

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCILDOCUMENTS
INDEX UNIT

MASTER

28 FEB 1952

GENERAL

T/PET.11/206

5 December 1951

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ITALIAN

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PETITION FROM MR. DEMO HASCI AND THREE 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. Demo Hasci and three 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.

TO THE HONOURABLE VISITING MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

We the undersigned, members of the Abtisame tribe of the Gelgials, beg to submit to the Visiting Mission the following information, which we should like you to examine carefully:

As paid Chief of our tribe we had one Mussa Hassan Osman, appointed by the Fascist Government to exploit our tribe. After years of oppression Almighty God sent the Allied Forces, the Fascist Government was defeated in Somaliland and the British occupied this territory and administered it for ten years.

We the undersigned summoned the Scir, and asked the British Administration for permission to replace the said Mussa Hassan Osman as Chief of the tribe. Permission being granted at once, the Scir met at Bugda Accable and the afore-mentioned Chief was dismissed.

The Italian Administration had no sooner returned to Somaliland than it reappointed Mussa Hassan as Chief, in view of his previous record as a tyrant, in spite of the fact that the Abtisame tribe is against him.

The undersigned presented several requests to the present Administration -- that is, to Dr. De Ciantis, Resident in B. Burti, who after 17 months of protestations finally agreed the convocation of the Scir. On 16 August the Scir was held at the well of Bio Nef, in the presence of the Resident, who was able to establish the fact that of the 300 men present only 43 backed Mussa Hassan, while 242 opposed him as Chief of the tribe.

Nevertheless, Mussa Hassan still rules, against the will of the Abtisame people, for he is pro-Italian, and the Resident believes that being pro-Italian is a qualification for being a Chief.

We the undersigned call your attention to the fact that Mussa Hassan confiscated a large part of our property, notwithstanding our protests, which are ignored because Mussa Hassan is pro-Italian.

The undersigned beg to inform the honourable members of the Visiting Mission that, had they time to listen to us, we could offer proof of how many petitions we have sent to the local Authority of this district,

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which has taken no notice of them.

We the undersigned would like to explain our complaints in person, in full detail.

With our thanks and devotion

Demo Hasci

Osman Aden

Mohamed Nur Arruah

Wehelie Ali

P.S.

The Resident Dr. De Ciantis and the officials of this district are in agreement to destroy the inhabitants of this district. This Resident has come to ruin the Somali people, not to lead them toward self-government.
