

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PET.11/333
4 February 1953
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ITALIAN

PETITION FROM SCERIF HASSAN MOHAMED AND OTHERS
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 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 7 January 1953 from Scerif Hassan Mohamed and others 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.

To: H.E. The Acting Administrator of Somaliland
Mogadiscio.

To: H.E. The Chairman of the Advisory Council
of the U.N. Mogadiscio.

We, the undersigned Somalis: SCERIF HASSAN MOHAMED, SCERIF MAALO SUTI, ALI ROBLE SUTI, APOO SUTI, BASCIR ABIKAR SUTI, MOHAMED MUSSA SUTI, ABDI MAALO SUTI, MOHAMED ABDULLAHI, BAHAR MALEI, ABDI MAALO, MOHAMED HASSAN DAIO, ALI ABDI GURILE, HASSAN SCENE, NUR ALI, ALI MUDEI OBOKOR and BAUCAR ALI, all residing at Afgoi, take the liberty to address to Your Excellency the present petition, as follows:

An Italian named DEL BUFALO, agricultural concessionaire of the Genale district, three months ago took possession illegally of arable land in the Afgoi district; he seized a plot of land measuring approximately 400 "Darab" after paying a compensation to some Headmen, whereas the land belonged for many generations to us, the undersigned. Our ownership has never been disputed and the land has never been legally expropriated by any Authority or private person.

SCERIF HASSAN MOHAMED, acting on our behalf, set out the matter in writing to the Resident; we subsequently exposed it verbally, and he replied, verbally, that the land in question had been given over to Sig. Del Bufalo by Headmen MAIO NUR and ISIAO ALI BADI and therefore, in his opinion, the matter was definitely closed in the sense that the land now belonged to Del Bufalo.

Since we could not, naturally, be satisfied with such an unjust decision, on 4/12/52 we addressed another petition of protest to the Commissioner of Benadir Province, requesting his intervention. In the said petition we renewed our remonstrance for the foregoing and requested his protection, asking for the Suspension of work on the land by Del Bufalo until ownership of the land had been ascertained.

The Commissariat clerk, Sig. Daganelli, gave us a verbal reply identical to that given by the Afgoi Resident; indeed he added that the land had been

given over to Del Bufalo by the above-named Headmen in 1928, and therefore our claim could not be taken into consideration. Both the Resident of Afgoi and Sig. Daganelli, the Commissariat clerk, refused to let us have in writing the reply to our two written petitions, so that we could be able to understand in full the reasons brought forward by the Authorities in opposition to our claim. Through the works commenced arbitrarily by Sig. Del Bufalo, our "sciamba" has been seriously and materially damaged; no less than nine big "Garas" trees, highly valuable, have been uprooted and destroyed.

In these circumstances the only way open to us is to apply to Y.E. and beg for justice and protection of our rights and interests against the above-named Italian and Headmen.

We are making a point of specifying that Headmen cannot dispose of and assign land that does not belong to them, and that ownership claimed by Sig. Del Bufalo cannot be proved by a simple statement made by them.

We beg for Your Excellency's valuable intervention and protection in view of the facts set out above; we ask above all that Sig. Del Bufalo be instructed to stop works in progress on the land in question pending further proof of absolute and legitimate ownership of the land either by us or, as alleged, by the Italian.

Trusting that our request will be taken in benevolent consideration, we thank you in advance and beg to remain, with kindest regards.

respectfully yours

Sgd. Scerif Hassan Mohamed
14 fingerprints

Mogadiscio, 7 January 1953

Received by United Nations Advisory Council in Mogadiscio on 13 January 1953.
