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PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE, MOGADISCIO 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 11 May 1952 from the Somali Youth League, Mogadiscio, 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.

Copy

SYL - Somali Youth League  
Head Office : Mogadishu (Somaliland)  
P.O. Box N. 352  
Telegraphic address : SYLMOG

11 May 1952

Dear Sir,

Attached is a letter we addressed to the Chairman of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. We respectfully request you, Sir, to forward it to the Trusteeship Council as quickly as possible. We also request that the said letter be circulated to the Member States of the United Nations.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) Haji Farah Ali,  
Secretary General of SYL

THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK, N.Y. (USA).

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 16 May 1952

/SYL - Somali

Copy

SYL - Somali Youth League  
Head Office: Mogadishu (Somaliland)  
P.O. Box N. 352  
Telegraphic address: SYLMOG

7 May 1952

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the decision of the United Nations General Assembly of November 1949, Italy has resumed the provisional Administration of this Trust Territory in April 1950. To our great surprise and indeed deep disappointment, we did notice then that almost the entire officials of the new Italian Administration, particularly the senior officials, were those who ruled previously here and the adjoining territories while this part of East Africa was under the colonial regime of fascist Italy.

From early 1950, these old colonial officials did everything in their power to ban the Somali Youth League, namely the largest and the only effective somali political party in this Trust Territory. They do so only because this political Movement did oppose strongly the restoration of italian rule under any form or guise. The League has sent representatives of its own to the III, IV and V Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly when the Assembly was considering the future of the former italian colonies in Africa including this part of Somaliland.

As soon as Italy resumed the power, the officials of the new administration lost no time to persecute and illtreat in an unhuman manner the members of SYL and their sympathizers; up to now, these acts of revenge and hatred continue unceasingly. The very serious incident of Baidoa of April 1950 took place few days after Italy took over the provisional administration of this Territory. In this very serious incident several members of the League were killed, many others wounded, while thousands SYL members, their families and sympathizers fled to elsewhere in order to save their lives. These unfortunate refugees lost their houses, shops and all other properties including cash, livestock, commercial goods, house and store furniture, personal clothings etc. Houses, shops and stores owned by the refugees were either set fire or destroyed in their presence,

/while

while all the property inside them were looted beforehand by the pro-italian elements of Hisbia Dighil Mirifle.

During their criminal operations, the above pro-italian elements received full support, protection and the blessings of the local italian authority, namely the same italian authority who armed and ordered them to attack the League and its members. The pro-italian elements also destroyed the premises occupied by SYL Branch of Baldoa and all League property such as furniture, and other materials.

Similar italian-instigated incidents took place in many other districts of the territory. By pursuing its policy of 'divide and rule', the administration also did instigate tribal fightings such as the very serious tribal disturbances which took place at Mudugh Province in August 1950 and many similar ones.

We did submit to the Trusteeship Council several documents giving full details of the incidents and tribal fightings instigated by Italy since she took over the administration of this Trust Territory some two years ago. We also did submit details of the continued persecutions against the members of this national Movement. The above documents were submitted to the Trusteeship Council either directly or through the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland.

After visiting the neighbouring East African territories of Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urindi, a United Nations Visiting Mission arrived in this capital town of Mogadishu in September last year. The Visiting Mission spent here about 2 weeks; during this very short period the Mission also did visit some of the centres in the interior of the Territory. Both in Mogadishu and in the centres of the interior visited, the Visiting Mission had received representatives of the Somalis inhabiting in the towns and the rural villages. It also received representatives of nomad somali tribes inhabiting in the interior. The above somali representatives complained against the Administering Authority for having violated the Trusteeship Agreement for this Trust Territory. Similar complaints were submitted to the Mission by countless somali groups and individuals.

Representatives of the Somali Youth League both here in Mogadishu and in the interior were received by the United Nations Visiting Mission. These our representatives did point out that, with the exception of few corrupt elements, the inhabitants of this Territory, particularly the educated and the politically

/minded

minded somalis, are dissatisfied with the way in which things are handled by the Italian officials since these latter resumed the Administration of this Trust Territory in April 1950. In fact, these old colonial officials of the present Italian 'Trusteeship' Administration here did violate practically all the main provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement, the Declaration of Constitutional Principles annexed thereto, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Full particulars concerning the illtreatment and the unhuman persecutions suffered by the SYL members and their sympathizers since the 2 years of Italian administration in this portion of Somaliland were submitted to the Visiting Mission. Also we did submit to the said Mission particulars concerning this Territory's present political, economic, social and cultural conditions together with our recommendations.

Soon after the United Nations Visiting Mission departed from here, things have turned from bad to worse, indeed very worse. This time the old colonial officials of the Italian Administration did carry out, openly and continuously, large scale persecutions against the members of this political Movement. Here is a brief summary of some of the open persecutions we did suffer since the departure of the said Visiting Mission:

At the end of last September a member of the SYL named Mohamed Nur who acted as interpreter in English when the United Nations Visiting Mission did interview our representatives in Chisimaio District was arrested by the Italian Authority there just the day after the Visiting Mission left Chisimaio for Bardera. After a detention of several weeks, he was convicted for 5 months of imprisonment with hard labour. As soon as he completed his term of imprisonment, Mohamed Nur was forced to leave Chisimaio; in this connection, the local Italian authority did issue an order to deport him to Galkayu, a centre in Mudugh Province which is situated about 1,200 km. from Chisimaio. By issuing such a deportation order, the Italian Authority deprived him his own business in Chisimaio. Under the late British Military Administration in Somaliland, Mohamed Nur was one of the somalis trained as Police N.C.Os.

Early in October 1951, some 12 leaders of the SYL in Alula District (Mijertain Province) were arrested by Dr. Lucchetti, the Commissario of the Province and by Dr. Piras, the Residente of Alula. Among the arrested leaders there was Haji Farah Ghesot, the Secretary of the SYL Branch of Alula. At that

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time, we did request that the 12 arrested SYL leaders be released on bail pending their trial; unfortunately, both the Provincial Authority of Mijertain and the Central Italian Authority here in Mogadishu ignored this request of ours.

After about 6 months of detention, the above mentioned 12 leaders were all convicted with prison terms ranging from 9 to 12 months of hard labour by the Mijertain Provincial Court. It is interesting to point out that this Court was presided by Dr. Lucchetti, namely the same Commissario of the Province who issued the order to arrest the convicted SYL leaders. Like many similar others, this conviction was based entirely on 'framed-up' charges; in fact, such political convictions are very common nowadays in this Trust Territory. Almost all the victims of this form of political persecutions are members and sympathizers of this anti-colonial political Movement, a Movement which advocates the complete independence of Somaliland within the shortest possible time.

In June last year, the Italian Authority of Mijertain also did arrest 14 members of the League including some leaders and influential personalities, all residing the same District of Alula. After several months of detention, the Regional Court of Mijertain did pass prison sentences against them. These new victims of the notorious political convictions practised quite often by the Italian 'Trusteeship' Administration in this Trust Territory were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 7 to 18 months of hard labour.

Last February a very serious incident organized by the same Italian Authority of Mijertain did occur at Bender Belia, a small sea-port centre in that Province. This centre is inhabited almost exclusively by members of the SYL, their families and sympathizers. On February 4, 1952, armed Ilaloes (irregular district police) stationed there did open fire on 5 dhows owned by member of the Somali Youth League. The entire crew and the passengers of the said 5 dhows were members of the League and their families. Together with the regular Police also stationed there, the Ilaloes did open fire on unarmed civilians gathered in the streets and the markets of the centre in question. As a result of this firing, 6 persons including a woman and two children were wounded. The conditions of Hindia Farhan, the woman and two men: Sheikh Mursal Mohamed and Said Ismail were described as very serious.

This terror and lawlessness compelled most of the inhabitants of Bender Beila to seek refuge elsewhere living behind their homes, and other property. When the

/Residente

Residente or the District Commissioner of Garde arrived at Bender Beila three days after the incident, his first job was to order a wholesale arrest of the members of the SYL who still remained there. Dr. Bedini, the Residente of Garde District comprising the small town of Bender Beila itself, also did order to transfer to the Provincial Prison of Bender Kassim 21 leaders of the SYL including Sheikh Mursal Mohamed and Said Ismail, both seriously wounded in the said incident.

The 21 SYL leaders are still detained in the above Provincial Prison. Undoubtedly, their fate will be the same as that of thousands of innocent somalis who were convicted on 'framed-up' charges. Despite the repeated protests and requests we submitted to the highest Italian Authority here in Mogadishu nothing has been done so far to establish the cause or causes of the very serious incident of Bender Beila and thus punish those responsible for it. On the contrary Dr. Bendini and his Illaloes at Bender Beila continue to do their best in order to create further serious incidents there.

In the night of March 6 this year a leader of a local pro-italian party was wounded with gun bullets; he received two slight wounds from which he recovered few days after the incident. This took place here in Mogadishu where he resides. The wounded pro-italian leader is named Mohamed Sheikh Osman -better known as Edmondo Umberto, a Christian name under which he was baptized when he converted himself into Catholicism. Edmondo Umberto is the head of 'Unione Africani della Somalia', a party founded and financed by the italians.

Within few hours of the incident, fully armed policemen surrounded the somali questers in this Capital town of Mogadishu. Of course, this sudden police raid has caused a general panic among the native population inhabiting in the said quarters. During the whole night of March 7, somalis were arrested on sight.

Loaded with guarded police trucks, the arrested persons were led to the various Police Stations where they were asked to state their names and tribes. Anyone giving his name and full particulars but who declined to state his tribe was detained and subjected to every sort of corporal punishment and humiliations. Those who declined to state their tribes did so because they consider tribalism as a very primitive system. All the victims were members and sympathizers of this progressive political Movement, a Movement whose Statute -as it is well-known- condemns all forms of primitive systems particularly tribal organizations.

All the Police Stations in this Capital town of Mogadishu were overcrowded with thousands of somalis arrested during the night of March 7, 1952. In groups of hundreds, they were jailed in a small, airless, dirty jail-rooms originally built to accomodate not more than a dozen of prisoners. When all jail-rooms available were full, thousands of the detained somalis were kept outside the police stations where they spent the whole night and the day after without a shelter from either the cool nights or the hot sunny days of this coastal centre. On March 8, all the detained persons -numbering about 3000- were ordered to appear before the Italian Marescialloes or Police Inspectors for further qustioning. Again, they were asked to state their tribes and those refusing were returned to the jail after being subjected further humiliations and physical punishments.

For over 24 hours, no food was provided to the detained somalis; on the contrary, the Police returned foods and drinks brought for the detainees by their relatives. Some of the detainees were released in the afternoon of March 8, while others -numbering some hundreds- were deported to different places in the interior on the following day. Most of these latters have homes, families, and positions here in Mogadishu.

As we did mention above, all persons who declined to state their tribes were beaten, some of them seriously. The most serious case was that of Abdi Ibrahim, a member of this political Movement. On March 8, he was beaten so badly by Italian Carabieries stationed in the Police Station of Beit-El-Ras. He was unconscious for several hours, and many persons in that station believed him dead; in fact, a rumor about his death spread rapidly in the town. Few weeks later, Abdi Ibrahim was convicted on 'framed-up' charges; he was accused for resisting to public agents and sentenced to 7 months imprisonment with hard labour.

Haji Dirie Hersi, a prominent member of the League and one of the leading somali business-men in the Territory, was arrested few hours after the shooting on Edmondo Umberto and conducted to the Central Police Station. Few days later he was transferred to the Central Prison of Magadishu. Up to now, he is swaiting trial. The Italian Authority also did arrest Sheick Mohamed Siad, our Secretary of Dusa Mareb District, together with 2 members; Shireh Jama and Ahmed Haji Hashi. Arrived here from Dusa Mareb the night before the incident took place, the group was arrested on March 12, 1952, and conducted to the Police Station of

/Beit-El-Ras.



Beit-El-Ras. The three men were kept there for several days during which they were asked questions concerning the shooting of Edmondo Umberto and then transferred to the Central Prison of Mogadishu. Sheikh Mohamed Siad, the Secretary, and Shieh Jama were released few days ago. We wish to point out, however, that the two above named members were imprisoned for a period of about seven weeks without any reason whatsoever. Ahmed Haji Hashi, the third member, is still detained in the Central Prison of Mogadishu.

As we stated above, some unknown person or persons fired on Edmondo Umberto wounding him slightly; the said pro-Italian leader recovered few days later. The incident which did occur in the night of March 6, 1942, had grave consequence, indeed a very grave one. This incident will always be remembered by those innocent somalis who paid a very dear price for it. The above brief summary shows clearly how the Italian Police Authority did terrorize the whole native population of this capital town of Mogadishu ; for almost a week, they continued to arrest thousands of somalis, illtreat them, and finally deport them into different places in the interior. With the excuse of discovering those responsible for the incident, the Police had a very good chance in order to persecute the nationalistic elements, particularly those suspected to belong this political Movement; in fact, these latters were used as the main targets of the Police persecutions.

Dr. Wagner, the Commissario of Lower Juba, and Dr. Piras, the Residente of Chisimaio District (the former Resident of Alula District), did issue an order to arrest Jama Musa, our Secretary of Chisimaio Branch, together with a member of Local Committee named Mohamed Issa. These two leaders of the SYL were falsely charged of abusing public officials. The arrest took place at Chisimaio on March 22, 1952, and the following day some policemen escorted them to the Central Prison of Mogadishu where they are detained up to now. As usual, our request that the two above-mentioned SYL leaders be released on bail pending their trial was flatly rejected by both the regional and the higher Italian Authority here in Mogadishu.

Dr. Wagner and Dr. Piras also did arrest eight members of the Local Committee of Chisimaio Branch. These SYL leaders were arrested on March 25, 1952. They were arrested in connection with an incident which took place at Chisimaio the night before their arrest. In that night, a man called Salah Omar was hit by an unknown person. There is no evidence whatsoever to prove that all or even one  
/of the eight

of the eight Committee members have something to do with the above incident. Nevertheless, they are still jailed in the Provincial Prison of Chisimaio; these innocent leaders will undoubtedly remain there at least for several months.

On March 12, 1952, some policemen stationed at Brava did arrest Haji Abdirahman Mohamed and Mahamud Yusuf Aden, both members of a SYL Inspecting Mission which was touring to some centers in the interior including Brava. Arrived there few hours earlier, the two members of the said Mission were escorted to the Brava Police Station where they met the Italian Maresciallo who ordered the policemen to arrest them. When the two members asked the Maresciallo the reason of the arrest, his prompt answer was that they were 'new-comers'. After being subjected to ill-treatment and humiliations, the two above named members of the Inspecting Mission were jailed and then conducted to the Brava Prison where they spent the whole night and the day after. Had the Signor Maresciallo of Brava to arrest all the 'new-comers' he would certainly have no enough space for them. But the fact is that our leaders who happen to visit some of the centres in the interior such as Brava, whether on duty or otherwise, are the only persons considered as 'new-comers'. Accordingly they are arrested immediately and deported to elsewhere if necessary:

The few specific cases just outlined are a small, a relatively small part of the undemocratic activities in which the senior officials of the present Italian 'Trusteeship' Administration here are engaged. What we understand is that Italy, as the Administering Authority, is here to assist and guide the somalis until they obtain their independence within the next eight years. In the meantime, she is obliged to advance the political, economic, social and cultural conditions of the inhabitants. Far from this, the old colonial officials who practically control the Italian Administration in this Trust Territory are doing everything they can to restore conditions which existed during the pre-war days when this part of Somaliland was under the colonial regime of fascist Italy. These senior officials of the Administration are mainly engaged to persecute, almost daily, these progressive elements who oppose the restoration of colonial regime. Of course, the victims of such political persecutions are the members and sympathizers of this anti-colonialist Movement.

The undemocratic activities of the old colonial officials of the Italian Administration are increasing daily. Such activities were intensified since a

United Nations Visiting Mission left here last October after a short visit; since then, countless members of our Movement were convicted on political grounds. Some of the old colonial officials, namely: Dr. Piras, the former Residente of Alula District now Residente of Chisimaio; Dr. Wagner, the Commissario of Lower Juba Province; Dr. Lucchetti, the Commissario of Mijortain Province; Dr. Bedini the Resident of Gardo District; Dr. Ducati, the Residente of Merca District; Dr. Scanu, the Public Prosecutor; and many others were quite active in their attempt to wreck the Somali Youth League.

The repeated protests, both in oral and in written, we submitted to the highest Italian Authority had no effect whatsoever. Attached is a copy of the letter we addressed to the Acting Administrator of this Trust Territory and the Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland on May 1, 1952.

We respectfully request the Honourable members of the Trusteeship Council to consider carefully this petition of ours as well as those we did submit through the United Nations Visiting Mission which visited here last September. All necessary steps should be taken in order to end the Administering Authority's continuous violations of the Trusteeship Agreement for this Trust Territory, the Declaration of Constitutional Principles attached thereto, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular the Trusteeship Council should stop as early as possible the persecutions and political convictions directed exclusively against the members and sympathizers of this progressive political Movement.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd) Haji Farah Ali,  
Secretary General,  
For the Central Committee  
of SYL

THE CHAIRMAN  
THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL,  
THE UNITED NATIONS,  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

Translated from Italian

ANNEX

SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE

1 May 1952

To: H.E. Minister Canino,  
Acting Administrator of Somaliland, Mogadiscio.

To H.E. The Chairman,  
United Nations Advisory Council, Mogadiscio

Further to what was set forth verbally to Your Excellency in our conversations of about three weeks ago and to the repeated protests presented by us to H.E. Ambassador Fornari during the two years of Italian Trusteeship Administration in this Territory, we take the liberty of presenting to Your Excellencies our strong protests against serious abuses and persecutions committed by some officials of the AFIS, of the police and of the judiciary, especially by the Public Prosecutor, Dr. Scanu, by the Commissioner of Kismayu, Dr. Wagner, and by the Resident of Kismayu, Dr. Piras, against members of our party, and we beg the intervention of Your Excellencies in order that the abuse and persecutions about which we complain be eliminated.

1. On 4 February of this year serious incidents took place at Bender Beila (Midjertein Province). The ilalos on duty there, with the pretext that some persons refused to hoist the Italian flag on some dhows, fired at the unarmed population wounding six persons of whom two were boys and one was a woman. The Resident of Gardo, Dr. Bidini, on whom the area depends administratively, having arrived immediately on the spot, proceeded to arrest all members of our party, including also those wounded, who are still detained in the jail of Bender Kassim. The Chief of the Office of Internal Affairs whom we had informed of the occurrence had assured us that he would instruct searching investigations to be made as to the motives of the incident, but unfortunately we cannot but affirm that this task has been entrusted precisely to those who had deliberately provoked the incident. It is, therefore, difficult to establish the truth in this manner.

2. In Kismayu the Secretary of our local branch, Giama Hagi Mussa, accompanied by a member of the local committee, Mohamed Isse Giama, had gone to the Judge

/of the

of the Commissariat at the beginning of March of this year in order to appeal a sentence pronounced by this judge against six members of our party. Having had a private discussion with the Judge, they were first accused of outrage to a public magistrate and subsequently arrested and transferred to the Central Jail of Mogadiscio where they are still detained. Despite the interest of Your Excellency in the case, provisional freedom has been denied to the aforesaid persons by the Public Prosecutor, Dr. Scanu, mainly for political reasons.

Still in Kismayu, seven members of our local committee have been under arrest for about two months because an Arab was wounded by unknown persons. The Somali Scek Mohamed Ibrahim is also in prison in Kismayu for having made a religious and political speech in the mosque and at our Headquarters. The indeed precarious and deplorable situation which Dr. Wagner and Dr. Piras created in Galcaio and Alula, where they discharged the functions of Commissioner and Resident respectively, and how the situation became normal after their transfer, are sufficiently known to the AFIS from complaints received. Now by obliging our people to become members of pro-Italian parties, by threatening the chiefs and the employees of the AFIS with dismissal, they are creating a similar situation in the Lower Juba region. They go in person to towns and villages to preside over the opening of branches of pro-Italian parties, accompanied by individuals expressly appointed for this task, such as, for instance, Hagi Musa Samantar and others.

3. The head of our section at Dusamareb, Scek Mohamed Siad, together with two others, who arrived here on the evening of 5 March of this year, were all arrested, we do not know upon what grounds, a few days after their arrival, with the exception of one (Ahmed Hagi Giama), and then set free again without any trial after forty-five days of imprisonment.

4. The incident of 6 March of this year when the Somali, Mohamed Scek Osman (Edmondo Umberto), was injured by unknown persons has given to the police the possibility and the occasion to attack the members of our party. For two consecutive evenings, as we communicated verbally on the evening of 7 March to the Chief of the Office of Internal Affairs, thousands of Somalis, especially those who replied to the inquiry as to their tribe to be Somalis and those recognized as belonging to the S.Y.L., were arrested and beaten on public roads by

/police

police officials. Several hundred of these unfortunates after a few days of detention were ordered by the police to leave the town where many of them live and have their interests. During this police raid, the Somali Abdi Ibrahim was severely beaten by the police for having refused to state his tribe, so much so that it was rumoured that he had died as a result of the blows received. This unlucky man, after having undergone this ill-treatment, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for resistance to the police authorities and to one month for refusal to give personal data (his tribe). The police, in order to justify this abuse, told the Somali citizens that they did not possess an identity card, a card which they themselves know has not yet been legally established by the AFIS.

5. On the 19th of this month, the Somali Hassan Osman called Deghei of Villabruzzi who had completed a sentence of eight months' imprisonment inflicted on him for political reasons, before being released was questioned as to his tribe by the Public Prosecutor, Dr. Scanu. Upon Hassan's reply that he was a Somali, the Public Prosecutor asked the Court to impose a sentence of fifteen days' imprisonment; this request was granted without question by the judge, and consequently Hassan Deghei was condemned to fifteen days' imprisonment for refusal to give personal data (tribe).

As we have verbally referred to Your Excellency, Dr. Scanu acts in Court more as a political official than a Public Prosecutor; a proof of this statement is found in the political attacks openly launched by the above official against our party when he presided, as judge, at the trial against the Kadi Scek Mohamed Mahamud and Hagi Abdurahman Mohamed, both from Galcaio, which took place in Mogadiscio at the beginning of last year. We formally protested against this to H.E. Gorini, then Secretary-General of the AFIS, and to Mr. Mohamed Talaat Ragheb, delegate of Egypt on the United Nations Advisory Council; identical judgments and undesirable attacks were repeated by Dr. Scanu against our party at the trial of Scek Hussen Ali, Abscir Warsama and others, when he stated, among other things, that the AFIS would make use of the law finally to eliminate this party.

The last unedifying incident is the affair of Hassan Deghei, since there was certainly no necessity for him to state his tribe, because he had completed his sentence and was about to be released.

The prosecution for outrage to a public official and for refusal to state one's tribe have become legal and very easy means to strike at the members of our  
/party.

party. In fact, our branch chief of Genale, Mohamed Osman, has been sentenced to three months' conditional imprisonment for a discussion he had had with a sergeant of the Genale police in a civil controversy existing between Mohamed Osman and his mother-in-law, in which the sergeant had no juridical authority to intervene.

Our branch chief of Sigale (Merca), Osman Abdurahman, is at present on trial for alleged insulting words uttered against the Maresciallo commanding the police station, not in his presence but referred to him by an Italian carabinieri, but since, among other things, the carabinieri does not know Somali, it is incomprehensible how he could have understood the insult in question.

6. Since our main aim is the abolition of the tribal system because it is the greatest obstacle to the unity of our people, during the past two years of Italian Trusteeship Administration of the Territory we have insisted to the Central Administration that this state of things be terminated, and if the immediate abolition were not possible, that it be made optional. Ambassador Fornari has repeatedly assured us that a decision of this nature was taken by the Reduced Committee of the Territorial Council last year. However, notwithstanding this, the state of affairs of which we complain still continues, and as we have already written, innocent persons have been sentenced for refusing to state the tribe to which they belong.

We wish to point out that since the tribe is the 15th-20th ancestor of a person, it cannot be considered as a means of identification. It is plain that the tribal system is used only by non-emancipated countries. It is a system which is advantageously exploited by colonial and imperialistic powers.

The conflicts resulting in loss of life which have occurred among various tribes during the two years of Italian Trusteeship Administration are well known to the AFIS, as also the fact that hundreds of persons have lost their lives in conflicts between tribes in many parts of the Territory.

In view of what we have stated, we beg the intervention of Your Excellencies in order that measures be taken to eliminate the abuses and persecutions pointed out by us which are not vague or general accusations but concrete facts.

Awaiting the favourable consideration of our requests, we thank you in advance.

The President  
Hagi Mohammed Hussein

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