European Union Training Mission
Somalia

PRESS SUMMARY

11th April 2018

“In ‘Media’ stat virtus”
Galmudug President Welcomes Resignation Of Jawari

On Apr 11, 2018

Galmudug president Ahmed Du’ale Geelle Haaf welcomed the resignation of Speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari. President Haaf praised the outgoing Speaker as an elderly peacemaker who rescued the country from possible destruction and political setback.

Haaf made the remarks at Dhuusamareeb airport upon returning from a visit to Djibouti. He told the press that during his visit to Djibouti, he attended a meeting attended by Djiboutian officials and international companies where they discussed the construction of the seaport in Hobyo town in Mudug region.

Haaf becomes the first regional state leader to comment on the resignation of Speaker Jawari following weeks of political deadlock caused by the motion of no confidence against the outgoing speaker.

UAE condemns Somali authorities' seizure of private jet, funds

ABU DHABI, 10th April, 2018 (WAM) -- The UAE has condemned the seizure of its civilian aircraft carrying millions of dollars by authorities in Somalia on Sunday.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said that the jet was seized at Mogadishu airport carrying US$9.6 million in cash allocated to support the Somali army and trainees.

The Ministry added that some those on-board the plane had been held at gunpoint and assaulted by Somali security forces. This action is an illegal step that "contradicts the established diplomatic norms and traditions between countries and is a serious breach of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in November 2014," it continued.

It went on to say that the UAE "deplores this violation of international law and norms, at a time when the UAE has provided all kinds of political, economic, military and humanitarian support in the darkest conditions to establish security and stability in the Somali Federal Republic".

WAM/Nour Salman/MOHD AAMIR

http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302680900
Somalia, UAE Trade Barbs Over Seized Money

April 10, 2018 Harun Maruf

FILE - Freight is being offloaded from a plane at Mogadishu airport, in Mogadishu, Somalia, Aug. 8, 2011. Somalia is embroiled in a standoff over the confiscation from UAE diplomats at Mogadishu airport of nearly $10 million in cash whose purpose remains in dispute.

WASHINGTON — Somalia and United Arab Emirates have exchanged barbs over the seizure of millions of dollars from a plane chartered by Emirati diplomats to transport the cash to Mogadishu. The Somali government seized three bags containing $9.6 million on Sunday and says it only took the action after the UAE ambassador refused to let the bags containing the cash be scanned.

“If a ‘diplomatic bag’ is used to deliver illegal articles such as weapons, cash, then the bag is violable,” says a senior government official speaking with VOA Somali on condition of anonymity.

But Tuesday, UAE’s Foreign Ministry condemned the seizure of the money, which it says was for the support of the Somali army.

‘Serious breach’

The statement alleged Somali security forces “assaulted” and held those on board the plane “at gunpoint.” “The action is an illegal step that contradicts the established diplomatic norms,” read the statement.
It said the move by the Somali government was a “serious breach” to a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries in November 2014. Meanwhile, the Somali government rejected the condemnation by UAE and says no breach of diplomatic protocol occurred.

The senior Somali official blamed UAE Ambassador to Mogadishu Mohammed Ahmed Othman Al Hammadi, who was at the airport to receive the money. “The Ambassador refused the bags to be examined with metal detectors, electronic scanning, or canine sniffing without opening or detaining the bag which was a simple solution to the problem,” says the official.

Investigation underway

The official also dismissed UAE assertions that Somalia infringed on diplomatic protocol at Mogadishu airport during the seizure of the money.

“All use of the ‘diplomatic’ bags for non-diplomatic purposes waives the privileges and immunities that are afforded by the Convention,” says the official who was referring to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. “In the situation on April 8, the three bags were no longer inviolable and could be subjected to inspection.”

Somalia also denied people on board the plane were held at gunpoint. “We have the CCTV that proves nothing of that sort happened,” says the Somali official.

Somalia also says the MoU UAE is referring to covered training of Somali military and expired in 2016. Somali officials say the money is stored in the central bank of Somalia pending an investigation. Officials say the investigation will determine whether the money was brought in to “destabilize” the country. Somalia and the UAE have been at odds since last year when the government of Mohamed Abdulahi Mohamed “Farmajo” resisted pressure to cut ties with Qatar and took a neutral position on a dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Last month, the Somali government rejected an agreement between the UAE’s Dubai World, Somaliland, and Ethiopia over Berbera port, saying the deal “violates the territorial integrity of Somalia.”

https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-united-arab-emirates/4340932.html
Gargash: Somalia created 'unnecessary tension' after seizure of UAE jet

Forty-seven UAE Armed Forces personnel were on board the aircraft and some were held at gunpoint, Wam reports

April 11, 2018

UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash speaks at an event at Chatham House in London, Britain on July 17, 2017. Neil Hall / Reuters

UAE’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that Somalia has created “unnecessary tension” after seizing one of the emirates’ aircraft carrying millions of dollars.

“The current Somali government, and through a number of transgressions of previous arrangements and understandings with the UAE, has created unnecessary tension with a friend and ally that has stood by Somalia’s stability and security in the darkest times, and we urge for wisdom and rationality,” tweeted Dr Anwar Gargash late Tuesday.

The UAE said that the jet was seized at Mogadishu airport on Sunday carrying US$9.6 million (Dh35.3m) in cash allocated for the Somali army.

Forty-seven UAE Armed Forces personnel were on board the plane and some were held at gunpoint and assaulted by Somali security forces, state news agency Wam reported.

The Bahraini foreign minister, Khalid bin Ahmed, condemned on Tuesday the seizure of the UAE aircraft.
“The UAE has held a number of conferences to support Somalia, and in the presence of the Somali president. It has stood by Somalia against pirates and provided support with money, arms and medicine,” he said on Twitter.

“Somalia has only responded by denying, insulting and hiding in the arms of the nation’s enemies.”

The UAE has been supporting Somalia’s armed forces for years, as part of its efforts to bring stability to the fragile state.

It has also taken a lead in efforts to stabilise Somalia, which has grappled with lawlessness and been regarded as a 'failed state' for more than two decades, and sought to co-ordinate post-conflict reconstruction.

The foreign affairs ministry has led the re-establishment of diplomatic ties between the UAE and Somalia and has overseen the opening of the UAE Embassy in Mogadishu in 2013.

https://www.thenational.ae/world/gcc/gargash-somalia-created-unnecessary-tension-after-seizure-of-uae-jet-1.720522
UAE aggression targets fragile Somalia

MOHAMED SALAH AHMED

Somali soldiers patrol on the scene of a truck bomb explosion in Mogadishu on October 15, 2017.

Somalia's efforts to crack down on Al-Shabaab terrorism and promote stability are hindered by the United Arab Emirates, which seeks to undermine Mogadishu's authority over local governments.

On Feb. 8, 2017, Somalia set the stage for a "soft revolution" led by Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, an experienced diplomat and politician. His victory, which came at a time when the country needed hope to overcome major political and economic challenges, was celebrated across the Somali-speaking world. Farmajo's success seemingly convinced the Somali people that political stability, robust economic growth and a sense of prosperity were finally within reach.

Over a year later, it is important to acknowledge Somalia's accomplishments, even though the country continues to face many challenges. In a short time, President Farmajo's administration implemented a number of key domestic policies to promote socio-economic progress – an easily overlooked success story. Taking those steps, Somalia has been able to largely avoid negative domestic and international consequences. A notable exception is Mogadishu's deteriorating relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has strengthened its ties with Somalia's regional authorities and signed treaties with them despite the central government's objections.

The UAE's noxious policy
In the wake of the 2017 Gulf Crisis, Somalia assumed a neutral position and urged international organizations, including the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to mediate talks between the relevant parties. For some reason, Mogadishu's neutrality was mistaken for implicit support to Doha, as advocates of the Qatar blockade attempted to strongarm the Somali government into siding with them. Despite mounting pressure, Somalia's federal government remained neutral. This was not, however, the end of the story. Instead of respecting Mogadishu's decision, the UAE, acting on behalf of the alliance that imposed the Qatar blockade, took steps to "encourage" (through financial assistance, development aid and investment) local state governments, officially known as Federal Member States, to challenge the federal government's position – which fueled political tensions within Somalia.

Building on its strengthening relations with several federal state members, Abu Dhabi successfully crafted opposition against Mogadishu. The situation highlighted another problem in Somali politics: Foreign governments using their political and economic power as leverage against the weak federal and local governments to have things their way.

This situation was challenged when the Somali government arrested the leader of an opposition party, Abdirahman Abdishakur, for allegedly conspiring with foreign governments to remove President Farmajo from power. The UAE, Somali officials maintained, were behind this conspiracy. As a matter of fact, masked men, which, according to local media, were members of the UAE-trained security forces, retaliated by raiding the residence of Abdi Hassan Awale Qaybdiid, who chaired the Somali parliament's Constitutional Committee. The government announced that it did not know who the assailants were.

The episode sheds some light on major tensions surrounding the state-building process in Somalia and demonstrates how fragile the project really is. Until there is a clear agreement between the country's federal government and the "federal member states" on the powers and responsibilities of individual parts of the political system, along with implementation mechanisms and respect from external actors for Somalia's sovereignty, the country will remain plagued by crises.

Agreement dilemma
But tensions between Somalia and the UAE continued. In March 2018, Somalia banned Dubai ports operator DP World from conducting business within its borders. The decision was followed by an agreement between Abu Dhabi and Somaliland, a semi-autonomous region, to develop an economic zone, under which the company owned 51 percent of the shares and Ethiopia, 19 percent. From Mogadishu's perspective, the deal violated Somalia's sovereignty and ultimately detrimental to its territorial integrity – even though it was made during Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire's visit to the UAE. Under the Somali constitution, federal government institutions alone have the power to sign foreign investment agreements – which was the reasoning behind the deal's cancellation. Although Somaliland unilaterally declared independence from Somalia in 2017 and therefore does not consider itself subject to the federal constitution, other parties to the agreement were clearly in violation of international law and diplomatic protocol, provided that Somaliland's independence remains unrecognized.

Since the Treaty of Westphalia, which was signed in 1648, national sovereignty has been a core principle of international law. As such, all nation-states are considered sovereign over their territory and internal affairs – which means that foreign governments must not meddle in the affairs of other nations. Needless to say, this principle applies to all countries regardless of their size, wealth and geographical location. The UAE, however, seems to violate this universal principle by pursuing a noxious, destabilizing and destructive policy in Somalia.

In response to the UAE's acts of aggression, President Farmajo recently addressed the Somali parliament and warned against foreign government meddling in the country's affairs: "The Somali government is committed to protecting the sovereignty of the Somali territory. Somalia is open to investment and trade from other countries. But anyone who is willing to invest in Somalia must follow the legal path by obtaining permission from legitimate institutions." Moreover, the most recent political developments established that Somalia must identify new priorities – namely, a constitutional overhaul, security and reconciliation.

Possible options

To be clear, addressing the challenge posed by the UAE won't be an easy task for Somalia. Going forward, there are several options available to the country's top policymakers. First,
diplomatic engagement could help Somalia cope with pressing problems. Provided that the Somali prime minister recently visited the UAE to no avail, however, highlights the limits of this option. Seeking mediation from the Arab League, of which both countries are members, could be another possibility – a step that Somalia has already taken. In fact, raising this issue with the OIC, too, could be helpful. Moreover, the Somali government must start lobbying the Intergovernmental Authority of Development (IGAD) in order to secure the support of other nations to Mogadishu's sovereignty. Last but not least, launching regional and global campaigns to raise awareness about the UAE threat could provide much-needed relief to Somalia and represent a victory for its statehood and unity.

Al-Shabaab commander defects to Somali government

Wednesday April 11, 2018

An Al-shabaab militant commander on Tuesday defected and surrendered Somali government in Bay region.

The state owned media reported that Adan Mohamed aka Adan Shah had surrendered to Southwest authorities amid the government forces stepped up their operations against the militants in south and central Somalia.

SONNA said the defector had a gun in his possession which he surrendered to the government forces in Baidoa town.

Shah was said to have been accompanied by one of the group’s the fighters whose name was not disclosed and both are reportedly under the custody of Southwest authorities.

According to the agency, the defector was in charge of the group’s violence activities in areas under Baay region. His defection comes barely a week after another militant, identified as Mohamed Addo turned himself in to the authorities. Since February when Somalia’s president, Mohammed Abdullahi Farmajo offered Al-Shabab militants a 60-day amnesty, the number of the defectors from Al-Shabaab militant group significantly increased. The militants who want to overthrow Somalia’s internationally-backed government have been carrying out attacks against military and civilian targets since 2011 when Al-Shabaab lost control of Mogadishu to SNA backed by AMISOM troops.

Al-Shabaab reportedly overran Kenyan troops in Somalia

April 10, 2018 – The Al-Shabaab has attacked Kenyan military forces in Fahfahdhun area in Somalia’s southwestern Gedo region, killing an unknown number of soldiers.

The attack began with a roadside bomb blast targeted a convoy carrying KDF soldiers in the small town of Fahfahdhun and followed by a direct gun battle between the two sides.

There were reports of casualties on both KDF and Al Shabaab, but, the number has not yet been confirmed. The local villagers reported heavy gunfire and explosion during the attack.

Kenyan military is yet to comment on the Al Shabaab attack against the KDF forces of AMISOM contingent. The raid was the latest in series of attacks on AU forces in Somalia.

Last week, Al Shabaab said it killed 59 Ugandan peacekeepers in car bombings and gun attack on AMISOM base in Bula Marer area, about 120Km southwest of Mogadishu.

UK minister lauds AMISOM for its role in securing Somalia

By Joyce Namutebi

10th April 2018 07:18 PM

The UKMST’s advice and training support to AMISOM are in the areas of logistics, medical and heavy engineering capabilities.

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*UK minister has said the if it was not for the work of AMISOM, Somalia would not be where it is today*

AMISOM

SOMALIA - A visiting UK minister of state for the armed forces, Mark Lancaster, has paid tribute to the African Union (AU) troops in Somalia for securing the country and reducing the threat of terrorism.

Troop contributing countries include Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

The minister on Monday met with the AU special representative to Somalia, Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira and the AMISOM Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jim Besigye Owoyesigire, where they discussed the transitioning of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces and the nature and volume of UK support to the AU Mission.

“I want to start by paying tribute to the work of AMISOM over the last 11 years and, indeed, the sacrifices that have been made, because without doubt, without the good work of AMISOM, Somalia would not be on the course of progress that it is today,” Lancaster said.
The United Kingdom Mission Support Team (UKMST), under the UK70 project has enhanced capacity building and other support to AMISOM troops and the Somali security forces in Mogadishu and the regions, to boost the war against Al-Shabaab.

“We have discussed how we can do more to support the mission, but equally talking about how we can progress, the situation here in Somalia, over the coming months and years,” the UK minister said.

The UKMST’s advice and training support to AMISOM are in the areas of logistics, medical and heavy engineering capabilities.

“We were delighted that the UK has taken interest in what we are doing here. That visit in itself is significant in the sense that we have a high and senior member of the UK government with us in this battle front,” Ambassador Madeira said.

He noted that AMISOM enjoys cordial relations with the UK Mission Support Team in Somalia and expressed gratitude for the support they have accorded the Mission.

“I had the opportunity through the minister to thank Her Majesty’s government for the support that the UK government is giving us. We have the UK70, who are doing so much work in so many areas with us and are enabling us to be more effective on the ground. We have an entire ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) system, that they have helped to put in place and is now fully operational,” he said.

The minister of state for armed forces provides oversight to armed forces on activities including operations, force generation and international defence engagements.

Woman accused of injecting auto-rickshaw driver with contaminated blood arrested in Mogadishu

April 10, 2018

There have been allegations the suspects were spreading HIV through the injections

Police in Mogadishu have arrested a woman suspected of injecting an auto-rickshaw driver with allegedly contaminated blood adding to an increasing of such cases reported in the city recently.

Mogadishu residents have claimed the blood could contain HIV but there have been no medical reports to confirm the allegations.

Bajaj drivers drove into the scene of the incident in solidarity with their colleague. Photo: Abdulkadir OK The incident which happened near the CID headquarters along KM4 caused a traffic snarl-up as auto-rickshaw (popularly referred to as bajaj) drivers jammed the area. It is not clear why the women (in all cases reported women) target bajaj drivers in the city.

The bajaj driver was also arrested for questioning.

The Coming Wars

Bruno Maçães explores the frontlines of the future.

Security consumes almost half of Somaliland’s state budget | Mohamed Abdiwahab/AFP via Getty Images

The Coming Wars

How to fight terror, the Somaliland way

In the breakaway republic, a strict clan system keeps al-Shabab in check.

By Bruno Maçães

4/11/18, 4HARGEISA, Somaliland — How do you root out a ruthless terror group? How do you anticipate its every move, counter its indoctrination campaigns, occupy its territory and deprive it of the air it breathes?

I was contemplating these questions while standing in the inner courtyard of the Presidential Palace in Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, when the man who knew the answers walked up to me and introduced himself. “I am Ali Waran Ade, the lionkeeper of Somaliland,” he said. Waran Ade received that name because of the lions he owns. He keeps them in his farm by the dry river bed in the east of the city. A few years ago, one escaped and killed a woman at the livestock market in the capital. Gray-haired and gray-bearded, Waren Ade is a security adviser to Muse Bihi Abdi — the recently elected president of the self-declared independent republic that broke away from Somalia in the early 1990s. But Waren Ade has also served as
interior minister under three of Muse’s predecessors. No one knows better than him the
underworld in which the terror group al-Shabab likes to operate. The group has wreaked
terrible violence in neighboring Somalia, where it basks in an aura of invincibility that has eluded al-Qaeda and ISIS. The United States-led international contingent in Somalia seems
impotent against them. After years of conflict, al-Shabab continues to operate with impunity in Mogadishu, where the government and foreign aid workers work keep to a small cordoned-off area.

Soldiers stand guard in Hargeisa
during a Somaliland Independence
Day parade | Mohamed Abdiwahab/AFP via Getty Images

And yet, in Somaliland, al-Shabab has no presence — even though part of its leadership originally came from Hargeisa. So how has this small, impoverished, internationally unrecognized state on the Gulf of Aden succeeded where everyone else has failed? What does it know that everyone else is unable to understand?

The old lionkeeper knows the answer — but it’s not what you’d think. Yes, his efforts and those of the interior ministry are important. Security consumes almost half the state budget, the borders with Somalia are carefully guarded, and more than a few dangerous characters have disappeared into state prisons. But credit for Somaliland’s success doesn’t belong to the security services, Waren Ade told me. It belongs to the people. No security service can know everything its enemies are up to, but the people are everywhere. They know everything, hear everything, spy on everything. Only the people can become one with the people. I am told numerous stories to illustrate the point. Once, two old ladies near the Ethiopian border spotted a group of young men carrying weapons; they immediately reported them to the police. Even mothers are not above reporting their sons if they see a call from Mogadishu registered on their cell phones.
Thirty years ago, in a drawn out civil war with Somalia, Hargeisa was razed to the ground. Everyone in the region is willing to pay any price to preserve what has since been built: an open democracy and a thriving new landscape of small businesses filling every street in the capital.

Life feels so safe now that local merchants in the bazaar leave their piles of shilling — inflation is a problem — unattended when they go to pray in the nearby grand mosque.

Democracy in Somaliland is a living organism, not a system built after foreign invasions, erected according to the prescriptions of think tanks and political consultants. It is old — much older than its European cousins, lost in a distant past of nomadic freedom and independence. And it is built on the foundations of a clan system which, far from subjugating the individual to archaic traditions, actually gives him or her the power to stand up to the state and preserve its limits. Somaliland is the only place in the Horn of Africa where the clans have survived intact. The British colonial presence was very light, and for the past few decades the country has lived in isolation. In Somalia, the clans were uprooted by the Italian occupiers and now resemble political cliques. A young man in Somalia is easy prey for al-Shabab. His social status is given an enormous boost if he joins the group. He will be given a cell phone, a monthly salary and a pick of beautiful women, who are coerced into marriage. If he says no, he will have to pay a tax or offer his services for free. And if he says no again, he is killed.

People in Somaliland feel sorry for Europeans, who are alone in the world and have to drag themselves through life without present or past.

In Somaliland, a young man who is found out to have any connection to al-Shabab will have to run away and remain a fugitive all his life. His clan will make sure of that, because the
association will be a stain on the honor of the whole clan. To be a clan member is to be able to recite one’s ancestors 20 or 30 generations back.

The system links everyone to the past. As someone told me, people in Somaliland feel sorry for Europeans, who are alone in the world and have to drag themselves through life without present or past. So picture this: two formidable political creatures. One is a terrorist group more than 10 years old, renowned for cruelty, indiscriminate executions and the power to hold an entire country in its grip. The other is a small state, unrecognized by the international community and so impoverished that its capital is still unable to afford traffic lights.

Remarkably, the latter has won the war. Or put it more prudently: It is winning the war. Before I walked in to meet the president, Waren Ade told me that his successor in the ministry had gone to the north to try to put an end to a bloody clan dispute. Regrettably, these things sometimes get out of control. One death is avenged with another and the cycle can go on forever. So the government and the House of Elders — a house of parliament representing the clans — have sent delegations to mediate the conflict. A written document will be signed and peace may perhaps return. And that, Waren Ade told me, is the last part of the secret: Clans are not social clubs, they are not tame and gentle. They can be violent and bloody and fierce. But this is a land of blood and violence. You don’t defeat the devil if you are not fierce yourself, if your blood is not of the same land.

Bruno Maçães, a former Europe minister for Portugal, is a senior adviser at Flint Global in London and a nonresident senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington. His book “The Dawn of Eurasia” was published by Penguin in January.

Unthinking refugee studies

By Keren Weitzberg

What use are academic categories when they reinforce the conservative concepts many scholars seek to challenge?

Lately, I’ve been thinking about authorial intent and how one responds to one’s readers. One of the most nail-biting aspects of publishing a book is awaiting its reception. A few months ago, I published my first book: We Do Not Have Borders: Greater Somalia and the Predicaments of Belonging in Kenya. What I did not anticipate is that, in the wake of its publication, I would be labeled a “refugee studies” scholar. I have since received five invitations to be part of conferences or panels on the theme of refugees or some related topic (such as expulsion).

It’s an honor to gain recognition from one’s peers. However, I was also left unsettled by email requests that seemed to misapprehend the very arguments of my book. While Kenya has experienced a large influx of refugees since the start of the Somali civil war in the late 1980s, it is also home to a long-standing Somali population. We Do Not Have Borders examines why Somalis who have lived within the boundaries of Kenya for generations (in many cases, since long before Kenya existed!) are widely perceived to be not fully “native” to the country. This is explicitly not a book about refugees. Rather, it is a work about a population who have crossed and been crossed by borders and who have as much claim to “indigeneity” as any other ethnic group in Kenya. In fact, regardless of their (often ambiguous) legal status, Somalis in Kenya can make various kinds of intergenerational claims to belong in the country.
To be fair, my book delves into the recent history of Somali refugees in Kenya. And the cover (a photograph from the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya that I chose for its symbolic power) certainly invites confusion. Nevertheless, neither the cover nor content explain why my work is consistently read through the lens of refugee studies. Rather, being pigeon-holed in this way speaks to dominant and entrenched ways of thinking about the area and its people. Somalis outside of Somalia are widely assumed to be “refugees.”

Confusion can be productive. It’s difficult to unthink the nation-state. It’s even more challenging to take seriously the reality of national borders, while continually subjecting them to critique. But it’s precisely these moments of conceptual slippage (when, for example, we confuse citizens for refugees) that invite us to think anew about a region and about our own well-grooved assumptions.

The Kenyan-Somali frontier, like many borderland regions, is a site that unsettles the distinction between foreigner and citizen. It’s perhaps little surprise that scholars (myself included) have long been fascinated with borderlands, which seem to lay bare the artificiality of national boundaries and invite anti-essentialist explorations of creolité, mixing and hybridity. I wonder how far we can stretch this metaphor? Perhaps the Mediterranean can be seen as an arbitrary boundary dividing Europe from North Africa, which was once viewed as a common cultural zone. As the descendants of former imperial subjects and members of the “Mediterranean world,” can Franco-Maghrebians be thought of as something other than immigrants? Might they also be considered “at home” in France?

I am excited about the recent resurgence of interest in refugee studies in Africa. It is a timely topic given the way nativist sentiments seem to be gripping the world. Yet, I worry that my colleagues remain wedded to the idea of the African (and especially the Somali) as the quintessential refugee. I think we can do better. At its best, the study of African migration should unsettle our assumptions about who is a “stranger,” opening space for us to consider the histories that link nations together and connect Africa to the world.