

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



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GENERAL

T/PET.11/140
2 November 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. MOHAMED ALI AHMED AND 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 6 October 1951 from Mr. Mohamed Ali Ahmed and 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.

6th October, 1951

THE PRESIDENT
THE U.N. VISITING MISSION
MOGADISHU (Somaliland)

Sir,

We, the undersigned somalis and arabs, who served Italy during the former Italian Government as road-building labourers, most humbly and respectfully have the honour to submit this petition, hoping that its contents will meet with your kind consideration.

(1) From 1932 to 1939, we served the former Italian Government as road-building gang labourers with the 'Opera Pubblica'. When Italy entered into war against the Allied Forces in 1939, all native labourers and Italian employees of the Opera Pubblica were forcibly told to join the army. In fact, we were given military uniforms and rations and have been attached to the Genio Militare (Military Engineering Coy.) under the command of Lt. Navara.

(2) As a matter of fact, Italy was defeated in East Africa and the British Forces occupied Somaliland in 1941. Most of the native askaris of our section were captured prisoners together with their Officers in that very year, and part of them were evacuated to Ethiopia for the preparation of a resistance block against the foreseen British occupation. The imprisoned ones apart from their undergoing to every serious possible illtreatment in the concentration camp, have lost all their properties which were looted from them.

(3) Before the evacuation to Ethiopia, the native askaris of our section were told that Italy would be coming back after 6 months, after which period our salaries for the months of December 1940, January and February 1941 shall be given to us, and have been imparted instructions to remain at our respective posts.

(4) On resuming powers on Somaliland, Italy had formally promised to somalis that a 10 years back-pay shall be given to all ex-askaris and government employees of the former italian government. We addressed naturally many petitions to the A.F.I.S. requesting for our salaries as well as the promised back-pay. However, no consideration were given to our petitions; further our

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request to interview with the Administrator of Somalia in this respect was rejected.

It is a well known fact that most of all former askaris and government employees of the former Italian Government, have been given the 10 years back-pay; but we think it is unjust to deny such a right to us, in consideration of the **fact** that not only did we expose our life in danger for the glory of the Italian Flag, but also have sustained great damages and losses of all our properties and patrimony while in the concentration camp as war prisoners.

We therefore, beg the honourable Members of the U.N. Visiting Mission to extend to us their succour hands in order that our salaries for the above mentioned three months as well as the 10 years back-pay is accorded to us. Meanwhile we beg of you to please bring the contents of our present petition along with the enclosed copy^{1/} which we previously addressed to the UN Advisory Council without ever receiving even an acknowledgement to the kind attention of the august Trusteeship Council.

We are anxiously awaiting your early and favourable reply, with many thanks in anticipation.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants:

1. MOHAMED ALI AHMED, somali ex Capo Gruppo (Signed in Arabic)
2. Mohamed Ali - Adani, arab, ex Capo Gruppo - do -
3. ASSIR MOHAMED - Somali " " " - do -
4. MUSSA ARBO " " " " (Signed) Musa Arbo
5. MAOW AHMED " " " " (Finger-printed)
6. SAID MUSLAH Arab " " " (Signed) Said Muslah
7. ALI MATTAN Somali " " " " Ali Mattan

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The text of the enclosed copy has already been reproduced in document T/PET.11/37.
