

The Anti-Semitic Song, Israel And Two Response Songs

Aweis A. Ali

Song name: Israel.²⁰¹ The song is also known as “Waa Boqol Yuhuudduye,” The Jews are a few.²⁰²

Singer: Hassan Adan Samatar (He lives in Minnesota, USA)

Lyrics and melody: Ali Diriye “Ali Gaab” (He died in January 2018)

Year written: 1973

Genre: Antisemitism

Occasion: This song was written in response to Israel’s liberation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank during the June 1967 War.

The song on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yat_q1EYchE²⁰³

Details: Hassan Adan Samatar, a popular Somali singer, sang this antisemitic song during the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in its Twenty Third Ordinary Session in Mogadishu, Somalia, from 06 to 11 June 1974.²⁰⁴ The resolution of this meeting included: “RECALLING all previous OAU Resolutions on the Middle East reaffirming that the total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories and the exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people are pre-conditions for any just and lasting peace in the Middle East;”²⁰⁵

Translation reason: To expose the deep-rooted antisemitism in the Somali culture.

The Jews Are Few Ali Diriye “Ali Gaab”	Waa Boqol Yuhuuddu Translation by Aweis A. Ali
<i>Israa`iil ma boodeen Bari Dhexe intuu dego Birta kuma afaysteen Waa boqol Yuhuudduye Rag baa biirinaayoo Baarka u fidhaayee Barqo laguma gaadheen</i>	<i>Israel could not have been arrogant They would not have settled in the Middle East Sharpening their murderous knives The Jews are a few in number But some foreign men defend them Making them look grandiose The Jews could not have lasted a day</i>

²⁰¹ Xasan Aadan Samatar Israa'iil Lyrics 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yat_q1EYchE (accessed on 11 July 2024).

²⁰² The literal translation is, the Jews are only one hundred.

²⁰³ This is a short version of the song. The complete version is available here: <https://youtu.be/UEC3ifa30vo?si=QvKbm4nocRltq8YE>

²⁰⁴ The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was renamed African Union (AU) on 26 May 2001.

²⁰⁵ “Resolutions on the Twenty Third Ordinary Session Of The Council Of Ministers, Mogadiscio, Somalia, 6 - 15 June 1974, P. 2. https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/9582-council_en_6_15_june_1974_council_ministers_twenty_third_ordinary_session.pdf

<i>Badda kuma ciyaareen</i>	<i>They could not have pillaged the sea</i>
<i>Barbaartana ma laayeen</i>	<i>They could not have killed the Arab youth</i>
<i>Haddaan muruqa buuxiyo</i>	<i>Without the mighty muscle</i>
<i>Isticmaar ku baal jirin</i>	<i>Of the supportive colonizers</i>
<i>Bayda u garaacayn</i>	<i>Colonizers who cheer them on</i>
<i>Waa bahal gumaystuhu</i>	<i>The invaders are a cruel beast</i>
<i>Kala baahsanaantiyo</i>	<i>They like us to be disconnected</i>
<i>Baylahdaada jeceloo</i>	<i>They want us to be vulnerable</i>
<i>Intuu baadka kula helo</i>	<i>They hit us with their gun butts</i>
<i>Kaa bogo qaniinyoo</i>	<i>They bite into our flesh</i>
<i>Burka kuu dhex gelayoo</i>	<i>They hide in the bushes²⁰⁶</i>
<i>Bishimaha dushoodiyo</i>	<i>They are only a lip service</i>
<i>Been weeye nabadduye</i>	<i>These peace talks are a lie</i>
<i>Baaruudda qiiqdiyo</i>	<i>Explosions that are fiery</i>
<i>Bundukh weeye dunidu</i>	<i>And guns are the only solution</i>
<i>Afrikaay is biirsoo</i>	<i>O Africa, come together</i>
<i>Isa soo bahaysoo</i>	<i>Unite your forces</i>
<i>Ninka baal u leexdana</i>	<i>If one of us disagrees with us</i>
<i>Basar wax ugu sheegoo</i>	<i>Reason with them diplomatically</i>
<i>Ku ballama dagaal</i>	<i>Let us agree to fight the Jews</i>
<i>Israa'iil ma boobeen</i>	<i>Israel could not have robbed the Arabs</i>
<i>Carab uma badheedheen</i>	<i>They could not have targeted the Arabs</i>
<i>Nabad kuma bariisteen</i>	<i>The Jews could not have lived in peace</i>
<i>Beytkii Ilaahiyo</i>	<i>The House of Allah [Al Aqsa Mosque]</i>
<i>Barxaddii Rasuulkiyo</i>	<i>The holy ground of Prophet Muhammad</i>
<i>Waxaan loo banayniyo</i>	<i>Something that was not permitted to them</i>
<i>Bakhti kuma dhex kariyeen</i>	<i>Like cooking their carrion there</i>
<i>Kaare kuma burburiyeen</i>	<i>They could not have destroyed sites with tanks</i>
<i>Batar kuma ciyaareen</i>	<i>Dancing their horah dances</i>
<i>Haddaan muruqa buuxiyo</i>	<i>Without the mighty muscle</i>
<i>Isticmaar ku baal jirin</i>	<i>Of the supportive colonizers</i>

Background Story: While growing up in Islamic Somalia as a Muslim, I was always troubled by the notorious and hateful antisemitic song "Israel." Even as a child, I recognized the dangers of this song, yet Somali Muslims continue to play and enjoy it. After converting to Christianity in 1986, I promised to write a response song to it, and I have finally accomplished that. I plan to release the two response songs as

²⁰⁶ The bites allude to snake bites, snakes that hide in the bushes.

soon as possible, and they will be heard on Somali airwaves by many Somalis so they become a counterbalance to the hateful antisemitic song, Israel.

A Direct Response

Waa Bilyan Yuhuuddu Aweis A. Ali	The Jews Are Many Aweis A. Ali
<i>Israa'iil ma boodin Bari Dhexe Allaa dhigay Birtu waa difaacoo Rabbi yaana badiyoo Uma baahna biirin Baar loo firaa iyo Barqo laguma aado Badna kuma ciyaarin Barbaartana ma laynin Waxaa buuxa muruqood Uma baahna isticmaar Bayda u garaacee Rabbaa barakadeeyee Kala baahshay cadawgood Baylahdooda bidayoo Ku burburiyay baadka Iyo qaniinyo booga leh Burka uga timaadee Bushimaha afkoodiyo Been maahan nabadduye Cadaw belada jecel baa Buur sare ka tuuraye</i>	<i>Israel is not arrogant God put them in the Middle East Their weapons are for defense only God multiplied their numbers No foreign men defend them No one makes Israel look grandiose Israel cannot be defeated in a day They do not pillage the sea They do not kill the Arab youth Their own muscles are mighty They do not need colonizers for help Or colonizers to cheer them on God blessed Israel He disoriented their enemies He made their enemies more vulnerable He destroyed them with gun butts And bites that are infectious Bites that come from the bushes²⁰⁷ They are not a lip service These peace talks are not false The enemies that love wars Ruined the peace talks</i>
<i>Afrikoo is biirsata Isa soo bahaysta Ninkii baal u leexdana Basar wax ugu sheegta Ma burburin karaayaan Dhulkii barakadaysnaa</i>	<i>If Africa came together If they united their forces If one of them disagrees with the rest Is reasoned with diplomatically They cannot destroy The Holy Land</i>
<i>Israa'iil ma boobin Carab uma bareerin Nabad ayay ku baaqeen Birtaa loo afaystay Weerar lagu balaariyay Yom Kippur dagaal biday Barxaddii Ibraahim Bakhti kuma dhex kariyaan</i>	<i>Israel did not rob anyone They did not target Arabs Israel called for peace They were threatened with weapons They were attacked from all corners They were attacked on Yom Kippur The Holy ground of Abraham They did not cook carrion in it</i>

²⁰⁷ The bites allude to snake bites, snakes that hide in the bushes.

<p><i>Kaare kuma burburiyaan</i></p> <p><i>Iyagaa bidhaanshoo</i> <i>Cadawgii bareeriyo</i> <i>ka difaaca bahalada</i> <i>Khoosher badarki mooyee</i> <i>Bushimaha ma saaraan</i></p> <p><i>Boqorkaana doortee</i> <i>Ad-Dukhaam siduu baray</i> <i>Noo sheegtay Baqarah</i> <i>Dhulka Barakadaysan</i> <i>Baad kuma ay heline</i> <i>Baaxadsooraa siiyee</i> <i>Al Maa'idah bal eega</i></p>	<p><i>They did not destroy it with tanks</i></p> <p><i>In fact, they made it more beautiful</i> <i>Challenging the aggressive enemies</i> <i>They defended it from the aggressors</i> <i>A food that is not kosher</i> <i>Does not touch their lips</i></p> <p><i>God Chose the Jews</i> <i>Surah Ad-Dukham teaches this²⁰⁸</i> <i>Even Surah Bakharah told us this²⁰⁹</i> <i>The Jews did not acquire</i> <i>The Holy land by force</i> <i>But God gave it to them</i> <i>Take a look at Surah Al Ma'idah²¹⁰</i></p>
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An Indirect Response

Israel La Beegsay Aweis A. Ali	Israa'iil Has Been Targeted Aweis A. Ali
<p>Israa'iil la beegsay Cadaw soo bareeryoo Baallahay ka marayaan Belaayay la maageen Buurti Guriga Eebbee Rabbi yaa badbaadshoo Baalashiisa hoos dhigay</p> <p>Israa'iil la boobyoo Bari Dhexe dhulkoodii Birta loo afaystoo Rabbaa barakadeeyee Uma baahna biirin Barqo yay difaacdeen Badda iyo berigiye</p>	<p>Israel has been targeted The enemy is in the open Surrounding Israel Wanting to inflict harm On the Temple Mount God has saved it Placing it under His wings</p> <p>Israel has been robbed Its land in the Middle East Is being targeted with weapons God blessed Israel It has enough manpower In one morning, it defended Its land and sea</p>

²⁰⁸ "And We chose them [Israelites] aforetime above the nations, knowingly." Qur'an, Ad-Dukham 44:32. Yusuf Ali.

²⁰⁹ "O Children of Israel! call to mind the special favour which I bestowed upon you, and that I preferred you to all others." Qur'an, Al-Bakharah 2:122. Yusuf Ali.

²¹⁰ "O my people [Israelites]! Enter the holy land which Allah hath assigned unto you, and turn not back ignominiously." Qur'an, Al-Ma'idah, 5:21. Yusuf Ali.

<p>Israa'iil bir weeyee</p> <p>Muruqooda buuxoo Isticmaar ka baqanine Ku hubaysan beebe Bulshadoodu waa mide Waa barwaaqasooran Been lagu aqoonine</p> <p>Israa'iil bal maqaloo Waa bahal cadaawuhu Shaydaan bulaalshoo Baylahdiina jeceloo Baadka idinla dhacayoo Beerhiina dhiciyoo Beledkiina dumiye</p> <p>Yaa Benu Israa'iil Bulshadii la doortaay Baaqa cadawga diida Been weeye nabaduye Bohol cadawgu qodayee Foojignaanta badiyoo Yaan belaayo idin helin</p> <p>Yuhuuddooy is biirsoo Bah quraad tihiine Midkii Ballanta diidana Bara wiixii la soo maray Dabxasuqi beri hore isdifaaca boowe Ha baroorto cadawguye</p> <p>Israa'iil ma baqatee Ma baryaan facooda Rabbaa barakadeeyee Muruq balaaran siiyee Beerkey uga turaayaan Cadawga is bahaystaye Barqay jebin lahaayeen</p>	<p>Israel is strong</p> <p>It is very powerful It does not fear colonizers Who are armed with wheeled tanks Israelis are united They are prosperous They do not lie</p> <p>O Israel, listen Your enemies are beasts Supported by Satan They want you to be vulnerable They hit you with their gun butt They steal your farms They destroy your cities</p> <p>O people of Israel! You are the chosen ones Reject the calls of your enemy Their peace talks are a lie A trap they set up for you Be alert, be watchful That you may not suffer</p> <p>O Jews, be united You are one family If one of you rejects the Covenant Teach them the past suffering The past Holocaust O brethren, defend yourselves May your enemy wail</p> <p>Israel is fearless It does not beg others God blessed it He made it powerful It is kind to its enemies Who are united against it Israel can defeat them in a day</p>
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About the Author

Aweis A. Ali, PhD, is a missiologist and an authority on the persecuted church in the Muslim world with special expertise on the Somali Church. Aweis was a co-pastor of a house church in Mogadishu, Somalia, in the mid-1990s when 12 of its 14 members were martyred for their faith. Aweis, an ordained elder, has been ministering in the Muslim world since 1993; he has lived and served in world areas that include the Horn of Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and the United States. Aweis earned a B.Th. degree from the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa; an M.Div. degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri; and a PhD from Africa Nazarene University in Nairobi. Aweis' PhD thesis is titled "Persecution of Christians and its Effect on Church Growth in Somalia." Aweis is the author, editor, or translator of dozens of books and a dozen articles. He is the founder and the Series Editor of the annual Maansada Masiixa (Anthology of Somali Christian Poetry.) Dr. Aweis can be reached at amazingwisdom@gmail.com, aali@aweisali.com, Website: <https://aweisali.com/>