

Subject: ICYMI: Israel's Recognition of Somaliland
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From: Joshua Gross
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Good afternoon. Today, following Israel's recognition of the Republic of Somaliland on December 26th, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar conducted his nation's [first official diplomatic visit to Somaliland](#), meeting President Abdirahman Irro and senior officials.

ISRAEL-SOMALILAND: DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH

- Israel and Somaliland have established full diplomatic relations, agreeing to open mutual embassies and exchange ambassadors.
- Somaliland has committed to joining the Abraham Accords, extending U.S.-brokered normalization into the Horn of Africa.
- President Irro has accepted Prime Minister Netanyahu's invitation for an official visit to Israel.
- The partnership counters Iranian and Houthi threats to global trade in the region.

U.S. RECOGNITION MOMENTUM BUILDS

- Voices in [Congress](#) and the [policy community](#) are calling for formal recognition of Somaliland.
- [Senator Ted Cruz on X](#): "Recognizing Somaliland isn't charity – its strategy. It aligns with America's security interests and the America First doctrine."
- Chairman of the Select Committee on the CCP John Moolenaar and Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China Chris Smith are [pressing the State Department](#) to formally distinguish Somaliland from Somalia in its travel advisory.
- Earlier this year, Rep. Scott Perry [introduced](#) the Republic of Somaliland Independence Act, which would formally recognize Somaliland as an independent nation.
- Somaliland has [resisted Chinese intimidation](#), choosing instead to deepen relations with Taiwan – making it one of only two African nations with formal ties to Taiwan.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

[Gideon Sa'ar, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs](#) (January 6, 2026)



Gideon Sa'ar | גדעון סער
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It's a great privilege to conduct the first official diplomatic visit to Somaliland, at the invitation of President @Abdirahmanirro. The visit is also a message: We are determined to vigorously advance relations between Israel and Somaliland. Today, we held substantive discussions with the President and senior members of his government on the full range of our relations. The mutual recognition and establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries are not directed against anyone. Our shared objective is to promote the mutual benefit of both nations and countries. In Hargeisa, I made it clear: Only Israel will decide whom it recognizes and with whom it maintains diplomatic relations. The President of Somaliland informed me that he has accepted @IsraelIPM Netanyahu's invitation and will pay an official visit to Israel.



9:02 AM · Jan 6, 2026 · 26K Views

Senator Ted Cruz (January 5, 2026): Recognizing Somaliland isn't charity — it's strategy. It aligns with America's security interests and the "America First" doctrine by strengthening an ally that shares our values in a region vital to global trade and counterterrorism.

Israel Foreign Ministry (December 31, 2025): For anyone who forgot, this is what the African Union itself determined regarding Somaliland: "The fact that the union between Somaliland and Somalia was never ratified and also malfunctioned when it went into action from 1960 to 1990, makes Somaliland's search for recognition historically unique and self-justified in African political history.

Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) Podcast – "Recognizing Somaliland" (January 2, 2026) Clifford D. May, Founder & President, FDD; Michael Rubin, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Bashir Goth, Somaliland Representative to the United States

- Michael Rubin: "Somaliland has allied itself with Taiwan, one of only two African countries to do so...I think Donald Trump needs to call Marco Rubio and Chris Laundau... and basically say, 'look, this nonsense needs to stop. We are going to support the country that opposes communist China, not support the country that ingratiate itself into it.'"
- Bashir Goth: "The country has been built by its own people, by its own bootstraps, as the American saying goes. And that should be a model for Africa."

Ask Haviv Anything Podcast – "Why the global outrage at Israel's Somaliland recognition?" (December 31, 2025) Haviv Rettig Gur, Mideast Analyst at The Free Press and Times of Israel

- "If the world recognizes Somaliland, it'll be a statement that reality matters more than diplomatic ritual, that governance matters more than slogans... Pretending that Somaliland doesn't exist or somehow doesn't deserve to exist doesn't make anything better for Somalia and it doesn't help regional stability in any way."
- "[Somaliland] achieved what Somalia never did. There's a monopoly on legitimate violence. There

are predictable, free and open politics. There's conflict resolution that isn't conducted through endless escalation into permanent states of civil war... And this is really the message to Westerners of Somaliland, without international recognition, without ever becoming dependent on aid because it didn't have access largely to aid, without peacekeepers."

- "Somaliland is the example that blows up the idea that Somalis are incapable of stable governance."

The Wall Street Journal – "[Israel Flexes New Diplomatic Muscle in Recognition of Somaliland](#)" (January 4, 2026) Benoit Faucon and Dov Lieber

- Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations: "No one can ignore the strategic location of Somaliland. The straits are a strategic point."
- Ofer Guterman, Senior Researcher, Institute for National Security Studies: "Israel is less constrained by what others will say...It is moving beyond military might to assert its power in the diplomatic field as well."

The Wall Street Journal – Op-Ed "[The Kinship Between Israel and Somaliland](#)" (January 4, 2026) Armin Rosen

- "Every country has chosen to affirm the territorial integrity of the failed Somali state over the real-life achievements of its successful alternative—until now."
- "Somaliland gambled that Western goodwill is the key to global acceptance and long-term survival, having turned down economic overtures from China and Russia to align with Western interests."
- "One thing the Somalilanders and the Jews of Israel have in common is they see no alternative to living as a free people in their own land."

JNS – "['Israel was always on our side,' Somaliland envoy in Washington says](#)" (January 2, 2026) Andrew Bernard

- Bashir Goth, Somaliland Representative to the United States: "Somaliland's history will be divided into two: the history before recognition and the history after recognition by Israel. It was a moral acknowledgement of Somaliland's past and a strategic endorsement for its present reality as a democratic, peaceful and stable country."

The Economist – "[Israel recognises Somaliland](#)" (December 30, 2025)

- "It is a diplomatic coup for Somaliland. Since declaring independence from Somalia in 1991, the statelet has developed a system of government which, though imperfect, has been more stable and democratic than in Somalia, where political dysfunction and civil conflict have prevailed. For this reason many observers, including this newspaper, have argued that Somaliland's claim to statehood deserves recognition."

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