

Waagacusub Media Investigation – June 2025

Somali Terrorists and Pirates Enter Europe and the United States Through Irregular Migration Routes

Former members of extremist groups and pirate militias in Somalia have entered several Western countries—including the **United States, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom**—via irregular migration, according to extensive research conducted by **Waagacusub Media**. The majority of these individuals were previously affiliated with **Al-Shabaab** or **Daesh (ISIS)**. Many have sought **asylum** in **Italy, France, and Germany**, using **false identities and clan affiliations** to conceal their past and bypass immigration scrutiny. Waagacusub journalists have confirmed that several individuals who formerly served in extremist groups entered European countries under **falsified names**, often claiming tribal affiliations to which they do not belong. In the **United States**, the majority of arrivals linked to this pattern appear to have been **former pirates from southern Somalia**. While **Italy** was traditionally the gateway into Europe for many of these individuals, the **Spain route** has recently gained prominence. A surge in Somali migrants entering Spain has been observed, while **thousands have been defrauded** in **Algeria**, where organized human smuggling networks operate with impunity. "I was in the same asylum camp in Italy with a Somali extremist named **Abdulkadir Olad Farah**," said **Mohamed Abdi Nur**, speaking to Waagacusub Media. A deeper investigation into **Mr. Olad** revealed that he **used four different names** to apply for asylum in **Italy, France, and Germany**. His applications were ultimately rejected, including one in France where an **official denial document** explicitly cited identity inconsistencies. Olad has been **accused of assassinating BBC World Service journalist Katherine Mary Peyton**, who was **shot dead outside Sahafi Hotel in Mogadishu on February 9, 2005**. Multiple witnesses and sources indicate that Olad was a member of Al-Shabaab at the time and was directly involved in the killing. Additionally, **senior Al-Shabaab operatives** have reportedly infiltrated migration routes through **Algeria**, hiding among the flow of Somali migrants. Many migrants, however, were victimized in the process—losing large sums of money to a notorious smuggler named **Abdirizak Mohamed Aden**, who is known by the alias "**Qaasim**" among the migrant community. Waagacusub Media has obtained **official documents, video footage, and audio recordings** proving that **Abdirizak Mohamed Aden collected hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars from desperate migrants**, depositing the funds into a **Somali bank account** under his name. In another alarming case, a man named **Aweys**, a known former member of Al-Shabaab who later obtained **citizenship in the Netherlands**, moved to London where he **attempted to carry out a terrorist attack in the United Kingdom**. Meanwhile, **Germany** has long been home to **Captain Abdirizak Ayub**, the infamous pirate who led the hijacking of the **MV Iceberg 1**.

Background: The Hijacking of MV Iceberg 1 The **MV Iceberg 1**, a **Panama-flagged Ro-Ro cargo ship** owned by **Dubai-based Azal Shipping**, was hijacked on **March 29, 2010**, about 10 nautical miles off the coast of **Aden, Yemen**. The ship was carrying mechanical equipment for the multinational energy company **Aggreko**. Somali pirates—led by **Abdirizak Ayub**, widely known as **Captain Ayub**—boarded the ship using **ladders and RPGs**, forcing the crew to surrender after gunfire erupted. The vessel was taken to the **Garacad area of**

Somalia, where it remained in captivity under brutal conditions for **2 years and 9 months**. This made it the **longest-held ship in Somali pirate history**. During that period, some crew members died, and others were subjected to extreme abuse.