

UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.11/103
1 November 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. JAMA GURRI AND OTHERS
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 Mr. Jama Gurri and others 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, 29th September, 1951.

To:

THE PRESIDENT

THE U.N. VISITING MISSION

MOGADISHU.

Your Excellency,

In referring to our letter of the 22nd inst., we, the undersigned ex somali chiefs, have the honour to submit this letter in the fervent hope that its contents will meet with your Excellency's kind consideration.

We would like to report under separate subjects, the following information in regard to the political, social and economic life of this Trust Territory of Somaliland;

POLITICS:

Soon after its resuming powers, the Italian Administration has put into motion the evil machines of persecution, ill-treatment and discrimination. Although somalis are convinced that their country is a Trust Territory and placed -- by decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations -- under the International Trusteeship System, the present practiced fascist rule of the Administration leads us to believe that Somaliland is administered more like a colony than a trust territory. Indeed, there is no freedom of speech. Press? -- neither. Because the only local press belong to the A.F.I.S. and publishes letters of praise to Italy and the present despotic administration of Somaliland. In fact, as in the case of colonial territories, anyone found to have spoken freely is imprisoned without ever being brought to defend himself to a court.

All members of the Territorial and District Councils are purposely chosen pro-italian elements. This serves the Administration, more specifically when matters like land alienations etc. are discussed and put to vote, so as to secure the necessary two-thirds majority.

Local former chiefs, were replaced against the wishes of the respective tribes, with pro-italian elements. We reserve the right to expose and furnish you verbally with further details in this regard.

Inter-tribal fighting is constantly instigated by the local Administration. To this we, on informative purpose, would like to draw your kind attention to
/the fact

the fact that several such inter-tribal incidents occurred in many places of the Territory.

SOCIAL

Owing to hardships of unemployment and poverty, the somalis live in narrow filthy houses. No sanitation programme has yet been undertaken by the Administration. This leads us to believe that everything is being done to abandon somalis by themselves so as to live in these unhuman and unhygienic filthy houses. Sick somalis are not accepted in the hospitals. Suffices it to say that anyone sick is compelled to go and buy the medicine from the pharmacies, while Italians are getting free of charge medicines, medical care, home sanitation etc. While somali employees of the administration are periodically being discharged or dismissed from service, italians are weekly being brought (better say imported) from Italy and immediately employed.

SCHOOLS

During the British administration of our country, thousands of students were in the government schools, either in the elementary and secondary schools. The schools were well equipped and educational programmes were in force. Many were the subjects taught, and the following were the main ones: History, Geography, Mathematic, English and Arabic grammar etc. On the contrary, is now the school situation in this Territory. In fact there is no educational programme nor text books. In the schools pupils are not taught anything, and we may say, without fear of exaggerating, that same applies to the politico-administrative school, which seems the Administration is boasting herself for its creation.

PRISONS

The somali prisoners are inhumanly ill-treated by the italian warders. They are kept imprisoned without proper clothings and their only dress is a small garment without shirts. No good food is given to the native prisoner.

ECONOMIC

The economic conditions of this trust territory is very allarming. No trade is being done between foreign countries and Somaliland, only because the Administration has imposed restriction on import and exports of goods, with exception of goods to and from Italy. The average market prices have twice re-doubled, does causing at least 100% of cost markets.

/EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

As stated on the para headed 'SOCIAL' the somalis are subject to perpetual unemployment. No employment is given to Somalis and we could say that 90% of the native population are unemployed. Thus leading the country into chaos and misery.

We would like to conclude by saying that each one of us, petitioner, represent some 2,000 persons of their respective tribesmen. We would like also to stress the fact that we were chiefs prior to the British occupation in this Territory. We were replaced with pro-italian elements, despite the protests submitted by our respective tribesmen.

We hope that the contents of this letter of ours will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly and Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.

Will you please kindly accept our humble excuses for having disturbed you and trespassed your valuable time, with many thanks in anticipation.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servants.

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| 1. JAMA GURRI (Sgd.) | 2. MOHAMED ABDULLE (Sgd.) |
| 3. MUSSA MOHAMED (Sgd.) | 4. AHMED SAID (Sgd.) |
| 5. MOHAMED HAJI (Sgd.) | 6. ISSA GALAN (Sgd.) |
| 7. ABDI HEYBE (Sgd.) | 8. HERZI GULED (Sgd.) |
| 9. SAYIDDIN HERZI NOOR (Sgd.) | 10. ABDULLAHI ADEN (Sgd.) |
| 11. HAJI AHMED | 12. MOHAMED ABDULLE MULYUH (Sgd.) |
| 13. HASCI HERZI NOOR (Sgd.) | 14. HAJI MAHAMUD GHEDI (Sgd.) |
| 15. ALI MOHAMED (Sgd.) | 16. HAJI MOHAMED (Sgd.) |
| 17. HAJI AHMED AYANLE (Sgd.) | 18. MAHAMUD ALI (Sgd.) |
| 19. HUSSEN CSMAN NUR (Sgd.) | 20. WARSAMA HASSAN (Sgd.) |

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