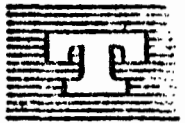


UNITED NATIONS



TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET. 11/212  
14 December 1951

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

14 MAR 1952

*[Handwritten signature and stamp]*

PETITION FROM SHEIKH MUKHTAR MOHAMED AND FIVE OTHERS  
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 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 9 September 1951 from Sheikh Mukhtar Mohamed and five others, concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

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

This is the letter we sent to the United Nations Visiting Mission, asking it to look with justice and fairness into the condition and problems of Somaliland.

We are the Sheikhs of this town, Hadr Hazim, and are submitting to you the misfortunes we are enduring from the Italian Administering Authority and from Ethiopia. We need security, peace and schooling and the Administering Authority has not fulfilled any of the responsibilities it accepted from the United Nations

(1) The Administering Authority has not fulfilled the least of the obligations it undertook. We have not slept a single night with a secure feeling under its rule; but instead in deep apprehension of attempts on our lives and properties. A day has not passed since this Authority took over the rule of our country without some unfortunate happening, and the Government does not seem to be concerned about the incidents at the frontier. The tribe which lives on the other side of the border is at odds with its Ethiopian Government and therefore has arms. It raids us day and night and we have no way of defending ourselves. We have made frequent requests to the Administering Authority to protect us with troops or to provide us with arms for self-defence, but to no avail. And yet it pays indemnity to the wife of the enemy and to their leaders. We complain to you about this great wrong.

(2) The Administering Authority is not giving us any schooling in Arabic or teaching us any kind of trade. As you know, we want Arabic to be the official language of Somaliland because it is the language of the Koran and of our religion. The Authority is strongly against it and the Italian language prevails in the schools despite our desires, because the Authority does not want the advancement of Somaliland and its liberation from colonial oppression. We have no desire to learn Italian and we beg that you provide us with sufficient teachers from the Arab countries.

(3) Our little town is composed of sixteen tribes and yet the existing hospital has no medication or beds to care for the sick. Frequently people die from infection of their wounds. Nothing has been done, in spite of our insistent requests.

(4) As you know, among the responsibilities the Italians undertook was to search for water in areas that would be fine for farming if they had some water supply. No action was taken in this matter.

(5) Freedom

(5). Freedom of action and speech is our desire. We had more freedom under the British Military Government. Now, if we dare express ourselves, we are looked upon as enemies of the Italian Authority and threatened and imprisoned without a hearing or judgment.

We are more oppressed than we were during the fascist colonization. We are never visited by the three members of the Advisory Council who reside in Mogadiscio. If the United Nations is concerned with appeals from the oppressed, then we submit these complaints to it, begging for justice and equity.

Sheikh Mokhtar Mohammad Hassan

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