



3.2. Prison facilities in Mogadishu

The main operational prisons across Somalia include:

- Somaliland: Hargeisa Central Prison and Mandera prison;[235](#)
- Puntland: Garowe Central Prison, prisons in Bosasso, Galkacyo, Qhardo;[236](#)
- Benadir: Mogadishu Central Prison (MCP), Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex (MPCC), Godka Jilacow Prison;[237](#)
- South-Central Somalia: prisons in Kismayo, Baidoa, Beledweyn,[238](#) Bula Burto, Jowhar;[239](#)
- Al-Shabaab controlled area: thousands of prisoners are held in prison-like establishments in the regions under its control.[240](#)
- Focusing on the situation in Mogadishu, an overview of prisons and prisons-like detention facilities as of December 2025 is offered in the table below:[241](#)

Facility	Background	Capacity	Actual population	
			Convicted	Remand
			2 590	
Mogadishu Central Prison (MCP)	Colonial period establishment; host ~ 80 % of the entire detained population in Somalia	~400-500 242	[2 301 males, 66 females, 189 male juveniles, 34 female juveniles]	1 105 [987 males, 29 females, 89 male juveniles]
Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex (MPCC)	Facility includes two courtrooms and three prison blocks, inaugurated in February 2019 243	~700	309 [males only]	
				Unwarranted or remand
				627
Godka Jilacow Prison (The Hole)	Known for holding many suspected AS fighters and political opponents; run by NISA, reportedly as an interrogation centre			[113 male political prisoners, 315 males linked to AS, 91 females linked to AS, 108 male juvenile linked to AS]

Facility	Background	Capacity	Actual population
CID (Criminal Investigation Directorate)	Accommodate numerous individuals awaiting investigation		83 [60 males, 21 females, 2 male juveniles]
Mogadishu District Police Stations	19 district police stations that operate as detention facilities; host individuals before sent to CID		408 [192 males, 39 females, 130 male juveniles, 47 female juveniles]
Undisclosed detention sites	Several detention sites, in the form of houses, operated by NISA; host mainly political opposition figures, prominent leaders affiliated with AS		n.a.

- [235](#)

WPB, Somalia, 2023, [url](#)

- [236](#)

Kaalo, Capacity mapping of criminal rehabilitation systems targeting short term prisoners in Puntland, April 2019, [url](#), pp. 3, 6, 8, 10

- [237](#)

OPR, Annual report assessment on human rights violations in Mogadishu prisons and detention facilities, December 2025, [url](#), p. 6

- [238](#)

WPB, Somalia, 2023, [url](#); UNSOM, Prison conditions in Somalia, July 2024, [url](#), p. 4

- [239](#)

OPR, Annual report assessment on human rights violations in Mogadishu prisons and detention facilities, December 2025, [url](#), p. 5

- [240](#)

WPB, Somalia, 2023, [url](#)

- [241](#)

When not otherwise indicated all information from the table has been drawn from OPR, Annual report assessment on human rights violations in Mogadishu prisons and detention facilities, December 2025, [url](#), pp. 3-7

- [242](#)

Saferworld, Detainee and detention centre conditions in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa, January 2022, [url](#), p. 13

- [243](#)

UN UNifeed, Somalia New Prison Court Complex, 23 February 2019, [url](#)

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