

THE DREAM OF SOMALILAND BEING INDEPENDENT IS DEAD

Although Somalia has become a place of tribal enclaves and some parts become a hell on Earth because of civil wars, Somaliland, North Western of Somalia, is a region that the world and the Somali people do not know much about its politics and power grab.

Before 1960, Somaliland was British Somaliland Protectorate. After Independence in 1960, Somaliland has joined the southern part of Somalia which was an Italian Colony. After unification, Somalia was governed by civil and military governments till 1991 after which no central governments has controlled the whole country. The north western part of Somalia, the present Somaliland, has been peaceful and stable under self-declared and unrecognised sovereign state.

The focus of interest of this article is Somaliland. After Bare's regime was ousted in 1991 by a coalition of clan-based opposition groups, the Somali National Movement (SNM) has severed relations from other groups. SNM and clan elders declared Somaliland as an independent country. Somaliland has been relatively calm and peaceful compared to other parts of the Southern Somalia. The self-proclaimed but unrecognised Government of Somaliland is suffering from lack of fairness in division of power in the Government and in other governmental institutions and this might change the peace in Somaliland.

The power-sharing in Somaliland is based on a coalition of

main clans. However, the power-sharing and the ratio used are false and do not come from a reliable statistics based on voter registration or a count of the population in each region. All Government employees, including Government ministries, Supreme Court Justices, General Directors of Government institutions are all hired by the President. The power-sharing in Somaliland is dominated by one tribe in the region. The power has almost exclusively in the hands of that tribe. The other tribes in the region barely have power in the decision making of all Government institutions. The following statistics gathered from the present power-sharing in the country by *Gadbuursi Sultans and given to Mr. Siilaanyo as a protest shows the facts and truths about the lopsided power-sharing:*

Government of Somaliland shares of the tribes

Institutions	Isaq	Gadabuursi	Others
Ministries/ Assistants	26 +20	9	12
Heads of Government Agencies	38	3	2
General Directors of Ministries	97	14	8
House of Senate	45	10	27
Parliament	56	13	13

Heads of Customs + Tax customs	18	1	3
Banks Heads	7	1	4
Governors	8	1	4
Police Commisioners	20	1	2
Police leaders	12	3	3
Military Commanders	32	9	2
National Security Agency	31	2	5
TOTAL	420	70	89

From the above table, Issaq Clan has an absolute majority of institution in the country. That is 73%.

The power in Somaliand lies in the hands of only one tribe (Isak) and the other people in the region are losing patience and hope and are suffering brutality from some of the Isak clan. Some clans have already lost hope and formed their own governments because of the Isak domination of all institutions. The executive branch, the

Military, the Justice System, and the security Systems are all dominated by Isak. Other peoples are marginalized and are not included in all important decisions.

When the power of all Government institutions lies in the hands of the members of one tribe, the danger of being the country destabilized is becoming real. The other peoples have no choice except to reject the domination and seek a fair balanced power-sharing. The statuesque cannot continue in the same manner. The flood gates of that domination have opened up and the other peoples are avoiding to be taken away by those floods. Some have taken the road to Somalia and formed their own government. The people of Awdal and Salal are restless and would like to see justice served. The frustrations are high and the people on their feet and waiting for the answers given to their Sultans. Those frustrations are beyond repair and causing the left-over of Somaliland (Isak & Gadabuursi), after the secession of Western Regions, to disintegrate into tribal regions and possibly to inter-clan wars.

The right for publicly denouncing the power grab has become a crime. The right for justice is ignored. To question about power-sharing has become irrelevant at this stage of the game. Innocent people are being killed on the roads, in their houses, and in their fields. The murderers are not brought to justice. Some communities are fleeing their ancestral homes and fields and becoming refugees among their tribes. The western and eastern part of Somaliland are absent from security discussions and high political agendas.

This power grab is happening every day and in the eyes of the marginalized clans. Brutality and imprisonment have become the rule of the law.

The world and the Somali people should know that the dominant tribe (Isak) is only less than 40% of the population based on unfounded and unconfirmed statistics . The other peoples who are more than 60% of Somalilanders and who are marginalized has reached a verdict: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

By Mohamed Ali