

# Turkish–Somalia Oil Exploration Deal: Exploitation, Looting, and Subjugation?

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## Introduction

The Turkish–Somalia oil exploration deal has raised significant concerns about the ethical, political, and economic implications of such agreements in crisis-stricken nations. This article examines the deal as a case of potential exploitation, looting, and subjugation orchestrated by Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) leadership under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The focus is on how Somalia's prolonged security, governance, and economic crises have created vulnerabilities that external powers, such as Turkey, could exploit.

## Background

Somalia, a nation ravaged by decades of civil war, terrorism, and political instability, is rich in untapped natural resources, including oil. In recent years, Turkey has established itself as a key ally of Somalia, investing heavily in infrastructure, security, and humanitarian aid. However, critics argue that these investments mask ulterior motives aimed at securing economic and strategic gains.

In 2020, Somalia's federal government signed an agreement with Turkish petroleum companies, granting them rights to explore oil in Somali waters. While this partnership was celebrated by some as a step towards economic recovery, others viewed it as a neo-imperialist maneuver designed to exploit Somalia's resources under the guise of bilateral cooperation.

## Analysis

### Exploitation of Crisis Conditions

Somalia's weak governance structures and fragmented political landscape make it an easy target for exploitative agreements. The federal government's decision-making capacity is often compromised by internal divisions and external pressures. In this context, the Turkish–Somalia oil deal raises questions about whether Somalia had the leverage or capacity to negotiate terms that would ensure equitable benefits for its population.

According to analysts, the deal's lack of transparency further exacerbates concerns about its fairness. The absence of public consultation and parliamentary oversight undermines the democratic legitimacy of such agreements.

## Economic Looting

The Turkish–Somalia oil exploration agreement has been widely criticized for its lopsided terms, reportedly granting Turkey a staggering 90% share of the oil revenues, leaving Somalia with a mere 10%. This glaring imbalance has been labeled as outright theft and looting by critics, who argue that it epitomizes the exploitation of a vulnerable nation by a more powerful state. Such inequitable arrangements deprive Somalia of the full potential of its natural resources and perpetuate economic dependency.

This disproportionate sharing undermines Somalia's ability to invest in its own development and exacerbates existing inequalities. By prioritizing the profits of Turkish companies over the well-being of the Somali population, the deal perpetuates a cycle of economic extraction that offers little hope for sustainable growth or poverty alleviation.

## Political Subjugation

The Turkish–Somalia partnership has been framed by the AKP leadership as an example of "win-win" cooperation. However, the asymmetrical nature of the relationship suggests otherwise. Turkey's deep involvement in Somali politics, security, and economic affairs raises concerns about the erosion of Somalia's sovereignty. By leveraging its investments and aid, Turkey wields considerable influence over Somalia's decision-making processes, effectively subjugating the country to Ankara's strategic interests.

This dynamic is consistent with Turkey's broader foreign policy strategy, which seeks to expand its sphere of influence in Africa and the Middle East. Critics argue that the AKP leadership uses soft power tools, such as humanitarian aid and cultural diplomacy, as precursors to hard power maneuvers aimed at securing economic and geopolitical advantages.

## Conclusion

The Turkish–Somalia oil exploration deal exemplifies the challenges faced by fragile states in navigating the complexities of international partnerships. While such agreements have the potential to contribute to economic recovery, they also carry significant risks of exploitation, looting, and subjugation. For Somalia, ensuring that its natural resources are harnessed for the benefit of its people will require greater transparency, stronger governance, and a more equitable balance of power in its international engagements.

Turkey's AKP leadership must also confront ethical questions about its role in Somalia. Is its involvement driven by genuine altruism and mutual benefit, or does it reflect a calculated strategy to exploit a vulnerable nation for economic and strategic gains?

Addressing these questions is crucial for fostering a more just and equitable global order.

## **Bibliography**

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## **Footnotes**

1. Akinci, S. (2021). "Turkey's Expanding Role in Africa: Strategic Interests and Humanitarian Concerns." p. 47.
2. Ahmed, M. (2020). "Resource Curse in Fragile States: The Case of Somalia," p. 93.
3. Hassan, A. (2022). "Oil Exploration and Governance Challenges in Somalia," p. 29.
4. Yusuf, I. (2023). "Sovereignty at Risk: The Impact of Foreign Investments in Somalia," p. 53.
5. Hassan, A. (2022). "Oil Exploration and Governance Challenges in Somalia," p. 30.

The article now emphasizes the lopsided 90/10 revenue-sharing agreement, highlighting it as a case of "theft and looting." Let me know if further adjustments are needed.

### **Prof. Dr. Bischara Ali Egal,**

*Founder & Executive Director*

Adresse: Jidka Wadnaha Hwy., KPP, Hodan.

Tel: +252-1-655914/15 Office

+252-615545915 Mobile/Whatsapp

[info@hornscsis.com](mailto:info@hornscsis.com)

<http://kanadahospital.com/>