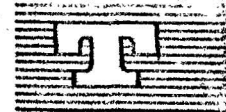


UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



DOCUMENTS
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GENERAL

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PET.11/235
6 February 1952

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PETITION FROM MOHAMED SCEK ABDURRAHMAN 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 22 January 1952 from Mohamed Scek Abdurrahman 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.

Mogadishu, 22nd. January, 1952

To: THE PRESIDENT,
THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MOGADISHU.

Sir,

We, the undersigned MOHAMED SCEK ABDURRAHMAN, ABDULLE BERCAN AND MOHAMED ALI ISMAN, in the name of the Rer Mobareck, dwelling at the village of Mobareck (Afgoi area), with all due respects have the honour to submit this petition of protest against the local authorities of Afgoi for facilitating the eviction of cultivation land of the Rer Mobareck, in the fervent hope that your honour will kindly take it into consideration.

Object of our present petition is draw your kind attention to the fact that some 500 hectares of land belonging to the people of Mobareck from immemorable times, is now being arbitrarily evicted by a certain Sig. Pelligrini who is assisted by the local authorities of Afgoi, and particularly the Resident.

In fact, when the Resident asked our people to cede to Sig. Pelligrini (who was pretending that the land belong to him since 1939) and they refused, the following persons, whose property of cultivation land were that more particularly desired by Pelligrini, were immediately imprisoned by the Resident himself on the 4th. January, 1952:

1. MOHAMED HUSSEIN HAJI ALI BUE
2. HAJI MOHAMED ALI BUE
3. ABDULLE HUSSEN HAJI ALI BUE, and
4. AEDI HINTIRO' HAJI HASSAN.

On the 8th. instant, the Chiefs and Elders of the Rer Mobareck went to Afgoi at the Resident's presence. When asked to release the arrested persons, the Resident refused categorically, even on bail. For having only refused to cede their property, our four people are imprisoned. Is it a fault to defend ones own legitimate property ? The Resident said to the Chiefs and Elders: "If the imprisoned persons are released from prison, it is certain that the people of Mobareck will have a hard head, but if they remain in prison the head

/of the people

of the people of Mobareck will be light". This very words spoken by the Resident, make everything clear. The assertion of the Resident shows us the ill-intention of the Resident not only in the question of the 550 hectares of land, but also in any future one. We are sure that the Resident, who is inevitably in agreement with the A.F.I.S., wish to moderate our people i.e. the local authorities are eager enough to make our people their instrument, and particularly the tools of the Resident so that his future orders and requests for lands for italians is granted to them without further ado.

The four imprisoned persons are still in jail, and shall remain there unless they give up their legitimate property. And in future all our people shall be subject to the same treatment should they resist to defend their cultivation land property.

It is unheard and at the same time very absurd to see an administration pretending to construct a democratic independent state in a few more years, should breach the basic and fundamental principles of democracy. We could say that in this Trust Territory there exist no Law since anyone subject has no right whatsoever on his legitimate property, a right which is denied to they/him by the Administering Authority with consequent eviction of such their/his property.

In view of the above circumstances, we are reluctantly compelled to beseech your immediate intervention in this vital case, so that the local authorities do not carry out their evil purposes in regard to the Rer Mobareck's cultivation lands; and to please see that our 4 men are released from prison. Such eviction of land property on the part of the Administration in favour to Italians is an unforgettable violation to the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement for Somaliland, and more specifically that of Art. 14. We are sure, that, should the Members of the Advisory Council intervene in this vital case, the A.F.I.S. will not evict our lands. Before closing this petition, we state that the land in question constitute the only patrimony of the Rer Mobareck who live only of agriculture. It is evident that should the cultivation land of the Rer Mobareck be illegally and arbitrarily alienated, the A.F.I.S. will inevitably commit an inhuman crime since hundreds of persons shall be subject to the most squallied misery and poverty; however, we are sure that this will not happen in the eyes of the Advisory Council, who represent here the United Nations Organization, in whom we have much faith.

/We are

We are confident that you will give a just and equitable consideration to our requests, in the hope that you would favour our justified grievances, and in the meantime we are anxiously awaiting your early and favourable reply, with many heartily thanks in advance. Meantime we are pleased to take the opportunity for declaring ourselves

to be, Sir,

your most obedient servantz:

1. MOHAMED SCEK ABDURRAHAM

(signed)

2. ABDULLE BERKAN

3. MOHAMED ALI ISMAN

Received by the United Nations Advisory Council at Mogadiscio on 21 January 1952.
