

# The Horn Tribune

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## Somaliland warns Somalia to stop killing, torturing Somalilanders in their territory

Government calls upon the IC to be wary of the recent spate of inhumane acts perpetrated against Somaliland citizens



By M.A. Egge

The government of the Republic of Somaliland has sternly warned the government of Somalia to immediately desist from killing, torturing and harming Somaliland citizens in its territory. The state also called upon the International Community (IC) to take

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## Somaliland tops the Horn of Africa in Freedom House Report 2024

<b>Somaliland*</b>	<b>43</b>
PARTLY FREE	/100
Political Rights	17 /40
Civil Liberties	26 /60
<b>Somalia</b>	<b>8</b>
NOT FREE	/100
Political Rights	2 /40
Civil Liberties	6 /60

Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Republic of Somaliland ranked first in all the Horn of Africa Nations Freedom House Report 2024.

A report issued by Freedom House Report 2024, Somaliland has been

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## Taiwan and Somaliland Deepen Ties with the Expanded Military Scholarship Program



The expansion of Taiwan's military scholarship program to Somaliland signifies a concrete step toward bolstering the latter's defense capabilities while deepening bilateral relations. Taiwan's commitment to regional

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## The spate of animosity killings of Somalilanders in Mogadishu has grave consequences, says Minister Kahin



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Internal Affairs, who is also the chair of the ruling KULMIYE Party Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, said that there are negative consequences of the gruesomely barbaric killings of

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## Ethiopia's Agreement with Somaliland Pivotal to Africa's Security: Ugandan Pan-Africanist



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## Grant Shapps admits UK discussing shock move in tackling Red Sea crisis



Defence Secretary Grant Shapps told MPs that he is going to discuss moves with Lord Cameron about a potential important ally in tackling the Houthis

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# Somaliland warns Somalia to stop killing, torturing Somalilanders in their territory



note and be especially wary of the recent spate of inhumane killings, attacks and incarcerations subjected to Somaliland citizens in Mogadishu.

So, too, has the government condemned the misguided near-fatal directives emanating from Mogadishu that disrupted traffic in Somaliland's air-space almost causing collisions of two major airlines.

These were contained in a press release from the Presidency on Thursday following the weekly cabinet ministerial meetings and their resolutions.

Press release-29-02-2024

The 125th session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland which was held today on 29/02/2024 at the Presidency that was chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi while flanked by the Vice President H.E. Abdirahman Abdilahi Ismail ( Sayli'i) mainly reviewed and focused on the regional security.

Since the two governments of the Republic of Somaliland and the Federal Government of Ethiopia, signed the Memorandum of Agreement on 01.01.2024, the Mogadishu government has waged an open war against the people of Somaliland, immediately after they gave up on the international community. The even resorted to cooperate with the extremist groups, as evidenced by the radio controlled by the government of Mogadishu statement on Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys and other leaders of Somalia.

Other hostile measures taken by the government of Mogadishu include turning back a medical aid plane that was airlift a citizen in need of specialized medication abroad, which according to international law is a crime against humanity.

It also resorted to the targeting of Somaliland citizens in the areas controlled by the Mogadishu government, including those who have been killed, arrested, tortured and intimidated.

The Council of Ministers, after having a lengthy deliberation decided that:-

1. The Republic of Somaliland has been enjoying peace since it regained its independence and having good relations with the neighboring states.

contributing to the peace of the Horn of Africa region and as such beckons the nations to bolster alongside Somaliland the maintenance of the safety and stability of the residents of the Horn.

2. The Council of Ministers is calling upon the Somali Government to refrain from further hostilities organized against Somaliland and perpetrations against the citizens of Somaliland who live in the territory under its control which is against procedural governance; it is reminiscent of past genocide and sufferings subjected to the people of Somaliland by past Somali regime, therefore, and as such, the government of the Republic of Somaliland warns that the government of Somalia should refrain from harming those people, some of whom have already been killed and some arrested, a move which may cause long-term negative consequences.

3. Since the international community supports the Mogadishu government in terms of security and finances, we call upon them to be more attentive to the plight of the citizens of Somaliland who are being targeted in Mogadishu.

4. The government of Somaliland has submitted a complaint against the government of Mogadishu to the concerned judicial and human rights agencies, and calls on these agencies to conduct an international investigation into the killings and executions.

5. Since the Republic of

Somaliland controls its sea, land and air, it declares to the international community that any agreement entered into by the government of Somalia does not apply to the Republic of Somaliland. 6. The government of Somaliland condemns the orders of the government of Mogadishu to disrupt the air traffic that resulted in the near-collision of Qatar Airways and Ethiopian Airlines as confirmed by the pilot of the Qatar Airways and the management of both companies, directives that was given by rogue Mogadishu officials, a move that Somaliland strongly condemns.

7. The Council of Ministers is calling on the international community, especially the organizations concerned with the air management, such as ICAO and IATA, to fully communicate with the air management in the Republic of Somaliland.

8. The Council of Ministers commends the people of Somaliland for maintaining their nationalism and unity and being alert to anything that harm the nation of Somaliland; similarly the state congratulates the people of Somaliland of/to realizing their mission to be part of the international community since the signing of the MoU by both the governments of Somaliland and Ethiopia.

9. The Council of Ministers strongly warns anyone against spreading and promoting the wayward plots and traps of the enemy against the people of the Republic of Somaliland, verbally, physically and in writing.

On the other hand, the Council of Ministers approved by majority vote the draft of the Bank's Real Estate Mortgage Act No. XX/2023 prepared by the Attorney General and the Governor of the national Central Bank that was previously distributed to them and upon lengthy deliberations.

## Taiwan and Somaliland Deepen Ties with the Expanded Military Scholarship Program

security and partnership with the Republic of Somaliland is underscored by this announcement, building upon the program's initiation in 2023.

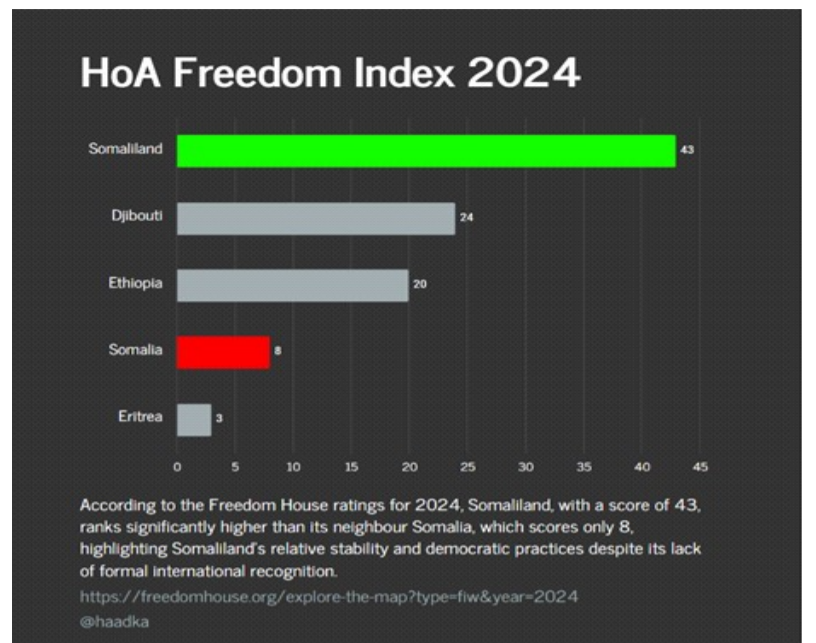
The expanded program offers high school graduates from Somaliland the opportunity to undertake four-year academic military studies in Taiwan, covering specialized fields such as War College Courses, Command and Staff Courses, and Navy Academy programs. This training will be provided by Taiwan's

prestigious National Defense University (NDU), known for its excellence in military education and research.

Ambassador Lou, Taiwan's Representative in Somaliland, emphasized the importance of capacity building and knowledge transfer in the field of security and national defense.

"Through this program, Somaliland will move toward peace, stability, and prosperity," remarked Ambassador Lou. "Taiwan remains

# Somaliland tops the Horn of Africa in Freedom House Report 2024



ranked 43/100 and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Muslim World.

1st in the Horn of Africa, 2nd in IGAD, 2nd in Arab world, 7th in the Muslim world and that's for 20 years straight.

In the latest Freedom House report, Somaliland experienced a decline, losing one point from the previous year (44 to 43). Given this, the country should be striving for progress rather than settling for our current state.

This is what the country and its government should appreciate and

remind their own selves.

It is worth mentioning though that Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Norway have also seen a similar decrease of one point in 2024, whereas the general trend globally has been going down for the past two decades.

The incident of the rebels who took up arms against the democratically elected government in 2023, which has since been addressed, have caused no major impact on the general freedom index.

committed to supporting Somaliland and exploring further opportunities for regional security cooperation."

Ambassador Lou also highlighted a notable development within the program, stating, "It is thrilling to see 2 female military officers awarded for Taiwan Military Scholarship to study Master English Program on International Security this year. As the African proverb says, 'If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.' We expect there will be more and more female awardees to study in Taiwan."

NDU's curriculum incorporates the latest advancements in **modern military command and control (C2)**, emphasizing **networked warfare** and **information dominance**. This approach prioritizes empowering lower-level commanders to make crucial decisions based on real-time information, leading to faster and more adaptable responses on the ground. Additionally, advanced communication and sensor technology provide commanders with a comprehensive picture of the battlefield, enabling informed strategic planning and execution. Seamless information sharing between commanders, units, and intelligence agencies fosters collaboration and coordinated operations.

Ambassador Lou, Taiwan's Representative in Somaliland, emphasized the program's potential

for long-term progress. He highlighted the inclusion of two female military officers pursuing Master's degrees in International Security this year, expressing optimism for increasing female representation in future cohorts.

Beyond defense, Taiwan and Somaliland collaborate across various sectors, including economic development, healthcare, and technology transfer. Cultural exchanges and educational partnerships further solidify understanding and mutual respect between the two nations. Somaliland has previously sought military and security training from regional partners like Ethiopia and Djibouti, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing defense capabilities through international cooperation. Taiwan's program offers valuable expertise in modern warfare and defense strategies, with potential for knowledge transfer and collaborative efforts in defense technology development.

However, amidst this cooperation, the unresolved airspace dispute between Somalia and Somaliland looms large. Somalia's disruptive actions, including conflicting directives to pilots and jeopardizing air travel safety, highlight the urgent need for effective airspace management solutions. It remains uncertain if Somaliland has sought Taiwan's assistance in managing its airspace, especially in light of Somalia's efforts to disrupt the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Somaliland and Ethiopia.



### The spate of animosity killings of Somalilanders in Mogadishu has grave consequences, says Minister Kahin



Somaliland citizens in Mogadishu. Minister Mohamed Kahin gave the observations while at the funeral of the late Ahmed Aden Abdirahman who was killed in Mogadishu, while noting that the murder was the second out of three high profile ones that happened hence tailored towards antagonizing Somaliland as a nation.

"We came together for the second time at the funeral of Ahmed Aden Abdirahman. It is unfortunate and a non-Islamic incident. We came here for the funeral of the deceased who was killed in Mogadishu. We have already seen one recently, while a third one has just been killed in Garowe", said the minister. He continued, "The deceased is said to have been poisoned. These killings are a matter that puts the people of Somaliland in bad mood; hostility and negative consequences that do not wash away from the people. We say to the relatives of the deceased, may God give you patience and faith to accept the fate". Minister Mohamed Kahin said that this terrible enmity is causing Somaliland and Somalia governments to never talk again. "Countries go to wars, there have

been many wars in the world, but they thereafter reconcile. These killings would cause such animosity that both governments may never parley again", he said. He noted that this only bring back the memories of Somalilanders killings enmasse during the genocide perpetrated against the country by the Siyad Barre regime where mass graves were the order of the day. He decried that individuals from Somaliland are imprisoned in Somalia with tramped up charges whereas some others Somaliland people had to seek refuge in the US embassy while escaping capture or lynching. He said, "We believe that some people are being held for dubious reasons. There are other people who surrendered to the American embassy in Mogadishu as they were being chased".

### Grant Shapps admits UK discussing shock move in tackling Red Sea crisis

terrorists. Defence Secretary Grant Shapps will hold top level meetings in a bid to tackle Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. He told MPs that he will discuss the status of a potential ally in Africa with Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron.



The minister was tackled in the Commons about the former British protectorate of Somaliland which has been operating as a successful independent country for 33 years but is currently unrecognised because neighbouring Somalia claims sovereignty over it. However, a number of MPs including former Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson and former Attorney General Sir Michael Ellis have been pressing for recognition of a country which, unlike Somalia, is a stable democracy with a good human rights record and wants to be allies with Britain. Sir Michael pressed the issue this week in the Commons when Shapps was giving an MPs an update on the Red Sea crisis.

He said: "Has the Defence Secretary considered engaging with the currently unrecognised country of Somaliland? I visited it recently, as the Register of Members' Financial Interests will show. As it has a border with the gulf of Aden, its port at Berbera might be useful to His Majesty's Government." The Defence Secretary's response has offered a little bit more hope to Somaliland. He told Sir Michael: "I know that my right honourable and learned Friend is a big fan of Somaliland. I have visited it myself in the past, and I know that in a difficult environment, they do a very good job —

administratively and otherwise — of trying to run their Government. I will take his comments away and confer with the Foreign Secretary." Previously, Express.co.uk has revealed that in discussions with Sir Gavin, Lord Cameron said he was "sympathetic" to recognition. The door for international moves by the UK and US has been opened by Ethiopia in effect recognising Somaliland via a memorandum of understanding so it can have access to its major port. The issue has infuriated Somalia, but critics point out that while Somaliland is stable and relatively successful, Somalia is currently a failed state and a haven for piracy.

### Ethiopia and Somaliland discuss strengthening 'new areas of cooperation' in health



Hon. Ayele Teshome, Ethiopia's state minister of health, and his counterpart, Somaliland's Deputy Minister of Health, Hon. Liban Yousuf Osman, met in Addis Abeba today

where they discussed strengthening "new areas of cooperation" in the health sector. Appreciating "the impeccable hospitality" extended to him and his delegation, deputy minister Liban

said in a post on X (formerly twitter) that the two sides have "discussed strengthening our existing health cooperation and looked into new areas of cooperation, including nutrition, emergency preparedness, cross-border health care coordination, and experience sharing between the two brotherly countries." Deputy minister Liban also said Somaliland's ministry of health "truly appreciate the long-standing partnership with the ministry of health of Ethiopia and looking forward to expanding and strengthening our partnership going forward." AS

### Lowyado-Borama Road Upgrading Phase 1 Project

The implementation of the construction of the Lawyo-Addo to Borama road project supported by the African Development Bank {AFDB} whose work has gone through different stages is set to start soon.

The construction of this road, which is of great importance to us as a nation and as an individual, will contribute greatly to the economic growth of the country. Phase 1 of the construction of Lawyo-addo-Borama road, which the community has been waiting its implementation, according to the copy of the agreement the relevant parties have officially signed on 03 June 2023, and there are different stakeholders involved. On the side of the Somaliland government, the Ministry of Finance is in charge of the agreement, while its implementation responsible by the Somaliland Roads Authority and the Ministry of Transport and Road Development.

The 1-st phase of the Lawyo-Addo to Borama road, which has passed through various stages as mentioned above, has been signed, the feasibility study has been carried out, and it is now in its final stage, with the hope that it will start soon Insha-Allah. And now the African Development Bank is expected to release the money that was allocated for the project.

As the Ministry of Finance, based on our role in the implementation of this project and representing the Government of Somaliland in the agreement for the construction of

the road, at the same time, keeping in mind its importance, we are taking a great responsibility to follow up with the leaders of the African Development Bank to speed up the money allocated to the project to start the implementation of phase 1 early.

This road is one that we have had a great need for, with a great burden on the traffic of the West coast and the rest of the country, and it is a dream that we do want to come true. Finally, there are major projects related to roads and bridges that have been implemented since Somaliland regained its independence, including the long road connecting Berbera to Wajaale {Berbera Corridor}, the longest road that has ever been implemented is the road that connects Burco and Eerigabo which is something to be proud of.

It is also worth noting that we should inform the public that on February 26, 2024 that the Minister of Transport and Road Development Hon. Suleiman Awad Ali (Bukhari) opened a meeting to mark the beginning of the construction of the Hargeisa-Odweyne-Burao road. Preparatory work for the start of the Road Project Study, who's funding is supported by the African Development Bank (AFDB) is in on. In addition to that, there are many roads that our community has built voluntarily while the government has always been helping them as much as they can.

Public Relations & Information Department

### Dahabshil celebrates Golden Jubilee of service with the inauguration of a new UK headquarter



The Dahabshil group of companies is celebrating in style its Golden Jubilee by inaugurating its UK headquarters in London.

The groups' official tweeter broadcasted its elation which went as follows:-

"Thrilled to announce the grand opening of our new UK headquarters in the heart of London where we celebrated our more than 50 years of serving the diaspora. Thank you to all our customers,

agents, and staff for contributing to saving lives and development.

"Similarly, Dahabshil is elated seeing one of their customers using a Dahabshil bank card in the UK to ride on buses, buy food, and withdraw cash. It's great to see satisfied customers using our fully compliant services locally and globally.

"The opening of this office will further expand the company's services to its clients". END.



# Ethiopia PM Abiy Ahmed arrives in Kenya for State visit



Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has arrived in the country on his first State visit since President William Ruto took over. He was received by his host President William Ruto at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, JKIA. Abiy was last in Kenya on December 9, 2020, on an official visit for the launch of the One-Stop Border Post at Moyale in Marsabit. His last State visit to Kenya was in June 2018 when he and then-president Uhuru Kenyatta vowed to elevate their ties to strategic levels. Insiders said the agenda of the visit is security and economic collaboration, with a particular focus on Ethiopia's strategic interest in utilising Kenya's Lamu Port for maritime access.

The latest visit signals improved relations between Nairobi and Addis Ababa and offers a new opportunity to explore new avenues of collaboration in the region. Kenya and Ethiopia share a 60-year-old historical defence agreement, rooted in the friendship between Jomo Kenyatta and Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi was on February 22 in Ethiopia where he signed key cooperation deals in seven sectors on behalf of the government. These included MoUs on tourism, wildlife, culture, blue economy, petroleum, correctional services and capacity building in public service. The deals were agreed upon during the 36th Joint Ministerial

Commission meeting in Addis Ababa. "I'm excited by this great opportunity to explore ways to strengthen the friendly relations between our two countries on economic, social, security and foreign relations," Mudavadi said. Besides bolstering the enhanced bilateral ties during Abiy's visit, Ruto is also expected to capitalise on occasion to push for Ethiopia's support of Azimio leader Raila Odinga's bid for the AU chairmanship. The President has taken to playing a pivotal role in ensuring his former political nemesis wins the AU top job which signals his exit from the local political scene. Since declaring his candidature for the post on February 15, Raila has received backing not only from Ruto and his Azimio camp but also from regional leaders. They include former Nigeria President Olusegun Obasanjo who said the Opposition chief is the best pick for the position. Ruto also joined Raila in Uganda on Monday where their host Yoweri Museveni endorsed his candidature for the top AU job ahead of polls slated for 2015 during the next AU Summit.

## Ethiopia's Agreement with Somaliland Pivotal to Africa's Security: Ugandan Pan-Africanist

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Ethiopia signed with Somaliland is crucial to the security interest of Africa, Ugandan Pan-Africanist, Richard Job Matua said. In an exclusive interview with ENA, Matua said that Ethiopia's initiative will give Africa impetus to embark on its geostrategic security interest. The pan-Africanist added that Ethiopia's military base would contribute its effort for maintaining the security interest of Africa. The deal also fosters Africa's path to regional cooperation and integration in many ways, Matua said. According to him, access to the sea is very important to Ethiopia as it is the fifth largest economy on the continent. "It (the agreement) by itself is pan-Africanism, spirit of brotherhood, cooperation and integration finally. Therefore, it will lead to economic development in Somaliland and Ethiopia, economic development in Horn of Africa and by extension in the whole continent," the Ugandan pan-Africanist underscored. It is to be recalled that the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the instruments that Ethiopia has massive potential to utilize from and ensure mutual economic development and growth with all African countries, he stated. He further elaborated that "Ethiopia's establishing a military base will provide power to safeguard geostrategic security interest of Africa. That MoU is very imperative as current day example of African spirit of working together which is integration." Ethiopians must rally behind the MoU to ensure that the country gets sea ports peacefully, on win-win approach and shared interests and register another round of great victory for Africa, he elaborated. Proponents of the field advocate that Ethiopia's access to sea ports will help the country to exert efforts to maintain peace and security in the Horn region, the Red Sea and beyond, not only for itself, but also for all other neighboring countries. Ethiopia's view is always to protect the peace and security of the region and the country contributes not just by words but by deeds and blood.

## Truth and tale about Somalia's drive against Ethio-Somaliland interaction-By Adam M. Jibril

All autocratic politicians share one basic belief that they own the absolute truth on life, the rulers of Somalia today continue to behave accordingly, both Al-Itisam of Hasan Sheik Mohamoud and Al-Shabab live in on an imagined realm that they have a united Somalia that the man in Villa Somalia presides. But the Actual fact is far from this deceit. The process of fragmentation of the Somali state was started with the very moment when the military Junta's regime was established in 1969, and has been deepening by the year through divide & rule policy practiced by the regime. Henceforth, the direction of political actions had been according to the thesis of monopolization of power and resource by one man who remained to qualify the only thinker about "Greater-Somalia" mission, in which justice and human rights were excluded. Henceforth, the Somali State has been present only in the minds of the Ruling Elite plus some leaders from the opposition side, Abdillahi Yusuf, General Farh Aided, Abdulqasim Salad, Ali Mahdi and the likes, all of whom believed in clan ideology that necessarily hostile to modern statehood. Other radical slogans based on Islamism, which emerged with the rise of the global Islamic radicalism have negatively contributed to the withered away of Somali State. All those outmoded politicians have decided to occupy Villa Somalia in order to rule the State of Somalia which doesn't exist in reality. This mentality has taken Somalia into 1991 when the Southern Somalia entered into the era of Warlords, Islamic Courts, and the State Building process fallen into the hands of foreigners, where the indigenes political actors left to devise the art of corruption, piracy and putting down all kind of wastes into the Somali soil. The grave upshot of all these blunders led to the Somali State Building process entirely failing. Unfortunately, the Current Somali politicians don't see this reality, and to conceal their failures they are raising war slogans against MoU, mobilizing everything in their disposal including Islamist resources to halt the MoU to be realized.

In contrast to these practices, Somaliland has different type of experience in relation to State building process which was based on local ownership of reconciliation, where communities came together in peace and reconciliation conferences, decisions had been taken on fund raising issues, resolved disputes and demobilization of militias has been realized as well as resolving other related problems on consensus building manner. The Traditional and modern systems merged into a Hybrid Political and Security Governance. One person one vote elections become the supreme practices of democracy in Somaliland. Out of this rationale Somaliland has taken one more step towards sharing resources with the next-door neighbor, Ethiopia. Ethiopia, which according to Nelson Mandela Representatives Genuine African of Civilization and Statehood (Long Walk to Freedom). Resource Sharing courses are an historically inevitable and unavowable trend for the development of Africa. To stop this waves of Somaliland progress, which is in line with the orientation of renaissance and modernization of Africa, the Political Islam both Al-Shabab and Al-Itisam, who rule Somalia today are desperately trying to halt the Ethio-Somaliland deal through attempts of reviving medieval based 'Islam versus Christian', which is a clear evidence that the ruling elites in Somalia today are ideological followers of the most radical Islamic interpretation of human history related to "ibn Taymiyyah School of thought". Therefore, behind the high-profile campaign against MoU signed by Somaliland and Ethiopia is a dangerous attempt to hold-back mankind's procession and bring it back to the dark ages. About the Author Ambassador Adam Jibril Muse has held various positions in the Somaliland government, including serving as a Representative to the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, and the African Union. He is also a writer who has authored several articles. He can be reached at adamjibril4@gmail.com.

# President leads mourners in laying to rest the second high profile murdered Somalilander in Mogadishu, just as that of a third victim has occurred

By M.A. Egge The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, said that the nation of Somaliland is not one that wails over the dead, but it is considering what to do about the spate of the gruesome murders of its citizens in Mogadishu. The Head of State made the statement on Tuesday as he led mourners in the burial of a second Somalilander to be slain in Mogadishu, the former Somalia legislature the late Ahmed Adan Abdirahman. Even as the body was being laid to rest, news of a third victim who happened to work at the same aviation institution, as the first Mogadishu slaying victim, was announced. He declared that a concrete decision would be taken as far as the gruesome assassinations of Somaliland victims in Somalia are concerned. The late Ahmed Aden Abdirahman who was brutally killed in Mogadishu days after Abdinassir Musa Dahable of the Somalia civil aviation was grizzly murdered, and now another Somalia civil aviation expert has

just been similarly slain in Puntland, Somalia. The President led mourners in similar burial in Gebiley of the late Abdinassir a couple of days earlier. By the time of going to press, the body of the latest third victim has been flown into the country. "The spate of the latest killings of Somaliland citizens in Somalia is an unprecedented new phenomenon hitherto unseen. Countries, nations and communities always went to war but never proliferated witch-hunt murders", he said. The President described the acts as barbaric as un-Islamic just as it is against all forms of humanity. He said that it defies all tenets and rules of engagements to perpetrate attacks against travelers, workers or personalities for the sake of assumed witch-hunts. He wondered how the late MP who is an accomplished and well versed Islamic intellectual with several degrees and an eminent personality would be gruesomely slain. The president noted, "The body

would be laid to rest, Somalilanders do not wail over the dead but a concrete decision would be made as regards these (murders)." The burial was attended by several members of the cabinet, parliamentarians, traditional leaders, politicians and other citizens in large numbers. Eulogies were said at the gravesite where prayer for the departed was observed too and family members and relatives of the deceased were condoled. The Ministers of Interior, Education, Water Development, Animal Husbandry, Defense and Justice at the venue, sent their deepest condolences to the family and relatives of the deceased, and described his death as a great crime against the people of Somaliland. MP Mohamed Hussein Jama (Rambo) and the chairman of the national chamber of commerce, Mr. Jamal Aydeed Ibrahim, also expressed their condolences to the families of the deceased and the Somaliland nation as a whole, and sent a cautionary message to all Somaliland people who are thinking of going to Somalia.



## Speaker of the House of Representatives receives Netherlands Institute for Democracy and Multi-Parties officials



By M.A. Egge

The director of the Institute for Democracy and Multi-Parties (NIMD) in the Netherlands together with the representative of the Institute for Democracy (NIMD) in Somaliland, Abdijaliil Aw Dahir Afqarshe, held a crucial meeting on Tuesday with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland Hon Yassin Mohamoud Hiir Faratoon.

The Speaker received in his office the Director of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) Thijs Berman, project coordinator Kristina Miletec, the

representative of the organization in Somaliland, Abdijaliil Aw Dahir Afqarshe, Head of Programs Dr. Abdirahman Gas, and negotiation and conflict resolution expert Shaun MacKay.

The Speaker was flanked by both his first and second deputies the honourables Syed Mire Farah 'Girre', and the Ali Hamud Jibril respectively, together with legislative advisor of Institutions and Development Programs, Hassan Mohamed Jama 'Hiis'.

Director Berman praised the House of Representatives and the people of Somaliland for the mature

democratic process that has become an example for the region. For his part, the first deputy speaker warmly welcomed the delegation to the House of Representatives; and urged that NIMD programs depend on the factual and real needs of the country.

He praised NIMD for the trainings they started for political organizations and parties, and he expected that the efforts would be fruitful.

Both parties agreed on a cooperation program that will start soon in relation to trainings for the development of democracy.

They also agreed to strengthen cooperation in raising awareness of the democratic process, monitoring, electoral representation and promoting political participation, especially among women and youth.

Finally, the meeting was closed by the Speaker Hon. Yassin Mohamud (Faratoon) who expressed how important it is to develop and promote the democratic process in every appropriate manner possible.

## Speaker Reshuffles House of Representatives Subcommittees

The Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yassin Haji Mohamoud Hiir 'Faratoon', Wednesday, made a wide reshuffle to the composition of the House subcommittees.

The changes as published on the official website and social media platforms of the HoR cover all the committees leaving very few members to continue roles in their previous committees.

It is mandatory to shift committee memberships once their yearly tenure expires. This time around, the reshuffle comes more than seventeen months overdue due to circumstances mostly beyond the control of the House impacting on the proper dispensation of their responsibilities.

The Speakers' committees' nominations appeared as below:

### 1. The Standing Committee

1. Abdikareem Adan Omar 'Dhiirane'
2. Abdullahi Musa Abdi Awale Jimale Ahmed Yonis
3. Mohamoud Hayir Duale Yussuf Farah Warsame
4. Mohamoud Farah Jama Mukhtar Ibrahim Habashi
5. Sheikh Ahmed Dayib 'Ku-Addeeye'
6. Suleiman Nur Warsame 'Food'
7. Mubarik Hussein Mohamed 'Heeldhere'
8. Abokor Farah Warsame
9. Abdirahman Yussuf Mohamed 'Badheedhe'
10. Hassan Dhuhul Laabsaalah

### 2. Economy, Finance and Trade

1. Hussein Ismail Jama
2. Abokor Saeed Ali
3. Ahmed Abdu Musa
4. Mohamed Khadar Dahir Ibrahim Ali Jama
5. Gulaid Mohamed Warsame
6. Mustafa Ahmed Abdullahi Khadar Ali Hassan (Hakim)
7. Ali Hussein Nur 'Beegsi'

### 3. Internal Affairs, Defense and Security

1. Abdullahi Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed'
2. Ahmed Mohamed Hurre 'Barkhad'
3. Ahmed Musa Jama
4. Fuad Ahmed Derie
5. Ahmed Mohamoiud Abdullahi 'Fanah'
6. Saeed Jama Hassan 'Adde'
7. Adan Osman Harbi

### 4. Sharia, Constitution and Family Affairs

1. Barkhad Jama Hersi 'Battun'
2. Ali Jama Arrale 'Qaran'
3. Salah Mohamed Derie Hussein Adan Abdi
4. Mohamed Hussein Maydhane
5. Qassem Adan Suleiman Saeed Mohamed Ismail 'Sokeeye'

### 5. Social Affairs

1. Amina Elmi Farid

2. Ahmed Abdikareem Duale 'Walhad'

3. Ahmed Jama Salah
4. Hersi Abdullahi Hersi
5. Ibrahim Mohamed Jama 'Guun'

6. Abdullahi Mohamed Adan
7. Abdullahi Yussuf Ahmed

### 6. Public Works, Technology, Housing and Transportation

1. Jama Adan Derie
2. Eng. Ahmed Abdi Ibrahim (Timojili')

3. Eng. Hassan Ahmed Elmi 'Keyse'

4. Eng. Suleiman Ahmed Arab
5. Amin Suleiman Jama Rooble

6. Suleiman Derie Barre
7. Mohamed Abib Yussuf

### 7. External Affairs, International Cooperation, Planning & Investment

1. Mohamed Hassan Saeed
2. Jama Abokor Dubbe

3. Mohamed Osman Mohamed 'Limo'
4. Mukhtar Hassan Maydhane

5. Mubarak Musa Ismail
6. Omar Jama Farah

### 8. Justice, Legislative Affairs & Human Rights

1. Jamal Ali Adan 'Jah'
2. Abdikareem Mohamed Muhumad

3. Abdikareem Adan Ali Dubad
4. Ahmed Yussuf Nur 'Gurruje'

5. Faisal Yussuf Jama Hashi
6. Mohamed Jama Ismail 'Koodbuur'

7. Bileh Abdi Duale

### 9. Natural Resources and Environment

1. Suleiman Mohamed Farah 'Gooh'

2. Abdikareem Me'ad Isaq
3. Yahye Abdullahi Amin
4. Ahmed Hassan Ali 'Assowe'

5. Mohamoud salah Abdi
6. Abdikareem Hugur Abdi
7. Bashir Hussein Hersi

### 10. Public Accounts

1. Mohamed Jama Liban
2. Mohamed Hussein Jama 'Rambo'

3. Abdirashid Abdullahi Musa
4. Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud 'Kaare'
5. Ahmed-Yassin Mohamed Hassan

6. Jama Ahmed Ogleh 'Anno'
7. Hassan Omar Hassan 'Ogaal'
8. Nuraddin Ahmed Dayib

The new committees are expected to draw in a few lax ends that have of recent been the subject of public discontent.

External Affairs subcommittee, especially, will make a positive impact if it, for instance, follows up on and supports the recent Minister of Planning decree relating to the strengthening and upgrade of development partners input and their employment practices in country offices.

## Ministry of Environment and Climate Change holds 2024 Annual Work Plan meeting



By Goth Mohamed Goth

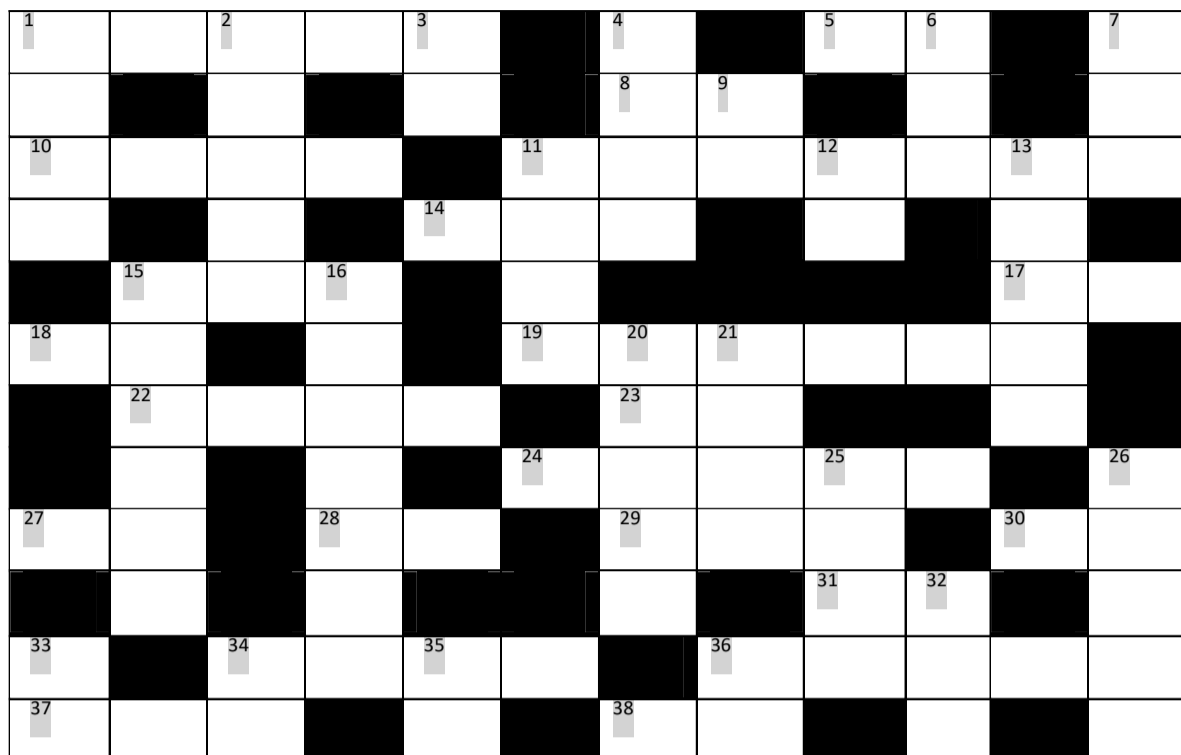
The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change 2024 Annual Work Plan meeting was held in Mansoor Hotel in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

During the meeting the participants reviewed Previous Year's Achievements and summary of the accomplishments and milestones achieved in the previous year also, highlighted major successes, challenges faced, and lessons learned.

The meeting presided over by the Hon Shukri Haji Ismail and Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Duale, Director General the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change at the end of the meeting concluded by thanking all attendees for their active participation and valuable contributions and enthusiasm expressed during the meeting and set a promising tone for the implementation of the 2024 annual work plan.



# THT Puzzle



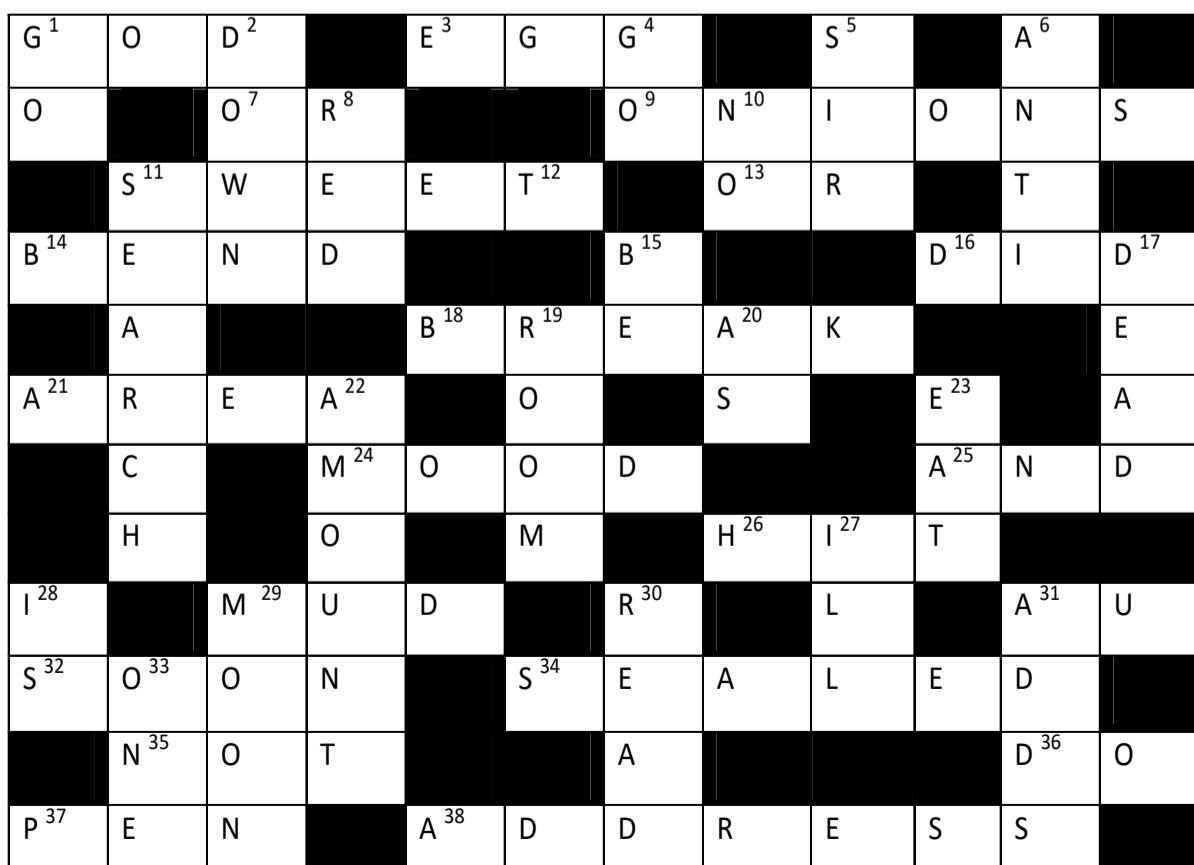
**DOWN**

- 1 Station or bases
- 2 Antagonist
- 3 weight measurement
- 4 Basic or foundation
- 6 Carpet
- 7 Heated
- 9 Negative
- 11 Deceased
- 12 United Kingdom
- 13 Home
- 15 Soil or land
- 16 Quantity
- 20 Rough and ready/ rough road
- 21 Addicted to
- 25 Change/ writing changes
- 26 Change
- 33 On the way to
- 34 Be present
- 35 Hence
- 36 Hence

**ACROSS**

- 1 Crack
- 5 Otherwise
- 8 Resting on
- 10 Plant seeds
- 11 Famine
- 14 an active insects makes honey
- 15 **Fitness center**
- 17 **United States**
- 18 **Otherwise**
- 19 **Beverages/ cocktail**
- 22 **Verbal**
- 23 **Atop**
- 24 **Quiet/ electronic quiet**
- 27 **Atop**
- 28 **United Kingdom**
- 29 Supernatural being
- 30 Pronouns
- 31 identification
- 34 Reliable
- 36 Municipal
- 37 Several
- 38 Travel

## Previous Answer



## Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal:

Somaliland's Pathway to International Recognition

| Dr. Mohamed Farah Hersi |

Academy for Peace and Development

| January 2024 |



**(Part 05)**

The new deal between Somaliland and Ethiopia is thus about much more than economic development and integration between the two nations, but instead also relates to cooperation in the areas of security and defense, in order to counter Somalia's growing strength. On January 8th 2024, a delegation led by Somaliland's Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Major General Nuh Ismail Thani met with Ethiopia's Chief of State Field Marshal Berhanu Jula in Addis Ababa to discuss military cooperation between the two countries. That this type of cooperation is of a different scope and scale is evident in the fact that both parties tied this contact to the fulfillment of the recently signed MoU (Afrika, 2024).

In a region marked by persistent conflict and the absence of political stability, to have both Somaliland and Somalia building up military capabilities under circumstances absent constructive dialogue risks the possibility of conflict. The lack of a coordinated approach to Somaliland and its status, and Somalia's attempt to exploit this gap so as to isolate Somaliland, only makes conflict more likely. It is thus imperative for global powers to take advantage of changing relations between Ethiopia and Somaliland as a starting point for formalizing Somaliland's independent status, with Ethiopia serving as an anchor and balancing force between Somaliland and Somalia, thereby granting an equal and stable platform for the two Somali neighbors to negotiate cooperative relations. The Ethio-Somaliland MoU demonstrates that Somaliland's self-governance is inevitable and beneficial to the region, and now is the time to ensure that this transition happens through peaceful means, without fanning the flames of Somalia's current belligerent approach to impeding this reality. Rivalry between the United States and China is increasingly being observed in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Djibouti, which serves as a strategically vital military hub for Africa. Both nations have established military installations and outposts in Djibouti, located 174 km from Somaliland's border. However, diplomatic ties between Somaliland and Taiwan have strained the relationship between Somaliland and China, causing Beijing to view Somaliland's actions as unfriendly. In contrast, improved relations between Somaliland and Ethiopia are likely to enable the country to form expand alliances with both global powers, thanks to both the US and China's dual dependence on Ethiopian influence in the Horn.

**4. Opportunities**

Prospects for cooperation between Ethiopia and Somaliland are extensive, and it is crucial that such an arrangement proves mutually beneficial for both parties. It is imperative that Ethiopia's access to the sea does not come at the expense of Somaliland's economic progress, and that the two sides must work together to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome. The substance of the MoU focuses on three key areas: the implementation of the Berbera Port Utilization Agreement of 2016, defense and security cooperation between Somaliland and Ethiopia against potential external threats, including AS, and a fair-trade agreement that enables Somaliland's small market to access the rapidly growing Ethiopian market. Finally, the MoU will facilitate diplomatic efforts at the IGAD and AU levels, where Ethiopia is to advocate for Somaliland as an independent state.

**4.1 Berbera Port Utilization**

In 2016, an agreement was reached between Somaliland and Ethiopia regarding the utilization of the Berbera Port. According to the terms of the agreement, Ethiopia committed to using the port for 30% of its imports and exports. However, while DP World, the third party in this agreement, fulfilled its commitment to invest in the modernization and expansion of the port, Ethiopia's 30% commitment still has not been realized. Within the framework of the recently signed MoU, Ethiopia has committed to routing 10% of its maritime trade through Berbera, which is significantly less than the 2016 agreement.

However, the MoU, by also entailing Ethiopia's potential development of its own commercial port, does not resolve Somaliland's (and DP World's) overarching desire to maximize commercial maritime trade through its Berbera Port. In the event that new ports need to be constructed, the same investment model adopted for the Berbera port can be used, where each party receives stakes in the new port, rather than Ethiopia demanding exclusive ownership. It is essential that the new agreement be commercially viable for all parties involved. Without a commercially viable agreement, the deal may not be implemented, and both parties will miss the opportunity to establish a fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial partnership.

To be continue next week



Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

## Tweens are getting rashes from some skin care products popularized on social media, dermatologists say

**Retinoids and hydroxy acids are common ingredients in trendy skin care products, but they can irritate young skin.**



By Katie Mogg

A few days after she began her new skin care regimen — toner, moisturizer, serum and facial mist — the skin around 13-year-old Leora's lips became red and dry. A couple days later, the rash turned yellow and crusty.

"I was touching it because it was really itchy, and then I think it got infected," said Leora, whose family requested her last name not be published for privacy reasons, given that she is a minor.

A dermatologist prescribed Leora a medication to alleviate irritation and advised her to stop her skin care routine and apply petroleum jelly until the rash cleared.

Then came a discussion that dermatologists say is increasingly common: "We got into a whole conversation about this new fad of preteens interested in using a lot of anti-aging products and things that they are learning about on social media," said Dr. Alexis Young, Leora's dermatologist at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey.

"In general for the preteen population, they're layering product upon product and not really being told how to use them," Young said. Young and six other dermatologists told NBC News that in recent months, tweens and young teenagers have been showing up at their offices in droves with red, dry, bumpy and itchy rashes after using skin care products they don't need. Some dermatologists said it happens monthly or weekly; others said they see such patients multiple times per day.

Kids ages 7 to 13 are clearing the shelves at makeup stores, spending hundreds on anti-aging creams, moisturizers and acne serums from trendy and colorful brands like Drunk Elephant — which sells one Protini Polypeptide Cream every 40 seconds, according to the [brand's website](#) — and Glow Recipe, which surpassed \$100 million in revenue in 2021, just seven years after its founding, [CNBC reported](#).

The trend has been driven, in part, by social media, where young

creators' videos about their multistep skin care routines sometimes garner millions of views. (Some adults, meanwhile, have taken to [social media](#) to [vent](#) about makeup stores becoming overrun with children.)

Drunk Elephant and Glow Recipe products aren't inherently harmful when used as instructed for their intended purpose, and the companies make products that tweens can tolerate. But some contain ingredients that can irritate young skin, dermatologists said.

"It's a lot for parents, certainly kids, to wade through," said Dr. Brooke Jeffy, a board-certified dermatologist in Arizona. "They just maybe don't have the knowledge to know what's safe, and so it's difficult."

Many Drunk Elephant and Glow Recipe products come in bright pink, orange or teal packaging that can attract young customers; a promotional video from Drunk Elephant even depicts a line of travel-size products as animated cartoon characters.

Like many beauty products, the brands' product labels don't usually specify an intended age range. Instead, they list the expected effects. Drunk Elephant's T.L.C. Framboos Glycolic Night Serum, for example, says it "resurfaces dull, congested skin, dramatically improving the appearance of skin's tone and texture, fine lines, wrinkles, and pores." Glow Recipe's Strawberry Smooth BHA + AHA Salicylic Serum, meanwhile, says it can "gently smooth texture, clear breakouts, and refine pores, while calming skin."

Each of those two products contains exfoliating acids, which the dermatologists interviewed said are among the most problematic ingredients for young people, along with retinoids. Both types of ingredients are intended to address issues like hyperpigmentation, wrinkles or acne, according to Dr. Jayden Galamgam, a dermatologist at UCLA Health. But for young skin without any problems, they may be too harsh, he said.

"We have a handful of patients that get these recurrent rashes around their eyelids and around the mouth," Galamgam said, adding: "It's miserable for them. It's so itchy. It sometimes keeps them up at night. It gets bloody because they keep scratching it, and they're so embarrassed because it's on their face and it's what their friends see." In a statement, a Drunk Elephant spokesperson said "anyone with skin can use Drunk Elephant," but that "different products are appropriate for different ages."

"We always recommend that parents/guardians provide guidance to their children, particularly before starting a new routine," the statement said. "In general, we do not recommend products that contain high concentration of active ingredients for our younger fans." Glow Recipe did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Young said Leora's rash was likely caused by a combination of irritating ingredients and the overexfoliating of her skin. Leora said she got interested in skin care through YouTube and her friends.

Her peers want the trendy products from Drunk Elephant and Glow Recipe, she said, in order to feel "preppy" and flaunt their social status.

"It shows off that you have a lot of money if you buy these expensive stuff," Leora said. "There's always trends going around, and that's just how it is, and people are jealous of other people. But now I guess it's skin care."

NBC asked YouTube for comment about situations like Leora's, in which teenagers get inspired to buy products that may be unhealthy for their skin via videos on its platform. In a statement, YouTube referred NBC News to the company's policies for content pertaining to [harmful substances](#) and [medical misinformation](#).

Videos about Drunk Elephant and Glow Recipe products also proliferate on TikTok, which has a user base that skews young. The company did not answer questions regarding minors exposed to such content.

Which ingredients can be harmful for kids?

Retinoids, a group of chemical compounds derived from vitamin A, commonly cause issues for tweens and young teens who don't need them, dermatologists said.

The category includes retinol, which is often found in over-the-counter products and is used to reduce [signs of aging](#). It [promotes](#)

[collagen production](#) and increases the rate that new skin cells replace dead ones. Retinoids can also [treat acne](#).

Tween skin, however, naturally produces plenty of collagen, Jeffy said. Young skin cells turn over approximately every 20 days, she added, while adult skin can take [more than twice](#) as long. So retinol is generally unnecessary for teen skin that isn't acne-prone, and it can [irritate](#) and damage the skin barrier, which acts as a first layer of defense. It can also lead to a red or brown, dry and itchy rash called [retinoid dermatitis](#), Jeffy said.

She described a tween patient who developed a rash around her eyes after applying a Drunk Elephant retinol cream: "The sad thing is, she didn't need a retinol. It's doing nothing for her, and it's giving her this rash. It may take a few months for that to totally fade."

When asked about the anecdote, Drunk Elephant referred NBC News to its statement and to the "Younger Fans" section of the [FAQ page](#) on its website.

Exfoliating [hydroxy acids](#), meanwhile, cause the surface layer of skin to peel to promote new cell growth, [according to the Food and Drug Administration](#). But since young skin renews quickly, these acids may damage the skin barrier, causing irritation, sun sensitivity, burning and rashes.

Dr. Claire Wolinsky, a dermatologist at Spring Street Dermatology in New York City, said her 11-year-old niece's skin became red and sensitive after using a Watermelon Glow toner from Glow Recipe that contained beta-hydroxy and polyhydroxy acids.

"Using a chemical exfoliant, multiple of them in your regimen, it's just going to lead to irritation," Wolinsky said. "For a kid with perfect skin, it feels like a bad choice."

How can parents protect kids' skin? Dr. Carol Chen, a pediatric dermatologist and associate professor at UCLA, said she recommends that children without skin issues keep it simple: a gentle cleanser, moisturizer and sunscreen.

"If there's nothing to fix, I wouldn't fix it," she said.

If a child insists on additional products, parents should avoid retinol and exfoliating hydroxy acids. Both ingredients can appear on labels with a variety of names — including retinyl acetate or all-trans retinoic acid for the former, and [glycolic, lactic or citric acid](#) for the latter.

If there's any doubt about a product, Chen said, consult a pediatrician or dermatologist.

Her advice to young people: "Don't try to go out and try to find something wrong with your skin."

## Eye ointments sold at CVS and Walmart recalled due to concerns over sterility

The products are sold under the brand names Equate, CVS Health and AACE Pharmaceuticals. No infections or injuries have been reported.

Four eye ointment products sold in some Walmart and CVS stores have been recalled because the facility in which they were manufactured in India may have been unsanitary.

In a [recall announcement](#) posted Monday on the Food and Drug Administration website, Brassica Pharma Pvt. Ltd., a product development and manufacturing company in the Indian state of Maharashtra, said an FDA inspection had noted a "lack of sterility assurance at the facility."

The affected products include two ointments sold under the Equate brand name — Lubricant Eye Ointment and Styel Lubricant Eye Ointment — as well as CVS Health Lubricant Eye Ointment and AACE Pharmaceuticals Lubricant PM Ointment.

"For those patients who use these products, there is a potential risk of eye infections or related harm. These products are intended to be sterile," the announcement said. "Ophthalmic drug products pose a potential heightened risk of harm to users because drugs applied to the eyes bypass some of the body's natural defenses."

The announcement did not specify which types of infections users may be at risk of contracting, nor did it give details about the particular issues at the manufacturing facility. Brassica Pharma did not respond to requests for further information or comment.

