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TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

CONSEIL
DE TUTELLE

T/PET .3/10
3 September 1948
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

RUANDA-URUNDI

PETITION FROM MR. MUSSA KACKESSET BIN KALIMBA

DATED 6 AUGUST 1948

In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmits herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 6 August 1948 from Mr. Mussa Kackesset bin Kalimba concerning the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Visiting Mission to East Africa.

SEP 29 1948

TO: Mr. Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General

No. 16

FROM: J. S. Harris

Att. Dr. Aleksander.

SUBJECT: Transmission of Petition.

Date: 20 August 1948.
Dar-es-Salaam.

In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, the following petition concerning the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, dated 6 August 1948, from Mussa Kackesset bin Kalimba, received by the Visiting Mission to East Africa, at Kigoma (Tanganika Territory) on 12 August 1948, is herewith transmitted to the Secretary-General.

As requested by rule 84, a copy of this petition has been communicated to the competent local authority on 20 August 1948.

Observations, if any, will be sent subsequently.

Received at U.N. on 30 August 1948.

Translated from French

MTRU/48/Pet.11

Received by the Mission
12 August 1948 at Kigoma, Tanganyika.

The Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council:-

Personal report.

I, the undersigned, Mussa Kackesset bin Kalimba acting as a Monitor in the Moslem school at the Swahili extra-tribal centre of Usumbura, beg to report the following incident:

On Friday, 2 July 1948, two masons employed by Mr. Kunvari came to my home and asked me to write a letter in their behalf requesting an increase in their monthly wages.

I did not want to refuse to assist my black brothers.

On Tuesday the 6th instant I was about to leave for Albertville on a 15-day holiday; I was waiting at the port when I suddenly saw chief Ramazani Makangira holding a written summons in his hand. He handed me the summons and said: "You must not leave, you are to appear before the police commissioner in the matter of the letter you wrote for the masons employed by Mr. Kunvari".

On Wednesday the 7th instant at 8 a.m. I arrived at the office of the police commissioner. He called me in and I saw that he was holding my letter in his hand. He said: "Did you write this letter"? I immediately admitted that I had written it. The commissioner asked me why I had done so. I replied that I wanted to help out my black brothers who could neither read nor write French. "Were you paid for this," the commissioner asked.

I replied in the affirmative. He wished to know how much I had received and I said that I had charged them 50 francs as a sign of respect for the French language and to cover the fines I had to pay in the school.

The commissioner then said to me in a loud voice: "I hereby sentence you to 6 months imprisonment for forgery". I replied that to forge something was to change what someone else had written or else to forge a work permit in someone's favour.

"Shut your filthy mouth, you monkey," the commissioner said. "I am going to suggest to the Governor that he expel you from the territory of Ruanda-Urundi; you will then be able to go and insult the white people in the Belgian Congo".

On Saturday the 17th I was called again to the Commissioner's office and was handed the expulsion order. I immediately called on Maître Fiévez and asked him to intervene in my behalf with the Governor. But despite his
/efforts he was unable

MTRU/48/PET.11

efforts he was unable to do anything for me and I lost the 800 francs that I had paid to him.

Of course the Belgians do not consider a black man as a person with a soul and mind of his own. We are treated like animals and we are always called dirty monkeys. For them, we are not worth anything.

Should a black person be involved in a court case with a European and the latter is clearly in the wrong the European judge will always find that he is right, and the poor black man, because of his dark skin, will be sent to prison to suffer there.

I have been in Usumbura for the past 8 years. I am married to a woman who comes from the Urundi and we have a child. I have worked in my fields to support my family. I want to remain here with my dear Moslem brothers of Ruanda-Urundi until I die. I am well regarded in the extra-tribal centre. I don't do any wrong and I do not drink.

It is stated in the holy Koran: "Obey God; obey his preachers; obey the authorities".

We are thus told that we must obey the orders of the Government and its officials.

I beg the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi to show me some mercy by cancelling the expulsion order and allowing me to continue my work as Monitor to my dear Moslem children of Buyenzi.

(Signed) M. Kalimba

Usumbura, 6 August 1948.

TRUE COPY

MTRU/48/PET.11

Mr. Kunvari
Contractor
Usumbura

Usumbura, 2 July 1948

We notice that you are becoming one of the worst contractors in Usumbura by the way you treat your masons.

Should one of your masons come to you and ask for a small loan in order to purchase food or to liquidate a private debt you always turn him down pitilessly.

Please increase our monthly wages so that it will no longer be necessary for us to ask you for loans every week.

The following are the names of the masons who are writing to you:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Juma Ndakangura | 6. Isa Selemani |
| 2. Mrisho bin Kaboko | 7. Masudi Ndamurigo |
| 3. Mstafa bin Juma | 8. Mohamed Yusufu |
| 4. Jean | 9. Ramazani Lugombeko |
| 5. Amisi Lutaka | 10. Ramazani Muyengo |
| 11. Rasare | 12. Ramazani Hamisi |
| 13. Athumani Amisi | 14. Rajabu Athumani |
| 15. Rashidi Hatibu | 16. Hamimu Mouto |
| 17. Juma Chimbati | 18. Ismali Bikumati |

We remain, dear sir, etc.