

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
T/PET.11/360  
23 April 1953  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

PETITION FROM SCEK ABDUL REZAH SCEK ABDIO AND OTHERS  
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 Advisory Council for the Trust Territory  
of Somaliland under Italian Administration.

Bardera, 5 March 1953

To: The United Nations

Salaams,

We wish to thank you for your visit<sup>1/</sup> and for the many things that the  
United Nations has done for us. We also wish to inform you that our hospital  
has no medicines. The doctor in charge does not care for the health of the  
population.

The Italian teacher in our school does not ... (unintelligible) the  
Arabic language, which is the language of our religion and ancestors, and  
the language which we believe to be beneficial to us now and in the future.

There is considerable discrimination in employment matters against  
those who refuse to identify their tribes and party. The Somali Youth  
League is discriminated against. (The remainder of this communication is  
unintelligible but seems to complain of alleged lack of freedom of speech  
and association).

(Sgd)

Scek Abdul Razah, Scek Abdio  
and Elder Taker Sciacul

<sup>1/</sup> Reference is to the tour of the Representative of the Philippines on  
the Advisory Council into the Lower and Upper Juba.

Bardera, 11 March 1953

To: United Nations Advisory Council

Salaams,

We wish to present to you our complaints against the Administering Authority:-

(1) Education here is in name only. We as Moslems have decided that Arabic should be the official language throughout Somaliland but the Administering Authority forces the Italian language upon us. We have no use for the Italian language. In our town there are three teachers: one Italian, one Arab and one Somali. The Italian teacher receives 1200 Somalos per month and is given a house with water and servants; the Arabic teacher receives 200 Somalos, while the Somali teacher receives only 55 Somalos per month, without the benefit of a house and other services.

(2) The Municipal Council is a farce. There were nine members in 1952 who were appointed by the Resident but they have not been heard of since their appointment.

(3) The Residenza Council is also a farce. Its members are all ignorant and servants of the Resident.

(4) The Territorial Council representative is appointed by the Resident and not elected by the people.

(5) There is considerable dissension among the people; they are forced to identify their tribes and those who refuse and show a degree of independence are discriminated against.

(6) There are not enough medicines in our hospital and the treatments are not well regarded. Medicines and cleanliness appear only when there is a mission visiting our town; they will disappear tomorrow.

(7) Our children want to be educated in the Arabic language and not in the Italian language.

The Italian Administration has openly shown us animosity and lack of consideration.

(Sgd)

Elder Yorle Kher, Chief - Aulihan Tribe

Hersey Farah Qot, Chief - Merehan Tribe

Elder Osman Haro, Chief - Aulihan Tribe

Scek Abdul Rezah Scek Abdio, President

SYL Bardera

Taker Sciacul Hussen, Elder, Merehan Tribe

Elder Nur Zed, Hersey Tribe

Received by the United Nations Advisory Council in Mogadiscio on 21 March 1953

-----