



Ismail Omar Guelleh



The Djiboutian crises Lord finally caught in his creating wars in the Horn of Africa for personal gain

The Djiboutian strongman, Ismail Omar Guelleh has been living off the misery of the countries of in the Horn of Africa. Inheriting the throne from his uncle, Hassan Glued Abtidoon, Mr Guelleh walked into the office in 1999 and is currently on the 8th place of the list of Africa's longest serving dictators, a position he shares with the 81 years old Algerian Abdelaziz Bouteflika. At 71 years old, Mr Guelleh is much younger than some of the 7 despots on the list above him and he can easily be among the top longest serving dictators in the continent if he lives long enough as his contesters. He has until his death to go to beat a few of his contenders on the list.

Mr Guelleh has been the main obstacle to the peace and prosperity in the countries on region, Eritrea, Somaliland and Somalia. In his desperate attempt to control the Bab-el-Mandab strait, he invaded Eritrea. He has been colluding with warlords and spoilers of peace from Somalia and pitting them against each other and against Somaliland. He had tried to weaken Somaliland economically and politically. While he succeeded to project an "Oday Somali" image of himself, a Somali statesman who mediates Somalia's peace process, he has in reality since the Arta Conference been dividing the Somali people to benefit from their division and suffering and in that process scooped billions of dollars from the West in his fight against an enemy he has created

himself. He helped create the Islamic Courts and then labelled them as Islamic terrorist to milk the International community.

Djibouti government was broke when he started his sinister project in the early 1990s and couldn't afford to pay the wages of its civil servants for six months. He then found a golden opportunity in creating a mess in Somalia. When he realised that the International community are listening to him as the only Somali leader who is dealing with Somalia peace reconciliation Mr Guelleh manipulated it to make money for his country. He knew if Somalis settled their differences, if Somaliland and Somalia ended their dispute and chose to live peacefully side by side he would lose his fake crown of "Oday Somali" and his country will become poor again and his people would revolt against him. Driven by these calculations, he left no stone unturned to campaign against the recognition of Somaliland and to keep Somaliland weaken politically and economically and interfere in the Somalian politics.

However, Mr Guelleh is finally exposed when he tried in to bully DP World into withdrawing from their legitimate interest in the development of the Somaliland port of Berbera. When he failed in his envious sinister plan, he illegally declared the DP World's Doraleh contract.

Ethiopia has resumed diplomatic relations with Eritrea, a move which means that Ethiopia will remain neutral in the Eritrea-Djibouti border dispute. Ethiopia will not longer be dependent on Djibouti for its access to the sea. Asmara and Assab and Port Sudan will on the West compete with Djibouti and Doraleh while Berbera in Somaliland and Bosaso, Mogadishu and Kismayo in Somalia and Mombasa on the East and South have the potential of providing access to the seafarer to the Ethiopians.

Shuushow bax. Somalis will overcome their differences. Somaliland and Somalia will settle their differences and hopefully settle down for a two state solution. These two nations will choose to make peace and live peacefully side by side at end like Eritrea and Ethiopia, S. Sudan and Sudan, East Timor and Indonesia and many others. Somali people have one of the greatest culture "wadatashi & isku-tanaasul" and honest mediation no matter what happened between them. Geulleh's satanic and double-faced mediation efforts to be discarded. At the end of the day his policy did not contribute to the emerging peace in the region. "Wuxuu ahaa waslad qudhun ah". Somalia, instead creates division, war, suffering, Islamic extremist, pirates and 4.5 clan base system who divided Somalia into many mini-states.

For far too long many Somalis wrongly thought that Mr Guelleh was a great Somali leader, who managed to bring the Chinese, the Americans, the Europeans and the Arabs to his tiny Godforsaken desert country. Changes are coming in this. Foreign powers are exploring their options elsewhere in the region. The Americans found a training ground in Somalia as did the Turkish and the Qataris are considering following suit. The China Blue Navy began their first military training in Somalia's

territorial water for first time in many other centuries. The Emiratis are keen to do the same in Somaliland and in Eritrea. The combined efforts of the EU, China, India, Russia and Americans would have never have failed to bring peace and stability to the region had it not been Djibouti's dictator. He managed to create advantage for himself by destabilisation other countries.

I hope Somali historians will look back and tell story about Guelleh's policy of division of Somali people and I hope Djiboutian will remembered him for the man who oppressed them politically. In Somaliland, I hope people will remember him for the number one enemy of their people he is and as the man who would travel to every corner of the world to campaign against the recognition of their country and as the man who tried to marginalise the people Somaliland in any way he could.

Somali brotherhood will last long after he's gone, but he will join his predecessor dictators like Siyad Barre, Saddam Hussein, Muammar Gaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, Mengistu Haile Mariam, Nicolae Ceausescu and many other dictators who all went down the history as villain. The Horn of Africa will be a better place without this dictator.

Somali Peace Foundation 2018