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PETITION FROM MR. HAGI MOHAMMED YUSUF ALIM CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rules F and L 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 19 September 1951 from Mr. Hagi Mohammed Yusuf Alim concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

Translated from Arabic

To the United Nations Mission and Mr. Enrique de Marchena, Head of the Mission.
From: Haji Mohamed Yusuf Alim.

Respectful greetings. I am addressing this petition to you and hope that you will make effective enquiries and proper investigation.

I shall begin by saying that trusteeship practice and policy in Somaliland lacks justice and humanity and is contrary to the provisions of Articles 8 and 9 of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for Somaliland.

In September 1950 I enlisted in the army with the rank of sergeant, and worked for twelve consecutive months consistently and diligently, observing military regulations and army discipline. On 12 August 1951 I was dismissed from military service by the Trusteeship Administration without apparent reason, with the words "You are a Somali and Somalis do not deserve to work for us". They dismissed me without any evidence other than the words "You are a Somali". I firmly believe that this expression is disgusting and contrary to the provisions of the two articles referred to above. I submitted my complaint to the United Nations Advisory Council on 21 August 1951, and a few days later to the head of the Trusteeship Administration in Somaliland, Administrator Fornari, to General Ferrara, the United Nations Advisory Council, the municipal police officer and the military administration office. I wrote the last of these petitions on 22 August 1951, but have received no effective answer. The Trusteeship Administration said to me: "You are very rude: how could you submit a petition to Fornari and to the United Nations Advisory Council with threats and menaces?"

I enclose a copy of my last petition written in Italian.

I hope that you will grant me a personal interview so that I may tell you what is in my heart.

(signed) Haji Mohamed Yusuf Alim

Mogadiscio, Somaliland.

19 September 1951.

/Translated from Italian

Translated from Italian

Mogadiscio, 22 August 1951.

To H.E. The Administrator Giovanni Fornari,
Mogadiscio.

The undersigned Somali, Haji Mohamed Yusuf Alim, formerly sergeant in the 3rd Somali Battalion, 1st Company, begs respectfully to appeal to Your Excellency for the following:

1) On the 12th August ult. without being cognizant of any reason, he received a regular form of discharge from service. As he does not know of any offence that might justify his discharge, he is led to believe that his dismissal is the work of the Company's Captain Venturi.

2) The above-mentioned officer, you may believe me, since some time back, at least as far as I am concerned, has been supplying evil reports in my respect to the Company's Major, who in his turn, on the occasion of a visit paid by the Colonel, Commandant in Chief of the Company, reported what he knew and also suggested my discharge.

3) Without being justified by any transgressions on my part the Colonel, on the above-cited date, handed me, through Captain Venturi my discharge form.

In view of these facts, being without any possibility of subsistence, as he has to support a large family for whom he was the only means of livelihood, (the undersigned) with this humble petition begs of Your Excellency to take into consideration, with your human and competent comprehension, this particularly desperate case. He adds that he was not even granted government transport to come back to Mogadiscio from Dusamareb, so that he had to incur a considerable expense, having regard to his very poor financial position.

He takes the liberty of submitting the following question: "How will he be able to support his family numbering 12 children, all of them needy creatures?"

/He is

He is anxiously awaiting a reply on the subject, hoping that the step he has taken, viz of applying to Your Excellency's comprehension, will not be discarded without consideration.

In the meantime, he begs to remain,

Your very obedient Servant.

(Sgd) Haji Mohamed Yusuf Alim

Bondere Village - Mogadiscio.

Copy to: H.E. General Ferrara - Mogadiscio.
Security Corps Intelligence Dept. - Mogadiscio.
Commissioner of Benadir Province - Mogadiscio.
Advisory Council of the United Nations - Mogadiscio.
