

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



LIMITED

T/COM.7/L.4

3 July 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM MADAME PATIENCE AGBUISSI  
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 24 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council and in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Report of the Committee on Examination of Petitions (T/L.243 and Corr.1) approved by the Trusteeship Council at its 397th meeting, on 13 March 1952, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, two communications dated 5 and 22 June 1952 from Madame Patience Agbuissi concerning the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration.

FROM: LOME (TOGO)  
SENT: 5 JUNE 1952  
RECEIVED: 5 JUNE 1952

SECRETARY-GENERAL UNATIONS NY

METHOD ELECTION TO JOINT COUNCIL AS DETERMINED BY LOCAL ADMINISTRATION INCONSISTENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION. MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED INDIRECTLY BY ADMINISTRATION TO STIFLE FREE VOICE OF TOGOLAND. TO DECIDE FUTURE OF A MILLION SOULS WE TOGOLESE MOTHERS DEMAND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. URGE YOU TO INTERVENE TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

PATIENCE AGBUISSI, CHAIRMAN

/COMITE DE

COMITE DE L'UNITE TOGOLAISE  
WOMEN'S SECTION

Lome, 22 June 1952

LOME

To: The Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Lake Success, New York.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm hereby my telegram of 5 June 1952.

In the first place, I should like to thank you and, through you, the distinguished Assembly which you serve, for the interest which you have never failed to display towards my country.

The Togolese Mothers were very glad to learn that a Joint Committee has been set up to study the Ewe question and the question of the unification of the two Togolands and that the members of this Joint Committee will be chosen after consultation with the different political groups and parties in Togoland.

To the best of our knowledge, the local Administration has not yet consulted them, unless it did so secretly and clandestinely, as it usually does.

Nevertheless, it has decided to flout your recommendations and has begun to make arrangements whereby its own candidates would be nominated to the Joint Council by the local assembly and by the Conseils de Circonscription.

We, the Togolese Mothers, are sure that you are aware that this Assembly and these Conseils de Circonscription do not reflect the true political complexion of Togoland, in view of the manner in which their elections were conducted. The vigorous protests of our General Chairman, Mr. Augustino de Souza, must have given you full information on the subject. We do not know whether these electoral methods are current practice in civilized and independent countries but here in Togoland we do not want unfair electoral practices to be taught to our sons.

We consider that this method of designating members of the Joint Committee imposed by the French Administration is a violation of the human right to free expression. It is calculated to stifle the free voice of the Togolese. We Togolese Mothers hope that your eminent Assembly will not remain indifferent to this studied attempt to destroy the political consciousness of a small people which is seeking its unity and independence.

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For these various reasons, we the Togolese Mothers, desirous of safeguarding the political rights of our children, have the honour to request you and your distinguished Assembly to intervene with a view to setting aside the nominations presented by an authoritarian process and to arranging for free elections by universal suffrage of the delegates to the Joint Council for Togolese affairs, in the presence of a United Nations delegation.

I have the honour to be etc.,

Agbuisi Patience  
for Mr. Augustino de Souza  
Lome, Togoland

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