

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

INDEX UNIT



GENERAL

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 643 SOMALI ORPHANS
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 24 September 1951 from the Representatives of the 643 Somali orphans 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, 24th September 1951.

To:

THE U.N. VISITING MISSION
FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND,
MOGADISHU.

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned Somali Orphans, whose fathers died while serving Italy during the Italo-Ethiopian War and the 2nd World War, have the honour to address you our best greetings of welcome in Somaliland, and meanwhile take the liberty of bringing to your kind attention what follows:

At the beginning may we be permitted to state that we represent some 643 somali orphans, and great was their pleasure to understand that the United Nations Trusteeship Council have sent you as a visiting mission to the Trust territories, like Somaliland, so as to ascertain and make reports on the political, social and economic condition of these trust territories. In view of this circumstance, we would like to state the following:

(a) MISERY DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Let us inform you that today there existed in Somaliland misery due to unemployment. As we have stated above, our fathers have died bravely fighting for the glory of the italian flag; and to this, we believe, we are, as the sons of the combattents who gave away their lives for Italy, entitled to assistance and have the right of employment. However, we are to state that since Italy's come-back to Somaliland up-to-date we were unemployed, despite our requests to obtain employment from the Administration. Fact is, that all the petition addressed to the A.F.I.S. for employment were not considered by the competent authorities. Most of us are to support numerous families; and in many cases there are individuals with from 3 to 5 children with their mothers who await employment since Italy's come-back from the Administration in order to maintain this numerous family. Owing to lack of employment we with our families are thrown into a state of pitious misery. In addition, while we are denied the right of

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protection against employment, the local italians are given employment facilities with the Administration. In fact, one finds very often a whole Italian family composed, in most cases, of about 5 children, their mother and father who are employees of the Administration, and who possess shops and restaurants or workshops. Further, the somalis employees of the Administration are subject to periodical discharge from service without any reason or with this veiling reason: "bearer has been discharged from service on organic (staff) reduction". The places which are vacant are occupied by italians. May we ask your Excellencies whether this is justly right and in accordance with provisions of the beautifully worded clauses of the Trusteeship Agreement and of Art.22 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

(b) HEALTH.

The Somalis are subject, owing to unemployment and poverty, to live in narrow filthy huts, and there is no sanitation programme that provides the protection of the native population against diseases. One find very often that a narrow filthy house is used by natives as a bedroom, dining room, waiting room and at the same time kitchen room! The somalis quarters are dirty, filthy and the local Municipality, although it gets a yearly tax from the native population, does not provide the cleaning of these quarters. In the HOSPITALS, the native patients are not given medicines and health food. Patients infected of tuberculosis are mixed up with patients suffering malaria and/or other non-contagious diseases. Any native who goes to the Hospital for the purposes of curing influenza or malaria, after a few days on bed in the hospital or is heard of his dead for unknown reasons or comes out of hospital infected with Tuberculosis or other dangerous and contagious diseases. Only those who are in a position to bribe the italian doctors and can buy the required medicines, are given proper medical treatment, while poor natives lie in the streets dying for starvation and hunger, and in most cases are infected with contagious diseases.

(c) SCHOOLS

Let's discuss on the questions of the schools as an informative nature. As you are aware there is no educational compulsory programme. In the

Elementary Schools pupils are taught nothing. No Somali frequents higher schools. Further, though the Somalis profess Islamism there is no in the schools arabic teaching or are very limited.

(d) FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Although we are convinced that Somaliland today is a Trust Territory and placed under the United Nations International Trusteeship System, the present rule of Italy leads us to believe that Somaliland administered as a colony and NOT as a trust Territory. To this we are compelled to state as well that there is no freedom of speech or press, as in the case of territories under colonialism. Anyone who is found to have spoken freely is imprisoned and taken to the Mogadishu goals, without first being brought before a court to defend themselves. There existed in Somaliland only one press which belongs to the A.F.I.S., and the local paper publishes solely letters of praise to the A.F.I.S. and to the government of Rome.

(e) UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL VISITING MISSION DEVIATED BY THE ITALIAN TRUSTEESHIP ADMINISTRATION OF SOMALIA

Like many Somali spectators, we believe that the Visiting Mission of the United Nations Trusteeship Council have been deviated from finding out the truth of the political, social and economical condition of Somaliland. In fact, chosen italian officials of A.F.I.S. were and are acting as cicerone to the Visiting Mission's Members, and the latter have visited and will visit only the places already prepared by the Administration itself. In this respect, like ourselves, Somalis invite the Members of the Visiting Mission to have a look at various quarters of Mogadishu, more particularly the Somali quarters, provided that, if you are to find out concised and concrete truths about the pitious misery and deplorable state within which Somalis are thrown into as a whole and Somaliland in particular, you do not take with you any italians as cicerone.

In conclusion of the above circumstances, we beg the Members of the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council to consider carefully the deplorable facts outlined in our present humble petition. We are confident that your Excellencies will not fail to report all the facts you gather to the U.N. General Assembly, from whose International Body the Somali People have much faith and expect therefrom that justice will be meeted out from where it should

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be. We are honoured to declare to you our strong faith in the United Nations Charter and its democratic principles. On these principles' light we beg you to reconsider carefully Italy's failure to comply with the provisions of the clauses of the Trusteeship Agreement and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We beg you to forgive us for having traspassed your precious valuable time, and in the meantime we are looking forward to received your kind and favourable reply, with many thanks in anticipation.

We beg to remain, Sirs,
your most obedient servants:

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 643 SOMALI ORPHANS

1. SALAD ALI HAJI
2. OMAR ABDI ALI
3. ARTAN ADEN SAMANTAR
4. YUSUF HERZI ABDI

1. (Signed) SALAD ALI HAJI
2. " ARTAN ADEN SAMANTAR
3. " OMAR ABDI ALI
4. " YUSUF HERZI ABDI

C/o Villaggio Bondere and Hamarwen,
Mogadishu.
