

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



GENERAL

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PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE, BRANCH OF GARDO 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 30 September 1951 from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Gardo 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.

52-41341

To the members of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Somaliland.

We wish to inform you of our circumstances and ask you to help the oppressed toward victory and to examine the rights of this nation which is under the Italian Administering Authority.

We are the leaders of the S.Y.L. of Gardo, who have endured the humiliation of colonization, and the slavery, separation and dispersion for which the Administering Authority is responsible. We fled our homes and dwellings in a state of severe hunger and thirst, and have suffered poverty, sickness, aggravation and hardship. These in short are our complaints.

Since the day that Italy assumed the administration of this country, we have seen no attempt made to implement the Trusteeship Agreement between Italy and the United Nations, concerning Somaliland. On the contrary, the Administering Authority has ignored its duties and, driven by the urge for colonization, it quickly arrested the innocent members of the S.Y.L. and is guilty of oppression, cruelty and enmity.

(Concerning impartiality)

The former British administration assigned a stone house for our use as a clubhouse. It collapsed once, but we rebuilt it and were permitted to occupy it while the British were still here. When Italy returned and again eyed the country, it realized that the times had changed and that the period of her colonization was passed; it sought to restore the old regime in order to avenge itself against those it hated and reward those it liked. It revenged itself upon the S.Y.L. by dispossessing it of the building given them by the British administration.

We asked the Resident at Gardo, to give us enough time to build another clubhouse; his answer was that we should evacuate the building immediately under threat of being clubbed by the waiting soldiers. We asked to be compensated for the three thousand shillings we estimated the house cost us; his answer was that we should evacuate in a hurry and stop talking. Subsequently, we asked to be given a lot to build on, which he granted us on 21 September 1950.

/When we

When we began to build, he ordered his assistants to attack us and prevent us from building. Many of us got hit and two were wounded, namely: Haj Mohamed Abd Rehman and Kusar Abdi, members of the oppressed S.Y.L. Every time we resume building we are attacked as before. Is this called justice and fair play?

(2) In April 1951, we sent a telegram, number fifteen, to the United Nations Advisory Council, to Furnari, Governor-General of Somaliland, and to the leaders of the S.Y.L. in Mogadiscio. When the expected answer failed to arrive, we sent a letter to Mogadiscio. We then knew that our telegram had been censored by the authorities in Gardo, because it never reached its destination. We then went to the local authority in Gardo for an explanation concerning the telegram. When we saw him, he returned the fee we had paid for the telegram and said "your telegram has not reached Mogadiscio". We then knew that the telegram was not regarded as being a matter for the higher authorities. Nothing is forwarded to the higher authorities unless it is deemed important enough by the local authorities.

On September 12th, on the occasion of the Holiday of 'El Adha', a group of S.Y.L. members were on an outing in the desert. While there, they were attacked and clubbed by men in the service of the commander of the frontier post., on his orders. Our leaders later accompanied the injured to the local authority to complain. He pretended to have no authority to punish the aggressors, since no blood had been shed. This answer has convinced us that there is no security in the town of Gardo.

On September 13th, a group of the women League members, while at the clubhouse, sang the S.Y.L. anthem. Word reached the local commander who immediately had the women arrested, some of whom were imprisoned for 24 hours. That proves to us that the Italians are still opposed to the S.Y.L., to the point of arresting and imprisoning the women.

As regards the hospitals, the Administration has no intention of providing them with proper and sufficient equipment, such as beds and medicines.

/Also,

Also, there are still some men who have been imprisoned without trial since the Italian administration took over. Some of them have even died while in prison. Please investigate this tragic case.

We are discouraged with regard to the system of education in force ever since the Italian administration took over. There is a Director of Schools here, an Italian, who is nothing more than a political appointee and does nothing for the betterment of the schools, but rather directs his activity against our community.

We also wish to inform you that the Italian administration has replaced all the senior officials with members of the L.Q.S., a party loyal to the authority.

The Italian administration is taking the word of sympathizers and paying no attention to the others.

(Signed) Ali Haj Hassan
and ten others

This is the list of things most needed for the advancement of the country:

- (1) Sanitation
- (2) Education
- (3) Hospitals and medication
- (4) Improvement of roads
- (5) Repairs of the water supply and mines
- (6) Agriculture
- (7) The daily wage does not exceed 2 shillings.
- (8) Somali prisoners receive 1 shilling 40 cents worth of food a day.
- (9) Somalis are forbidden to travel from one region to another.
- (10) Institution of a relief programme for the poor and the establishment of a shelter.

Signed by the Somali Youth League

(9 signatures)

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