



# VIEWER VOICES

## COMMENTS & ANSWERS TO FAREED'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK 07-18-2010

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***Last week we asked, “Does the U.S. need to get more actively involved in Somalia?” The majority of our viewers were against involvement but no matter how they answered they passionate none the less.***

***Here are some notable responses:***

NO Somalia involvement. Stay OUT.


***Sarah Hirz  
Bellevue, Nebraska***

The U.S. shouldn't get involved with pirate country. Let the other side of the world with their multiple countries deal with them. The U.S. needs to focus on the U.S. for once and become powerful again. War don't make us powerful only broke and crazy. We need to fix our problems like racism and immigration. Once we settle these we will become unstoppable

*Stephano Martinez*

No one can dictate democracy or parachute it into a country. These nation-building wars are Sisyphean; it is outrageous to expect and demand that our military give up their lives, limbs and the ruination of their families' lives for such worthless causes; the financial waste is turning us into a Third World country.

FYI: I live in Cambridge (Harvard Square), but am a social moderate and fiscal conservative--and a political junkie. I was forced from the Republican Party when Bush/Cheney were elected; and I campaigned and voted for Obama because McCain won the nomination and, worse, chose Palin.



I enjoy your show.

*Bonny Lamb*

Good grief, NO! We are there enough already.

*Jim Roberts*

Dear Fareed,

The U.S. does need to be more actively involved in Somalia, but not necessarily by sending troops. It should rally the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the African Union and the Somali-American community to think about how to cultivate more of the pockets of normalcy that Menkhaus and Gettleman talked about. Somalis need to have an option other than death, flight, or joining al-Shabab.

It would be interesting to see on your show more segments about this issue, including the struggle of Somaliland to gain international recognition.

p.s. Love your show.

*Erin  
Vancouver, BC*

I don't think we should get involved in Somalia. We still need to finish up in Iraq, Pakistan & Afghanistan. We have enough problems here at home. We need to pay attention and get our economic house in order.

*Iris Lopez*

Great tragedy, of course. USA at this time does not have the military manpower or \$'s to become involved in another foreign intervention.

*Gerald Early*

After listen to the program, I believe that there is nothing we can do in Somalia. That country is filled with hate and deadly automatic weapons.

Somalia needs to find a partner in the region, and they need to seek their own path. I believe that the world will keep on turning with or without Somalia.

Somalia's only relevance in the greater world is the pirates, but that can be easily obviated with simple strategic military strikes.

*Karl Van Zandt*  
*Oregon, USA*

Yes, I would like to see an American presence in Somalia. I prefer a low key, bottom up engagement.

*Penny Norman*

Dear Fareed,

It is not the Alshabab, who is making this kind of crime, but the nonsense government of Eritrea who is funding and arming these guys more over I think this is having systematic help from Cairo, This all information is

believed to be in the Hands of Ethiopian Intelligence Service. Ethiopia and IGAD had informed the world about this danger so many times that Somalia/Alshabab will be the #1 terrorist worldwide but no body gave attention for their warning. In Somalia and around the horn what is happening is the concerns that Ethiopia and IGAD had since 2005. American involvement I think is still creating another wave of Anti American movement in Somalia and beyond but it is the Somali people who should reorganize and make their districts/regions secure like the Punt-land and Somali-Land then the whole Somalia will come to Existence.

*Luel  
Amsterdam*

Another endless war with vague objectives and no exit strategy in another Islamic tribal "nation" in name only? NO! Additional preemptive invasions of Yemen, Pakistan border areas, other Islamic lands, etc? NO! NO!

The USA only wins wars when we LEAVE! The USA has yet to win the Korean War of the early 1950's, but we clearly won the Vietnam War because we left. Vietnam is one united nation at peace, we trade freely,

Vietnamese immigrants are assimilating in the USA, Vietnam threatens none of its neighbors, and no USA taxpayer money goes to prop-up its government. All of our objectives have been achieved. That's victory. We will SUCCEED in Afghanistan, Iraq, etc., when we LEAVE.

*Jim Melsek*

The US has spent too much national blood and treasure for unsuccessful nation building in Iraq and Afghanistan. The strategy does not work (not to mention it is not appreciated by these countries) so why repeat those mistakes in Somalia. We need to figure out a better solution to protect our country

*Steven Toscher*

We need to maintain our involvement in the whole of Africa including Somalia.

Somalia's geopolitical location is strategically important to US security and to the security of our Allies.

As far as ramping up our involvement in Somalia, we must be vigilant militarily, diplomatically, and counterintelligence involvement is vital. We have no alternative but to be more involved in Somalia. If we stay away from this part of the world, we do this to our own peril as well as our Allies.

We live in a dangerous world in a turbulent time in history, and we must not isolate ourselves from the rest of the world and pretend the threat will go away. It will not.

*David and Audrey Funk*

Yes, we need to be in Somalia. Al Q may then be encouraged to leave Pakistan which has nukes and engage us in a country which has no advanced weaponry. We should not be there with soldiers but with drones called in by friendlies.

*L. Greyson*

***And now for some viewer comments:***

GPS please do not suggest, the president needs to take a page or follow Bill impeached Clinton. This is hogwash. Did you follow the president's campaign, Clinton is corrupt to the core and he did not become president with the big mess the country face. Comments he made about the president are not forgotten. He is not the president's friend, can't be trusted. Clinton came in at a perfect time during the computer age and jobs were much better, no one man could tackled the mess, 'now, except the president. His color got the racists stirred up from the first day elected and a third active tea party too. Steele got his chair job with the divisive GOP. They compared him to monkeys, Hitler, everything evil and he does not care, it is those who have a history of blatant, insane evil with hatred.

*Hannah.*

Loved the nice touch with buffet's tie...as an additional humble thought could have been dropped somehow how (should i say stupid investor) Buffett saved Goldman given 5 billion dollars...hopefully he will get it, but from the smile you on Blankfein face when he talks about Buffett he seems the

Oracle of Omaha got screwed on that deal...in my view you are the best show - great guests - always smart!

*Arthur Dimas*

This segment of the programme gave me the creeps. I think we've learnt our lessons there. Remember "Black Hawk Down".

I can hardly wait for us to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan, let alone spill our blood and treasure in some 'snake pit'.

The UK through necessity is cutting its defense budget. We should be doing the same.

*Denice Caywood*

The US should listen to what your 2 guests have to say. And Gettleman may be on to something with his "bottom-up" approach. Just look at Somaliland (which you did not mention).

Just look at how things can get better if the US Govt stay out of things.

Remember Vietnam?

Just look at them now!

*A. Munir Othman*

From a dedicated admirer:

From your discussion on Somalia with two experts, I found it surprising that no mention as made of two relative "successes" in parts of Somalia, Somaliland centered on Hargeisa and Puntland including the very point of the Horn of Africa.

During my time in both Mogadishu and Hargeisa ('83-'86) I found a major part of the central government's bureaucracy to be manned by people from what is now relatively stable Somaliland. Maybe the absence of such talent is part of the reason for chaos in most of the rest of Somalia. Also relevant may be the fact that the area of present Somaliland was once a British 'protectorate.

*Al Edgell*