

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله



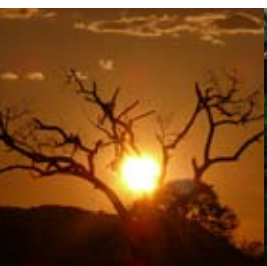
# Do you know this African country?

## THIS AFRICAN MUSLIM COUNTRY IS

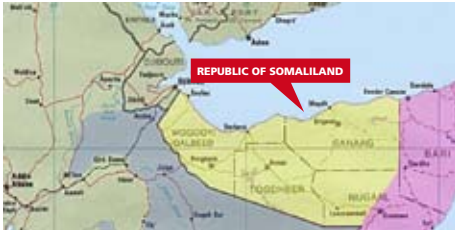
- The size of England and Wales;
- has a long connection with the United Kingdom;
- governed itself peacefully for the last 20 years under a constitution endorsed in a referendum;
- held democratic and internationally monitored elections;
- changed presidents 4 times in the last 20 years through elections;
- seen peaceful transfers of power on all these occasions, including a national presidential election in 2003 which was won with a wafer thin majority of only 227 votes;
- has an elected parliament and elected local councils;
- has a judiciary that applies statutory laws; and is committed to human rights and peaceful co-existence with other countries.

*Will it surprise you, as it does us, that, even after 20 years, this country is still considered by the international community as being part of the most lawless country in the world which has an appointed government that does not even control its own capital city!*

**AMAZING ISN'T IT?**



# REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND



Population 3.5 Million. Capital city: Hargeisa



Independent day 26<sup>th</sup> June 1960



Withdrew from the Union with Somalia May 1991

## Background

**S**omaliland, the former British Somaliland Protectorate became the independent State of Somaliland on 26 June 1960 and had its own constitution and elected legislature. At the time the Somaliland people were keen to see a union of all the people of Somali ethnic origin living in 5 countries of the Horn and made a union with one of the territories, (Italian) Somalia, which became independent in July 1960.

It soon became clear to the Somaliland people that this was not a union of equals and that dream of a union of all Somalis was not only just a dream, but, worse, it turned into a nightmare!

Despite two wars with Somalia, Ethiopia did not and would not allow its Somali inhabited areas to break away and neither did Kenya; French Somaliland, on independence in 1977, chose to remain as an independent State. This marked the end of the costly "Greater Somalia" project!

The union was lopsided from the start and later a brutal military dictatorship singled out the majority of the Somaliland people and territory for repression and subjected them to near genocide. War planes took off from the airports of the main city, Hargeisa, and bombed the people of the city and the other towns. Thousands of the Somaliland people were killed; hundreds of thousands displaced and all the main towns were reduced to rubble.

When the popular movement, Somali National Movement, defeated the occupying military regime in Somaliland, the people of Somaliland re-asserted their independence on 18 May 1991 and, using traditional conflict resolution between all the various communities, with no international involvement, established peace and started laying the foundations of the second independent Republic of Somaliland

## 2011

**Somaliland marks the 20th anniversary of its rebirth; as well as 137 years of its unique national identity**

Somaliland shall continue to strengthen its peace and democracy and to provide much needed services to its people. Lack of international recognition, however, hampers its development and denies it the opportunity to realise the full potential of its people and land. More worryingly, and as warned by the International Crisis Group, leaving Somaliland in this state of limbo, after 20 years, will inevitably lead to another war.

***Wasn't the last decade long war waged against the Somaliland people in the 1980s enough?***

## JOIN US IN CALLING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF SOMALILAND

Please contact your MP or write to the UK Minister for Africa, Mr Henry Billingham: [bellinghamh@parliament.uk](mailto:bellinghamh@parliament.uk)

For further information on Somaliland please contact : [somaliland2011@gmail.com](mailto:somaliland2011@gmail.com)

Somaliland has long fulfilled the criteria for statehood, but remains unrecognised mainly because

- the world wants, first, to bring peace and stability to Somalia and
- has left the decision to recognise Somaliland to the African Union (AU) and to Somalia!

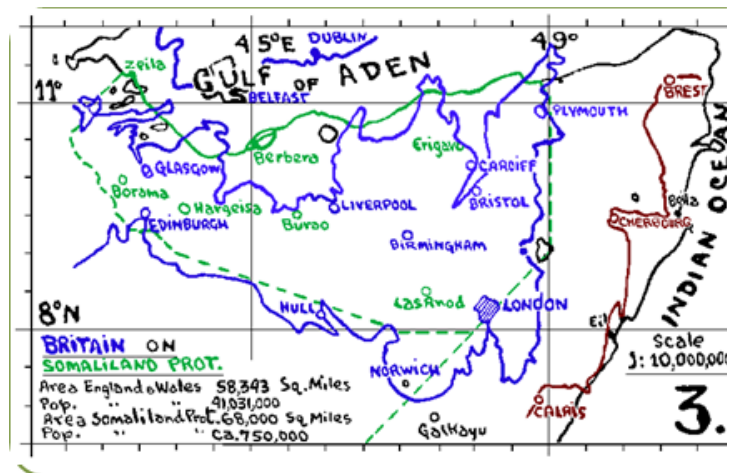
Firstly, after 16 internationally arranged peace conferences for the warring factions of Somalia and billions of dollars spent on military and missions , that first objective is still not in sight

Secondly, leaving Somaliland's future to be decided by 53 countries that have not been known to agree on many things is simply kicking the rights of 3.5 million Somalilanders into the long grass.

Thirdly, asking Somaliland to get the fractious groups of Somalia that have left their benighted country in its current state to agree that the union ended 20 years ago is, to say the least, mind boggling! The one mantra they all agree on is not that life is sacrosanct but that the dead union with Somaliland is!

**We believe that the immediate international recognition of Somaliland is more likely to bring peace to Somalia as it will show Somalians that they can learn from Somaliland.**

1950 Map Comparing Somaliland's land mass with that of England and Wales (Survey by A H Hunt)



Somalilanders had long lasting links with the United Kingdom. They served as merchant seamen in the First World War and in both the African and Asian fronts in the Second World War.

***We very much value the friendship and the increasing assistance the UK extends to Somaliland and hope to see soon Somaliland become a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.***

***Will the UK and the international community continue with the current failed policy of leaving Somaliland in limbo or will they facilitate the type of internationally sponsored initiatives which formally laid to rest defunct unions of States?***

*Yours Sincerely,*

**18th of May Coordinating Committee**

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Produced by 18 May Coordinating Committee  
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SSE.SSUK. Somaliland Women's Association  
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