

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

T/C.2/L.384  
22 June 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITIONS CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN  
ADMINISTRATION

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. Petition from Messrs. Yusuf Yeroh Guled, Omar Hagi Said Aden and others  
(T/PET.11/727)

1. In a letter dated 2 February 1958 from persons who claim to represent the chiefs, notables, the Somali Democratic Party and the entire population of Candala, the petitioners list complaints against the District Commissioner of that district and ask that these complaints receive favourable consideration.
2. The petitioners state that at Botiale, the District Commissioner gave to the Kandala Co. a well which the villagers had constructed and that at Buro he is insisting on the establishment of a municipal office which the people feel is unnecessary. They state further that the District Commissioner practises racial and political discrimination and that freedom of expression does not exist in the district. They also allege that the District Commissioner seeks only his personal interest and that drugs intended for the hospital are sold in the town.
3. The Administering Authority states (T/OBS.11/100, section 1) that the well at Botiale has recently been improved at the suggestion of the District Commissioner by the local fishing company which has generously provided a motor-driven pump. District Counsellor Yusuf Yeroh Guled, a signatory to the petition, subsequently claimed ownership of the well and demanded a contract before water could be drawn from it. The Administering Authority states that this action was designed to derive personal advantage from the well after it had been improved. The reply given by the District Commissioner that his rights to the well could best be tested in the courts, was unfavourably received by the petitioner and his supporters.
4. As regards the establishment of a municipal office at Buro, the Administering Authority states that the District Commissioner is under explicit instructions to promote the development of new municipalities.
5. The Administering Authority states that the petition has its origin in resentment amongst a group of supporters of Yusuf Yeroh Guled who were members of the Democratic Party which collapsed early in 1958. It describes the charges against the District Commissioner, who is an Arab and as such is not a member of any party, as a collection of absurd calumnies which have been laid against a praiseworthy spirit of initiative and concern for the general interest.

II. Five petitions from the "Associazione Nazionale Ex-Combattenti Somali"  
(T/PET.11/728, 729, 749, 751, 754)

1. These five petitions are from the "Associazione Nazionale Ex-Combattenti Somali" and are signed by its president, Hubei Nur Ali and members of its Central Committee. In all these petitions the authors ask the United Nations to secure for them certain claims relating to their war service. Specifically they ask for compensation equivalent to that paid to ex-servicemen in Libya and Eritrea.
2. In one of these petitions (T/PET.11/751) the petitioners state that they have received no reply to three previous applications and they threaten a rebellion unless their claims are met within three days. In a subsequent petition (T/PET.11/754), the authors explain that this revolution has been postponed.
3. The Administering Authority states in its observations on T/PET.11/729 (T/OBS.11/100, Section 2) that the same rights granted to ex-servicemen in Libya and Eritrea have been granted to Somali ex-servicemen by Act 1053 of 22 October 1957. These rights include pensions of various kinds and settlements for those not entitled to pensions. The period of military service taken into consideration extends from the date of enlistment to 15 September 1947, the date on which Italian sovereignty in the Territory came to an end.
4. The Administering Authority states further that payments are already being made as soon as the necessary verifications of military service have been made. Over 14,500 applications are being considered and 1,400 cases which have already been processed are being examined by the Administrative Commissions. To date, 110 advances have been made on pensions due and 221 gratuities have been paid as final settlements.
5. In its observations on T/PET.11/749 (T/OBS.11/100, Section 5), the Administering Authority repeats the above information and adds that pensions are payable to relatives and other rightful heirs and that the provisions of the relevant act have been communicated and explained to the various ex-servicemen's associations on many occasions.
6. The Administering Authority states further in its observations on T/PET.11/751 (T/OBS.11/100, Section 7) that the investigation of applications is particularly laborious since few ex-servicemen possess the necessary documents and that the process of assembling the required information and evidence is inevitably a slow one.

It adds that the 1,400 applications being examined by the Administrative Commissions in Rome and Mogadiscio will presumably be settled, and payment made, in the near future. The Administering Authority also states that it feels it is unnecessary to comment on the threatening terms of the petition but points out that the signatories of the petition are all ex-servicemen whose applications are already on their way to being finally settled.

7. In its observations on T/PET.11/728 (T/OBS.11/101, Section 1), the Administering Authority refers to its observations on T/PET.11/729 which are summarized in paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

III. Petition from Messrs. Hagi Mohamed Hussen and Mohamed Sceek Hussen Abrar  
(T/PET.11/731)

1. In a telegram dated 18 October 1958 the petitioners state that their efforts to secure a conditional release for Omar Hagi Abdullah Benafunzi, Vice President of the Great Somalia League, who was arrested at Beter Ras on 16 October have been unsuccessful. As his services are vital to the party's electoral campaign<sup>1/</sup> they ask the United Nations to intercede with the authorities for a conditional release.

2. The Administering Authority in its observations (T/OBS.11/100, section 3) states that Mr. Omar Hagi Abdalla Benafunzi was arrested on 16 October 1958 on charges of an offence against a public official (article 341 of the Penal Code), hostile acts against a foreign State (article 244 of the Penal Code), instigation to violations of the law (article 415 of the Penal Code) and non-compliance with official regulations (article 650 of the Penal Code). On 27 October 1958, Omar Hagi was released provisionally, pending the hearing, which was scheduled for 23 May 1959.

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<sup>1/</sup> The reference is apparently to the campaign for the national elections which were held in March 1959.



IV. Petition from Mr. Mohamud Omar Mohamed Giama (T/PET.11/750 and Add.1)

1. In his letter (T/PET.11/750) of 17 November 1958, Mr. Mohamud Omar Mohamed Giama gives details of his military career from his enlistment in 1926 until his discharge in 1956 and makes the following specific claims for allowances and pensions which he says he is entitled to under Act No. 1053 of 22 October 1957:

(a) Payment of allowances outstanding for the period from 18 May 1941 to 25 March 1950, i.e. 107 months at So.432 per month, or a total of So.46,656;

(b) Payment of the retirement allowance for the period from 1 April 1926 to 25 March 1950: So.9,936;

(c) Payment of pension rights: So.8,160;

(d) Payment of outstanding allowances due as a result of recognized disability in connexion with wounds received during the campaigns and estimated at So.30,000.

2. He states that he has pursued his case with the authorities since his discharge but has received no satisfaction. Seeing no other solution he is asking the assistance of the United Nations.

3. In a subsequent letter, (T/PET.11/750/Add.1) dated 29 March 1959, the petitioner repeats the details of his service and makes the following specific requests:

(a) Payment of allowances outstanding for the period from 18 May 1941 to 25 March 1950, i.e. 107 months at So.432 per month, or a total of So.46,656;

(b) Payment of back pay from 25 March 1952 to 1 April 1956: (So.9,836);

(c) Payment of the normal pension for twenty-five years of actual service (the petitioner claims that his length of service is thirty years, from 1926 to 31 January 1956);

(d) Payment of outstanding allowances due as a result of recognized disability in connexion with wounds received while on active service.

4. The Administering Authority in its observations on T/PET.11/750, states (T/OBS.11/100, Section 6) that according to its records the petitioner enlisted on 20 October 1927 and was discharged at his own request on 31 March 1956. He has received arrears of pay due to him for service between 1 March 1941 and

15 September 1947 amounting to So.79,508, and in addition has received a sum of So.3,500 due to him for his service between 1950 and 1956. Further, the Administrative Commission at Mogadiscio has agreed that the petitioner is entitled to a special gratuity for twenty years service. The Administering Authority states that nothing is due to the petitioner for the fourth degree disability which the medico-legal commission agreed that he had incurred, since the disability was the result of hostilities which took place before 1934. This is in accordance with the provisions of the relevant law. The Administering Authority states further that no arrears of pay are due to the petitioner for the period 1941 to 1950 as payments have been made for the period up to 15 September 1947, the date on which de jure Italian sovereignty over Somaliland ceased, thus ending all service relationships. Nor is he entitled to any compensation for wounds as they occasioned no disability.

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