

UNITED NATIONS
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GENERAL

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19 November 1951

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PETITION FROM MESSRS. ABDULKADIR YEROW ISSACK AND MOHAMMED SHEIKH AHMED
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rules F and I of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council, to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, and to the Governments of Colombia, Egypt, and the Philippines as members of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 25 October 1951 from Messrs. Abdulkadir Yerow Issack and Mohammed Sheikh Ahmed concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

Mogadishu, 25th. October, 1951.

To: THE PRESIDENT,
THE U.N. ADVISORY COUNCIL,
MOGADISHU.

Sir,

We, the undersigned ABDULKADIR YEROW ISSACK T/Ogaden and MOHAMMED SHEIKH AHMED T/Bimal, both from Margherita, representing the somali agriculturists of the Villages of:- GOBWEN, MARGHERITA, PANGHENI, BAMBILIA, OSMAN MOTO, BILICK, BULO EJ-JI, FATAKOOR, DEMA and GHOLDILEH, Margherita area, with all due respect have the honour to submit what follows:

1. The somali agriculturists residing in the above mentioned villages are being forcibly made to sell their harvested cotton to a certain Sig. Rosica, one of the greatest italian wholesale cotton exporter. Indeed, these poor somali agriculturist, whom we have the honour to represent, are threatened by the Resident of Margherita to confiscation of their entire produce and consequent imprisonment, should they fail to sell out the harvested cotton to Signor ARMANDO ROSICA for So.1/20 per kilo, while the market price of Margherita is of So.1/50, and it cannot be excluded that such a price might go up as the selling of cotton is being made on competition.

The concerned somali agriculturist, whom we represent, have submitted 4 consecutive petitions to the Resident of Margherita, but in vain. In fact, the only reply received from the Resident in regard to these petitions, was that, during a meeting held by the Chiefs of Margherita, it has been convened that cotton be sold to Signor ROSICA for So.1/20. We would like to take the liberty to call your kind attention to the fact that, apart from our having the rightness to dispose of our products, these chiefs cannot, in no way, establish a law-of-selling for the cotton produced, because, as it is evident, they are not only paid by the Administration but are continuously given "baksheesh" by the SOCIETA' COLONIZZAZIONE ROMANA, headed by Signor Rosica, so as to have the monopoly of our products. In addition, we would like to stress the fact that these ill-paid chiefs do look after their own personal interests only and not that of the poor somali agriculturists, whose interests they pretend to safeguard.

/2. About 7 months ago

2. About 7 months ago, on request of Sig. Rosica, some somali agriculturists promised to him that, should he give them financial laon facilities and cotton seeds, after the harvest they shall sell the cotton direct to him. On that very occasion, the question of the price arose, but soon the convened price was that promised by Sig. Rosica i.e. that he will buy the cotton on a comparison price basis plus So.000/10 for each kilo. Same agreement has been reached also by the S.I.S.I.A. concern and some other somali agriculturists. then the S.I.S.I.A. is complying with the promise it gave to the somali agriculturists namely that of buying the cotton on a competition price basis, Signor Rosica applied for and obtained the support of the local authorities and consequently that of the A.F.I.S. Now we are being reluctantly compelled to sell out our cotton to him on a price which is far, nay too far, below the Margherita market price. Although Sig. Rosica has no legal rights on our produces, in order to reach a settlement, we proposed to sell to him the cotton exactly as is sold in the market, but in vain. In this instance, we repeat that we are prepared to keep our promise of selling the cotton to him, provided that the cotton is bought in accordance with the Margherita price market.

3. We wish to state that NO AGREEMENT has ever been written by us in favour to Sig. Rosica or the SOCIETA COLONIZZAZIONE ROMANA, as the Agricultural and Zootechnic Office, A.F.I.S., Mogadishu, has alleged in its circular No. 375473 dated the 24th. February, 1951. This circular has been issued to the end of compelling us not to dispose of our legitimate cotton to wherever we wish. Evidently the A.F.I.S. forgets that we have got the right to pretend that our properties be safeguarded, and not illegally taken off from us.

4. Let us be honoured to inform you that we have submitted a petition to the Administrator of Somalia, on 18/10/1951, in regard to this matter, but regret having to say that no reply has yet reached us.

We beg to apply for your immediate intervention in this vital matter so as to see that we sell our produces to anyone who is felt to be the best offerer. As stated above, we do not object to selling our cotton to Sig. Rosica, provided that the price for same be paid by Sig. Rosica in accordance with that of the Margherita market. The somali agriculturists are astonished to note that, in a country, where the air of democracy is breathed, the Administering Authority

/subjects

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subjects them to lack the rightful freedom to dispose of their harvest as best as they think; they are right to believe, Sir, that this is against the democratic principles evinced in the U.N. Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement's provisions for Somaliland, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, we are confident that you will not fail to take appropriate steps in regard to our case so that we may also enjoy the all freedom of human rights.

We beg to state that we have been instructed by the somali agriculturists, whom we represent here, not to leave Mogadishu, until your Excellency has replied to this our humble petition and after we are made conscious of having the right to enjoy all judicial rights as human beings.

In the mean time, we trust that this humble petition of ours shall meet with your favourable consideration and beg your unflinching assistance on the matter, for which act of kindness we shall ever remain thankful.

With maximum sollecitation, we beg to extend you our best wishes and greetings.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Respectfully yours

1. ABDULKADIR YEROW ISSAK
2. MOHAMED SHEIKH AHMED

(signed) Abdulgadir Iaro
(signed) Mohamed Scek

Address: c/o HILCWIE MOHALLIM,
Chief of Ogaden tribe,
Mogadiscio.

M.F. SIAD - UFFICIO SCRIVANO
Corrispondenza pubblica - Mogadiscio.
So.30/30 H... Farah, 25/10/1951.

Received by the United Nations Advisory Council at Mogadiscio on 25 October 1951.
