

**From:** Adam Sharon [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 10:57 AM  
**To:** Adam Sharon [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Somaliland President in Wall Street Journal: "My Country, Somaliland, Recognized"

Good morning,

For your awareness, please see today's op-ed in The Wall Street Journal by Dr. Abdirahman "Irro" Mohamed Abdillahi, President of the Republic of Somaliland titled: "**My Country, Somaliland, Recognized.**" The full op-ed appears below.

In the piece, he reflects on the significance of Israel's recent recognition of Somaliland, the historical ties between the two nations, and the broader implications for regional security and international engagement. A few excerpts:

- "While much of the world remained silent, Israel raised the alarm at the United Nations in May 1990, drawing attention to the systematic persecution and killing of Somaliland's population, later referred to as the 'Hargeisa Holocaust.'"
- "Israel and Somaliland share a deep understanding of the struggle for self-determination and international legitimacy. Somalilanders have long regarded Israel as reflecting our own journey, and the hope of advancing shared interests has never waned."
- "Today, the Horn of Africa is an arena of intensified great-power competition, with China and Turkey expanding their presence and influence in Somalia. Somaliland has chosen a different path."
- "Now, Israel has taken this bold step. We are confident others will follow."

Please also see some additional recent coverage for your reference.

**The Washington Post – Op-Ed “[Israel recognized this small enclave as a country. America should, too.](#)”** (January 12, 2026) Joshua Meservey, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

**Jewish Insider – “[Somaliland’s top diplomat in Washington hopes for Jewish support in bid for additional recognition](#)”** (January 9, 2026) Gabby Deutch

**Reuters – “[Somali regions reject Mogadishu's move to cut ties with UAE](#)”** (January 13, 2026) Giulia Paravicini

As always, I'm happy to set up a meeting and discuss these developments in greater detail. I look forward to those conversations.

Best regards,

Adam Sharon, FGS Global

**My Country, Somaliland, Recognized**

**Our first embassy will be in the Jewish state, whose aspirations and history we share.**

**By**

**Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi**

Hargeisa, Somaliland

Israel made history on Dec. 26 by recognizing my country, the Republic of Somaliland. This recognition didn't arise from diplomatic calculation alone; it is rooted in a bond forged during Somaliland's darkest chapter. In the late 1980s, the people of Somaliland endured a systematic campaign of extermination. The Somali dictator, Siad Barre, gave orders that spread through the ranks in the now notorious words "kill all but the crows."

More than 200,000 civilians were killed, and 90% of Hargeisa was destroyed, earning it the name "the Dresden of Africa." Starting in 1988, some 800,000 people fled into Ethiopia.

While much of the world remained silent, Israel raised the alarm at the United Nations in May 1990, drawing attention to the systematic persecution and killing of Somaliland's population, later referred to as the "Hargeisa Holocaust."

Israel had been among the first of 35 countries to recognize Somaliland in 1960, when Somaliland gained independence from Britain, before its voluntary, failed union with southern Somalia. Israel and Somaliland share a deep understanding of the struggle for self-determination and international legitimacy. Somalilanders have long regarded Israel as reflecting our own journey, and the hope of advancing shared interests has never waned.

Today, the Horn of Africa is an arena of intensified great-power competition, with China and Turkey expanding their presence and influence in Somalia. Somaliland has chosen a different path. We control 460 miles of coastline along the Gulf of Aden, through which about 30% of all container ships pass. While Somalia continues to lose ground to the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab, Somaliland has maintained peace and democratic governance for more than three decades. Our U.K.-trained Coast Guard keeps our territorial waters free of piracy—capabilities that align directly with Israeli and broader Western security interests.

Our economic potential is equally significant. Dubai-based DP World's \$442 million investment in modernizing the Port of Berbera has positioned Somaliland as an emerging

hub for regional trade and commerce. Israeli trade partnerships and technical expertise can further accelerate development across key sectors, including agriculture, technology and maritime services.

For Somaliland, Israel's recognition represents a critical step toward securing our rightful place in the international community. It builds on our partnership with Taiwan and reinforces the conclusion reached by a 2005 African Union fact-finding mission, which determined that Somaliland's case should be assessed "from an objective historical viewpoint and a moral angle vis-à-vis the aspirations of the people" and not "linked to the notion of 'opening a Pandora's Box' " in Africa.

One of the proudest moments of my presidency will undoubtedly be listening to Somaliland's national anthem as we inaugurate our first official embassy, in Israel. We recognize that widespread international recognition won't occur overnight. Yet many countries in Africa and beyond have long sympathized with the moral and legal foundations of Somaliland's case and have been waiting for a first mover. We, too, have waited—patiently—for decades.

Now, Israel has taken this bold step. We are confident that others will follow.

*Mr. Abdullahi is president of Somaliland.*

*This material is distributed by FGS Global on behalf of the Republic of Somaliland.  
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