

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.11/112
1 November 1951

INDEX

23 NOV 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

161

PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE, BRANCH OF GALCAIO
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rules F and L of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council, to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, and to the Governments of Colombia, Egypt, and the Philippines as members of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 29 September 1951 from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Galcaio concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

We, on behalf of 95% of the inhabitants respectfully beg to anticipate our hearty and fervent wishes to your August Mission, and submit the following facts:-

(signed) The Secretary

To: The United Nations Visiting Commission for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, under Italian Administration.

From: Somali Youth League, Branch of Galkayu

Subject: General report from Mudugh Province. - Date: 29 Sept. 1951

(a) (1) It was on 23rd march 1950 that the British Administration handed over the Territory to the Italian Administration. The Italian forces brought here in the moment of taking over were figuring about 500 soldier with their necessary equipments, including armoured cars, Artillery, etc. As soon as the handing over completed instigating critics had started in and out of the town. The public security had been weakened and disorders had aroused. All the criminals in the jail, who were convicted by the British Administration were automatically released in order to intensify and take part in the already started tumults; and innocent persons were arrested because of political opinions. Most of the employees were discharged without justifiable reason. These were mostly Somali Police Inspectors, Sergeants, Constables, Clerks, Signallers, Customs Officers, Post Masters and other Administrative employees in various organs of the Administration.

The territory was actually seeming as a territory conquered by an ennemy. Evidently, on 11th of the month of april 1950, many armoured cars carrying on cannons were constantly firing on the town in three days in consequence of which Five pregnant women had been shocked and miscarried.

(2) The Italian Administration had started to enlist recruits whose salaries were said to be Shs.30/- month. As a sign of protest a great number of the inhabitabts ha peacefully demonstrated out side the town shouting on such a serf asking for stipulations. Armoured cars and tunks rushed to the demonstrators firing guns on them without interviewing with, in consequence of which a man was killed, 6 were seriously injured and many arrested.

The Administering Authority, for her own advantage, had sought to sow hostalities among the inhabitants and, in order to succeed her goal, she sent many of her puppets (pro-Italians) to the country to create and cause disturbances among the somalis, for that reason, tribal feuds had broke out in every where of the territory in consequence of which -- as regards to Mudugh -- more -- than 818 somalis have been precisely killed within 15 months. Only this, but lootings, imprisonments and other inhuman tortures were uncalculable see appendix A. of the attached.

/(3) Understanding

(3) Understanding the reason why, the Italian Administration was and is still indifferent and apathetic to a large extent due to the lack of right kind of peace and security. These strifes are still extending throughout the country and in the town. No wrong is hitherto corrected by the Administration.

During the happenings of these catastrophes, no murderers, Robbers, Raiders and thieves were accordingly convicted or even arrested despite more than Five hundred Police-men with armoured cars and tanks were stationed in Mudugh Province.

These are violating to the principles of the Trusteeship Agreement Art. 2 which reads: "the Administering Authority shall be responsible to the United Nations for the peace, order and good Governments of the territory in accordance with the terms of this agreements."

(4) JUDICIAL

There is no particular buildings arranged for Court and there are three ways of judicial systems and are: 1 Police judicial system, 2 District judicial system and 3 Provincial judicial system.

Police Judicial system

Whenever a person is arrested by the police for a petty offence the "Maresciallo" (Italian Inspector) or "Brigadiere" (Italian Sergeant) whoever commands the station, convicts the accused either for fine of money or "lasciapuss" (beat-up) which is a police secret word; or keeps him in the police cell for a considerable period of time. Many were arrested by the police and were badly beaten. Some of these were effected by dangerous diseases like T.B.C. etc., many had already been died for it see appendix B. This is violating to the principles of the Art. 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is integral part of Trustship Agreement as provided for an Art. 10 of the annex to the agreement, which reads "no one shall be subjected tortures or to cruel in human or degrading treatment or punishment."

When a person is arrested the police, prepare evidence for prosecution without investigating in the defence side. After keeping the accused in the police cell for weeks, they pass the evidence to either of the latter courts, and remand the accuse in the jail.

(5) DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL SYSTEM

When the evidence is passed to the District or Provincial court, the accused is further remanded in order to study and consider the evidence. These latter courts convict the accused according to the prosecution statement passed from the police, without bringing the accused before the court. The court sends a warrant called "Decreto Penale" (Penal Decree) to the accused in the jail which informs of this conviction. As you see from the text the accused is convicted without having opportunity to call any defence witnesses or to defend himself; and is not even appeared before the court for trial, this happens long after the arrest.

This is contrary to the principles of the Art. 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is integral part of the Trustship Agreement as provided for in Art. 10 of the annex to the agreement, which says: "every one charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence."

(6) BAIL

The word "bail" is not in use in the territory of Somaliland. When a person is arrested with an offence, whoever small, no bail is acceptable, though, one could offer any amount of money or produce reputable surety to the authority concerned.

(7) JAIL AND PRISONERS

As mentioned above in para a (1) many innocent individuals were piled in the Jails through out the territory. As regards to Galkayu the Jail itself is dirty and uninterested and full of bugs, webs, flies and many other infectious insects. No Medical visit was ever been made, by the doctor. There are no beds or any other sleeping materials. The prisoners are sleeping on the cement, no sleeping material are allowed to be brought from outside. They are badly rationed for:

(1) the ration is absolutely unsuitable for human use.

(2) it is not dietly sufficient; costing So. 1/20 per day for each prisoner, and no ration is allowed from outside. In consequence, many prisoners were subject to illness and some of them had recently spitted blood. There is no bath-room in the jail and therefore the prisoners are always dirty and unhealthy condition. The latrine is full and smelling from distance. They are forced to shave their hair as soon as from the

/date of

date of arresting. They are given a small unwashable garment which is about 1/2 yds. Their own dressing are withdrawn and stored therein. Not difference between the convicted and remanded prisoners, in this illtreatments.

As from the date noticed of your August arrival in Somalia no arrests were made and those who were previously piled in the Jail, as from the date of taking over, are mostly released, and others were allowed on bail without payment!

Visiting the Jail, you may find the things differend and therefore, take our statement as a matter of defamation but you will, however, come to know of the reality when you would find all the things furbished.

(8) POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION

The Italian Administration had politically divided Somalis into two parts commonly known "nostro è non nostro" - (ours and not ours). Ours are those already known as the "pro Italians" and others (not ours) are those who are not pro-Italians. The not ours who were in services during the British Administration and remained in service when the Italian Administration took over, were mostly dismissed from the services without justifiable reasons and were substituted for Italian brought from Italy and some of the "ours". Those "not ours" who remained in the service are under incubus and daily menace. Their previous positions were usurped. Their actual work in present is to bring coffee, fresh water, tea and papers to the Italians and pro-Italians in the Offices, althrough, they were previously engaged in high positions.

There are for example two employees -- an Italian -- and a Somali -- who work together in a same position and Italian is drowing at least So. 1,500 while the other somali is drowing about 100 So. or less.

In addition to this, when the British Administration handed over the territory the tribal chiefs were all drowing equal salary, but the Italian Administration for political camp had divided them in two three parts:-

- (1) are those who were turned a side and become instruments for the Italians, and, therefore, are up-graded from So. 240/- and up-wards.
- (2) are those who declined to become an instrument and, therefore, were deprived from being pu-graded and still drowing the previous salaries!!
- (3) are those who righteously supported to the "second" group and were purposely deposed, substituting for other her instruments from their respective tribes despite their peoples were unanimously in agreement with these usurps.

/This is

39

This is violating to the principles of the Art. 3 (para 3) of the Trusteeship Agreement which reads: "promote the social advancement of the inhabitants, and to this end shall protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all elements of the population without discrimination;....." and Art. 23 (para 2) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is integral part of the Trusteeship Agreement as provided for in Art. 10 of the annex to the agreements which reads: every one without any discrimination, has the rights to equal pay for equal work.

(9) CONSIGLIO TERRITORIALE E CONSIGLIO RESIDENZE

There are "Consiglio Residenze" (Town Council) in every where in Somalia, but here in Galcaio no such organ have been made although the Chief Administrator had various times stated in public gatherings that they made Consiglio Residenze.

As per Art. 4 of the annex to the agreement, the territorial Council was accordingly constituted, but, unfortunately, as regards to Mudugh Province two Analphabetic Italian instruments had been nominated, Hagi Ali Balle and Duale Kahie both of whom are the prominent already existing "ours" (pro-Italians).

EDUCATION

Since the Italian Administration took over the Territory, no schools were existed in Galcaio. On your August arrival in Somalia we have seen a building being white-washed and painted, and called "SCUOLE": school. It is built by British Administration during her sejour in the territory. This was closed down as soon as the taken over was completed and now re-opened, because of your august visiting. Three teachers one of whom is an Italian have recently been brought from Mogadishu for propaganda.

It is beyond the doubt, examining in the annual programme laid down for the schools and the presence of three teachers in Galkayu, that your august mission will astonish, and treat our statements as a matter of defamation, but, you will, however, come to know of the reality when it will be hard for you to find out even a single pupil who learned some thing in this our beauty school. It is probable, visiting the school, that your august mission could find some boys who know little Arabic but whatever they know much or little they learnt in their private schools and in the schools of the British Administration before hand over. The boys and girls in the school are now being taught the names of the towns of their country such as: Mogadishu, Bender Kassim, Alula, Brava, Merca, Dante, Obbia and the names of the towns of Italy such as: Roma, Napoli, Genova, etc. This is the symptom of confusion. No reading books are given to the pupils.

/These are

These are contrary to the Art. 4 of Trustship Agreement which reads: "the Administering Authority, recognizing the fact that education in its broadest sense is the only sure foundation on which any moral, social, political and Economic advancement of the inhabitants of the territory can be based, and believing that national independence with due respect for freedom and democracy can only be established on this basis, undertakes to establish a sound and effective system of the educations, with due regard for Islamic culture and religion.

In addition to this, being religiously mussulimans, the inhabitants had unaninously chosen the arabic as the official language. On the contrary, Italy -- for her own interest -- wants to extend her language and to this end the pupils are now forcibly being taught only Italian Alphabetic in this "so-called school.

This is contrary to Art. 26 (p. 3) of the Unisersal Dec. of human Rights which is integral parts of the Trustship Agreement as per Art. 10 of the annex which reads: parents have prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."

Healthy:

The healthy is very rare in this part of the Territory (Mudugh). During the year, of 1950 there had been occured an epidemic Cholera through-out these areas of Mudugh in consequence of which 10% of the population were effectively caused to death; and in 1951 instant, after heavy fall rain, another epidemic malaria had occured in consequence of which 20% of inhabitants were subjected to death. The latter is still causing deaths both in the towns and bushes.

Although, the population reiterately asked and cried for assistance no succour had been given by the Administration ins these dangerous disease, whatsoever. When these two events happened the syfferers attended to the Hospitals as they accustomed to be cured, but, unfortunately, theyfound no medical treatment, with exception of some so-called medicines which were not suitable for their deseases and do not deserve to be mentioned therein. The suffered have therefore returned back to their hovels, when they failed getting treatment, thinking it the best way to do; and most of these had subsequently dead.

The administering authority did not take any steps to save such human lives which are commonly-respected. The Hospital in Galkayu is a picture decorated for the visitors, and it has no advantage for the public. In fact, is has no necessary materials that's beds, mattresses, beding sheets, pillows and so-forth, with exception of very few materials, which were recently arranged

There is only an ambulance which is rarely on road, and therefore the ill-persons are often compelled to be transported to and from the bushes on camels. The patients in the Hospital, if there are any, for example, are given rations which are unsuitable for human use both of quality and taste.

There is no room for doubt, searching the Administrations programme for the Hospitals that you may find therein a list containing of suitable rations such as rice, milk, pasta, eggs, fresh meat and so on. In fact, such a programme was laid down for propaganda and not for using.

The actual ration scales for the patients are costly So. 1/20 per day.

Visitign the Hospital, it is possible that you could find the things different, but you August Mission will, however, confirm our statement when you would see that the materials in it are all new.

Furthermore, here in Galkayu the Municipality is still on the hands of the Administration, and one could see no hyginical advancent whatsoever. The streets are covered with filthy, rubbish, week's wash is visible everywhere in the town. Remains of dead rats, hens, cats and human excrements are lying in every corner of the town. No sweepers, aedes control etc. engaged for the public health.

Besides to this, the animals had suffered from different kinds of deseases, and the Administration did not provide any veteringry arrangements however small. As you are fully aware the loosing of the stocks are the worst damage being caused to the inhabitants, because, all their weaths consist of stocks.

These are violating to the principles of the Art. 3 (para 3) of the Trusteeship Agreement which reads: "protect and improve the health of the inhabitants by the development of adequate health and Hospital services for all sections of the populations...."

SOCIAL

(3) Knowing of the importance of the social advancement, the administering authority was, in accordance with Art. 3 (para 3) of the Trusteeship Agreement obliged to promote the social advancement of the inhabitants. In spite of this, the Administration was and is actively discouraging the inhabitants to unite in social advancement persuading them inwardly that retention of "cabilism" is far and much better than anything else until most of the people thought it to be the best way to reach the independence. Evidently, if any one goes to the Offices of the Administration for some purpose he must be obliged to belong to a tribe, and if he try to resist and says that he is an somali without mentioning his tribe, he must be deprived from his need.

/The tribal

The tribal retention is very dangerous for the principles of the social advancement, because, it splits the inhabitants into various groups and creates hostility among them.

This is contrary to the Art. 3 (para 3) of the Trusteeship Agreement which reads: "promote the social advancement of the inhabitants and to this end shall protect the right and fundamental freedom of all elements of the population without discrimination...."

(4) ECONOMY

Leave its name and close down its door!!!, because, the Administration being responsible for the Territory did not up-to date created any economic advancement in this part of the Territory and did not even encourage the people to achieve it. And for that reason the inhabitants are greatly subjected to unemployment until the poverty surrounded them, and compelled them to become loathy.

There are little rain in these regions, and it has no rivers like Benadir and to this end the Administering authority did not hitherto give any particular attention to this matters as to dig wells in the areas where wells are not obtainable. For that reason the Nomadics are suffering from thirst. In the drought weather the nomadics are often losing most of their stocks which, all their wealthy consist, because of scarcity of wells in the grazing areas until the inhabitants are greatly subjected to paupers.

There was a great of money provided for this problem by the Administration as to dig wells in the grazing areas etc. but, in spite of this, this great amount had been spent on political purpose, instead. Not only this, but many of tribal fightings are merely based on the scarcity of water in the grazing areas, particularly.

As a result, in order to cover this amount, the administering authority had some months ago taken few labourers to take out some muds from certain wells which for years were dug and in use.

In here, there are no rivers harbours farms and railways from which we can commercially gain. The local productions are only of Ghee and skins got from the animals. The local traders buy these and export them to the markets of Berbera, Aden etc. from which they import, in exchange, what in their market are needed. This was accustomed for nearly a century without alternative. It was in 1950 when the Italian Administration returned back to Somalia and changed that method; and issued another instruction which absolutely prevents the traders

/from exercising

from exercising their trades freely. This monopoly is equal for the population like a bomb experimented on their heads!!!!

In case, the traders are allowed to export few goods thither they are obliged to import, in exchange, goods which in their market are not commonly useful and lead them into loss. Most of the traders had already been subjected to loss and if this procedure continues the loss will doubtlessly effect the rest of the traders.

There are four roads which enter Galcaio most of which are indeed in rough condition and almost impassable. The roughness of the roads had caused many trucks to remain in off road conditions because of explosion of tyres and other troubles in the engines.

This difficulty had resulted the scarcity of transportation to and from here; and if found any, the fares are twice doubled and therefore the market price should arise up which would be very exaggerated.

We like to make clear that here Galkayu is centre of a great number of populations. There is no public work whatsoever, No labour offices have ever been opened and no efforts had ever been made by the Administration for this purpose. The vagabonds, failing to be employed, are compelled to commit delinquency by stealing, robbing, and raiding each other. Many appeals were made to the local authority for employment but no attention was drawn. Most of the administrative services are employed by Italians brought from Italy, even though, there are many Somalis who could easily be capable for the positions.

These are contrary to the Art. 3 (paragraph 1 and 2) of the Trusteeship Agreement which reads: "and to this end shall give to the inhabitants of the territory a progressively increasing participation in the various organs of Governments; promote the Economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants, and to this end shall regulate the use of natural resources; encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture, trade and industries; and improve the means of transportation and communication...."

/In conclusion

In conclusion, gentlemen of U.N.O., we have mentioned very briefly of the facts, and we, appeal to your and the prestige of the United Nations and to your Governments, to investigate the matters thoroughly and judge thereby yourselves. The populations of Somalia are very confident in your August Mission.

We beg to remain,
Sirs,
your most obedient servants,
Somali Youth League local committee
of Galcaio Branch

Sgd by:

Ac/Secretary: AHMED Mohamed Carani

Member AHMED Mohamed Burdibi

" MOHAMED Ghelle Yusuf

" ABDULLAHI Scek Mohamu

" DIRIE Hassan Egal

" SCEK Mohamed Abdulle

" HASSAN Scek Ali

" KALIF Hagi Giama

" MOHAMED Ali Barre

" NUR Hasci Alas