

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.3/66
25 August 1952
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM EX-CHIEF BARNABE NTUNGUKA
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 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 25 September 1951, from Ex-Chief Barnabé Ntunguka, concerning the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

Usumbura, 25 September 1951

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to bring the following case to your notice and to ask your assistance.

In 1917 RWASHA, ex-chief, was transported from Urundi to the Belgian Congo (Kalembelembe), accompanied by 1,174 cows, 600 men, 400 women, 200 boys and 300 girls.

To this day we have not heard the reason why he was transported. If he had committed an offence, why was he not sentenced here, or why was he not transported alone, instead of with all the population and wealth of our country? We are all amazed that for one man's fault all the people and the assets of the country were transported, since all the assets in question had their origin in our country. I therefore take the liberty of submitting my complaint to your wise judgment.

I take this opportunity to tell you that RWASHA has since died in the Congo (at Kalembelembe). Can it be that his sentence is not yet finished? If it is finished, we request that all the men, women, children and property that went with him to the Congo should be returned to us.

Was this a just action on the part of our Europeans or do they simply act according to their whims?

For another thing, we are surprised that women have to pay taxes here, and that we have to pay taxes on our cows, we have to pay 45 francs a head per year. We do not understand why our cows should be taxed, since they graze on bushland and have been our property from the very beginning. Where are we to find the money to pay: (1) the head tax (2) the tax on cows, since a litre of milk costs only 2 francs?

Since your departure I have been continually harassed by the Territorial Administrator, Mr. Frezin, who told me that he would send soldiers to beat me and to seize all my property. Furthermore, there is a chief called KAUSHI who has owed me (40 cows) since 1944 When I complained of this to the Resident, he told me that I had no right to have my 40 cows returned to me, This matter, too, I submit to your consideration.

I have the honour to be, etc.

NTUNGUKA, ex-chief at Buringa

(Signature illegible)

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 14 August 1952