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PETITION FROM MESSRS. SAYED AHMED MUSSE, SHECK ALI MUSSE,  
HASSAN ABDI AND OTHERS CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER  
ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 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 1 February 1953, from Messrs. Sayed Ahmed Musse, Sheck Ali Musse, Hassan Abdi and others, concerning the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

Translated from Italian

To: H.E. Minister Mario Canino  
Head of A.F.I.S. - Mogadiscio

To: H.E. the Chairman of the Advisory Council  
of the United Nations - Mogadiscio

1 February 1953

We, the undersigned Somali farmers, living at Afgoi, are humbly forced to request justice and protection from Your Excellency as a result of the partiality and illegal pressure exerted against us by the Afgoi Resident and Warrant Officer of the Carabinieri in command of the Police Station - to our moral and material detriment.

An Italian named Ing. Buccioni endeavoured, toward the end of 1951, to take possession of some arable land belonging to us, the undersigned and other families (women and orphans included) comprising about eighty people. Having been delegated by them, we submit the present petition on their behalf. When we made our complaints the then Resident arrested three of us, keeping us three whole days in the Afgoi prison, but the wilful appropriation of the land by the said Buccioni was denied.

On 4 September 1952 Mr. Buccioni brought again irrigation machinery on our land; we advised the local authority, and thanks to our lawful action, the abuse by Mr. Buccioni was avoided.

After all this, Mr. Buccioni is now once more taking possession of our land, and this time with the aid and protection of the Afgoi Resident and the Commanding Officer of the village's Police Station, who replied to our request for protection with threats of imprisonment for any person who went near the land in question; for this reason our fellow villager AHMED OMAR MOHAMED has been in prison eight days. Moreover the Italian Authority today brought from Mogadiscio on our "shambas" two lorry loads of Police Constables fully armed and, had we not been very prudent, a massacre would have occurred.

The land in question measures approximately 500 hectares, all under cultivated maize and millet now growing. It lies on the right bank of the river and stretches right up the bank to El Gode village (Afgoi). We repeat that it has been, not for years but for centuries, absolute property of various families. Our right of ownership has never before been disputed, neither during the former administration of Italian Somaliland nor during the British administration, and Mr. Buccioni had never dared to claim it. Moreover, the land in question has never been expropriated by the said Authority.

We point out that crops harvested on the land in question are the only source of food for the sustenance of various families, comprising about eighty persons.

In view of the foregoing, we invoke Your Excellencies' intervention, to protect us from unlawful spoliation of the vital possession of our land, of which Mr. Buccioni is now taking possession, with the help of the local Authority and Police, against our clearly expressed will.

Awaiting a reply, we thank you and beg to remain, with kindest regards,

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd) Sayed Ahmed Musse (in Arabic)  
Sheck Ali Musse  
Hassen Abdi ( fingerprint)  
Hassen Omar  
Omar Hussen Badafur (in Arabic)  
Haji Avou Mohamed           "  
Sheck Ibrahim Mohamed       "  
Sheck Abdullahi Sidou       "  
Haji Maiou Elmi               "  
Haji Ahmed Awes               "  
Mohamed Hassan Abdullahi (fingerprint)  
Hassan Gassim (Arabic)  
Abdulkadir Haji Ali (Arabic)  
Abdi-Karim Ali Mohamed (Arabic)  
Mohamed Omar (Arabic)

Received by the United Nations Advisory Council in Mogadiscio on 2 February 1953.

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