

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

T/PET.4/162  
29 December 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

PETITIONS FROM THE NONNI GROUP COUNCIL CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS  
UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure  
of 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  
West Africa.

The UNO Visiting Mission  
on tour the Southern Cameroons  
c/o The District Officer  
Bamenda Division

From Nonni Group Council  
Nkor Village  
Bamenda South Eastern Tikari  
Fed.  
Bamenda Division

12th October, 1958

Sir,

Demarcation of a boundary - Clan area

We, the Nonni Group Council have to welcome the Visiting Mission touring the Southern Cameroons. We have to give thanks to God All Mighty who had lead you through the dangers of the rough seas, air routes, and many difficulties encountered by you on our dangerous hilly roads especially of the un-improved Cameroons. We welcome your Mission and feel that the high authority which compose your rank will lessen our pains by means of applying justification in dealing with our petition which will appear a burden to you Sirs.

We therefore have the honour to submit our petition to you through the Administering Authority as follows:

58-31614

/...

In tendering this petition to you, our great demand is to get a development of our Clan area by ourselves, not for fames sake, but to get a direct responsibility of developing our town by ourselves through the Ndop South Eastern Federation, a Federation of which we are link with.

Our grievances are:

- (a) that we had been cheated by the Nsaw Clan when financial shares of developments were allocated to the Nsaw Clan which we are included.
- (b) we are not historically belong to the Nsaw who originated from the Tikari Tribe, and have to refer the Visiting Mission to paragraphs 2 of attached petitions which were tendered to the Administering Authorities.
- (c) that our custom vary greatly from that of the Nsaw people both in marriage and ceremonies, and our joint administration with them will not enforce justice at all. See both paragraphs 2-4 of the said petition over as attached.

2. Ill treatment of administrative officers: You would even see our petition dated 29/10/57, was handed to the N.A. on the 10/12/57, has been given death ears till date. In this respect, we accuse the Administering Authorities concerned of neglecting our petitions, and this being the case, we do not see what official duties that might have deprived them from dealing with our petition since then, and therefore have no confidence in the Administering Authority's services to the public.

We also accuse the Administering Authority for citting the Nsaw people to suppress us in that, in our petition of 5/8/51, ccopy of which attached hereto, the District Officer in reply said that we are situated in Nsaw land, whereas this is not the case at all. Is there any Chief of the Bamenda-Southern Cameroons who remains in another Chief's land with his own people other than that he must have come in as a stranger when the other one had settled for some years? As already explained, we migrated here by ourselves and took occupation in this land without acquiring it from any person, and we only share local boundaries with the Nsaw people, the boundaries of which we now demand to be demarcated under the law.

We therefore crave before your indulgence to recommend our petition to the UNO's General Assembly or to such authorities who should order the Administering Officers concern to demarcate a legal boundary between us and the Nsaw people, for this is the system applicable to villages and clans of the Bamenda-Southern Camerouns, and also to establish a clan for us.

We have the honour to be,  
sirs,

Yours humble petitioners.

(Signed) A.E. DIKORBE (Vice-Secretary)

(Signed) JOACHIN NGALA H.R.T.  
Representative all Nonni Group  
Council

(Signed illegibly)

Nonni Group spokesman

I certify that this petition is recorded as directed by the petitioners who have read same and confirmed it to contain nothing than their desires before signing.

(Signed illegibly)

For Fongu and Bros Letter Writing Co., Fongu and  
Bros Commercial Office, Mankon Urban Area,  
Bamenda Div.

Copy

Through the District Officer  
Bamenda South Eastern Federation  
Through the Resident, Bamenda Province  
To the Commissioner of the Southern  
Cameroons  
BUEA.

From Noni Council  
From Chiefs and Councillors  
of Noni Area, Nsaw Clan  
Bamenda S. Eastern Federation  
29th November 1957.

Sir,

Nonni people's appeal to separate from Nsaw Clan area of Bamenda  
S.E. Federation

Reference our invitations to you to hold a meeting with us, and your communications to us in regards to it, we have the honour most respectfully beg to state in writing our reasons of intending to hold a meeting with you, seeking your kind consideration and redress which reads as follows:

1. We had read and studied with a keen interest the statements embodied on paragraphs 9 of the Southern Cameroons Gazette No. 17, Vol. 3, and challenge part of the statement which says that "the Nonnis broke away from the parent stem many years ago, and have comparatively at recent times re-united with them for general administrative purposes". We admit that we had been comparatively pressed by the then Administrative Officers to share with the Nsaw N.A. Administration in recent years, and strongly reject that we are not historically related to Nsaw at any past years.
2. The Nonni people did not come from Bumbu Nkambe from the family of the ..... in the Wukeri Division of the Banue Province. A Minority of them came from Nsungli, Nkambe where they met the majority group in this present land and they united and stayed peacefully for many years and for many generations, before the advent of the imperial German administration. For many centuries they had been on their own, during the administration of both the German and the British earlier administrative officers, they had been paying their taxes direct to the office without any interference of the Nsaw. We maintain our customary rights such as "KWIIFO" (Ancient Government) and time came when the late Fcn of Nsaw in about the year 1921-22 seized chieftency's - Tittle - Buggles from our late Chief Ndikingang of Nkor and he sued him to the Court where his tittled buggles were refunded to him.

/...

Prior to this, the Nsaw people have entirely a different custom which they are giving their daughters for marriage without receiving dowries, whereas none of the villages of Nonnies are marrying without paying dowries. Our birth and death ceremonies greatly vary from that of the Nsaw people.

3. We are numerating below the late Chiefs of Nonni villages who had reigned from time immemorial without an interference:

## NKOR CLAN CHIEFS:

1. Kombangsin
2. Kwi
3. Ndikingang Ndinws
4. Ndikingang
5. Dominic Nforyah.

## JUNIOR CHIEFS (KOCHI):

1. 1st Chief killed in Tribal war
2. Mkenda
3. Iaban.

## MBINON CLAN CHIEFS:

1. Nge
2. Cheni
3. Kwi
4. Yongsi
5. Deng
6. Tong

## JUNIOR BUKUW:

1. Njemgang
2. Mbanti
3. Kinko
4. Babei

## LASIN CHIEFS:

1. Chief Nyambalau
2. Tangang
3. Kuran
4. Ndange
5. Ndong
6. Sonjoh.

4. Our various chiefs as named above are all possessing chieftencies traditional rights of "KWIFO" (ancient government) and due regard is paid to their wives and they have their Kingsmakers and councillors with whom they rule their villages. When the joint administration was established by the former District Officers who were misled by the interpreters, the Nsaw people then styled our chiefs as "FAIS" (councillors) in respect. Apart from this

degradation to our chiefs, no correct administration could be applicable in the Nsaw N.A. Judicial, realising the variation of the Native Laws and customs which disagree to that of the Nsaw, since native courts must observe native laws and customs of that jurisdiction when deciding cases.

5. Far back as from 1940-43 the grazing field's fee was respectively paid to our chiefs and this had been ceased for a number of years till date perhaps due to this joint administration which we do not know. We therefore beg to know to whom the Ndop South Eastern Federation (N.A.) had been paying this fee from henceforth.

The Nonni people maintain that ever since the British administration started in the area, we had not been benefited from the taxes we pay because all the improvement plans had been directed to the Nsaw proper, who takes the funds to improve their own town and paying no due regards to us. All such improvements as roads, N.A. Dispensaries, markets, schools are only established at Nsaw and leaving a population of over some 5,000 people without any assistance.

6. For these reasons given above, we strongly press to cut away from the Nsaw Clan area, to have a Clan area of our own, which will still be federated to the Ndop S.E. Federation. We also press for the Administering Authorities to set a Board of Inquiry to inquire whether we are being cheated by the S.E. Federation or by the Nsaw clan tax office for Jangali dash, wet and dry season's grazing field's fee and Pole tax percentage commission. That we intend to sue the N.A. for this facilities deprived from us and wish that an inquiry looks into this so as to let us be paid arrears of the revenues due us as stated above.

7. The Nsaw Clan Council agitates to separate from the Ndop S.E. Federation but we the Nonni people still constituted in the Nsaw Clan feel that the Nsaw Clan is not matured to hold a Federation of their own, and more so it has no democratical rulings and can never for ten years rely as a separate unit. This allegation made by the Nsaw people that they are financially cheated by the S.E. Federation is false because the Fon of Nsaw is the only highly paid Fon of that Federation and more improvements had been done to Nsaw than any other clan area of the Federation.

We are therefore appealing to you loyally to separate us from the Nsaw and let us be on our own and feel that this will meet your kind consideration and our request is granted.

/...

- (sgd.) 1. M. Mah  
Secretary Nonni Group Council
2. Fai Nteh - Mbinon H.R.T.I.  
Nonni Chiefs Representative (a)
3. Foi Chifon - Mbinon H.R.T.I.  
Nonni Chiefs Representative (b)
4. Situs Ndi - Nkor H.R.T.I.  
Nonni Chiefs Representative (c)
5. Sgd. Dom. Councillor - Nkor  
Nonni Groups Representative
6. Callistus Che Ngong  
President Nonni Group Council
7. Philip Fonkwa H.T.I.  
Representative from Iasin.

I certify that this petition is written as directed by the petitioners who have confirmed all after their secretary had read same and interpreted to them in their language and they confirm all to contain nothing than their expressions to me.

(Sgd.) P.A.F. Fongu

for Fongu and Bros Letter Writing Co.  
Fongu and Bros Commercial Office,  
Mankon Urban Area, Bamenda Div.

2:-:- fee charged for 8 copies and part on gratis.

N.B. - Copies to: 1. Nsaw Clan Council  
2. Ndop S.E. Federation  
3. Editor of the Daily Times, Lagos (Sgd.) C.C. Ngong  
4. Cameroons Voice, Lagos President Nonni Group  
Council

Certified copy typed out by (Signed illegibly) for Fongu and Bros Letter Writing Co., Mankon Urban Area, Bamenda Div.

1:6/- charged for 5 copies only.

/...

Copy

No. N.A. 2502/123  
Provincial N.A. Office  
Bamenda, 13th August 1951.

The Secretary  
Noni Improvement Union  
Sanso Area.

Sir,

Tax, Noni Area.

With reference to your letter of 5th August, 1951, tax is payable to the Treasury of the area in which the tax payer's land is situated and through the normal channels which exist for tax collection in that area. In the case of the villages in question the Fon of Nsaw claims that they are situated on Nsaw land. You inform me that the land does not belong to Nsaw but is your own property and that you wish to transfer yourselves and your land to the Nkambe Division. If this is so you must first establish your title to the land by an action in the Court which has jurisdiction in your area, that is the Sanso Court.

2. If you do establish title in this manner, it will then be possible to discuss the question of your transfer. If you do not establish title you must then remain in Nsaw or ask your neighbours in Nkambe Division if they are prepared to accept you and provide you with land on which to live.

3. In the meantime your people must continue to pay tax in the same manner as they have done in the past.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

P.P. Grey

Senior District Officer

Certified copy typed out by (signed illegibly)

for Fongu and Bros Letter Writing Co.,  
Fongu and Bros Commercial Office,  
Mankon Urban Area, Bamenda Div.

Typed on gratis.

/...



From the Chiefs and Councillors  
c/o Noni Group Council

The Chairman  
UN Visiting Mission to the Kamerun

Nkor-Nonni Area  
S.E.F. N.A. - Ndop

31st October 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Sir,

Referred to our Administering Authority

1. We the undersigned Chiefs and Councillors of Nonni and on behalf of Noni people feel it wise to call to the attention of the Visiting Mission on our problems and as such we wish your kind co-operation with our dear Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons to bring us and our land to its rights.

Friendship and not brotherhood

2. Please Mr. Chairman kindly apply for the minutes of the 13 Chiefs meeting of the 6th October 1958 instructed by the D.O. Bamenda/Tikari that Fon of Nsaw should convene such a meeting and study it carefully for our benefits. Noni group is made up of 10 Chiefs in the whole tribe but 5 pleading for a proper recognized boundary with 95% of the people of Noni and the rest of 5% are afraid and can't speak their minds. We wanted tribal boundary because we are a different body from Nsaw.

3. We are sorry that of our being 10 chiefs in Noni all, we want to be ruling their land and to be enjoying the right of the native land. We strongly say that any chief who today talks of Nsaw and not Noni in our land is speaking out of fear and not his mind because of these proofs:

Extraordinary

4. Federation of Nigeria - Official Gazette  
No. 28, Lagos 25th April 1958, Vol. 43.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 735 - PROCLAMATION (under the arms Ordinance, Chapter 14) Para 1 to 2 as follows.

1. This proclamation may be cited as the arms (PROHIBITION OF POSSESSION) (NSAW CLAN AREA) Proclamation, 1956.
2. The possession of fire-arms of all descriptions whether whole or in detached pieces and arms of war or ammunitions in the Nsaw Clan area of the

/...

Bamenda Division of the Southern Cameroons is hereby prohibited until further notice, except in respect of such persons to whom a temporary permit shall be given under this proclamation by an Officer to be appointed by the Commissioner of the Cameroons.

5. We all assembled in Nkor-Noni in the late Chief Lamem's compound on the 19th June 1958 and the chiefs and subs of the whole villages of Nkor-Ndom Lassin and Mbinon frankly spoke their minds to A.D.O. Mr. R.C. Ward that they were not Nsaws and can't lend out arms to war against either Nsaw or Ndzendzef Family and was same repeated at Djottin-Noni and members of Noni representative on 21 June 1956.

#### Collective punishment on Nsaw

Nobody from Noni did take part to the collective punishment of 1957 embodied in Gazette No. 17 Volume 3 of 10th August 1957. All our people refused and now we are sorry of what is wrong with the rest of our brithers. - Chiefs of Noni.

#### Boundary

Please recommend the demarcation of the applied boundary in the memorandum of the Noni Group Council of 12th October 1958. Because we as chiefs and tax collectors may carry our duties well. At the moment there are so many people on our land and are paying taxes in Nsaw while they should pay to us.

Confusion - At the moment there is a great confusion between Noni and Nsaw: I. The Nsaws have abandoned our markets and in regards to meeting of the 6th October 1958, we do not where the confusion comes about and what is their aim. To our greatest surprise, here is a copy of a letter from our representative of the Native Authority - Ndop who refused to take decision with us on or before the meeting. He is born in Noni and he is a native of Noni. So we do not know if this confusion is from his letter of 31st May 1958.

Here attached under for your consideration.

We pray for the kind consideration into this matter. While looking for your recommendation for the secession of the Kamerun from Nigeria and unification and independence now.

/...

We wish the Mission a happy stay in our country and a safe return to the UNO Headquarters.

We are, remain,

Sir,

Your humble petitioners

- Signed:
1. Chief of Nkor (finger print)
  2. Chief of Djotting (Signed) D.N. Ngam II
  3. for Chief of Mbinon 6 (signed) Fai Nteh (finger print)
  4. For Chief of Lassin (Signed) John Kinues (finger print)
  5. Noni spokesman (Signed) C.C. Ngong

/...

T/PET.4/162

English

Page 12

The Secretary  
Noni Group Council  
Djottin

Chenshin - Djottin

21 - 5 - 58

Sir,

I am writing to decline your invitation of this morning to speak at the Noni Group Council meeting to-day.

Since your predominant aim is to discuss separation from Hsaw, and it is not my intention to enter into such political struggle, I am not prepared to take part in such a discussion.

Yours faithfully,

Michael P. Wency.

-----