

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.4/L.23
30 July 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMUNICATION FROM NATIONAL EX-SERVICEMEN'S UNION CONCERNING
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

The National Ex. Servicemen's Union
Headquarters Buea, Southern Cameroons
20th May 1957

The Ministry of Internal Affairs,
Legos, Nigeria.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No. M.6/54 of 9th April 1957.

1. That it quite correct Mr. Bernaed Tayor, petitioned the U.NO's after many of his petitions to the High Authorities concerned had failed. But from then till date no reply of any kind have been received from the U.NO's at all as so stated.
2. The Ministry would surely see after going through our petition that our Comrade was not fairly treated by the Prison Department as we have not received any reply from the U.N.Os, this Union Headquarters very much beg for fair play and justice from your hands which we hope would aid this our from the sufferings which he had since be encounting from the hands of the Prison Department in this partment of the World.
3. We shall indeed be very much thankful for your fatherly consideration and sympathetic settlement over this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.

SECRETARY.

Copy:

The Under Secretary,
for the Trusteeship and information from
Non-Self-Governing Territories.
United Nations, New York.

The above for your information and any action you may deem necessary
over this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

SECRETARY.

/...

The Under Secretary,
United Nations,
for information.

Secretariat of the National
Ex - Service Men Union
Buea, Southern Cameroons,
16th December, 1956.

Through the Senior Superintendent of Prisons
Buea, Southern Cameroons,
To the Director of Prisons,
Lagos - Nigeria.

Sir,

I am directed by this Union to bring to the notice of the Director of Prisons the following complaints received from our comrade Bennard Tayo your ex - warder No. 2353 about his unfair termination of appointment, which this Union hope the Director would not feel somewhat inclined to see into it for really we know there was some unfair play and miscarriage of justice extended in his termination of appointment.

1. That this Union has gone through this matter and has found out that the main termination of Bennard Tayo was due to the unfounded reports which the Chief Warder was making against him for the Chief Warder was by then the only Ruling Powers in the Prison Buea by then minus the A.D.O's and D.Os who were acting as O/C Prisons. And it was quite sure that they were likely to fall a victim to what ever dictation the Chief Warder was able to make as they were not real O/C Prison than that were doing it as a part time job.

2. The Bennard Tayo rendered the total services of 9 years with the Prison Department of which more or less 7 years and approximately some four months were under other Chief Warders without trouble but it seems too strange and funny to see that for the only short space of time 1 year and a few months under Mr. Iwohime his services became bad. This clearly shows then that there was some interior motive behind his termination and not as times expired for in real speaking Bennard Tayo hasn't attained the age of 45 and above all he was not placed before a Medical Officer to prove of his incapability etc. or had he been tried in another station; a transfer he very much longed for and wasn't given the chance by his bus the Chief Warder.

3. That Bennard Tayo, is still a young man of 34 years of age (2) physically fit and still quite prepared to serve anywhere as the field of his services are concern. Unless the Director, is trying to tell this Union that (a) Bennard Tayo is an aged person (b) physically disabled (c) General inefficiency

/...

and misconduct which he was proved beyond all reasonable doubts to be the only Warder with worst records in the Prisons Buea. If so this Union would like to call for an inquiry to probe into the service sheets of the Prison Warders for really he is not the worst of all.

4. That is should be remembered that the Chief Warder actually hated Bennard Tayo, and for that reason had to play his card where Bennard Tayo, was outwitted from the Prisons Service though it was camouflaged as time expired. Mr. Iwohime hated Bennard Tayo, because he alleged that Bennard Tayo reported him to the Police sometimes ago. If the Director disputes the fact reference should be made in the case which happened on the Chief Warder on the 29th March 1955, of what statement the Chief Warder made about and the cross examination which his Lawyer Mr. Nwokodi made on Bennard by stating that Bennard reported the Chief Warder to the Police.

5. That this Union strongly stresses before the Director that a proper investigation should be made over this matter that fair play and justice be exercised over this matter for to our understanding and conviction, during when Bennard's termination of appointment was recommended there was no European Superintendent of Prisons here who knows about Prisons Laws and Regulations and to have been working closely with the staff of his Department as to study their characters and abilities than the D.O. who were only acting as part time O/C Prisons. And for that reason it was quite possible for them to take any dictation from the Chief Warder whom we are sure his brother Africans (subonate warders) were at the mercy of his turments.

6. This Union beg and crave before the Director of Prisons and the Superintendent of Prisons Buea, on behalf of our Comrade Bennard and other young progressing warders of your Department that their interest should be protected for really we know that it is on you that their strength, the weaker ones lie. It is observed that some Senior Warders and Chief Warders hate to see the progress of any young and promising warder and at such they had and have always been finding facts to undo them especially the Ex-Service men. If their interest is not protected there would surely be none to be left with unstained records for the actions of some of these Senior and Chief Warders appears more or less like thorns into the young warders flesh or like the edge of a blade which could not excuse the legs of a little fly.

/...

7. That this Union knowing fully well that the moto of the British Government and Her Colonial policy is always to exercise fair play and justice and we your humble servants who struggled to annihilate the Queen's enemies, Freedom and Peace of the World as subjects of the Common-Wealth of Nation we beg and crave that justice should be exercised over this matter that Bennard Tayo be re-instated to his services.

We are hoping for your kind investigation and settlement over this matter.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

Signature illegible
Secretary

1. Signature illegible
Chairman
2. Signature illegible
President
3. Signature illegible
Ag. Secretary
