

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.2/122

3 October 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM THE BAHAYA UNION. DSM. BRANCH
CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 31 August 1951 from The Bahaya Union, DSM Branch concerning the Trust Territory of Tanganyika. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

THE BAHAYA UNION - DSM. BRANCH.

c/o Mr. Felician Francis,
Social Development,
Dar es Salaam.

31st August 1951.

The Honourable,
The Secretary to the U.N. Visiting Mission,
Private Bag,
DAR ES SALAAM.

Dear Sir,

The Union would be most grateful if you would give your sympathetic consideration to our heart-felt grievances which, we are now too pleased to express in this very short letter.

2. We find many of our problems would be very much lessened if the appointment of chiefs would be based on educational qualifications and capability of ruling the people, rather than the present hereditary clan system which is always a draw-back to our progress. It would not matter much if the heir to the throne had a sound educational attainment; but you find some of the prospective heirs have had just a stormy career, or had never gone to school. Now such almost illiterate rulers cannot, of course, give good government and as a result you find a lot of discontentment amongst the citizens and their rulers. And since the UNO claims that peace and good government should be maintained, we hope you will kindly see that we have good reasonable chiefs of good sound knowledge of the world, and thereby peace will prevail.

3. Prostitution is another menace that is shaking our peace. The Bahaya have now learnt its bad effects and accordingly are taking all the necessary steps to suppress it. Unfortunately the Central Government is very ardent in counteracting these measures. For instance, during his tour, His Excellency the Acting Governor, Sir Rex Surridge stated in his speech that such measures will never be feasible in this territory as there is no law preventing somebody from going where he likes. Yest, but it is well known that freedom should be

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exercised to such an extent that there is no danger caused to peace of the territory. Now prostitution is the main cause of friction between the Bahaya people and the Government, on the reason that the government is antagonistic to the Bahaya who are trying to stamp out this dreadful trade that is ashaming us, and threatening the lives of the people at large. It should be borne in mind that there will not be any peace in the country as long as we see new varieties of venereal diseases being brought in by the free moving loose women. These diseases are, of course, fatal to the population. By the last census it was found that the population in Bukoba has gone down by 20%, and on top of this it was estimated that if there is no betterment in our present ways of living by the hundredth year there will not be any soul living in Bukoba. Consequently with this in mind the Bahaya are ready to fight to their last to see that this filthy sort of traffic run by their daughters is liquidated.

4. What is more awful, when these women go abroad (outside Bukoba) they run about with Europeans and Indians, and as a result they get children with them. As it is always the case these Europeans or Indians are ashamed to take these coloured children, and what the mothers have to do is to take these 'fatherless children' to their country. These children are in overgrowing number and we fear in future they may make a class of their own and start claiming rights as the coloureds in South Africa. Thus the country will never have peace.

5. In addition to these problems we are confronted with difficulty in educational aspects. We are of the opinion that the existing facilities for education are too inadequate to meet our overgrowing enthusiasm in studies. We had begun getting hope that we may surmount this difficulty, but now the government is acting in an anti-clockwise manner. The schools that we had already raised to the Primary Standard are being lowered to the elementary standard. Our Government say that they will balance this loss by instituting twelve junior secondary schools going up to Standard VIII. But we find that this system will not work well as we shall have a lot of children of school age who will have no schools to go to: and as a consequence a mass of illiterates will predominate. We should suggest that our schools would remain to their present constitution and have an additional of those twelve schools in the Government's proposal.

6. Besides that we are faced with another difficulty in obtaining higher education. In Bukoba, especially, we have a good number of people who have

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standard ten (Junior Cambridge Standard) and Standard XII (Senior Cambridge Standard) who would like to further their knowledge by sitting for some recognised examinations. Unfortunately it is the ruling of our Educational Authorities (in Tanganyika) that there are no Educational Examinations open to private candidates in Tanganyika. And very surprisingly we are not given any reasons why it has been enacted like this. This is a very heavy blow to the enthusiastic young men who have been longing to widen their knowledge. We have only three senior schools which may coach some of our boys up to Senior Cambridge standard. Moreover it is only one of these schools which is public i.e. The Govt. Senior Secondary School, Tabora, while the two others are religious institutes. By this we mean that they belong to two different religious sects. And naturally these schools take on their adherents. Furthermore these schools are not spacious to say that they can hold a good number of pupils. Therefore you find that many boys go without senior education. Those who manage to go on to the senior standard not all go to Makerere College. Some do fail the examinations or pass at lower level than that required for the Entrance into the College. When these people come out want to make up for the chance they lost, by private coaching and thereby become able to taking the recognised examinations; but now this system is abolished -- we are no where.

7. Through daily experience, we have seen that many Europeans who hold very important posts now, obtained their qualifications as private candidates, now we wonder why such a thing is denied to us. We are therefore not wrong if we say that it is the motive of the government to keep us hewers of wood and drawers of water.

8. During your visit, we hope, you have seen how Tanganyika is still handicapped by acute illiteracy, of which liquidation is dependent on highly educated Africans, but how will this be possible if we are prevented from advancing further in studies? Those a few who go to Makerere cannot possibly develop all this vast illiterate area of Tanganyika. Therefore we request you to take any action you deem fit against this attitude please.

9. Salary. This is also very discouraging. The pay we are given is so low that we fail to obtain all our necessities of our living. The excuse given by European employers is that our cost of living is very low. They contend that we can live on simple food. Anybody with sound reasoning cannot fail to see that we live on a simple diet because we cannot possibly afford the higher kind of food. And in fact if you look into the matter you find that most of the Tanganyikans are malnourished, and therefore an easy prey to diseases. Therefore to have people of good physique, efficient in their work, they must be given sufficient money with which to buy good diet.

10. These are our few points and we trust they will meet your sympathetic consideration.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble petitioners.

(sgd.) R.F. Francis

S E C R E T A R Y,

for BAHAYA UNION - DSM. BRANCH.

FFR/LR.

Signatories:-----

Signed L.Leonard, Assist.Secretary.

B. Rimzu.

copy to (1) Bahaya Union Headquarters Bukoba, to inform
all Branches.

(2) Bahaya Council Rwamishenge Bukoba.
