

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL
T/PET.11/55
25 August 1951
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
ITALIAN

DOCUMENTS
EX UNIT

MASIER

20 OCT 1951

PETITION FROM MR. YUSUF MUSSA ABUCAR
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, a communication dated 11 August 1951 from Mr. Yusuf Mussa Abucar concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

51-56381

C O P Y

YUSUF MUSSA ABUCAR,
c/o P.O. Box No. 352,
MOGADISHU (Somalia)

Date: 11 August 1951

To:-

THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK (USA)

I, the undersigned YUSUF MUSSA ABUCAR, somali, most respectfully have the honour to submit the following few lines for your kind consideration and assistance, please.

At the outset, I would like to point out that, during the Italian occupation in Ethiopia, I was stationed as an interpreter of the Political Office in Harrar, and remained there until the British occupation in Ethiopia, in which period I was captured as a war prisoner and have been taken to a concentration camp, where I was for six months. When I was captured prisoner, I have lost all my property and wealth. In returning back to Somalia, I settled down at Baidoa, where I opened 2 shops, 1 restaurant and built a house; and carried a small private commercial enterprise. Unfortunately, while I was in Mogadishu for business, the Baidoa incident of April 1950 occurred. Thus my property was looted, my house destroyed and my family severely illtreated by the looters, and sustained a loss of Shs.68,000/-, without counting the value of the shops, the restaurant and my house with their furnitures.

During the incident, my family fled from Baidoa just to save their lives. The A.F.I.S. promised, by suggestion of the U.N. Advisory Council in Somalia, to aid the looted of Baidoa by means of allowing them to import or export goods. Having obtained credit from my friends and clients, I have submitted several petitions to the A.F.I.S. in this respect, but the Administration rejected them.

Italy promised to the Somalis that all those who were under her dependency as ascaris, interpreters, clerks, etc. were to be given a ten-years back-pay. I have submitted a petition to the Administration, but I have been denied the right to have the said back-pay, though many of those who have worked with me have drawn it already.

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The only hope I had was to obtain employment from the Administration, and having understood that it was the Administration's intention to re-engage all those interpreters and others who have served Italy in the past, I presented a petition to H.E. Gorini (whom I served in Harrar) but his reply in letter Ref. No. 6489/C.17, which copy is herewith attached, was in the negative.

In view of the above circumstances, and to the fact that the merchant and the population of Baidoa have telegraphed to the United Nations General Assembly during its fourth session by stressing that Italy's return would mean the loss of many a life and would bring chaos to Somalia, and that this fact is confirmed by the incident of Baidoa, the petitioner -- with all due respect -- asks the Hon. Members of this August Trusteeship Council, of how those who lost their wealth and the lives of their brothers, children in an incident instigated by the Italian Administration, could live since they are not allowed to carry out even their own private commercial enterprises by imposing to them currency restrictions.

I do not wish to trespass your precious time in enumerating point by point about my grievances, because I know that you have got other important problems to solve, and on this occasion I ask to be forgiven for the inconvenience caused. Meanwhile I fervently hope that the Hon. Members of the Trusteeship Council will not fail to intervene in this vital matter.

Anxiously awaiting your early and favourable reply, with many thanks anticipation.

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) YUSUF MUSSA ABUCAR

Encl. 1 letter

Copy for information to:-
The U.N. ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND,
MOGADISHU

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 22 August 1951.

C O P Y

ITALIAN TRUSTEESHIP ADMINISTRATION OF SOMALILAND

RESIDENCY OF MOGADISCIO

25 January 1951

Prot. No. 6489/C.17

SUBJECT: Various petitions

YUSUF MUSSA ABUCAR - MIGIURTINO - Vill. Hamaruni -

MOGADISCIO

I have the honour to give the following replies with regard to the petitions addressed to H.E. the Secretary-General:

(a) The statutory provisions at present in force permit the payment of back pay only to those persons who belonged to departments coming under the former Government of Somaliland.

(b) The engagement of interpreters had already been completed before your application, and there are no further vacancies, at least for the time being.

(c) Lastly, with regard to Somali butter and sesame seed, it is pointed out that, for the moment at any rate, the export of these products is not permitted.

(Signed) (Dr. G. Soleri)

THE RESIDENT