



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
  
T/PET.5/1042  
14 January 1957  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM MR. JOSEPH INNOCENT KAMSI CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules  
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

KAMSI JOSEPH INNOCENT, at KUMBA,  
c/o. the UPC office at Kumba,  
(Kamerun under British administration).

KUMBA

Subject: petition

To the Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the  
eleventh session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
New York

Sir,

I should like very respectfully to submit to you for your consideration  
my petition regarding the following facts:

(1) Considering that the French Authority administering eastern Kamerun  
is day by day redoubling the violence of its repressive policy, both in the  
form of armed force and by setting one African against another. Pillage and  
the most inhuman tortures have become everyday affairs and are all the rage  
in various towns and prisons in the Territory.

(a) Savage repression is being unjustly visited upon the inhabitants of  
Balessing in the Dschang Subdivision.

(b) The people of Douala are the wretched victims of the most inhuman  
tortures and of arbitrary arrests. The inhabitants of that town have become  
victims of the repressive measures solely because the overwhelming majority

of them abstained from voting in the municipal elections of 18 November 1956. The fact that such acts of repression were carried out by the Administering Authority the day after the elections throws considerable light on the Government's methods.

(2) Considering that this campaign of repression in connexion with the elections reveals the desire purely and simply to annex Kamerun to the French Union through the notorious LOI-CADRE which has been rejected by the vast majority of our people of all sexes and ages. For the events in Togoland have taught us a lesson. Our people want to retain their status under the international system.

(3) Considering that the activities of the French colonialist authorities are incompatible with the provisions of the United Nations Charter - and in particular Article 76 (b) - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right of peoples to self-determination.

(4) Considering that the arrest, dismissal and arbitrary imprisonment of the traditional chief of Baham, in Bafoussam Subdivision, is a clear proof of the Government's policy of repressing those who are in favour of the reunification and independence of Kamerun. And in the meantime the same Government rewards and encourages diversionist agents who set one African against another, a method in which the French administrators are well versed. Thus, from time to time Chiefs who have espoused the political concept of colonization provoke land disputes in the course of which people are killed and wounded. No one is blind to the fact that such manoeuvres are organized by the Administering Authority solely in order to show the international bodies that the Kamerunians who are clamouring for the unification and independence of their country are tearing each other to bits. But this is a futile argument. The Kamerunian people now know how to outwit and thwart any manoeuvres on the part of the French colonialist Government.

(5) Considering that the arrest, dismissal and arbitrary imprisonment of the traditional Chief of Baham (Bafoussam Subdivision) is a factor tending to incite the Kamerunians to revolt, a situation which the French colonialists will exploit in order to inflame the Kamerunian people once again so that it may then drown the Kamerunian national claims in blood as is its custom.

(6) Considering that France is a nation which by tradition, never grants any people its independence peacefully. It is for this reason that it is savagely repressing in the Kamerunian people in various ways.

(7) Considering that the innumerable petitions emanating from Kamerun in favour of Kamerunian national reunification and independence represent a resounding victory for the Kamerunian people in favour of a referendum to be organized by the United Nations on the subject of the unity and independence of Kamerun.

(8) Considering that the Administering Authority in Kamerun has never voted for or respected the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Trusteeship Council regarding Trust Territories. The lies told by the representatives of the Administering Authority in Kamerun in various United Nations bodies show that they want to keep our country in perpetual servitude so that they may exploit it as absolute masters.

(9) Considering that the Administering Authority, instead of respecting its obligations and carrying out the sacred trust laid upon it by the United Nations, ruthlessly represses defenceless human beings. The artificial frontier drawn through the middle of Kamerun after the 1914-1918 war under the famous Treaty of Versailles is often garrisoned with armed troops who search everyone, men and women, to the skin, in spite of the fact that the United Nations has often been told, untruthfully, that a good deal of latitude is allowed in customs matters.

(10) Considering that in accordance with the terms of Article 76 (b) of the United Nations Charter, the numerous petitions calling for the unification and independence of Kamerun reflect the legitimate and freely expressed wishes of the Kamerunian citizens.

This petition requests the United Nations

(a) To urge France to respect the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter, to respect the right of peoples to self-determination and to grant freedom of opinion, freedom of expression and freedom to vote.

(b) To proclaim the INDEPENDENCE OF KAMERUN at this session of the United Nations, bearing in mind the petitions in favour of unification, petitions which confirm the provisions of Article 76 of the Charter.

AND ACCORDINGLY

(c) Requests the release of the traditional Chief of Baham and his restoration to his functions as Chief.

(d) Requests the cessation of the acts of repression and the arbitrary arrests of which the people are at present victims, and the release of political prisoners.

(e) The entire Kamerunian people denounce the fate which the French Administering Authority in Kamerun wishes to impose on them under the screen of its loi-cadre.

Hoping for a favourable response to my petition, I have the honour to be, etc.

Kumba, 23 November 1956

(Signed) J. KAMSI,

The petitioner

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