

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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T/PET.2/R.2  
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## ANONYMOUS PETITION CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, 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 of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, an undated anonymous communication signed Citizens of Bukoba concerning the Trust Territory of Tanganyika. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

/Translation  
T/PET.2/R.2

Translation from Kiswobili

To The Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission,  
at Bukoba.

Sirs,

We, the citizens of Bukoba submit the following petition.

In 1950 the Government allowed us to select people to be trained in council work to represent the views of the villagers and in each village there were to be two representatives. However during 1951 Government adopted unfair ways in that the views submitted by us were rejected and the councillors chosen by us were ignored. Government chose people who agreed with their wishes and those who are employed by the Government. When asked for views on certain subjects our councillors do not consult us but we are merely forced to accept the results of their meetings. We are also subjected to abusive speeches from Government Officials.

II. During 1948 we had a tax rate of shs.12/- p.a. and during 1949 this rate was raised to shs.15/- and we have paid at this rate for three years. However on 8.8.1951 the Chiefs and councillors were summoned to Rwamishenye where they proceeded to discuss the legislation proposed for introduction in 1952.

The result of their discussions is that we shall have to pay shs.22/- p.a. in tax and the court fees in cases concerning cultivated land as well as uncultivated land are to be shs.25/-. It has also been agreed that whoever brews native liquor more than four times in any one year has to pay a fee ranging from shs.3/- upwards, according to the number of occasions in excess of 4 on which liquor is brewed. We would submit that this native beer is part of our diet and is prepared from bananas grown locally. We feel that these rules are oppressive. If our tax rate is to be increased every three years, when are we to expect the end of this increase? Our chiefs are not able to say anything in the defence of their subjects because the chief who would be brave enough to say the truth would lose his position.

The Government has increased our burden in the matter of our children's education. It has been agreed that a fee of shs.7/50 should be paid for everybody in Stds. I to VI. Above Std.VI the fee will be shs.200/- p.a. per boy. From where will a man who has got five children in school get the money to pay for their education?

/We think

We think the Government's wish is to doom our children's education. We are always asked to increase the wealth of the Native Treasury but the money we pay is never put at the disposal of poor children.

Another difficulty is that although we are cultivating our own coffee we are not at liberty to sell it wherever we want. For instance if one heard that his coffee would fetch a high price in the Congo, or even in any other vicinity, of Tanganyika, such as Mwanza, Tabora, or Dar es Salaam, he cannot send it to that place. The Bukoba Native Coffee Board and the Co-operative Society are Government units and they will not pay us a fair price for our coffee. We are only told that the surplus money is "Ours" but no advantage is taken of this big surplus balance to give the cultivator a fair price. Furthermore the wage rate paid to the labourers is very low; fair wages are paid to non natives only. The Government is allowing the Indians the monopoly in coffee trade, no encouragement is given to the native traders. The Indian trader is allowed a 10% commission in transporting coffee whilst the African is allowed only 2%. By what means, therefore, will the African better his condition? We always hear talk about the development of the African, but how is our standard of living to be bettered if Government discriminates against us in this fashion.

We request U.N.O. to appoint two Commissions of Enquiry to visit Bukoba to hear the views of the people. When such Commissions arrive and interview the people, no chiefs, sub-chiefs or Government officials of Bukoba should be present. We have got many grievances which we have not written here; we are oppressed by the court elders and councillors elected by Government. They never consult us when new plans, orders and rules are being discussed. Our Associations, such as Bahaya Union and African Association are allowed no representation on this important council.

We apologise for not affixing our signatures but we know were we to do so, things would be hot for us after your departure.

However, Sirs, we hope if we are blessed with a Commission of enquiry we shall choose from among ourselves one or four people to relate in full all our grievances.

With thanks,

We remain,

Sirs,

Your obedient citizens of Bukoba  
----- (Rural Areas)