

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.3/53  
25 September 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. C. B. MUGUTU  
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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 10 August 1951 from Mr. C.B. Mugutu concerning the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

C O P I E

Kitega, 10.8.51.

The Honourables,  
The Members of  
The United Nations  
at USUMBURA  
RWANDA-URUNDI.

Here I want to explain the hindrances which keeps us in bakwardness we people of Ruanda-Urundi.

I am not a lawyer myself who knows every law by which Government use to govern this mandate Territory, but I can recognize what can make our country progress like other parts of the world.

The Hindrances are as follows:

1. Courts. The Judges of the Courts are not judging well, because many of them, usually use the favouritism, for exemple:

I am an African and have some dispute with an european, an then we all together are present before a european judge.

The judge will never here our complains first without rebuking me and abuse me comparing me with monkey which they say in French Macaque.

The say that an African can not tell the truth excepting european only.

Non then if the judge first find that one of the two competitors is not worth of telling the truth before an statement is spocen, what will be the result of judgement? An African will be judged wrongly because of terrifying him before.

2. The Belgian Officers wants to keep us under cowardness.

They can not allow us to come near by them in the Hotel or any of the pleasant places, because they discerns Africans, did you see an African in Paguidas Hotel? They are some Africans who was given sivilization cards (Or Carte de Mérite civique) but still they can not get into the Hotel on Restaurant where europeans are.

Now then, how we can go forward if we are kept away from our Guiders?

/Those Africans

Those Africans who was given Carte de Mérite civique have no sufficient salaries which could enables them to be clean so that they may be worth of getting exception, but they are capables and intelligents except they have no one to regard them.

Will you ask them to show you the "LIVRE de TRAVAIL" which contains about salaries etc... so that to ascertain what I am telling you whether it is true?

3. There is a new organization of African Trade in this Territory, which they call centre de Négoce" which means the African commercial Centres. This as learnt from them, it has been organized for African Only, but now if you go there and see you will find that the said centres are built many shops owned by whitemen, who possessed a big capital of money, and how African will compete with a rich whiteman; an himself possess nothing? Why the Government can not let them remain in they formerly commercial Centres an Africans to their new Centres?

4. About prisons.

- a) The prisoners are always bitten even those who are not yet sentenced.
- b) the prisoners are bind together with chains on their necks, though their faults are not worth of cruelly punished like this.
- c) In "Cachot" the prison guardians puts a big barrel whic all prisoners are ordered to make dung in until to the top, while six or seven prisoners are kept in the narrow room having no air in, and the food is given to them in, and very closely to the barrel of dung, with thousands of flies which flys from the dung to the food which the prisoners eats.

Do you think a human being will long leave in such a condition?

(compare with your life) The prisoner soon leave off the food and vomit, and some of them die.

- d) The prisoners alway are given the bitter bananas as food, whic are not eaten cooked, and some rotten beans with bitter salt in.
- c) We are often told of the activity and heroism of the soldiers at war and that they are of great defence of the country.

Why then their Officers make them the sweepers of the market and courtyards of the europeans?

- c) The boys of whitemen.

This name was given to the house servants of the whitemen long ago I think so.

Now when it happen that the whiteman wants to go on his journey, he must go with his boy, but when he arrive at his destination, to his friend, or Hotel, he only look for his benefits and forget his boy, who does not know anywhere to find some food and sleeping place and the country which they come to is strange one, do you think this boy will be happy? An what kind of this action is it good or wrong?

There are more and more actions which keeps us back from sivilization which others in world find very easy to reach.

(signed) C.B. MUGUTU

-----