

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL
T/PET.11/26
10 April 1951
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ITALIAN

PETITION FROM MR. MOHAMED ALI YUSUF 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 17 January, 1951 from Mr. Mohamed Ali Yusuf 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.

Mogadiscio, 17 January 1951

To Their Excellencies, the Administrator and Chairman

of the United Nations Advisory Council

We, a group of Somali citizens, request Your Excellency to intervene to redress a great injustice which has been done to us. Since the advent of the Italian Administration, military personnel (a colonel and other officers) have made their appearance in the Palais de Justice, and have proceeded to judge us Somalis. As we are free people, however, we wish to have civilian and not military judges, as it was only the Fascists who used to put military personnel in their courts. Even Somali soldiers should be tried by civilian judges, as they too are free and are democratic people.

We are convinced that Italy came solely to administer and mete out justice and this treatment of us Somalis must therefore stop.

If the Administrator, who is such a just man, does not take the matter up, it means that the United Nations should look into this injustice.

I have the honour etc.

(Signed) Mohamed Ali Yusuf
and others