

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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PETITION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE LUIGI GALLOTTI LIGHTERAGE FIRM CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rules F and
L of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was
transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United
Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in
East Africa.

To the United Nations Visiting Mission, Mogadiscio

We employees of the "Luigi Gallotti" lighterage firm of Mogadiscio,
working in the port of that city as seamen, inform you herewith of every aspect
of our wretched situation; requesting you to give it careful consideration
and to bring about a just settlement. We have already brought the matter to
the attention of the A.F.I.S. (Italian Trusteeship Administration of Somaliland)
in petitions, but without obtaining justice or our rights, and our requests have
never been answered. We therefore enclose copies of some of our communications,
for your information.^{1/}

We have also sent petitions to organs of the United Nations. The
Advisory Council sent us a letter, COM/215 of 17 August 1951, and the Department
of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, at
New York, sent us documents TRI 140/5/011, of 29 October 1951, and T/COM.11/L.63,
of 22 December 1952. There has not, however, been the slightest change or
improvement in our working conditions or our pay.

1. Some of us have been working as seamen in the port of Mogadiscio for
from 14 to 35 years on end, thus giving almost the whole of our life and
strength to this dangerous and perilous work of the sea.

2. At present, the daily wage paid by the Gallotti firm is 3 somalos, which
is not enough for the minimum needs of a person living in the most modest

^{1/} Note by the Secretariat: The above-mentioned enclosures are being retained
in the Secretariat and are available to the members of the Trusteeship
Council on request.

circumstances, to say nothing of a family, and does not correspond to the work we perform so willingly and honestly.

3. As yet, there is no law or statute providing for the humane regulation of our working conditions. The victim of an accident at work, even if he loses an arm, leg, sight or hearing, is not entitled to damages or any other compensation but must die of hunger and suffering. The interests and rights of the workers are absolutely unprotected by any regulation, because none exists. In the case of certified illness, confinement in hospital or rest on the advice of the Italian public health doctor, nothing is due to the worker for the first four days and thereafter, for a strictly limited period, he receives half pay, i.e. 1.50 somalos a day, the other half being paid into the fund of the Istituto Italiano d'Assicurazione (Italian Insurance Society), which does nothing whatever for us. When one of us is dismissed on account of old age or for certified illness brought about by reason of his work, he has no claim to a pension, termination gratuity etc. There are no labour precautions or protection of any kind.
4. We work on Moslem and Christian holidays but are not entitled to extra pay either for that or for overtime work. On the Moslem feasts of Arafa and the end of Ramadan, both the Italian Trusteeship Administration and Italian private employers in the Territory give their indigenous staff seven days pay and three days off, while we are given only three days pay, or nine somalos, and one day off.
5. We cannot afford the payments to the Istituto Italiano d'Assicurazione, which are deducted from our pay of 3 somalos a day and we therefore ask to be exempt from any connexion with that institution.

We have the honor to be, etc.

Mogadiscio, 11 October 1954

Address c/o our representatives:

Darman Hassen Osman and Shiek Scerefo Omar

Villaggio Campo Amhara

P.O. Box 352,

Mogadiscio

(Some 20 signatures follow)

To the Italian Trusteeship Administration of Somaliland

Mogadiscio.

We, the undersigned employees of the Gallotti lighterage firm in Mogadiscio, have seen fit to bring to your notice the general situation with respect to the exhausting work in which we are engaged. Most of us are old workers with the above firm and we respectfully ask the competent authorities to take steps to secure for us remuneration in keeping with our hard work. This is not the first time that we have submitted a protest. We have already sent a protest to the Trusteeship Administration but have had no reply, hence we are again stating our case for consideration by the Administration. We have a daily wage of 3.20 somalos, which is not enough even for one person to live on, and we have families to support.

We draw attention to the fact that on the 4th of this month we found it necessary to appeal to the Resident of Mogadiscio to settle the problem that arose between us workers and the Gallotti firm. We informed the Resident that we workers of the Gallotti firm were not receiving the same pay as workers employed by other firms. We asked the Resident to see that we received the bonus for the Moslem feasts; employees of other firms receive an annual bonus of fifteen days' pay and even the Italian Trusteeship Administration gives its workers in the same position as we are seven days' pay and three days' off, while we have only two days.

The Resident replied that it would be better if we did not demand anything from the firm; that instead of demanding, we should request and that if it were not for such firms, we should starve to death.

We drew attention to the fact that we were submitting our problem to the Administration.

We also inform you that Mr. Rossetto, of the Gallotti firm, answered us by saying: Thank God the Somalis are not governing here today and all the officials are Italians.

Moreover, we would point out that we have grounds for complaining about the insurance society, because when a worker suffers an injury at work, no wages are payable for the first four days. If he is under medical attention for a month, he is put on half pay and does not even receive workmen's accident compensation.

T/PET.11/476

English

Page 4

Trusting that our situation will be carefully examined, we have the honor to be, etc.

27 June 1954

Said Mohamud Farah

Darman Hassan

Hassan Ali

Doale Farah
