

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

T/PET.2/204  
20 June 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. ABDALLAH SAIDI  
CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the  
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ABDALLAH SAIDI,  
c/o P.O. Box 551,  
DAR ES SALAAM

1th June, 1956

His Excellency, The Secretary General,  
United Nations Organisation,  
Lake Success,  
NEW YORK  
U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring my petition to you for the verdict of the United Nations.

In November 1954, I went before the Dar es Salaam's Resident Magistrate and was tried for stealing with the result that I was incarcerated for 8 months. Several days after my release from the prison I was called by the Dar es Salaam Superintendent of Police and was told that if I wanted to live happily in Dar es Salaam I must, on every Monday report to the Police of the names of thieves in Dar es Salaam, at least one thief in each week. The Police Superintendent went on to say that I must at the same time say what articles did these thieves steal and from whom. I had to tell this Police Superintendent point blank that:

- (a) the fact that I had once in my life been convicted for stealing did not, logically speaking, mean that I was ideal thief,

(b) as such I would not be in a position to know and tell of the names of thieves in a big town like Dar es Salaam, and

(c) that this was precisely the task of the Special Branch of the Police Department.

After a few days I was again called before this same Police officer who told me that if I refuse to do this work he will try and find fault with me and I shall then be imprisoned and eventually exiled to a remote place. This he did, for just after two days I was arrested, put in a condemned lock-up for 4 hours for no reason whatsoever. Again the following day I was arrested, locked-up, interrogated many irrelevant questions. This was repeated 4 times. And now I am told that as I have refused to work in that capacity I must leave my legitimate home, Dar es Salaam, on exile to Lindi. I am told that I must sell all my properties, movable and unmovable properties, and must leave Dar es Salaam before or on 18th June, 1956. Thus today I have only 16 days.

This decision of the British Police on this particular point is both a consternation and savours absurdity. As far as I see it there does not appear to be any reason at all for this exile. What wrong have I done to justify such an exile. Because I refuse to work as an informer, and an informer who "must at least send news every week that he has seen a thief stealing"? Why should I do such work? Is it because I have once been convicted for stealing? But there are many people in Tanganyika who have been guilty of more serious stealing offences than this and they have not been exiled. There are Europeans too who have been convicted for stealing, such as Mr. Brown, who was Provincial Veterinary Officer of the Southern Highlands Province, and also Mr. Dobbs, a District Officer at Iringa. These two people were convicted for serious stealing offence than that for which I was convicted. What did happen to these people? They were sent back to their original place of domicile. Now why exile me?

I earnestly appeal to the United Nations to intervene in this matter immediately. The British Authority in this Trust Territory is too imperious and too high-handed.

My property in Dar es Salaam is worth Shs.12,920/- in form of Houses and Farms. These are the means whereby I and my family a total of 8 people, live.

To sell them off is a positive surrender of that wealth, and hence entire mortality for us all. I have 4 children to educate and cannot do so if I sell my farms and houses. The Police tell me that these must be sold before 18/6/56, or Government will confiscate and sell them at any price. Sir, this is contrary to the respected doctrine of Human Rights.

I therefore, earnestly solicit the United Nations to succour me. For Africans in Tanganyika, life is almost the same as that in a State of dictatorship.

Looking forward to your redemption.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most humble petitioner.

(Signed) ABDALLAH SAIDI

(ABDALLAH SAIDI)

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