

# Celebrating Somalia's independence is an insult to America

**Ron Branstner    Aug 2019**

Under Article One of the U.S. Constitution, freedom of expression or speech has been afforded to all Americans. Good or bad, as long as these freedoms do not infringe upon others' rights. Although I do not agree on waving a Confederate or neo-Nazi flag because it may symbolize oppression, it still does not nullify America's freedom of speech. Although, we can use these expressions as a teaching moment to educate the populist not to eliminate the past but to learn by our mistakes.

I believe this is a teaching moment not to accept a wrong but celebrate a right. There could not be a more relevant moment then now with our new residents from war-torn countries.

Many traditions have transcended into the fabric of American history. As Americans, we celebrate these traditions with festivals and parades like Cinco de Mayo and St. Patrick's Day and many honor these festivals as liberations.

These events, over time, become blurred from fact to folklore; rewriting history to glamorize a false narrative into a day of festival. Mexico won a battle but lost the war, but it is the ties to America that writes the story line. St. Patrick was a Saint, but never chased snakes out of Ireland, yet honored as a solemnity and a holy day of obligation. Many cultures celebrate a thread of heritage and weave it into America's portfolio like a scrapbook. America has embraced many traditions, but oppression is not one of them. Americans unite under one nation, one flag and one belief that we are all created equal, and that day is celebrated on July 4. Genocide rears its head often in many countries, yet it's America that embraced the world

Independence Day in America is one of the most celebrated holidays. Most Americans honor this day by waving the American flag and watching parades and fireworks.

Somali-Americans celebrate July 1 as their Independence Day. Not for America, but for Somalia - a country that forced many of them out, killed their families and displaced them into refugee camps. This celebration is done even after America embraced them. It would be logical to think that Somali-Americans would embrace the country that opened a pathway to freedom. Instead, they celebrate a country that had a failed attempt at independence.

This is an absolute insult to America, while the Somali refugees celebrate Independence Day by waving a foreign flag signifying a country left in shambles.

What the Somali people call "independence," Americans call civil war. Somalia became a war-torn country after the Northern Britain Trust united with the Southern Italian Trust, then united a Republic under a Somali government on July 1, 1960. Not long after, the unification of the North and South broke out into chaos. By 1990, 30 years after Somalia received its independence, they lost everything.

Why do the Somali people, along with Gov. Walz, celebrate Somali Independence Day after the unification turned out to be a failure of their liberties?

When new American citizens raise their right hand and pledge citizenship, they state "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty..."

Do these new Somali-American citizens renounce their country of origin? It appears questionable.