

STAND WITH SOMALIS IN THE TWIN CITIES

BEHIND
ENEMY
LINES
Anti-Imperialist Resistance



US OUT OF THE HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIS: THE FATAL TRIFECTA

On December 2nd, in the latest spectacle of Trumpian xenophobia, the President called Somali people “garbage,” that they “come from hell and they complain and do nothing but bitch, we don’t want them in our country. Let them go back to where they came from and fix it.” Right on cue, the Department of Homeland Security launched **Operation Metro Surge**, unleashing scores of ICE agents into the Twin Cities in Minnesota, which is home to the world’s largest Somali diaspora. Families now fear to leave their homes, and once bustling community hubs have sunk into an eerie quiet.



For years, Somalis have been scapegoated for the social and economic problems in Minneapolis-St. Paul. More recently, Republicans have been throwing tantrums over so-called “rampant welfare fraud schemes” they accuse of having links to foreign terrorism as pretext to cut social spending and deepen the pockets of the police. And as with many other immigrants, Somalis are often blamed for depreciating wages and property value. Like the executive director of CAIR-Minnesota, Jaylani Hussein argues, Somalis are the perfect political punching bag because they fulfill **the fatal trifecta: black, migrant, and Muslim**. For US Imperialism, they are at best cheap exploitable labor and at worst an extremist population needing containment.

NATION OF IMMIGRANTS?

Some might say, “The US was founded by immigrants” to argue for why Somalis and other immigrants should be accepted in US society. But the whole “nation of immigrants” rhetoric only gives cover for US Imperialism by painting the country as a multicultural melting pot, when in reality it is marked by centuries of white supremacy and genocide. While on paper, liberal democracies like the US, UK, and Israel brand themselves as safe havens of freedom, opportunity, and diversity, their actions domestically and abroad enforce a division of the world between imperialist nations and nations dominated by imperialism, and who within those countries get to benefit from the spoils of imperialism. Good vs bad; legal vs illegal; immigration only exists and is deemed a crisis because of what US Imperialism has done around the world to uproot and destroy people’s ways of life.



US IMPERIALISM IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

During the Cold War, the East African region known as the Horn of Africa was becoming a powerful pro-Soviet bloc. The US saw an opportunity to use Somalia as a military proxy against Soviet encroachment after they fell out of favor. When the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, the US abandoned their once-generous material support for Somalia, leading to the nation's descent into civil war. In 1992, the US launched an intervention in Somalia delivering humanitarian aid to help in a crisis they caused. This infamously culminated in the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993, dramatized in *BLACK HAWK DOWN* (2001). The US also conveniently brought over 4 major oil corporations to set up shop and propped up pro-US politicians – who, by the 2000s, would become the frontmen of the global war on terror in the Horn. In 2007, the US launched **AFRICOM** (US Africa Command), which has 29 military bases across the continent, 5 of which are located in Somalia.

Owing to the political destabilization and economic strangulation of their homeland by the US, the Somali refugees of the 1990s found a new hub in Minnesota due to resettlement programs, affordable housing, and existing social networks. Today that community continues to grow as the US continues to make Somalia unlivable. This historical context is why Somali Americans have been joking about Minnesota being their “promised land” in the wake of Trump’s attacks. If the US can be so entitled to invade and exploit Africa as if God granted it to them, why aren’t Somalis entitled to a home in the very nation that displaced them?



OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

So what responsibility do we, as people living in the belly of the beast, have to the Somalis in Minnesota and in Somalia? We must defend the sovereignty of African nations, fight against US interventions and invasions, and shut down AFRICOM to keep the US out of the region. We must also defend immigrants who are being scapegoated for the problems this system has created, expose the lies and the real criminals responsible, and smash the mass deportation machine!

The real crisis is not mass migration – it’s US imperialism. And it’s up to us to get people in this country to become seriously mutinous, to defect from our loyalty to this empire and fight back. Join us!



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