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PETITION FROM EX-CHIEF BARNABE NTUNGUKA  
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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

NTUNGUKA Barnabé,  
Hospital for Indigenous Inhabitants,  
USUMBURA

Usumbura, 27 December 1954.

Dr. BOZIDAR ALEKSANDER,  
Principal Secretary,  
United Nations Visiting Mission,  
New York.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, with the greatest respect, that my property on the hill of Buringa, in the Territory of Bubanza, has been seized, although my wife and children are still living there, and that furthermore my cattle which was seized has not yet been restored to me, despite the fact that I have paid 60,000 francs towards settlement of the debt of 50,000 for which I was arrested. I was arrested at the same time as the cattle were seized and am still in prison.

The Court of Appeal sentenced me to one year and twenty days.

I must also inform you that when the United Nations representatives visited Usumbura I asked them whether I could engage a lawyer from America, and they replied that I should engage a local one, but I had already approached Maître JAMAR who had refused. Finally I was sent back to him and he consented and defended me before the Court of Appeal.

After the hearing I asked that same lawyer to be good enough to approach the competent authorities with a view to obtaining my conditional release, but he refused on the grounds that I had maligned him before you. Thus I appeal to you in turn to ask the Administration at Usumbura for my conditional release if possible, for my only hope is in you, my protector.

Do not believe anyone who tells you that I have got into any other trouble or have committed any misdemeanour in Ruanda-Urundi; all these difficulties are due to my having communicated with the United Nations. That is why I asked permission to move to Uganda, after having sold my hill and my cattle, and I should like to have your advice on that subject and on that of my long-standing lawsuits.

However, as mentioned above, my hill has been transferred to a Company which is going to plant sugar cane there, without previous authorization from me; I leave this also to you to discuss at your forthcoming meeting and if you endorse this illegal occupation I will yield to your opinion.

All my possessions, my rights and my cattle have been taken away by the Belgian authorities and I ask you to settle all my legal disputes, because all the documents showing the title to my property have been taken from me by Mr. FREZIN, Administrator of the Territory of Bubanza, while I who am innocent am sentenced.

At all events, I shall go before another Court when I leave prison on the subject of my MURUNDI nationality, which fully entitles me to the possession of my hill Buringa, which has been transferred without my authorization and occupied by a third party who has no title or right to it; for I accused the Belgians and no longer our King Mwambutsa, who was induced by them to intervene in my affairs. He would have the right to refuse my demands until the settlement of my various claims which are nothing to do with him.

I have the honour to be, etc.

NTUNGUKA Barnabé

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