

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

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PETITION FROM THE SHEIKHS, CHIEFS AND NOTABLES OF
MIJERTEIN PROVINCE 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 25 September 1951 from the Sheikhs, Chiefs and Notables of Mijertein Province 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.

Mogadishu, 25th. September 1951.

To:-

THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S
VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES
MOGADISHU.

Your Excellencies,

We the undersigned Chiefs, Notables, Sheiks and Traders, residing in the various towns of Mijertein Province, have the honour to address you this humble petition, fervently hoping that it will meet with your Excellencies kind consideration.-

You will note that some of the signators of this petition are Chiefs and Headmen. To this, we would like to stress the fact that these Chiefs and Notables are not salaried headmen of the A.F.I.S., but wisemen chosen by the various tribes residing in the Mijertein Province, and who, in this town, represent them.

Amongst the many important questions relating to the progress and development of the Mijertein Province, whether in the political, social and economic fields that we wish to treat in this petition, figure the foremost the following:-

PROVINCE'S ECONOMY & UNEMPLOYMENT

The province's economy is at a stake. The only and biggest saline industry, established at Hordio, has stopped every activity for lack of materials such as working-machinery and adequate apparatus. The Administration, for progressing the country's economy and in virtue of the various clauses outlined in the Trusteeship Agreement on the subject, failed to take the necessary steps, ensuring the activity of the said saline industry, which plays an important role on the Country's economy as a whole, and would have ensured employed for all workers of the local population.

The natives of the Mijertein Province suffer from lack of employment, and owing to this are in a pitious miserable state. Further, the natives are not protected against unemployment.-

PROVINCE'S FALL INTO MISERY AND FAMINE.

The during the early months of 1950 (exactly after a few months of the transfer of powers to Italy), on about June, the people fell into an incredible

/famine state.

famine state. This has caused the deaths of hundreds after hundreds for starvation and for lack of food. The A.F.I.S. did take no steps to protect the native population from starvation and famine, but instead it redoubled the death rate in a rapid way. This was due to the only assistance obtained from A.F.I.S. consisting of putrified maize, which killed many a hundred of people of those who ate it. Those who were save from dying suffered from stomach troubles.

EPIDEMIC OF CHOLERA.

During that very year of 1950, part of the population were caught by cholera, which disease rapidly spread all over the province. We state that no medical assistance was given to the suffering ones, and no steps has been taken for thier isolation. Thus by contagious means, this horrible widespread infectious diseases was the victim of thousands of people. Deaths for cholera were very frequent. We believe that in case of such emergency the Administration's duty was give sanitary assistance. We know that such pestilent diseases are fought against, by all individuals and nations who fail not to give medical aid to those infected priving for their isolation and vaccination injections to the inhabitants of the area dangerously threatned. None of this human assistance has the Mijertein Province received during the epidemic of cholera.

COMMERCE.

The somali traders of the Mijertein Province had always carried very successfully their commercial enterprises. This busy commercial activity ensured employment, though inadequate, to part of the population. Soon after the transfer of powers from the B.M.A. to A.F.I.S., the somali traders were subject to every possible restriction, by currency or other excuses, on their export and import business activity. Further, there could be no commercial activity since the province is out of population, who left it owing to famine and pestilent diseases.

ARRESTS WITHOUT REASONS.

Aarrests without a plausible reason are very often seen. People go to jail, without knowing of the reason of their arrest. Others are imprisoned only because they spoke openly. In fact, some 12 (twelve) persons were arrested at Alula because they had the courage to demonstrate to the local authorities that the Province needed a betterment for its development, owing to the last famine (which still exists) and to the epidemic of cholera. No one, however, can deny that the province is very down and at a stake on very field. These 12 persons are still
/in prison since

in prison since 3 months ago, and they have not been brought before a court. We, the petitioners fervently hope that, during your trip in Somaliland, you will not fail to visit the goal of Alula, where these elements are detained. We enclose herewith a list of the names of these illegally imprisoned persons.

DHOWS STOPPAGE.

As you are perhaps aware, the main work of the natives of the Mijertein province is that of the sea. In fact, many are good fishers and seamen. The well-off own their own dhows which sail after every monsoon to Aden, Kenya and India. They take with them cargoes of incense, mirth and dried fish and get in exchange for importation the prime goods necessities of the province.

Presently all dhows are stopped by the local authorities, at their respective docks. The main reason of this stoppage is that the A.F.I.S forcibly compel owners of dhows to raise on the dhows the Italian flag, which they have refused.

HOSPITALS.

There is no hospital in the Mijertein Province except few dispensaries. Medicines are not found and/or are scarce in these dispensaries. The medical staff stationed at the various towns of the province are not qualified ones, but are handpicked persons purposely employed to fill the role.

SCHOOLS.

We understand that one of the major task of the Administration is that of opening schools in all over the country and that education must be compulsory. In this respect, we would like to state that there is NO school opened for the natives of the Mijertein Province, except at Gardo and Bender Kassim. At Gardo there is an Italian teacher, who teaches nothing to the pupils of the schools but carries out a pro-italian political campaign in the province.

VISITS OF U.N. ADVISORY COUNCIL.

We should as well state that the Advisory Council did never visit the whole province with exception of Gardo, where the Administration have at disposal corrupted pro-italians. These hand-picked pro-italian elements are bribed for the purpose of misguiding any visiting mission in the province.

In view of the above facts, we the chiefs, notables, Sheikhs and traders of the Mijertein Province, have the honour to beg you to visit all the 33 small and

/big towns along

big towns along the coast, forming the Mijertein province. We ask this, because the native population there wish to lodge directly before your Excellencies their grievances. Further, should you visit there you will see certainly more facts relating to the deplorable economic condition of the province in question than the contents set forth in this petition on the subject.

Before we close this humble petition, we would like to point out that, since many problems on political, social and economic fields arise in the province and since the U.N. Advisory Council could not be kept informed of the true natures of the events and as their visits will be limited and late, a representative of the U.N. Advisory Council be stationed in one of the Province's town. We are sure that should a representative of the UN Advisory Council would be there, the UN Advisory Council itself will be in a position to know about the populations claims and suggestions, and could therefore take the necessary steps required.

May we be permitted to state that we were very much pleased of your arrival in Somaliland. All Somalis in general and the population of the Mijertein Province in particular reply on you and have much faith in the United Nations. Let's conclude by saying that the natives of the Mijertein Province fervently hope that you will not fail to assist them, and that justice will be metted out from where it should be.

We are anxiously awaiting your favourable reply, and meanwhile beg to be pardoned for having trespassed your valuable time.

Many thanks in advance,

We remain, Sirs,

Your most obedient servants:-

SHEIKES

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | SHEIKH YUSUF MAHAMUD | (Signed: illegible) |
| 2. | SHEIKH MOHAMED JAMA | (" ") |
| 3. | SHEIKH SAID HAJI | (" ") |
| 4. | HAJI MAHAMUD | (" ") |
| 5. | HATAH MAHAMUD | (" ") |
| 6. | SAID BAHWAL | (" ") |
| 7. | GHALID HUSSEIN | (" ") |

/CHIEFS & NOTABLES.

CHIEFS & NOTABLES.

1. HAJI MAHAMUD OSMAN, Chief (Finger print)
2. HAJI MAHAMUD ALI, Chief (" ")
3. FARAH ISSA, Chief (" ")
4. FARAH MOHAMED GULED, Chief (" ")
5. HAJI MUSSA ISSA, Notable (" ")
6. HAJI AHMED HAJI, Notable (" ")
7. MOHAMED SALAH DA 'AR, Notable (" ")

TRADERS.

1. FARAH MOHAMED (Signed: illegible)
2. HAJI OMAR MAHAMED (" ")
3. KHALIF NOOR OSMAN (" ")
4. FARAH ALI ADDE (Signed: Farah Ali Adde)
5. WABERRY ALI ADDE (" : Illegible)
6. JAMA FARAH MOHAMED (" ")
7. ISMAIL ABDI (" ")
8. MOHAMED MAMMUD (" ")
9. DIRIE JAMA (" : Dirie Jama)
10. MCALLIM MOHAMED ISSA (Signed: Illegible)

LIST OF PERSONS IMPRISONED WITHOUT
ANY PLAUSIBLE REASON, AT AIDIA

1. ALI SALEH (who was severely beaten and had a fracture of one leg)
2. MAHAMUD YUSUF GUIDED
3. MOHAMED 'OURAFF
4. JAMA MAHAMUD
5. SHIRREH NAIEYE
6. BILLEH HAJI MAHAMUD
7. MOHAMED MUSSE
8. HASSAN MOHAMED
9. SAIAH MOHAMED
10. YUSUF AHMED
11. MOHAMED 'ARRE
12. MOHAMED ALI HAJI FARAH
