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Ballot papers arrive in the country, as NEC once again pledges holding free and fair elections

We ask the supporters of various parties and organizations to express their feelings and vote peacefully, says the NEC chair



By Mohamoud Walaaleve he ballot papers for the upcoming 13th of November "024 elections have arrived

in the country.

This was disclosed on Saturday morning by the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) Mr. Musa Hassan Yusuf who once again pledged that they would

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By M. A. Egge



President issues executive orders to facilitate free and fair elections and bolstering of security



By M.A. Egge he President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi issued three executive orders on Friday evening giving

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parties and organizations elections due on the 13th of November 2024 kicked off on Saturday with the

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Police chief calls for the safeguarding and maintaining of peaceful stability



By M.A. Egge he National Police Service Major General Mohamed Adan Sagadi, urged all the members of the public to make sure that they uphold and safeguard the peaceful stability and security during the political Continue on Page 2

National Electoral Commission launches Voter Awareness Campaign



By M.A. Egge

meeting to launch the voter awareness campaign has been convened and organized by the Netherlands Multiparty Institute for Democracy (NMID), and attended by various

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Electoral Ethiacs Commission fines KULMIYE and WADDANI political parties for violation of campaigns code



By M.A. Egge

he Somaliland Electoral Commission has fined both Kulmiye and Waddani parties 10 million Somaliland

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Foundation stone laid for construction of Somaliland embassy in Addis Ababa



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Somaliland signs crucial agreement with EIL for establishment of industrial lab



Taiwan and Somaliland's partnership highlights a democratic alternative to China's BRI- Ambassador Allen Lou



Ballot papers arrive in the country, as NEC once again pledges holding free and fair elections



be holding free and fair elections for the country.

At hand, to receive the ballot papers at the Egal International Airport were the NEC commissioners who were accompanied by representatives of both the political parties and organizations in the race under the auspices of the ad-hoc implementation committee (Taskforce).

The chairman of the national commission Mr. Musa who spoke on the occasion said that "the

democratic processes practiced in Somaliland as demonstrated with the arrival of the ballot papers is a blow to the enemies of Somaliland with the arrival of the voting papers" and advisedly reminded the populaces to be ready to exercise their political rights by coming out to vote en-masse.

The chairman said at the venue, "We are here presenting to the members of the public that the voting materials have arrived today in the country".

"We ask the supporters of various parties and organizations to express their feelings and vote in a peaceful manner" he said

He announced that the NEC's preparations were complete and emphasized the need to hold the elections incident-free to the satisfaction of all and in triumph for the nation.

Police chief calls for the safeguarding and maintaining of peaceful stability



campaigns and elections around the corner.

He minced no words as he stressed the importance of peace and security in the country and the need for everyone to conduct themselves responsibly.

The commander also encouraged the members of the public to be aware of things that could disrupt security and stability during the election campaign.

The Major General who held a press conference in his office called on the political parties and organizations to educate their supporters on the imperativeness of

security by following the laws and ethics of the elections.

"In order for us to achieve the triumphant holding of peaceful and incident-free elections, all of us should work together in concerted efforts to see to it that it is achieved", he said.

The appeal encompasses the populaces, political parties and organizations, politicians and all the arms of the security services.

Major General Mohamed ordered all the troops to be even more diligent in their duties of seeing to it that peaceful stability is maintained.

Official campaigns kicks-off in the country with Barwaqo having its field day

Jadwalka Ololaha Doorashada Madaxtooyada iyo Xisbiyada Qaranka JSL

(19 Oct- 10 Nov 2024)

SABTI	AXAD	ISNIIN	SALAASA	ARBACA	KHAMIIS	JIMCE
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
October	Si/a	October	October	October	October	October
BARWAAQO	86.00	HOMSTED	TALO WADAAG	900	KAAH	HILLAME
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
October	October	October	October	October	October	Hovember
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02	03	04	05	06	07	
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UCID	KAAH	HILLAAC	SHACABKA	WADDAM	KULMIYE	

JIMCE	SABTI	AXAD
08	09	10
November	November	November
9	90	
WADDAM	KULMIYE	MOID

Barwaqo political organization having its field day.

According to the electoral regulations each political party or organization is left alone to do its political rallies countrywide on a particular day. This trend goes on daily basis with a timetable giving each and every party the sole chance to rally their supporters in the whole nation.

First to start the month-long campaigns was the Barwaqo political organization which had their supporters gather in all the major towns of the regions and districts across the country.

They also mobilized supporters at village and rural centres soliciting for their votes as they gave campaign pledges and explained their policies.

The chairman of the Barwaaqo political organization Ali Hussein Nuur Beegsi was at Hargeisa central Kheyria square selling his party to the attending masses of supporters. He elaborated on the political rights citizens are supposed to exercise

in the event of choosing leaders.

The Barwaqo organization is amongst six other political organizations who are vying to become official political parties in a race that would pit them against the existing three political parties who similarly want to regain their officialdom.

The elections will also see the presidential and vice presidential vying for the top seat in the country in an election that would be held for both on the same day.

National Electoral Commission launches Voter Awareness Campaign



civil society organizations led by Somaliland Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of SONSAF under chair Anwar Abdirahman Warsame.

The Chairman of the National Electoral Commission underscored at the meeting the imperative importance of civil organizations to take their role in educating the members of the public on the exercising of their political rights and understand well the procedures of casting ballots and associated electoral processes incumbent upon them.

The country is expected to go to polls on the 13th of November 2024 in a twin election for both the residency and official political parties as per constitution.

NEC commissioner Bidaan explained the requirements of civil

organizations and how they are accountable as a commission to see to it that the education campaigns are done well and appropriate information is imparted to the populaces duly.

While instructing them to be as independent as possible, he cautioned them against partisanship, noting that educating the members of the public was of paramount importance.

Of note was the fact that the community organizations were urged to be timely and precise in disseminating the information and educating the populaces as per CLIP.

On their part, some of the civil society organizations in attendance pledged to be prompt and steadfast in the duties bestowed upon them and convey the messages to the masses appropriately.

Electoral Ethiacs Commission fines KULMIYE and WADDANI political parties for violation of campaigns code



Shillings each for indulging in political campaigns before the start of the officially stipulated time.

The Ethics Committee of the Commission, who spoke to the media, said that the political parties violated the code of conduct in conducting preliminary campaigns in some regions.

"We have fined the two parties, Wadani and Kulmiye, 10 million Somaliland shillings each. We have also suspended the campaigns of the two parties", said the Chairman of the Ethics Committee.

The committee likewise prohibited the use of government vehicles for

campaigning in the elections.

Immediately after the order was spelt out, the WADDANI presidential candidacy flag-bearer Abdirahman Abdillahi Mohamed Irro announced the prompt heeding to the order and forthwith suspended his much hyped tour to the areas of Sabawanaag, Addadley, Balli-Maataan, Qoton-Daba and Balli-Kalil and their environments.

"We have canceled the trip in compliance with the order issued tonight by the Ethics Committee of the National Elections Commission of the Republic of Somaliland," said Abdirahman Irro.

The presidential and party election campaigns will officially begin on October 19, and will end on November 10, two days before the voting day. The new 7 political organizations will each have two days to campaign nationally; while the official three political parties will have three days each. This election will determine who will be the president of Somaliland for the next 5 years.

Only the top three winners will become the official mandated political parties for a period of ten years.

Foundation stone laid for construction of Somaliland embassy in Addis Ababa



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Dr. Isse Kayd Mohamud have laid the foundation stone of a new building for an embassy of the government of Somaliland in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

The land has been donated by the Ethiopian government and would have the construction of the Somaliland embassy building put

The Somaliland embassy operates from a rental building.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland was accompanied by Somaliland's representative to the African Union Ambassador Abdillahi Mohamed Duale and the representative of Somaliland in charge of the commercial office of the Embassy in Addis Ababa, Yusuf Ahmed Ali.

While speaking about the laying of the foundation stone for this building Minister Issa Keyd pointed out that it was important that Somaliland reciprocate the gesture and similarly donate land to the Ethiopian government to build their embassy on.

He expressed his happiness and elation in seeing to it that at last the government of Somaliland is able to be the sole proprietor of its own embassy.

President issues executive orders to facilitate free and fair elections and bolstering of security

and National Guidance to ensure

giving equal air time to items

broadcasted and be completely

impartial to all the political parties

In the same breath, the Interior

and organizations.



various directions to diverse arms of government in order to facilitate free and fair elections as the nation goes to polls on the 13th November 2024.

The first directive demanded that

as stadia and arenas be available equitably to all contesting parties during the period of electioneering campaigns hence the security of the officials of the parties and the general populaces be safeguarded. The second order bans the use of all types of government properties to be used in the campaigns in any way whatsoever by the contesting parties.

Similarly all government employees, both in public and security services,

minister has been instructed to ensure that public amenities such

both in public and security services, are completely prohibited in being involved and/or indulged in political campaigns.

Instructions are thus made to hold anyone responsible in case the order is not adhered to.

The third executive order demanded that all the ministries and parastatal government agencies, including the different arms of security services, assist the National Electoral Commission in carrying out its national duties in holding the presidential and national party elections.

"I specifically instruct the Ministry of Interior and the Commanders of Armed Forces of the Republic of Somaliland to assist the National Electoral Commission in ensuring the safeguarding of public order and security during the campaign and elections of the Republic of Somaliland", said the Head of State.

Customs office established at El-Darad in Sahil



The Ministry of Finance has opened a new customs office in El-Daraad area on the eastern coast of the Sahel region, 100 km from Berbera city.

A delegation from Berbera customs, officers from the Somaliland Coast Guard and officials from the Ministry of Fisheries Development were at hand in the event to formally inaugurate the new Customs office project implemented in the area.

On the other hand, the manager of the Berbera customs checking branch Mohamed Ismail and the general manager of the Berbera regional customs office Ahmed Abdirahman informed the audience at the event about the new customs office noting that it would go down well in serving the customs needs of the area.

In terms of income tax collection, they mentioned that they will work with this office of the Ministry of Fisheries Development and the various fishermen who work in this area. Mr. Abdirahman stated that all facilities and equipment required for the running of the offices were already in place. He pointed out that the area was abuzz with activities but it had no customs offices prior to the inauguration.

Taiwan and Somaliland's partnership highlights a democratic alternative to China's BRI- Ambassador Allen Lou

Taiwan's presence in Somaliland: Interview with Ambassador Allen Lou

Taiwan and Somaliland are two operating within countries challenging international frameworks, as they are not recognized or only partially recognized by the international community. Both territories operate independently but remain unrecognized by major global powers: Since 1949, Taiwan has been claimed by the People's Republic of China under the One China policy, and Somaliland, which declared independence from Somalia on May 18, 1991, is still regarded as part of Somalia under the One Somalia policy. Taiwan has a population of approximately 23 million people, while Somaliland is home to around 5.7 million residents.

In 2020, Taiwan and Somaliland took a bold step by establishing mutual representative offices — Taiwan's office in Hargeisa opened on August 17, and Somaliland's office in Taipei on September 9. These moves marked a significant diplomatic breakthrough, reinforcing their mutual quest for recognition.

The opening ceremony of Taiwan's Representative office in the Republic of Somaliland. Image from Wikipedia, Public Domain

To find out more about the developing relationship, Global Voices interviewed Ambassador Allen Lou (...n—ïf), Taiwan's representative to Somaliland, who shared insights into how this partnership provides a democratic

alternative to China's influence in Africa through development projects that emphasize governance and sustainability. The discussion delved into how their cooperation serves as a counterbalance to Beijing's growing presence and explores the broader global implications of their alliance.

The diplomatic relationship between Taiwan and Somaliland is emblematic of a larger geopolitical rivalry between Taiwan and China, particularly in Africa. According to Lou, while China has established itself as a dominant economic player through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — characterized by large-scale infrastructure projects and loans in the Global South -Taiwan has focused on building partnerships grounded in mutual respect and democratic values. This contrast is sharply illustrated in the divergent strategies each employs: Beijing's approach often involves investments that leave countries mired in debt, while Taiwan emphasizes sustainable capacity-building projects.

Lou's view on China's influence in Africa is clear:

China's BRI is not just about infrastructure; it's about creating dependency, both economic and political. Taiwan's initiatives in Somaliland serve as a counterweight to China's growing dominance. Somaliland is a beacon of democracy in East Africa, much like Taiwan is in Asia. Our presence here is not only about development



cooperation; it's about safeguarding democracy in a region where China is trying to expand its autocratic model.

A vision for Somaliland: Beyond aid "Taiwan's cooperation with Somaliland is not just about aid it's about building long-term partnerships based on mutual respect and shared values. Somaliland and Taiwan share a common struggle for international recognition, and that is where our bonds begin. Our approach is people-centered, focusing on healthcare, agriculture, education, and technology, unlike China's heavy-handed economic ventures that often lead to financial dependency," Lou explained.

Unlike the large-scale infrastructure projects under the BRI, Taiwan's initiatives are smaller in scale but designed to foster self-reliance. "We are not here to create dependency; we are here to teach people how to catch fish, not to just give them fish," Lou remarked, echoing Taiwan's philosophy of sustainable development.

The opening ceremony of Taiwan's Representative office in the Republic of Somaliland. Image from Wikipedia, Public Domain

Lou emphasized the unique role of Taiwan's representative office in Somaliland, which distinguishes it from other diplomatic presences globally. "Elsewhere, you can find ROC embassies in countries like Eswatini — the only African nation that recognizes Taiwan — or Taipei representative offices in places like Nigeria and Burkina Faso," he clarified. "But here in Somaliland, the explicit use of 'Taiwan' marks a significant departure." This distinction underscores Taiwan's evolving identity and its assertion of sovereignty on the global stage, independent of both Mao Tsetung's PRC and Chiang Kai-shek's

Taiwan's presence in Somaliland is not just symbolic; it's backed by concrete initiatives aimed at building sustainable development and enhancing local capacities. Taiwan has launched projects in healthcare, agriculture, ICT, and vocational training, and it offers scholarships for Somaliland students to study in Taiwan. Additionally, military personnel from Somaliland are invited to receive training in Taiwan, further strengthening the partnership between the two nations. From the Ambassador's perspective, these efforts contrast sharply with China's economic ventures in Africa, which often lead to financial dependency. Instead, Taiwan's approach reflects its commitment to empowering

Somaliland as a stable and democratic partner in the region. UN Resolution 2758: A diplomatic battleground

For Taiwan, a key element of its

international recognition is its

narrative around UN Resolution 2758. Passed in 1971, the resolution recognized the PRC as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations,' effectively replacing the ROC, commonly referred to as Taiwan. Lou offers a nuanced and unconventional perspective on the resolution. He explains that its original intent was not to expel Taiwan as a whole but specifically to remove the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Republic of China (ROC), who governed from 1928 until 1975. After losing the Chinese Civil War to the CCP, Chiang's government retreated to Taiwan in 1949 and continued to claim representation of all of China at the United Nations. The 1971 UN Resolution 2758 shifted this representation to the People's Republic of China (PRC), effectively removing Chiang's delegates but not directly addressing Taiwan's status. "The resolution was focused on the ROC's seat, not on Taiwan itself," he explained. "The PRC has since distorted this resolution to imply that Taiwan is part of China, but that was never the original meaning." Lou noted that while the resolution does restore the PRC's "lawful rights in the United Nations," it never explicitly mentioned Taiwan or its people.

Lou further pointed out that most nations, including Canada and the United States, took note of Resolution 2758 but did not formally recognize Taiwan as part of the PRC. "There is a subtle but important difference," Lou explained. "The US and Canada recognized the PRC as China's

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Somaliland signs crucial agreement with EIL for establishment of industrial lab



By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Mines and Energy of Somaliland has signed a memorandum of understanding with a company from the Emirates Industrial Laboratory (EIL) which works on mining issues.

This agreement with the UAEowned company entails the installation of an ultra-modern lab in the country that would enable Somaliland to skillfully conduct metallurgical and associated tests. The EIL is renowned in specializing in industrial lab techniques services such as in metallurgical evaluations, chemical analysis, NDT, field inspection, petrochemical and oil and a myriad of associated industrial testing services.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy of Somaliland, which signed the agreement with the Emirates Industrial Laboratory, said that "there was a great need for such laboratory equipment and mineral testing in Somaliland, and now a solution has been found to the existing challenges".

"We have signed a memorandum

of understanding with Emirates Industrial Laboratory, which will invest in the mining laboratory of the ministry, whether it is a building or equipment", said the Director General of the Ministry of Mines and Energy Mohamed Osman Saeed (Mohamed Somali) as he spoke to BBC while in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Somaliland said that "Initially the minerals mined locally were taken abroad for testing and verification to discern type or quality but now the services will be able to be done within the country".

Taiwan and Somaliland's partnership highlights a democratic alternative to **China's BRI- Ambassador Allen Lou**



representative, but they have never formally acknowledged Taiwan as part of China."

According to Lou, Beijing wields its interpretation of the resolution as a diplomatic weapon to isolate Taiwan and exclude it from international organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO). This is part of a broader strategy by the PRC to expand its influence globally, particularly in regions like Africa.

Somaliland faces a similar struggle for international recognition.

Despite declaring its independence from Somalia in 1991, Somaliland is not formally recognized by any country, though it maintains diplomatic relations with several nations and entities, including Taiwan. Somaliland's strategy for gaining recognition focuses on demonstrating its stability,

democratic governance, and economic potential, particularly through strategic partnerships. One such partnership is the January

2024 Memorandum Understanding (MOU) with Ethiopia, aiming to secure Somaliland's recognition and boost trade and cooperation between the two neighbors. Additionally, Somaliland's port city of Berbera has attracted interest as a potential site for military bases, with discussions around the possibility of US and Taiwan naval bases emerging as part of the region's geopolitical significance. These moves, combined with Somaliland's efforts to maintain strong ties with influential partners, reflect its determination to eventually secure international recognition and further establish itself as a stable, sovereign entity.

President receives members with hearing loss fraternity

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi held a special meeting at the Presidential Palace with some members of the Hargeisa city community with a hearing loss fraternity led by the officials of the Somaliland Association of the Deaf (SODA).

They took the opportunity to inform the Head of State of their plight that encompassed general circumstances surrounding their lives as per educational and social needs are concerned.

They informed the President of the imperative support that they direly needed from the government.

Present at the meeting were the ministers of education, health and that of family and social affairs.

The SODA members who spoke included their Chairman Mr. Hassan Haybe Olujoog, SODA director Mustafe Mohamed Osman, Head of Sports Nassir Abdi Adan.

Others included Hibo Mohamed Dahir, Naciima Mahdi Abdi Maal, Hana Ali Jirde, and Abdirisaq Abdilahi Ahmed, Faysa

Mohamud Hassan Abdimaalik Ahmed.

They all thanked the President and his government for the reception accorded to them and special care they provide to the members of the hearing loss community hence requested to have their education support bolstered and jobs availed to

The Ministers of Education Hon. Dr. Ahmed Aden Buhane and Employment, Social and Family Affairs Hon. Ali Omar Mohamed (Hoor-Hoor) on their part thanked the president for welcoming the hearing impaired community, and pointed out that the government would do the necessary things for them since members of the hearing loss community were a major part of the plans of the government.

The President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi lastly thanked the hearing impaired youth for accepting the invitation he extended to them, and stated that the government is committed to greatly support their fraternity hence do anything possible to enable them go about their lives with improved ease.

Somaliland and Sweden meeting on strengthening of bilateral relationships

Swedish support for social development projects in discussion



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi received the Swedish Ambassador Joachim Wearne over the week at the Presidency. The meeting mainly discussed several issues related to the good bilateral relations between the two countries.

Strengthening the relationship between the two countries even further was top in the itinerary as concerns Republic of Somaliland and the Government of Sweden.

Issues related to Somaliland's upcoming elections, the safety and security of the Horn of Africa region, and the Republic of Somaliland was also pondered on and the government assured ambassador that this country and its people are committed to adhere to established democratic processes as a testament to the world that Somaliland deserve to be part of the recognized countries, eventually they meet requirements of nationality.

The President of Somaliland was flanked at the meeting by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mrs. Rooda Jama Elmi.

Somaliland observes World **Food Day in Hargeisa**

The Ministry of Agriculture Development celebrated the World Food Day in Hargeisa, on October 16, which is a day that the whole world observes.

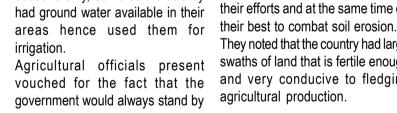
This year's celebration of the World Food Day organized by the Ministry of Agricultural Development saw attendance by most of the agricultural production cooperatives in the regions and districts of the Republic of Somaliland, presenting the different crops of the year.

This time round the exhibition participants expressed the pros and cons in the challenges they meet in food production within the country. In one voice, they all sought for subsidy seeds from the ministry and also asked for modern training. While some decried lack of

underground water and only planted subsistence crops during the rainy seasons only, some said that they irrigation.

the farmers at all times to see that the sector is boosted and bolstered. They urged the farmers to step up their efforts and at the same time do their best to combat soil erosion. They noted that the country had large

swaths of land that is fertile enough and very conducive to fledging



The new headquarters of the Central Bank of Somaliland foundation stone was laid down

By M.A. Egge

The President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi laid the foundation stone of a new facility to be built to house the Central Bank of Somaliland as its headquarters on Thursday.

At the groundbreaking ceremony the Head of State was accompanied by members of the cabinet, heads of the bank and other officials.

Various speeches were made at the venue praising the development and efforts of the central bank.

The Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland, Dr. Ali Abdillahi Dahir, who made a brief speech, praised the President for his efforts to get the Central Bank a modern building of its own, which would be the new headquarters of

The President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi explained the importance of the Central Bank to this new building and how it will contribute to the work of the Bank, as there is a great need for the various institutions of the country to have ultra modern buildings that are suitable for their applicable routine working chores.

Somaliland deserves independence before Palestinians

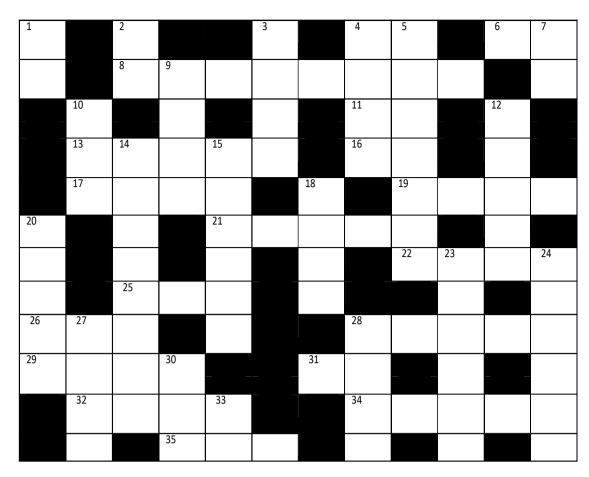


2023, attack on Israel, European In the wake of Hamas's Oct. 7.

countries cast aside Oslo Accords-era commitments to demand Palestinians cease terrorism as a precondition to independence. When Western diplomats condemned Israel for its counterterrorism operations against Hamas, they did not question what it meant that Hamas

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THT Puzzle



ACROSS

- 4 computer accessories
- 6. Drive/ moving one place to another
- 8 specifications
- 11 hence
- 13 accept
- 16 European short forms
- 17 something makes test in food
- 19 happy.
- 21 tutor.
- 22 but then
- 25 existed.
- 26 domestic animal
- 28 use again
- 29 joints/ leg
- 31 negative answer
- 32 Father of Human name
- 34 blade
- 35 color

DOWN

- 1 pronoun of more than one person
- 2 exists/ auxiliary verb
- 3 have knowledge of.
- 4 court case/ travel case
- 5 famines
- 7 atop/upon
- 9 reveal
- 10 smokes/ airs
- 12 hand brake/ usually known as cars
- 13 express grief
- 15 The capital city of Canada
- 18 sheet of paper
- 20 blackened
- 23 residences
- 24 pine needle
- 27 an important body part
- 28 flower/ used in festivals
- 30 Body parts
- 33 Personal prepositions

Previous Answer

S¹	0	P 2	Н	E	S ³	T	I 4	С	A 5	T	E ⁶
I		А			0		R		R		G
G ⁷	1	N	G	Е	R		0		R		G
N		D			T ⁸	Е	N	D	Е	R	S
	W ⁹	E	S	Т			I		S		
G 10		М			P ¹¹		C 12	U	T	S 13	
U 14	N	1	T 15		Е					Е	
N		C 16	0	R	R	E	C 17	Т		T 18	0
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S 23	Т	0	R	E		B ²⁴	L	E	S	S	

Somaliland deserves independence before . Palestinians

dollars in assistance to build the lworld's most extensive terrorist tunnel network or a military industry superior to countries many times its size.

Nor do polls give much hope for peace this generation as decades of U.N.-funded lincitement in schoolbooks have lincreased Palestinian Jew hatred and rejectionism. By any measure, an independent Palestine would be a failed state on par with South Sudan, the world's newest state, in terms of corruption and violence.

At the Democratic National Convention, Vice President Kamala Harris also embraced the Palestinian cause, calling for the Palestinian people to be able to "realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and selfdetermination." She has since called repeatedly for a ceasefire without linking it to the disarmament of Hamas and Hezbollah and the release of Israeli and American hostages. Activist students and professors transform elite U.S. colleges and universities, especially in California, New York, and New England, into hotbeds of hate and openly endorse terrorism to advocate Palestinian independence and to oppose anti-colonialism.

If freedom, liberation, and justice matter, though, Somaliland would be a much better case to embrace. Unlike Palestine, Somaliland was once independent. All five members of the United Nations Security Council recognized Somaliland in 1960. Its history as a British protectorate, as a self-governing entity with recognized borders, and as distinct from Italian Somaliland extends back almost a century before that.

Somaliland faced a real genocide between 1987 and 1989 when the late Somali dictator sought to kill the entirety of its dominant Isaaq lclan. He succeeded in killing over 100,000 — some estimate twice that. Thirty-five years later, anti-Isaaq hatred remains a staple of Somali rhetoric.

In 1991, as Somalia collapsed into anarchy, Somaliland reasserted its independence. It flourished. It embraced democracy and maintained internal peace. Whereas the U.N., ^linternational donors, and the

had siphoned off billions of United States have given the Palestinians more money per capita than any other people, Somaliland receives close to zero. What little money the international community earmarks for Somaliland, authorities in Mogadishu embezzle.

Despite getting short shrift from donors and diplomats, Somaliland thrived. It was the first country to secure voter registration with biometric iris scans. Whereas Palestinian Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is in the 20th year of his four-year term and the Hamas leadership exiled or killed its Gaza opposition, Somaliland has held eight elections, one decided by fewer than 100 votes of more than 1 million cast.

It hosts an international airport, its port exceeds Mombasa in capacity, and it rapidly gains on Djibouti. Once its chief exports were livestock and charcoal. Today, its tech and finance sector is worth billions of dollars. Businesses flock to Somaliland because its economy is far less corrupt and more transparent than that of any other country for 1,000 miles. The Palestinian economy, in contrast, rivals Somalia and South Sudan as the world's most corrupt. Somaliland is also an environmental leader. It leads the largest cheetah rescue operation in Africa.

Whereas Palestinians embrace terrorism, Somaliland shuts it down. Weapons smugglers avoid the country, and its coast guard has secured Somaliland's 460-mile coast.

Somaliland is ready for independence. It has a functioning economy, has government capacity, and demonstrates a multidecade commitment to democracy. It values freedom and, unlike the Palestinians, leans West. Yet the Biden administration remains inexplicably hostile Somaliland. College students, activists, and self-described antiracists remain silent. Perhaps behind White House and progressive rhetoric, black lives don't matter after all?

Michael Rubin is a contributor to the Washington Examiner's Beltway Confidential blog. He is director of analysis at the Middle East Forum and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Taiwan's \$22 Million Grant: A Landmark in Healthcare Development for Somaliland



In a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare services in Somaliland, Taiwan has officially pledged nearly 22 million USD in grant funding for the design, construction, and equipping of the Taiwan Medical Center at Hargeisa Group Hospital. This monumental project will not only boost Somaliland's healthcare infrastructure but also deepen the growing cooperation between the two nations.

The Taiwan Medical Center, once completed in three years, will be a two-story facility housing 97 beds, bringing the hospital's total capacity to nearly 600 beds. The Center will feature cutting-edge medical equipment and essential services that promise to improve the health and well-being of the people of Somaliland. This milestone is a testament to Taiwan's ongoing efforts to share its expertise and support global healthcare development, as Ambassador Allen Chenhwa LOU of the Taiwan Representative Office in the Republic of Somaliland noted.

Healthcare is a key pillar of Taiwan's international outreach. According to

the 2023 Health Care Index from Numbeo, Taiwan's healthcare system has been ranked as the world's best for five consecutive years, a testament to its excellence. By extending this expertise to Somaliland, Taiwan is fostering mutual growth and understanding, based on the principles of equality and friendship.

The vision for the Taiwan Medical Center in Somaliland began under the leadership of Taiwan's current President, William Lai Ching-te, and was supported by prominent Taiwanese officials including former Foreign Minister Dr. Joseph Wu. Ambassador Lou, echoing President Lai's words, emphasized that "With every step forward that Taiwan takes, the world takes a step forward with us." This project is one such step that symbolizes the deepening ties between Taiwan and Somaliland.

Beyond healthcare, Taiwan's collaboration with Somaliland spans various sectors, including education, agriculture, ICT, security, and humanitarian aid. However, healthcare has emerged as a

flagship of this relationship, with notable accomplishments such as the digitalization of hospital services in Hargeisa, Boroma, Brauo, and Berbera, and the donation of ambulances to improve medical mobility.

Through training programs both in Somaliland and Taiwan, scholarships, and the establishment of the Taiwan Medical Mission, Taiwan continues to invest in the human resources development of Somaliland's healthcare professionals. This project underscores Taiwan's broader vision of creating sustainable and people-centered cooperation models.

Ambassador Lou emphasized that while Taiwan has made this generous contribution as a symbol of friendship, the success of the Taiwan Medical Center relies on Somaliland's partnership. As an African proverb wisely notes, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together." Taiwan's healthcare initiatives are designed to transcend borders, and with Somaliland as a partner, the two nations are poised to achieve great things together in the realm of public health.

The Taiwan Medical Center in Somaliland is more than just a healthcare facility—it is a symbol of the enduring friendship and collaborative spirit between Taiwan and Somaliland. As Taiwan leads the way in healthcare, technology, and innovation, this partnership promises a brighter, healthier future for all.

Somaliland Sets Election Campaign Dates for Political Parties

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Breakaway region of Somaliland has officially announced the campaign timeline for the upcoming Presidential and Political Party elections. As per the announcement, the campaign will take place from October 19 to November 10, 2024, allowing political groups and parties to share their agendas with the public.

Muse Haji Yusuf, the NEC Chairman, stated that the campaign period will last for 23 days, distributing time among seven political organizations and three established political parties.

This well-organized schedule ensures all participating factions have a fair chance to engage voters before the elections.

Scheduled for November 13, 2024, these elections represent a pivotal moment in Somaliland's democratic evolution.

This will be the fourth presidential election since the region adopted a democratic electoral framework in 2002, empowering the populace to



select their President and Vice President.

Three prominent political parties will vie for the presidency: Kulmiye, represented by the current President Muse Bihi Abdi; Waddani, the opposition party led by Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilahi Cirro; and UCID, with Eng. Faisal Ali Warabe as its candidate.

In addition to the presidential election, this cycle will also shape Somaliland's political future by electing various political organizations and parties.

This marks the third occurrence of such elections in the region, where

both presidential and party elections will appear on the same ballot.

The dual elections have generated excitement, but there have also been delays due to legal disputes about their timing.

Ultimately, a consensus was reached to conduct both elections simultaneously.

The upcoming elections on November 13 are essential for Somaliland's democratic trajectory, marking a crucial step towards fortifying political institutions through fair and transparent electoral competition.

Additionally, the Somaliland Electoral Commission has inaugurated the Ethics, Conflict Resolution, and Election Monitoring Committees, a critical milestone in preparing for the anticipated elections.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Musa Hassan Yusuf, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, reassured participants that the elections would proceed as planned and remain on schedule.

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