

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL

DOCUMENTS  
INDEX UNIT

MASIK

14 FEB 1952



GENERAL

T/PET.11/160/Add.1

24 January 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

AMTOL

PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE, BRANCH OF ALULA  
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, two communications dated 31 December 1951 and 4 January 1952 from the Somali Youth League, Mogadiscio concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

These communications were transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and form a supplement to the petition set forth in document T/PET.11/160.

/SYL - Somali

T/PET.11/160/Add.1

SYL-Somali Youth League  
Head Office: Mogadishu (Somaliland)  
P.O. Box N.352  
Telegraphic Address: SYLMOG

December 31, 1951.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a letter of complaint to the Administrator of this Trust Territory and to you. The letter is written by Haji Musa Hassan, the Beldagie or Sultan of the Siwakron tribe inhabiting the district of Alula (Majertein provinces).

Together with the Chiefs, Sheiks, and Elders of the said district, the Local Committee of the Somali Youth League in Alula has submitted to both the Italian Administration 1/ and the United Nations Advisory Council 2/ for this Trust Territory several complaints against continuous injustices and unhuman illtreatments such as the illegal arrests of the people and subsequent convictions of the same on framed up charges. Similar complaints, both in written and in oral, were also submitted by the Central Committee of the Somali Youth League on behalf of the inhabitants of Alula district. So far, nothing has been done to improve the serious conditions existing there; on the contrary, the illegal arrests and other sort of illtreatments towards the somalis inhabiting the district in question have increased.

In June this year, 12 somalis, all members of the League, were arrested in the village of Ghesalei. The reason given was that one of them has attempted to smuggle some goods, while the other 11 arrested somalis have allegedly used

/violence

- 1) Note by the Secretariat: A copy of a communication addressed to the Italian administration dated 12 October 1951 by the Somali Youth League and concerning the same problem was forwarded to the United Nations Advisory Council in Mogadiscio for information. This communication has been placed in the files of the Secretariat and is available to the members of the Trusteeship Council upon request.
- 2) Note by the Secretariat: see T/PET.11/160

violence against the gogle (district police) who arrested the former. Here are the names of the 12 somalis arrested in Ghesalei:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Shireh Maleyeh        | 7. Bile Haji Mohamud    |
| 2. Ali Salah             | 8. Mohamed Ahmed        |
| 3. Gure Madan            | 9. Kolombi Ahmed        |
| 4. Salah Mohamed         | 10. Salah Mohamed Yusuf |
| 5. Hassan Mohamud        | 11. Ali Yusuf Ahmed     |
| 6. Mohamed Ahmed Mahadei | 12. Said Haji Mohamud.  |

In November, 5 of the above mentioned somalis were released because they were found not guilty. Nevertheless, these innocent somalis, like thousands others, were released after spending several months in prison. The remaining 7 persons were all sentenced to prison terms ranging from 3 to 13 months. As usual, the convictions of these unfortunate somalis, like countless others, are the direct result of framed up charged against all these persons that the Italian Administration did list as undesired elements, namely: the nationalist somalis who seek the independence of their country.

In October this year, the Italian Authority did arrest 23 SYL leaders of the above mentioned district including the Secretary and members of the Local Committee of our Alula branch as well as those of several other villages in the said area. At that time, the Commisario of the Majertein province was present. Unfortunately, he did ignore then the request of Beldagie Haji Musa Hassan and many other somali Chiefs, Sheiks, and Elders that the 23 persons detained to be released immediately; since last October, the SYL leaders in that district are in prison without any trial. Following are the names of the same:

/1. Haji Farah Ghesot

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Haji Farah Ghesot      | 13. Mohamed Roble Isakh  |
| 2. Osman Ahmed Yusuf      | 14. Artan Ali            |
| 3. Ali Jama Shirwa        | 15. Mohamed Salah Raghe  |
| 4. Yusuf Bahual Farah     | 16. Mohamed Ali Farah    |
| 5. Hassan Said Nahar      | 17. Salah Ahmed Abdallah |
| 6. Farah Elmi             | 18. Adur Adde            |
| 7. Ahmed Yusuf Adde       | 19. Abdullahi Salah      |
| 8. Mohamud Salah          | 20. Mohamed Barre        |
| 9. Mohamed Shireh         | 21. Issa Gure            |
| 10. Ahmed Ismail Samantar | 22. Ibrahim Gure         |
| 11. Haji Mohamed Farah    | 23. Yusuf Mohamed Farah  |
| 12. Said Ali              |                          |

The Commissario of the Majertein province did also refuse to grant permission to Beldagie Haji Musa Hassan who wished to proceed to Mogadishu and discuss the serious question of Alula with the Administrator and the United Nations Advisory Council. Together with other 4 somalis, Haji Musa Hassan left Alula for Mogadishu via Erigavo - Burao - Hargeisa (all Somaliland Protectorate).

When the party arrived here few days ago, we did ask Dr. Benardelli, Head of the Political and Internal Affairs Office, to arrange an early interview for the party and ourselves with the Administrator. December 19, 1951 was fixted as the date for the interview. As instructed, we called on that morning the Political and Internal Affairs Office where we saw Dr. Bepardelli who informed us that the Administrator will receive the representatives of the Somali Youth League together with the members of the party except Haji Musa Hassan, the Beldagie of the Siwakron tribe.

In addition, the Head of the Political and Internal Affairs Office told us that during the course of the interview we can raise subjects other than that of Alula district and that the interview itself is limited in 10 minutes time. The hard conditions imposed, namely: the exclusion of Beldagie Haji Musa Hassan to participate in the interview with the Administrator, the refusal that we raise the serious question of Alula district, and the time-limit of only 10 minutes, have compelled us to suspend the interview itself.

/We respectfully

We respectfully request the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland to investigate as early as possible the very serious matter of Alula district. At the same time, we request the Advisory Council to intervene in order to stop the continuous injustices and unhuman illtreatments suffered by the somalis inhabiting the district in question. In particular, we urge the Council to investigate soon the case of the 12 somalis arrested last June in the villages of Ghesalei (of these 5 were released in November, while the others were all sentenced to prison terms), and that of the 23 SYL leaders in the district of Alula arrested by the Italian Authority in October this year.

For the President  
(signed) A. Issa  
A. ISSA,  
Secretary.

H.E. The President  
The UN Advisory Council for the  
Trust Territory of Somaliland  
Mogadishu.

Copy for information to: H.E. The Administrator of the  
Trust Territory of Somaliland  
Mogadishu.

/To. H.E. The Ambassador

To H.E. The Ambassador G. Fornari,  
Administrator of Somaliland,  
Mogadiscio.

To H.E. the Chairman of the  
United Nations Advisory Council,  
Mogadiscio.

I, the undersigned HAJI MUSA HASSAN, Beldagie of the Siuacron tribe, located in Alula and 12 other villages depending on it (Durbo, Mur'agno, Carsa, Magalayar, Ghesalei, Habo, Afcalahaie, Bareda, Waregsame, Ollogh, Damo and Tehin) have the honour to state the following:

1. Since Italy took over the administration of this Territory there has been at Alula, as Resident, a certain Dr. Piras, one of the old fascist officials. The above-named, as soon as he took up his duties, thirsting for revenge against Somalis, commenced immediately to persecute us ruthlessly and committed all sort of abuses against us.

We sent many protests directly to Your Excellency, and others through SYL's Central Committee. In the said petitions we specified and stated explicitly concrete facts. On the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to Alula we submitted verbally some serious facts, namely:

(a) that the said Resident, in order to spread fear and dishearten the population, illegally imprisoned innocent persons, who were released, without trial, after months of detention under remand. If Your Excellency had condescended on that occasion to pay a visit to the prisons, you would have found a considerable number of such unfortunate Somalis, and would have had a confirmation of what we had stated;

(b) that the Resident, after having sentenced to six months imprisonment the Somali MOHAMED FARAH, kept in his own house as mistress the Somali woman ASLI MOHAMED SHIRWA, wife of the said Farah Mohamed;

/(c) that the

9

(c) that the economy of the Mijertein population was essentially made up of traffic by dhows, traffic that the Resident had forbidden to dhow owners because they had not complied with the order to hoist the Italian flag. It should be noted that about 47 dhows, loaded with goods, have been idle for several months in the Alula harbor and in those of the above-mentioned villages;

(d) that every time that the Resident got to know of a protest of ours, he increased his persecution.

We submitted several times similar protests to the Commissioner Dr. Luchetti, but the latter simply approved and confirmed the Resident's action.

We tried to send a telegram of protest to Your Excellency and to the United Nations Advisory Council, but the Commissioner not only prevented us from doing it, but tore up with his own hands the telegram.

In view of such a situation, and having no other alternative, I decided to reach Mogadiscio in order to call once more Your Excellency's attention to the truly desperate situation of our district; and to make such a journey, since the Commissioner refused to grant me permission, I had to go to the (British) Somaliland Protectorate (see the attached permit issued by the District Commissioner, Erigava).

When I arrived here, to my dismay I was informed by Dr. Benardelli, Head of the Internal Affairs Office, that Your Excellency was unwilling to grant me an interview.

As much as Your Excellency may be prejudiced against me; on account of what Commissioner and Resident have written of myself and of all insinuations made by the leaders of the Somali Progressive League (the latter even boasted that I could be granted an interview with Your Excellency only through them and their good offices), in my capacity as principal chief of the region in question and in view of the importance of problems to be discussed, I thought I had the right to be heard by Your Excellency, but, since this is not possible, I take the liberty of summarizing below the main facts:

/1. The undermentioned

1. The undermentioned Somalis were arrested on 26 June ult.:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Shire Nalseye         | 7. Bile Hagi Mohamud    |
| 2. Ali Salah             | 8. Mohamed Ahmed        |
| 3. Gure Madan            | 9. Calombi Ahmed        |
| 4. Salah Mohamed         | 10. Salah Mohamed Yusuf |
| 5. Hassan Mohamud        | 11. Ali Yusuf Ahmed     |
| 6. Mohamed Ahmed Mahadei | 12. Said Hagi Mohamud.  |

These persons were charged by a Residency Ilalo with violence against himself and with carrying on contraband activities. I wish to state that they themselves called at the Resident's to lay a complaint for overbearing actions committed by the said Ilalo. In November last, five of the above-mentioned persons were acknowledged to be not guilty and released. In spite of their being not guilty, they spent five months in prison awaiting trial.

The undermentioned Somalis were arrested on 20 October:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hagi Farah Ghesot      | 13. Mohamed Roble Issak  |
| 2. Osman Ahmed Yusuf      | 14. Artan Ali            |
| 3. Ali Giama Shirwa       | 15. Mohamed Salah Raghe  |
| 4. Yusuf Bahual Farah     | 16. Mohamed Ali Farah    |
| 5. Hassan Said Nahar      | 17. Salah Ahmed Abdullah |
| 6. Farah Elmi             | 18. Adur Adde            |
| 7. Ahmed Yusuf Adde       | 19. Abdullahi Salah      |
| 8. Mohamud Salah          | 20. Mohamed Barre        |
| 9. Mohamed Shire          | 21. Issa Gure            |
| 10. Ahmed Ismail Samantar | 22. Ibrahim Gure         |
| 11. Hagi Mohamed Farah    | 23. Yusuf Mohamed Farah. |
| 12. Said Ali              |                          |

These 23 persons are still in prison at Alula for political reasons.

2. During the last war (1940) the Mijertein population suffered the loss of 47 dhows with all goods on board. The said dhows were confiscated by British Authorities in the port of Aden and considered to be war booty, because they hoisted the Italian flag.

I do not know whether, by law, Italy is bound to pay compensation for this damage, however, Your Excellency during your visit in Mijertein you had promised, after having verified the facts, that you would call the attention of the Italian Government at Rome to it and you would ask for a special fund to distribute to the damaged parties. We never heard anything since.

/For the above



For the above reasons and in view of the fact that in the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory no mention is made of the obligation to use the Italian flag in the Territory, the dhow owners refused to hoist on their dhows the Italian flag, and to that end forwarded petitions to the United Nations. The prohibition by the Resident caused to the local population the loss of hundreds of thousands somalos.

3. Since the time of taking over by the Italian administration, our region is utterly neglected. At Alula (head-town of the district) there is a small hospital with seven beds, scarcely supplied with medical materials; a small school, whereas in the other villages there is not even a dressing station to dress sores.

4. A Residency Council has been set up for the year 1952. Although this has practically no administrative functions, it is composed almost solely of elements belonging to the pro-Italy party, which represents in the region an insignificant minority. The same may be said in respect of the Municipal Council.

These are the facts that I dutifully deem advisable to submit to Your Excellency and to the Advisory Council, and would be grateful if, after having made the necessary verifications, the inconveniences we complain of are eliminated.

Please accept, Excellency, my thanks in advance.

(Haji Musa Hassan)  
Fingerprint

Mogadiscio, 29 December 1951.

/Copy

Copy

District Office,

Erigavo

21st November 1951.

To the Supt. of Police, Burao & Hargeisa.

The following five men are travelling to Hargeisa en route for Mogadiscio with the knowledge of the Chief Secretary to the Government and D.C. Erigavo.

Abdi Isman Bokor	Mijertein Isman Mohamud
Nur Yusuf Fahieh	" " "
Haji Musa Hassan	" " "
Mohamed Mohamud	" Dir
Ali Gesod	" Isman Mohamud

(J.A.C.W. Gillett)  
Assistant District Commissioner,  
Erigavo

/SYL

SYL - Somali Youth League  
Head Office: Mohadishu (Somaliland)  
P.O. Box N.352  
Telegraphic Address: SYLMOG

January 4, 1952.

Dear Sir:

As a supplement to our letter dated December 31, 1951, we submit the attached statement signed by Haji Musa Hassan, the "Beldagie" or "Sultan" of the Siwakron tribe inhabiting the district of Alula (Majertein province).

Since the restoration of the Italian Administration in Somaliland in April 1950, the inhabitants of the said district have suffered much only because a large number of them belong to the Somali Youth League, while the rest are almost all followers of the League. Again, we respectfully urge the United Nations Advisory Council for this Trust Territory to intervene in order to stop the Administration's open and continuous persecutions against the somalis inhabiting the district of Alula.

Haji Mohamed Hussein,

The President.

(signed)

Seal: Somali Youth League  
Secretariat - Mogadiscio

H.E. The President  
The UN Advisory Council for the  
Trust Territory of Somaliland  
Mogadishu.

Copy for information to: H.E. The Administrator  
A.F.I.S. - Mogadishu.

/STATEMENT