

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.4/139
16 May 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM CHIEF FOMINYEN NYEN MFOM CONCERNING THE
CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the
rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Nyen Village,
Menemo area,
S.W. Federation,
Bamenda Division
Bamenda, 20th March, 1957

The Right Honourable,
The Assistant Secretary,
United Nations Organisations
New York.

Copy to the House of Lords,
London

" " H.E. Governor General,
Lagos, Nigeria,
" " Commissioner, Buem,
Cameroons Province
" " Resident Bamenda,
Southern Cameroons,

My Lords,

My petition of 3rd Nov. 1955 to the V.M., U.N. Organisations N.Y.^{1/}
reply TRI/133 of 14 December, 1956 all attached herewith 2/

I have the honour most humbly and respectfully beg to ask in propounding
before Your Right Honourable for you magnanimous redress herewith a copy of my
petition, the contents of which I craved my grievances and difficulties at length
to the Visiting Mission of your Council since 3rd November, 1955 after the period
of my 30 years service without defrauding the Government, that is the Influence
of Grades not pulling together with Power?

^{1/} See Annex I.

^{2/} See Annex II.

I was patiently waiting the reply with surety to gain help with the hope that it was direct to you that the petition was handed over and that the opportunity to reply me was inconvenient.

After waiting for the period of one year, my cablegram called their attention to surprise me with a thrilling shock of a very brief reply being a sure future famine and pestilence to the Nyen Village inhabitants of 772 in number as shown by census.

2. The land is only a mile long and less than a quarter in width.

If this only land in C.S. No. 61/42 already mentioned in the last paragraph of my 7th story of the attached copy of my said petition is taken by the Powers and given in addition to a neighbouring village own being well known for generations before europeans reign, "what then is certain to be the consequence? Will it not be a future famine and pestilence to the Nyen Village inhabitants?"

3. Law never prohibits a culprit from going ahead in his case, even a murderer may respect to his or her evidence be discharged. But in my own case I am very strictly warned against taking further steps.

4. I therefore earnestly beg to clarify me of the fact if I am kicking against the Government and the Crown; if then I am, in respect to the rule of R.S.P.C.A. I am appealing before your Right Honourable's consideration for the alteration of the 81 rule.

5. Hardships in my official capacity had caused me to lengthen and enumerate in addition to the above and the attach copy of my petition some reluctant instances and the irrespectiveness of my ability for this period of my 30 years in service before Your Right Honourable with tears running down from my eyes and as if I am babbling if I were to be near; yet, I should bable because here his the end of my life since the Nyen Village inhabitants are no longer recognised as a little drop of water that adds the mighty ocean likewise a little grain of sand that adds the pleasant land as the world's people are concerned.

(a) During the second world war of 1939, every village were asked to subscribe any amount think fit for the war Relief Fund. I paid £6:0:0 six pounds in receipt No. 24674. After the war, the payers were paid in return arears; but I was ignored and paid nothing which if added to my summarised sum of £59:11:10 stated in the last paragraph of the 7th story in my petition makes £65:11:10 sixty five pounds eleven shillings and ten pennies.

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(b) It was regulated that Village Heads should not take action in the Native Court against any person without the District Officer's permission. For this reason, on the 3rd March, 1942, I applied for a permission to take action in the Native Court against my party in C.S. No. 61/42.

It was bluntly and mutely ignored and was conspired, the my party then took the action against me on the 21st March, 1942. The case was nevertheless decided in my favour. See my 7th story of my said petition of 3rd November, 1955.

May I mention herein the contents of the application? Thanks my Lords!:-

Nyen Village,
Menemo area
3rd March, 1942

District Officer,
i/c Bamenda Division,

Sir,

May I ask your kindness to refer to my paragraph 5 of my letter of 7th October, 1941 and my note P.S. thereabout which I hope it has assured you that Fomuki do feared as it was only his false pretension on the land.

Now is about 7 months, for it was in Aug. 1941 since you advised him to take action against me in the N.C. in the place of all my people if he knows the land is his from your review by one Pastor John Asili of Nyen and someone from Ceneku and I to answer for my people.

Thenceforth he could not do anything and is only directing his people to be troubling mine from the same land.

Consequently, I humbly, beg for your permission to take action against him in court accordingly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient and humble servant,

J.K. FOMINYEN
V.H. of NYEN

/...

6. After long suffering with the reluctance in the affairs of my official capacity, I wrote the Administrators on the 17th July, 1942 and also mention herein the contents:-

Nyen Village
Menemo area.
17th July, 1942

District Officer,
i/c Bamenda Division,

Sir,

Within this period of 16 years during which I served the Government, what and how do you find my character, manners and conduct to be?

I mean to ask your generous discription because no body is able to see his expert but others to see it for him and because you are the sea into which every river empty themselves some entering withered leaves and some with fresh green leaves and the voyagers in steamships and canoes sailing on the sea would not know which brought in the withered leaves and which brought in the fresh-green leaves.

It will only be the sea to know them.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient and humble servant,

J.K. FOMINYEN
V.H. of Nyen

No reply relating to my wrongs and offences against my Government being the sea was given that I may be aware; instead of which were minor cases arranged in conspiracy for the defamation of my character more strikingly here and thereabout showing the influence of the court's power which when turn to my own concern the power of the court must be put aside.

The thrilling and shock brief reply to my lengthy petition of 3rd November, 1955 to the V.M., U.N. Organisations New York is likewise To emphasise my letter to the Dictrict Officer in my paragraph 3 above, I attach herewith theD.O.'s review copy of the land case in C.S. No. 61/42.

I am now lying under your magnanimous power for the delivery of the Nyen Village inhabitants for the seen census number from the nearest future famine and pestilence for the redress of the land in dispute.

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It will not be difficult for Your Right Honourable's logic to distinguish that the ink with which I have now written you once is but tears.

Oh God! deliver thou thy poor and needy ones from the future famine and pestilence. Amen.

I have the honour to be,
with great respect,
Your Lordship's most humble servant.

Chief J.K. FOMINYEN
F.H. of Nyen

The findings of the A.D.O.'s review in C.S. No. 61/42 instead of C.S. No. 15/52 being a fresh action for enforcement of the Native Court Judgement against Staff to quit the land.

As far as present evidence and previous evidence of case as recorded in L.R.B. 1/39 P.P. 214-225. I have no doubt that the Dft establishes much the stronger case. It should noted that he has witnesses from a large number of other Menemo Villages. Whereas the Plff depends most on those from Mbeme and Gumeku. Plff also brings witnesses from Bafut.

Much of the Plff's evidence is hearsay and cannot be accepted. I consider case 88/23 C.R.B. 2/22 P 68 relevant and most significant. In this case Sala received judgment for some of the land from Mukiawa. I have questioned both Sala (now known as Chongong O.H. of Njimdom and the successor of Mukiawa. The later claim to have no knowledge of the case. The old Village Head of Nyen was the Senior Chief of the Area and it is agreed very few exceptions that he received any beef killed from the land.

Some dispute seems to have occurred about 20-30 yrs. ago after which the Plff seems to have claim the right.

The Defendant's father Tax Collector for the whole area at one time. The Defendant has put forward his case supported by his witnesses almost exactly as he did before.

It is extremely strange that the Plaintiff has never bothered to find out why the review was never heard.

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He claims the excuse of sickness. But I can hardly believe that in a matter of land that he would have been allowed to forget this if he had received a really judgment. He seems rather to have preferred to let the case lie and by this means let his people become established in the land. The Plff gives as his reason for applying for a review the fact that certain witnesses from the Fon of Bafut were not heard. Most of what the witnesses from Bafut had to say was old history handed down and hearsay.

As the case has been outstanding for so many yrs. and untill the Dft. took a fresh action in the Native Court to enforce this judgment. It has been completely overlooked and not entered in the Review Cause list.

It was not through the Plff's action that the case is now being reviewed.

Before giving judgment I consider it necessary to check on the intelligence for Menemo and on the proceedings of the boundary established between Menemo and Bafut about 1928. If the Record do not establish the Plff's claim the judgment should be for Dft and judgment of the Lower Court confirmed. If however old records indicate that this land was Plaintiff's the whole case must be reconsidered.

Adjourned scene die.

J.C. Hughes A.D.O. 14/9/53

Certify true copy.

District Officer's remarks

This suit was listed for review in 1942 when review from the Menemo Native Court lay direct to an Administrative Officer. In review in this circumstance I propose to hear the review and I consider the case cannot now be first sent to Native Court of Appeal at present existent.

I hear the review denovo and study the proceedings in the Native Court of first instance and of the Appeal and of the proceedings of the unfinished review recorded by Mr. J.C. Hughes A.D.O.

2. Plff emphasized that he claims the land of Sang Quarter to belong to his village of Guneka and admits that most of the people now settled thereupon come from the Dft's Village of Nyen.

3. I consult the Intelligence Report on the Menemo speaking families of the Widekum tribes written by Mr. C.H. Croasdale in May of the yr 1933 at Appendix 11 on page 43 onwards is given a comprehensive list of Villages and the Quarters which went to make up these Villages.

4. This single incontrovertible fact established in my opinion the Plff's claim as no evidence has been adduced from the yr. 1933. Most of the verbal evidence would seem to refer to a time anterior to this date and is largely hearsay and incorroborated.

I therefore set aside the Lower Court judgment and allow Plaintiff's claim to the land on which the Quarter Tsang lies. Dft. is ordered to refrain from any interference with this land. No order as to costs.

L. Robert
District Officer
Bamenda.

Certify true copy.

1/2/54

My objections and arguments.

1. It is not proved to whether the question by Mr. J.C. Hughes A.D.O. to both Sala and the successor of Mukiawa was if I had another land or to whether the Plff is not one of the offerings from my ancestors who likewise the following had their own given lands and hunting bushes by the ancestors:-

/...

1. Awazi Village Head of Tudig
2. Fonyam " " " Zangenembong
3. Mbacham " " " Wumembu
4. Mbamyam " " " Chub.

How is it possible that Plff had no land since then?

2. Justice walked some yards along a correct path but because it seems of having been pledged to deprive me of all my perogatives and let others enjoy them, she then declined to refer to the Intelligence Report for Menemo.

If so, why had not justice allow me claim the whole of Menemo land since the said Intelligence Report proved of me by then the paramount Chief or the Clan Head?

3. Mr. L. Robert District Officer in his remarks of paragraph 4 very strictly and seriously warned me against any interference in the land and not putting me through where else to maintain my people and myself.

How is it possible that my own land like a mother land would be taken by the Powers and given to Plff being one of my ancestors offsprings in addition to his absolutely ignoring that there are more other present and future offsprings.

After the receipt of reply TRI/133 of 14 December, 1956 I was served to appear before the Native Court for this C.S. No. 61/42.

On my way going, I beheld the joy to have some change. But as the conclusion was determined and fixed, it was only read out to my hearings.

The Intelligence Report was not framed and fabricated to deprive others of their own lands to others; or was it so?

I have the honour to be,
with great respect,
Your Lordship's most humble servant.

Chief J.K.N. Fominyen
V.H. of NYEN

Annex I

Nyen, Menemo area,
South Western Federation
Bamenda Division,
Cameroons Province
3rd November 1955

The Right Honourable,
The Chairman,
The United Nations Organisation,
United States of America,
North America,

My Lord,

My deceased father's family and self victimized and
swindled grievances

I have the honour most humbly and respectfully beg to submit before your Right Honourable my deceased father's family and self victimized and swindled grievances for your generous redress matters which should have easily organised by my allied Authorities who like my Doctors failed to treat me kindly but like fish living in the water played tricks and seized little drops of water collected from the rain and preserved for use during dry season by an animal living up the hill in the grass which is a sure starvation.

For these reasons I am reverentially craving my difficulties before Your Right Honourable for a child cries only to its mother likewise a dog wagging its tail only to its master because it knows he feeds him.

To begin with my Lord, may it please Your Right Honourable to admit firstly my poor introduction.

I am the Village Head of Nyen, Menemo area under the above Federation known as the South Western Federation Bamenda Division Cameroons Province.

I was born before the first world war of 1914 therefore whatever I shall mention concerning my late father's grievances is my eye witness and not hear say evidence.

In regards to education I am the product of the Government School Bamenda passed only by Stds. III's examination and succeeded my father in October, 1926 however as the Menemo Clan Head who lost his prestige through false stories

/...

because of the feeling of fellow-intercourse and relationship that Tabi one of the Menemo Village Heads under him as shown by the Menemo history which example can be seen from the Bamenda Office German map who were taken for bondage under Bali during the Germany reign of the Province and was the first to leave back for his country when the English invaded the Cameroons Province during that first world war of 1914.

Complain was lodged before the District Officer against my father by the late Fon of Bali.

For the simple reason as it was thought that the District Officer by then was not yet able to make out the different relationship between the different families of the Bamenda Division took action and sent a troop of soldiers matched by one Captain named R. Wolladge that Tabi to be fetched back to Bali.

It was for fear that if he speaks the truth that Tabi was one of the subordinate to him he may be considered junior and use force that he must be sent back to Bali then detained him by ignorance with the hope that he will be set free so that the remainder Menemo people who were still at Bali will also be set free to follow him back to their country so far he is a Clan family not knowing that it was the English law to emancipate every individual from slavery.

For the reason that my father detained him his compound was burnt in 1920. Various houses' articles provisions of maize, groundnuts beans, yams etc etc and ivory tusks were consumed by fire; then cattles of sheeps, goats and pigs were partly destroyed and partly with that of cows were taken to the Bamenda Station.

This is not all my father's grievances and difficulties. The list short and time to mention all. May I invite Your Right Honourable keen interest to refer a copy of it on 15/9/40 from the D.O.'s office.

I went to the Bamenda Government School where I gained my education in 1922 and saw the cows there.

The wrongs against me go to extreme that I had to think otherwise.

In 1937 three of the generated cows were given with the Senior District Officer's letter No. N.A. 1209/6 of 1st Sept, 1937 for reward of road cleared being a community labour awaiting the coming of one His Honour the Chief Commissioner of Enugu Eastern Province on visit to our Menemo Native Court. I was the President of the area and as a legal right took upon me to do the sharing of which some of the Village Heads refused their shares which had been given out to their Quarter Heads demanding one cow each a life.

After 11 months it was created a case No. 52/38 against me by one Village Head as was conspired and encouraged by the S.D.O. with a special letter No. N.A. 257/36 of 17th August, 1937 perperfering the month and date of his first letter No. N.A. 1209/6 of 1st September, 1937.

If the Bamenda Office were to be near and it calls Your Right Honourable keen interest to look for the copies of the two letters mentioned unseen, well the Office is their they know the wrong about it.

The case was exaggerated to a climatical decision that I was sentenced to 1 month S.H.L. for which I deposited the sum of £1-15-0 in the Bamenda Office before I was released from being imprisoned.

I took reviews as follow:-

1. 1/ review receipt No.34870
2. 5/ review receipt No.28004
3. 2/ review receipt No.34898
4. 9/ review receipt No.42284

Total 17/

The case was implicated that Cr. S. No. 31/38 Contempt of Court derived from a mere question which a fine of £1 was inflicted upon me. I paid 2/ review receipt No.82021 and 6/ for copy of the proceedings receipt No. 28880 equal to £1-8-0 all then amounting to £4 four pounds.

I applied for appeal giving necessary reasons. The appeal was not admitted. I further applied for review reply to which was 6 months had expired review will not be heard. It is most surprising to see that 6 months expiration was most regarded than 11 months before it was created to a case totally neglecting that the cows were given for the community and to trace out to whether they were shared or not.

This was the dynamic and aggressive of all criticisms and maliciousness against me.

2. Stages in my occupation

As having mentioned that my late father lost his prestige it degraded him to the rank of a Vice President with the payment of only £2 monthly by which I succeeded him and continued this payment for the period of my first 10 years with

a large family to be maintained which was automatically terminated and the abolition of my Presidency early I took the position by one Administrative Officer whose aim was to replace me by one late Tabi of Zang Village the President of the Menemo Native Court in February, 1937.

Should he thought it wise to have had such done was it reasonable to have terminate my daily bread?

Patiently and persistently I keep on with my duties faithfully and loyally without doing anything illegally in my official capacity yet I am victimized and swindled through family disputes created to cases through Native Court to the Magistrate's Court's and exaggerated to climatical decisions by my allied Authorities intentionally to defame my character.

3. The District Officer taking seat of the President of the Native Court in holding investigations of land disputes between one area.

During my Presidency of the Native Court I investigated the following cases to the correct and rightful decisions:

(a) Cr. S. No. 76/32 derived from land dispute.

Period: From 1932 to 1940 is 8 years before distortion

Chongong of Njimibi

vs

Chief Njokom of Mbenguri
Destroying of houses

This case derived from land dispute tried and decided in favour of the plaintiff by the Magistrate's Court Law Lower as well as by the Native Court during my Presidency.

As a means of seeking for the deformation of my character is was distorted C.S. No. 27/40 Land dispute

Period Continued 23 years.

Chief Njokom of Mbenguri

vs

Chongong of Njimibi

by the District Officer who took the seat of the President of the Native Court in holding investigations of these land disputes which had been dragging on for 23 years since his decision and and no final decision passed up to date and the poor boy is suffering a great deal. Is this how Justice can exercise her influence? In this manner how many cases can be decided within a century?

(b) C.S. No. 29/40 Land Dispute.

Though this was not yet tried by the Native Court buy by my Village Council.

Fonukong of Mebessi

vs

Minya of Zangenembong

I was selected a membership by the District Officer - President his Court member in the above case No. 29/40 for investigation the following morning but to my surprise I was indirectly taken under punishment that I was tortured and tormented within his session of C.S. No. 27/40 throughout the whole day without taken food til 12 p.m. before I was allowed for homeward from a distant of about 8 miles going and coming and in this case No. 29/40 I was outdoor the following day for two nights another distant of about 7 miles going and coming too.

I petitioned my difficulties and grievances to the Senior District Officer and on the 15th September, 1940 and managed that it be known to one His Honour the Chief Commissioner of Enugu Eastern Provinces who came on visit to the Bamenda Division. The more I petitioned it, the worst matters became against me.

4. Native Court case arising from family dispute became Magistrate's Court S. No. CM/119/48.

Period: from 5/9/47 and 6/4/48. Native Court's decision dates to 15/12/48 is one year and 4 months before Magistrate's Court's trial and decision.

Defamation of Character.
M.F. Mobit of Myen
vs.
Chief Fominyen of Nyen

This case derived from family dispute about which peace-making was arranged to the acknowledgement of the District Officer by a written document in which a plot of land containing palm tree was mentioned as a gift to one Ex-convict M.F. Mobit for security on the peace-making maintenance as said by the family and the celebration of the peace-making was witnessed by one A.D.O. being an essential tender feelings that he wished to fight for the peace maintenance between my family and myself.

The family afterwards failed maintaining the peace as promised that with due reasons I was white with anger and took the said Ex convict M.F. Mobit in the Native Court for stealing 30 cones of palm nuts valued £3 and to quit from the land.

The Native Court awarded me the plot in respect of native laws and customs that the plot was escheated to me by the discenting of a lost family but lost my cost on the good reason that I should not have charged him stealing for it was I who ceded him the plot. For the only reason that the Native Court lost my cost he then took me before the Magistrate's Court for defamation of character.

The Magistrate's Court in his verdict included the plot to the plaintiff with £25 damages irrespective of Native Court Judgment for which I was against and appealed the case to the Supreme Court Calabar Nigeria depositing the sum of £7 £1-16-9 for filing necessary papers concerning the case equal to £8-19-9d.

The appeal for was sent back to me mentioning the returning of the £8-16-9 for which I struggled and struggled yet the amount was not delivered.

On the 15th May, 1949 I was compelled to pay £27-16-10 and on the 22nd July, 1949 I wrote informing the Supreme Court of the £27-16-10 paid and that when May I expect the deliverance of the £8-16-9 being my Appeal fee paid in the case. No reply of any kind till date which I have suffered two unreasonable losses of £36-13-7 thirty six pounds thirteen shillings and seven pennies and the plot being an explicit way of encouraging him against me forgetting that such an Ex convict who has neither respect nor fear to defend and the Government and was imprisoned for the charge of embezzlement through which he has lost job and is naturally lazy to work only looks for a way to earn false living.

5. Magistrate's Court Cr. S. No. CM/99C/48.

Period: From August, 1947 to March, 1948
is 8 months before trial and decision.

Police versus Chief Fominyen
Matrimonial affairs.

This case derived from domestic affairs - a betrothal which I customarily betrothed the said girl Anch Kwah seconded by her holder sister Mah Kwah whom the right father Asanyi told me that she had been betrothed by a neighbouring friend he said girl Anch Kwah will be my future wife.

Twenty brass rods were paid for security then food and wine and 15/- to the uncle.

The charge against me was Assault and the decision was: It is general custom for chiefs to force marriage on people in this manner. The girl was not mature as to suspect me forcing marriage on her. I am a polygamy and had never force marriage on any of the wives now with me. Had I such intention I should have frightened the old father in any way forcing marriage on the first girl Mah Kwah who was most beautiful, matured and as a first fruit to pick up.

The case was correct to be a Police case if it had happened in the presence of the Police for his personal eye witness. No shout of cries against forcing marriage on the girl called the Police from the public.

The reason of having suspended this case for the period of 8 months is only known between the Police and the party.

I was sentenced in the verdict to 1 month I.H.L. or £5 fine. I appealed the case to the Supreme Court Calabar Nigeria depositing the sum of £5, £1 for the proceedings and 9/- 3d for filing necessary papers concerning the case equal to £11-9-3 eleven pounds nine shillings and three pence. Nevertheless £2 two pounds had been refunded.

My losses through minor cases exaggerated to climatical decisions arising from criticisms and maliciousness are summarized as follows:-

1.	Native Court C.S. No.52/38	£4-0-0
2.	Magistrate's Court S. No. CM/119/48	36-13-7
3.	" " Cr. S. No. C/M/99C/48	9-9-9
Total		£50-3-4

6. Magistrate's Court case deriving from taxation

Having been involved in tribulations by such a continuous unreasonable heavy losses and no way to pay I applied for 6 months leave which was granted with bad recommendations by the Senior District Officer that I do not appear to be fitted for my duties. That the Native Court to ignore and report who will replace me as tax collector who will be both approved under native laws and customs and by him. This was but my indirect termination based on maliciousness because I had nothing illegally done against my Government.

Having faith in my duties part of my leave was to be spent during tax collection and with due reasons I wrote reminding the Senior District Officer of the deliverance to the tax tickets to the fitful person for distribution.

The tickets were not sent to me but direct to my Quarter Heads who collected and also took the tax direct to the Treasury.

Meanwhile as a determination of seeking for my ruin I was prosecuted for failing to pay tax and was served with a Cr. Form 4 summons out of the date of my appearing before the Magistrate's Court Law Power who adjourned the case and in W. of A. many days after my clear evidence.

The decision hereupon by the Magistrate's Court Full Power was to a fine of 10/- shillings. But as a continuous determination to get me ruin I was bind up for the period of 6 months never to quarrel with any Police Officer.

Such advise beats my imagination for I did not know what was to bring me into quarrel with any Police Officer. Nevertheless there were some intentions for my ruin.

7. Native Court case C.S. No.61/42 Land dispute.

Period: From 1942 to 1955 is 13 years

Chief Fonuki of Guneku
vs
Chief Fominyen of Nyen

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This case was by right decided in my favour being a land known by the Judges ancestors who helped mine in gaining the land through tribal wars and possessed for generations long before Europeans reign has now with reasons similar to that of the cause of the recent effort of the Bali-Widekum disturbances of 3rd march, 1952 been a new land for which dispute rose. Without such pretensions this is not how slow justice can exercise her influence.

I had to discover that plaintiff took review through his evidence in C.S. No. 15/52 against him after the period of 11 years for the Native Court's power to enforce judgment against him to quit from the land.

Surprisingly his review was heard instead of my own C.S. No.15/52 neglecting that a law was created because of C.S. No.52/38 that reviews after 6 months expiration cannot be heard. Judgment will ever stand.

I was resting assured that judgment in my own case would stand. But what happened next? My people living on that land since the Germany reign and long before Mr. Gregg's assessment of 1923 were asked by the Administrative Officer to be assessed under Guenkn Village in 1954.

Before the assessment took place my case was already under Appeals as follows as I was endeavouring to regain my only land for the family:-

1.	Appeal within time	23/9/52	£0-5-0
2.	Copy of proceedings	15/11/52	0-9-0
3.	Further copy of proceedings	13/3/54	1-4-6
4.	Appeal out of time	28/12/55	0-10-0
Total			£2-8-6

plus £1-10-0 fee in C.S. No.15/52 - £3-18-6.

The case continued in implication that I was further charged of interrupting the assessment Clerk before the Magistrate's Court of which verdict was of a sentence to 1 month I.H.L. or £5 fine all then amounting to £8-18-6 eight pounds eighteen shillings and sixpence whereas my poor words of evidence were based upon argument for what is mine. I was also bind up once again for Public Peace maintenance for the period of one year on 11/3/55 which by common sence I knew it was a continuous seeking for my ruin because I. he neglected to consider that Government herself have never reach the goal of Public Peace maintenance for with laws she had been hanging murderers and imprisoning smugglers yet these great criminals are resistably going on. Was my power superior to that of the Government that I was urged to sign bond for Public Peace maintenance? II. he ignored my

evidence against the leaders of the Bali-Widekum disturbances of 3rd March 1952 being my public Peace maintenance recorded by him from which he should have recognised me a Public Peace maintainer.

Adding to the previous summarised losses in my paragraph 5, 10/- fine by the Magistrate's Court's decision in Cr. Form 4 summons and £8-18-6 by the Magistrate's Court's decision deriving from C.S. No.61/42 my whole losses of which none is of a direct offence in my official capacity is amounting to £59-11-10 fifty nine pounds eleven shillings and ten pennies.

8. My monthly executive salary as written by the Administrative Officers

My monthly payment varies. Since the beginning of this year I have been paid nothing with exception of 25/- paid in October for a quarter of the year likewise 13/- were paid in past years which gives $\frac{4}{3}$ per month.

9. The result of the Bali-Widekum disturbances of 3rd March 1952

As a result of the Bali-Widekum disturbances of 3rd March, 1952 my recognition was failed by the Menemo Local Clan Council on the 9th September, 1955 and that my five dane guns taken on chansing my house by a number of 7 Police Officers during the effect were destroyed after my evidence against the leaders of the said disturbances who were Widekum families of whom I am a citizen without the weight of any evidence against me proving my fault whereas it was I who informed the Senior District Officer of the occurrence with my letter of 29th February, 1952 and also took part with the Ag. D.O. Mr. A. Sprilyan who had gained his promotion to a District Officer and the title of M.B.E. in perserving to stop people from prevailing against the Bali.

In respect to my position by then was I wrong to behave and act like the Government's eyes in this effect.

My assistance in this effect was recorded by the Commissioner of Inquiry during the period of their session when I was the President of the Menemo Local Clan Council.

See Nigeria Gazette No. 45, Vol.39, page 45(5) within the month of August, 1952. How faithfully and loyally might have I serve my Government or how long may I continue before my payment will be considered? It is said "Justice is blind". Is this the honourable way that justice is respected to be blind? Can my guns be destroyed merely by suspicion? If so, I would invite to your keen knowledge one of England's laws which is, Never shoot at a barking dog until it bites. Or does it means that people who are interested of settling peace are only

/...

those without weapons? If so, Why was the League of Nations formed whereby the World's Peace is sought to be maintained whereas these great Nations had war materials?

My Lord I have propound my difficulties and grievances regarding my only land case No. 61/42, summarised losses and my service during the Bali-Widekum disturbances of 3rd March, 1952 before Your Right Honourable judgment.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordships obedient servant,

Chief Fominyen

V.H. of NYEN

Copy to the Governor General,
Iagos, Nigeria

Copy to the Commissioner,
Buea, Cameroons Provinces.

Copy to the Resident,
Bamenda, Bamenda Province.

Note by the Secretariat: The 1955 Visiting Mission to the Cameroons while in the Territory referred this petition to the Local Authority whose written comments were as follows:

"This puzzling communication deals with a complicated collection of matters within the competence of the established courts of the Territory.

"If it is to be treated as a petition it would seem to be necessary to invite the observations of the Administering Authority in the normal manner, since a great deal of research would be involved."

Annex II

TRI/133

14 December 1956

Dear Sir,

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your cablegram of 7 December 1956 in which you requested information concerning your petition of 3 November 1955 which was addressed to the United Nations 1955 Visiting Mission to the Cameroons.^{1/}

The Visiting Mission studied your petition and decided that it should not be transmitted to the Secretary-General for the application of the established petitions procedure because it raised questions which are within the competence of the established courts of the Territory. In accordance with rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, "petitions shall normally be considered inadmissible if they are directed against judgments of competent courts of the Administering Authority or if they lay before the Council disputes with which the courts have competence". In these circumstances, the Visiting Mission decided that it could take no action on your petition and suggests that you submit your case to the competent court.

Yours truly,

Max Dorsinville,
Chairman,
United Nations Visiting
Mission to the Cameroons

Chief Fominyen Nyen Mfom,
Menemo Area,
South Western Federation,
Bamenda,
Cameroons under British administration,
West Africa

^{1/} The following is the text of the cablegram:

"UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL VISITING MISSION NEWYORK CHAIRMAN SIR
WHEN EXPECT REPLY PETITION 3RD NOVEMBER 1955 CHIEF FOMINYEN NYEN MFCM BAMENDA"