1224](#) a bomb attack on a police checkpoint in Bossaso city a month earlier had reportedly failed.[1225](#)

In March 2025, an ambulance and another car transporting Puntland soldiers were targeted by an ISS roadside bomb, 'causing casualties'.[1226](#) In the context of the counteroffensive against the ISS in early 2025, Hiiraan Online cited regional authorities saying that ISS fighters from Al Miskaad mountains had regrouped in Togga Miraale valley near Bossaso city and mined access routes to the valley.[1227](#)

In the context of the dispute between Puntland president Deni and the political opposition, opposition forces reportedly blocked roads, stopped the transport of electoral material,[1228](#) and seized a checkpoint in Garowe city ahead of his inauguration in January 2024.[1229](#)

- [1221](#)

Schouten P., Telephone interview, 13 March 2025

- [1222](#)

Eastleigh Voice (The), Puntland forces seize cache of weapons in major security operation, 19 May 2024, [url](#)

- [1223](#)

Hiiraan Online, Puntland seizes 'suicide' drones, arrests 7 linked to Al-Shabaab or ISIS-S, 27 August 2024, [url](#)

- [1224](#)

Garowe Online, Somalia: Puntland Police Seize Stolen Bus, Arrest Militiamen After Gunfight, 22 March 2025, [url](#)

- [1225](#)

Hiiraan Online, ISIS forcing migrants into militancy in Puntland, Somali officials say, 12 February 2025, [url](#)

- [1226](#)

Hiiraan Online, ISIS attack in Puntland kills one soldier, injures nine, 25 March 2025, [url](#)

- [1227](#)

Hiiraan Online, U.S. airstrikes target ISIS militant group in Somalia's Puntland State, 29 March 2025, [url](#)

- [1228](#)

ACLED, Somalia: Political Crisis Deepens Amid Transition to Direct Elections, 28 July 2023, [url](#); Somaliland Sun, Clan Militias Battle Puntland Presidential Guards in Garowe, 17 May 2023, [url](#)

- [1229](#)

SG, Pro-opposition forces seize key security checkpoint in Somalia's Garowe town, 14 January 2024, [url](#)