

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.7/295/Add.1

21 April 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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PETITION FROM MR. AUGUSTINO DE SOUZA  
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 8 April 1952 from Mr. Augustino de Souza concerning the Trust Territory of Togoland under French Administration. This communication forms a supplement to the petition set forth in document T/PET.7/295.

COPY

UNITE TOGOLAISE

The General Chairman of the  
Comité de l'Unite Togolaise

Lomé

8 April 1952

Sir:

In one of my cables, of which I enclose a copy,<sup>1/</sup> I had the honour to inform the Trusteeship Council of the acts of persecution and provocation to which the "Comité de l'Unite Togolaise" has been subjected by the local Administration.

I enclose the documents relating to the above-mentioned acts and am confident that representations from the United Nations to the Administering Authority will put an end to these regrettable acts of discrimination. Thanking you in anticipation, I have the honour to be etc.

(signed) Augustino de Souza

The Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 14 April 1952.  
(3 enclosures)

/COMITE

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The text of above-mentioned cable is reproduced in document T/PET.7/295.

COMITE DE L'UNITE TOGOLAISE

Atakpame

Atakpame 22 March 1952

The Chairman of the Comité de l'Unité  
Togolaise

Lomé

Sir:

We have the honour to inform you in haste of the actions of the local Administration at Atakpame in connexion with our meetings, that of 2 March 1952, attended by our representatives who had returned from the United Nations, and our congress of 16 March 1952, at which more than 2,000 people were present.

1. Our meeting of 2 March 1952

Before our representatives arrived at Atakpame we had, as always, taken the necessary action under the administrative decrees and sent our request for permission to hold a meeting to the Commandant de Cercle, who signified his consent.

When our representative, Mr. Olympio, arrived about 5 p.m., the police went to meet the crowd and prohibited any demonstrations on the street.

We exercised great patience and thus escaped the trap set by the Administration on that day.

When the owner of the land on which we had requested permission to hold our meeting refused such permission we immediately sent a further request to the Commandant asking to be allowed to use the place where the PTP had met a few days previously in connexion with the visit of its President and representative to the United Nations, that is to say our public market place.

In reply to our second request, the Commandant refused to allow us to use the public market place.

We were greatly discouraged by all these last-minute actions by the Administration; nevertheless, as the Party protesting against such events in our native land, which compel us to claim our unity and independence, we were not diverted from our purpose.

In the very early morning we went into the forest and cleared a large place for the meeting before it was due to begin; although we were far from any public place, the police came to our meeting and tried to disperse us, although the place was not a public one.

/Still more

Still more regrettably, when our womenfolk went home after the meeting they were dastardly attacked by the police. District militia and policemen, led by Mr. Simard, the police chief, attacked our poor unprotected mothers with blows from their rifle butts, fists and whips and chased those who fled from this intolerable persecution until they collapsed in the ditches.

Oddly enough, the leader of the group, Mr. Simard was in such hot pursuit of one of the women that he himself was thrown to the ground. Thwarted in his attack on the woman, he gave fresh orders to his men to continue the chase. After Mr. Simard hurt himself, the hunt became fiercer than usual; some mothers with children on their backs were in danger of falling and the loin cloths of others came loose in their flight leaving them almost naked as they tried to escape from the furious attacks of the police.

The reason for all this was that the women were crying "Ablode" as they returned home. Not satisfied with their daytime misbehaviour, a patrol went out in the evening intent on setting on anyone who was still saying "Ablode". To the accompaniment of noisy scenes on the streets, they managed to lay hold of an innocent young man called Joachim Amegbo whom they handcuffed, sentenced and imprisoned, inflicting on him a number of uncalled-for injuries.

## 2. Our meeting of 16 March 1952

With regard to our congress of 16 March 1952, we had, as usual, sent the Commandant de Cercle a request to hold a public meeting in the market place.

The Commandant replied that he could not let us use the market place asked for, since it had already been reserved for another Party. Since he did not wish to refuse us altogether, he gave us permission to use the sports' ground.

Since there was only a small shed on the sports' ground, not large enough for the large number of people attending the congress, we built small shelters to protect us from the sun.

/While we

While we were thus engaged, the Commandant came to visit us and became extremely angry, forbidding us to continue and firmly ordering us to pull down the shelters we had built.

Without waiting to hear our reply, he drove off and some minutes later the police, who had been notified, arrived.

Thus we had to hold our meeting in the full glare of the sun.

As early as the Saturday afternoon before the meeting, the police, fully armed, went round the town intimidating everyone.

In the evening before the train carrying our members from Lomé arrived, the police, led by two white policemen, occupied the station. They were also there when the train left.

We have the honour to be etc.

(signed) (Illegible)

/HIHEATRO,

HIHEATRO, 22 March 1952

THEOPHILE MALLY,  
Box No. 32  
HIHEATRO (AKPOSSO)  
near ATAKPAME

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of certain incidents which have occurred in the Subdivision of AKPOSSO-PALTEAU, Cercle du Centre, which might have led to considerable disorder in the AKPOSSO country had the villages concerned not refrained from retaliating against such persecution.

On the morning of 1 March 1952, all the villages along the Badou road were waiting to welcome Mr. S. Olympio, Togoland delegate to the United Nations; he had just returned from the United Nations and was travelling round the country to inform the people he represented of his work.

The people in the villages concerned -- the names of which follow -- were to have fired a salute with blank cartridges in accordance with our traditional ancestral customs in AKPOSSO.

The same day, the Commissaire de Police from ATAKPAME, accompanied by members of the militia, police and district guards also set out for Badou.

At Klabé-Efoukpna, three guns were seized without explanation.

At Adossou, (Zogbégan) seven guns were seized at pistol point.

Near Badou, four guns were seized and several people were beaten without explanation or reason.

At Badou, eight guns belonging to some people from Ahouenhouen were also seized without reason. Twenty-four guns were seized in the area.

Thus, a number of people received bodily ill-treatment at Badou and they escaped and have already reached Togoland under British Administration. That is all I can tell you about the events which have taken place in the Akposso country since 1 March 1952.

I have the honour to be etc.

(signed) Theophile Mally

Mr. Thompso Rodolphe,  
Secretary-General  
Unité Togolaise  
Headquarters, Lomé