

**Subject:** NEWS: Somaliland President in Israel  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2026 at 4:30:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Joshua Gross  
**To:** Joshua Gross  
**Attachments:** 2232668224960774091.png, img-c7abccf4-23ea-442f-9b2a-23ee12a97574, img-c8c1cfba-abc7-4e50-b7f4-e4d942fbb4a1

Good afternoon,

For your awareness, H.E. President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Irro) yesterday began his first official state visit to Israel, meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, visiting the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust Yad Vashem, planting a symbolic olive tree in the Grove of Nations, and joining senior Israeli business leaders for dinner. Today, the visit continues with meetings with Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, culminating this evening in the official opening of Somaliland's embassy in Jerusalem's Malha Technology Park.

The visit follows the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Somaliland in December 2025.

A few notable statements:

**President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Irro):** *"For thirty-five years, the people of Somaliland have built a peaceful, democratic, and resilient nation. We asked the world: Do you see us? Israel answered first. Today marks a historic milestone in our journey and the beginning of a new chapter in the relationship between Somaliland and Israel."*

**Israeli President Isaac Herzog:** *"It was a great honor to welcome President @Abdirahmanirro to Jerusalem to begin his first-ever state visit to Israel. Our task is now to move from declarations to action with people-to-people collaboration in a range of fields between out two wonderful nations."*

**Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar:** *"Both of us are determined to continue advancing this partnership. No one will decide for Israel, and no one will decide for Somaliland, who we conduct diplomatic relations with. The great strength of this relationship is that it exists not only between governments; it's a friendship between peoples. It exists in the hearts of the peoples."*

**Israel-Africa Relations Institute:** *"This is more than a diplomatic milestone. It is a moment that captures the spirit of everything our Institute works toward: building bridges between Israel and Africa rooted in mutual respect, shared opportunity, and genuine partnership."*

Please find below select links to coverage for your reference.

- **The Jerusalem Post** – "Somaliland president makes historic first visit to Israel following country's recognition"
- **The Times of Israel** – "Somaliland does not take Israel's recognition and hospitality lightly, says country's president in Jerusalem"
- **JNS** – "From recognition to partnership: Somaliland president plants olive tree in the Grove of Nations in Jerusalem"



President of the Republic of Somaliland Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Irro) and President of Israel Isaac Herzog



President of the Republic of Somaliland Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Irro) visiting Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

**Joshua Gross**  
Partner  
Washington D.C.



1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
12th Floor  
Washington, DC 20004

**FGS•GLOBAL**

*This material is distributed by FGS Global on behalf of the Republic of Somaliland. For more information visit [www.fara.gov](http://www.fara.gov)*