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PETITION FROM MR. YUSUF MUSSA ABUCAR  
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 22 September 1951 from Mr. Yusuf Mussa Abucar 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, and forms a supplement to the petition set forth in document T/PET.11/55.

51-56845

YUSUF MUSSA ABUKAR

c/o P.O. Box No. 352

MOGADISHU (Somaliland)

Date: 22nd September 1951

To:

THE PRESIDENT

THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S

VISITING MISSION FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY

OF SOMALILAND

MOGADISHU

Sir,

I, the undersigned somali Yusuf Mussa Abukar, presently residing in Mogadishu, with all due respect have the honour to address you this humble petition, in the fervent hope that the contents contained herein will meet with your kind consideration.

I beg to state, at the outset, that I am one of the many Somali traders, who resided in Baidoa prior to the British Administration, and carried commercial activity. In addition I was well settled in Baidoa, where I had 2 shops, 1 restaurant and one building for dwelling purposes. I may add also that, like many other somali traders, I was a wholesale and goods importer.

Allow me to state that, on medical grounds, I arrived in Mogadishu on 7th April 1950. While I was still in Mogadishu, and exactly on the 24th April 1950, all my property have been looted, and my buildings devastated in the presence of the local authorities of Baidoa as well as the Police or security forces of the A.F.I.S. - My family were subject to inhuman illtreatments on the part of the italian element looters. In fact, I regret to state that, during this unforgettable incident, my mother and my wife, who at that time was pregnant, were severely beaten on the head and have lost on this account their sights. Both of them are blind at present. My wife after the beating had a miscarriage.

Those somalis who saved their skins were deported by the Administration, leaving thus all their property and building uncustoded. Many of them, like  
/myself,

myself, are today in Mogadishu on voluntary exiles and in a state of pitiness. As you are perhaps aware of the true nature of the incident of Baidoa, to save time and space, I will not enumerate the facts. However, it is deplorable to note that, as the Administration itself have instigated the incident, no necessary steps has been yet taken by the United Nations. The looted traders were given formal promises that they will be given export-import licence facilities and a compensation. Up to date nothing of what the Administration itself, spontaneously promised is granted to the somali looted traders.

I wish to report that, on February 1951, I went to Baidoa. At the Police Station, I noticed some chairs of mine, one of which was handed over to me by the officer, while the other valuable furniture taken from my shops, restaurant and house were not given to me. On all my furnitures there is written my initials e.g. "Y.M.". To this effect I would like to state that I am prepared to show to the Visiting Mission, when you will arrive at Baidoa during your visit there, all my furnitures in possession of the local italian authorities namely the police offices of Baidoa. This will prove, among others, the truthfulness of my assertions. To this, I shall be extremely grateful if you will kindly take me with you to Baidoa, so that I may prove clearly as day light the contents of my present letter.

I wish to stress the fact that, should I arrive before or remain after the Visiting Mission, I may be killed and imprisoned by the local authorities there. Further I may not be allowed to see when you visit there, because it is too sure that the local authorities will not wish that people voice for what is right. Therefore, I wish you to issue me with a note so that I may present it to the local authorities. By being in possession of this letter or note from you, I am sure that I will not be molested and shall get the opportunity to confer with you.

Like the other somali looted traders, I was not given any compensation or any trading facilities. As I was an Interpreter during the italian fascist regime, I applied for the 10 years back-pay promised by the Italian Government, as well as employment with the Administration. In another petition to the A.F.I.S. I asked for trade facilities but in vain. I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter addressed to me from the Administration, which will prove these facts. I would like to state, however, that most of my previous superiors are actually in Somaliland. These officials were taken prisoners by the British /occupying

occupying forces in Harrar in the same day I was imprisoned. I will name few of them in this letter, and they are:

1. H.E. Gorini - former Secretary Gen. for the Harrar Government  
(Actually Secretary General of A.F.I.S.)
2. Dr. L. Gasbarri - former Political Officer of Harrar (actually  
Regional Commissioner of Benadir Province)

and many other officials and clerks.

When the British forces have occupied Harrar, all my wealth have been taken away. I was for 6 months in a concentration camp as a War Prisoner. When I was released from the concentration camp, I returned back to Somaliland and settled down in Baidoa, where on April 24th, 1950, as stated before, all my property were looted and the buildings devastated.

Before closing this letter, I wish to ask the Visiting Mission, the following questions:

1. Is there any law permitting the Italian Trustee Administration to instigate incidents, then deny the right to compensation and in the case of traders the right of trading facilities?
2. Is there any law keeping Somalis who were former government employees from taking up their posts like the Italians?
3. And finally is there any law permitting the local authorities of a trust territory to take into illegal possession of poor citizens furnitures and other valuable staff?

Let me say, Sir, that very often the Somalis ask themselves whether really Somaliland would become after the proclaimed 10 years an independent and free State, in view of the continuous tyrannical illtreatments, oppressions on the part of the Italian Trusteeship Administration. Is really Somaliland under an International Trusteeship System or is it a colony of Italy?

In conclusion, while I humble beg to be pardoned for having traspassed your valuable time, I am looking forward to receiving your kind and favourable reply, which reply depend the achievement of the rights I claim for as well as the crushing of my hopes, and that of my numerous family consisting 14 persons.

I thank you very much in advance.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.  
(Signed) Yusuf Mussa Abukar, Somali.

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A. F. I. S.

Residence of Mogadiscio

Reg. No. 6489/C

25 January 1951

Subject: Various requests

To: Yusuf Mussa Abucar, Migiurtino, Hamaruen Vill.,  
MOGADISCIO

Regarding your requests forwarded to His Excellency the Secretary-General, we wish to inform you that:

(a) The present regulations for the payment of arrears establish that these arrears are due only to those persons who were enrolled in military organizations under the ex-Government of Somaliland.

(b) The engagement of interpreters was completed before your application. No positions are therefore available, at least for the present.

(c) Regarding Somali butter and sesame grains, we wish to inform you that for the time being the export of these products is not allowed.

Dr. G. Soleri  
Resident