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79

PETITION FROM SOMALI WOMEN IN GARDO  
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 30 September 1951 from Somali Women in Gardo 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.

Greetings to the members of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Somaliland.

We wish to describe our circumstances and complaints to you so that you may free the oppressed and establish the rights of this nation struggling under Italian Trusteeship which has enslaved and humiliated us.

We are members of the Women's Branch of the Somali Youth League.

We are addressing this petition to you in order that you may consider with our case in a spirit of justice and investigate the cruelty and injustice the local authorities have inflicted upon us.

On September 13, 1951, a group of us went to a party at our club given for the Somali Youth League. A little later we were surrounded by the Italian police, led by the local chief, Mr. George Beddini, and arrested without cause.

We were taken to prison and our leaders were detained for 24 hours. After that we were asked why we did not belong to the clubs affiliated with the Administering Authority.

We were also told that if we were seen in the Somali Youth League club again, we would be exiled.

Is this justice and fair play?

Somali Women in Gardo

30 September 1951

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