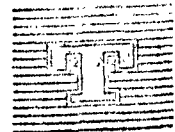


UNITED NATIONS



TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BATUSI OF RUHAHE
CONCERNING RUANDA URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the
rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

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

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
AT USUMBURA

Gentlemen,

We the undersigned, the Batusi of Ruhaha, have the honour to inform you
of the following:

We shall begin by recalling our case which we explained to you in 1952
in so far as it affected our country.

We would like to add that we immediately asked you to intervene and save
us when we realized that our superiors here wanted to kill us on account of our
country's cause.

We are glad and gratified that you have arrived, as the question whether we
will be killed or our country saved will be dealt with in your presence. We
thank you in advance if you will agree to look at all the places which have been
taken from us on the grounds that we have sufficient room.

We are ridiculed by the officials and chiefs here because the charges we
lay before you have no effect. As a result they treat us very harshly and say
that heavy punishment awaits anyone else who writes to you.

We conclude with a request that on your arrival here you ask our Chief
Athanasie to show you all our cattle and you will see whether it is right that we
should have the small area now left to us.

YOUR PROTEGEEES

To the representatives of the United Nations

- (1) BUKASHI
- (2) SEGASHAHU
- (3) RUSHARABIKA
- (4) KAGIMBI
- (5) MAVUNGU

It is an honour and a great pleasure to be able to submit to you our desiderata:

First, we would like to maintain contact with you so that henceforth we can keep you informed about our affairs. Therefore please leave your address and permission for us to write to you, as any person who dares to communicate with you is always in disfavour with the authorities here;

Secondly, if possible we would like you to visit us in the Ruzizi plain about 17 kilometres from here. There you will see for yourselves what land has been taken from us and how little pasture has been left for our cattle, of which there are thousands.

Thirdly, we are all subject to one and the same Belgian administration and therefore we wish to know why we have to pay such a high cattle tax, 65 francs plus another 25 francs, amounting to a total of 90 francs for each cow. Nothing is paid beyond the Ruzizi or anywhere else in the Congo.

Lastly, a final request - for many years, even before the German occupation we possessed subjects, that is to say less fortunate persons to whom we gave cows - they set against us against their wills. Only the Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs can still have their followers.

Usumbura, 12 August 1954

Gentlemen,

We deeply regret that you are going home without having been shown the hills and places that our Government has taken from us (Ruhale, Butamenwa, Rukanda and Kiburure). We are now left without any land for ourselves or for our cattle.

The land which the Government has given to us for all our cattle is very bad and as a result they will probably all die within a year.

At Rukana the ground has been prepared and sugar cane has been planted. Cultivation has already begun on the tiny area in the Ruzizi that has been left to us. Deep ditches have been dug there and when our cattle pass too near to the plantations they are impounded and we have to pay unjustified fines. Because of this, Bukashi has paid 1,050 francs, Katoto 1,500 francs, Zambiriti 800 francs and Ndayamaze 800 francs.

We have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) The Batusi of Ruhale.

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 24 August 1954, through the Visiting Mission.
