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PETITION FROM MR. SAID FARAH ELMI  
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, an undated communication from Mr. Said Farah Elmi 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.

THE PRESIDENT  
THE U.N. ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND  
UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Mogadiscio

Sir,

I, the undersigned SAID FARAH ELMI born in Obbia, Mudugh Province, beg to submit my humble petition with the hope that, after careful perusal of the contents, same will meet your most benevolent consideration.

About a month ago I was brought to the police station (Beit-el Ras) for having litigated with one my cousin by name of Guled Dini. At the police station my cousin and I were requested to give our names and our tribes. My cousin was released immediately after he gave his name and his tribe. I told the police my name and added that I could not give my tribe as I was a member of the Somali Youth League. On saying this I was soon seized and put in chains and thereafter I was subjected to unhuman physical tortures, by the hands of an Inspector called Abdi Elmi. This is the fourth time that I have been arrested without reason or better to say with the sole reason of my political colour.

Before the italians took over the administration of the Territory, I was a wellknown merchant in Obbia and I had also my cattles in the bush. Today, I am completely a poor man and am continually persecuted by the Italians likewise the thousands S.Y.L. members, most of whom are today either in the various prisons of the Territory or are wandering here and there without work and hope.

This last time the police physically maltreated me to such point that after more a month I am unable to walk and as you can yourself see my left leg is still swollen and wounded because of the consequent of the chains and physical torture for continous 15 days.

On coming out from prison I learnt that my cattle (the few remained) on whose my family lived, had been confiscated for the collective punishment of 2000 camels imposed on the Saad tribe on account of the recent incident between the latter and the Soleman tribe in the Mudugh Province.

In view of the circumstance, I beg you, may I beseech you to assist me in any possible way so that I may obtain my rights from the Italian Administration, or do we Somalis understand that the U.N. Advisory Council is incompetent to assist us when we are wronged and persecuted unjustly by the Italian Administration?

I am confident that you will extend me your generous hand in this vital case.

Your help is greatly appreciated with many thanks in anticipation.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant