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FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Somalia

8

NOT FREE

/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	2 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	6 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

8 /100 **Not Free**

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.



Note

The numerical scores and status listed here do not reflect conditions in Somaliland, which is examined in a separate report. *Freedom in the World* reports assess the level of political rights and civil liberties in a given geographical area, regardless of whether they are affected by the state, nonstate actors, or foreign powers. Related, disputed, or occupied territories are sometimes assessed separately if they meet certain criteria, including distinct conditions for political rights and civil liberties and boundaries that are sufficiently stable to allow year-on-year comparisons. For more information, see the report [methodology](#) and [FAQ](#).

Overview

Somalia has struggled to reestablish a functioning state since the collapse of an authoritarian regime in 1991. Limited, indirect elections brought a federal government to power in 2012. By 2016, it had established five federal member states, though these semiautonomous regions are often at odds with the central government. The government's territorial control is also contested by a separatist government in Somaliland and by the Shabaab, an Islamist militant group. No direct national elections have been held to date, and political affairs remain dominated by clan divisions. Amid ongoing insecurity, human rights abuses by both state and nonstate actors occur regularly.

Key Developments in 2024

- In October, the National Consultative Council (NCC)—which included federal leaders, the heads of three states, and the mayor of Mogadishu—announced plans to hold direct elections for local, regional, and state officials in 2025, to be followed by federal-level elections in 2026. This drew objections from Jubaland's state president, Ahmed Mohamed Islam (Madobe), who pressed ahead with his own reelection—under the existing indirect voting system—in November. Escalating hostility between the federal and Jubaland authorities culminated in armed clashes between the two sides in December, and the dispute was still unresolved at year's end. The state leadership of Puntland also rejected the legitimacy of the federally driven reform process.

- The national army, allied clan militias, and the African Union (AU) Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) continued to combat the Shabaab during the year. In December, the United States confirmed that its forces had killed senior Shabaab figure Mohamed Mire with an air strike, in coordination with the federal government. The Shabaab carried out their own assaults, killing hundreds of clan militia fighters and civilians, including through terrorist attacks in the capital.
- The government and the AU were preparing to replace ATMIS with a new peacekeeping force, known as the AU Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), in January 2025. However, the new force's funding and cohesion remained uncertain, in part because it was set to include troop contingents from two regional rivals, Ethiopia and Egypt, amid growing tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia's federal government.
- Journalists continued to face arrests and physical violence. Among other cases, a reporter and producer from Britain's Channel 4 were detained upon arrival in Puntland and promptly deported in February. In July, the head of Dawan Media, AliNur Salaad, was arrested in Mogadishu and charged with defaming the security forces; he was released on bail. Police in the capital used threats, confiscations, and detentions to deter media coverage of August protests by market traders against new taxes and fees.

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For additional background information, see last year's [full report](#).

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?

0 / 4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?

0/4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

0/4

B. Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?

1/4

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

1/4

B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

0/4

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

0/4

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

0 / 4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

0 / 4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

0 / 4

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

1 / 4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

0 / 4

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

1/4

D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

1/4

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?

1/4

E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights- and governance-related work?

1/4

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?

1/4

F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?

0/4

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?

O / 4

F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?

O / 4

F4 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?

O / 4

G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

O / 4

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

O / 4

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

O / 4

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

0/4



On Somalia

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

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Country Facts

Population

17,600,000

Global Freedom Score

8/100 **Not Free**

Other Years

2024

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ADDRESS

1850 M St. NW Floor 11
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-5101

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@freedomhouse.org

PRESS & MEDIA

press@freedomhouse.org

