

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.11/33  
24 April 1951

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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PETITION FROM THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE, BRANCH OF BARDERA  
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 cable dated 7 March 1951 and an undated communication from the Somali Youth League, Branch of Bardera, 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 of a cable (translated from Italian) to the United Nations Consultative Commission, Mogadishu

Bardera local authorities continue to make the same serious mistakes as on 31 March 1950.

(signed) SYL

Note from Mr. Salaheddine Fadel, Egyptian representative on the Consultative Commission (translated from Arabic)

I have seen and spoken to members of the Somali Youth League about this question. They have asked the secretary of the League's Bardera branch to supply further details and have promised to inform me of these when received.

(signed) Salaheddine Fadel

Copy

Translated from Arabic (by the Consultative Commission).

To His Excellency Salaheddine Fadel

United Nations Representative in Somaliland

We have the honour to present our compliments, together with a complaint against the actions of the Italian Government at Bardera. Neither its conduct nor its policy have changed. In their anxiety to colonize and dominate the people the Italians are behaving like Fascists. They are at present stirring up discord and quarrels among the Somali people. The following facts will bear out this statement:

1. The Government has acted unjustly towards the aged Somali Sheikh Abdullah Sheikh Miyo, who was a principal Imam and was immensely popular. His father was the principal administrator of Islamic law and was known throughout the land. He inherited some land from his father which was cultivated by his family and his employees. Some police officers tried forcibly to confiscate the land. Sheikh Abdullah Sheikh Miyo complained repeatedly and vainly to the Government which, instead of putting a stop to this oppression, supported his adversaries. The Government sent to the spot an Italian police officer called Carini, who gathered together Sheikh Abdullah's men and announced that the land did not belong to them. Sheikh Abdullah came to Bardera and presented a petition to the Government, to which he has received no reply. All this is being done in order to foment a quarrel between the Sheikh's men and his opponents.

2. Nopolo Indreio, police sergeant, sent one of his men, on 14 February, to fetch the wife of Abu Bakr Osman Mohammed, a member of the Executive Committee of the Somali Youth League, and the wife of a Somali, Adam Jenih, and forced them to undergo a medical examination on the pretext that they had spread disease among the soldiers. They said to him: "You have shamed and grossly insulted us. We challenge you to produce a witness to bear out your accusations."

This incident was reported to the Resident at Bardera and to the Commissioner for Jubaland, who did nothing to right the matter. All this was done to foment ill feeling. They bring similar accusations against the wives of members of the Somali Youth League in order to arouse the League to revolt.

/3. On 6 March,

3. On 6 March, Abed Sheikh Daron, of the Somali Youth League, was attacked and beaten on the highway by six police officers and one soldier in the presence of several witnesses; he called upon the Somali for help. A fight almost broke out between the soldiers and the Somali inhabitants. At sundown the Government sent a number of well-armed soldiers to maintain order and arrest passers-by. That night they gratuitously imprisoned some learned men who were not causing any trouble and arrested other learned men and Sheikhs in order to incite the inhabitants to revolt.

We do not object to the imprisonment of offenders and trouble-makers, but we do object most strongly to the imprisonment of innocent persons and crude violence on the highway.

On 7 March, they closed the road leading from the Mosque to the Afis, that is to the office, with the object of inciting the people to make a disturbance. As soon as we realized that the trouble was spreading we wired to the United Nations Consultative Commission at Mogadishu, to the Fornari Administrator, and to the Somali Youth League. To avoid a revolt we called the people together and instructed them to maintain order.

4. On 10 March, the Commissioner for Jubaland came to Bardera in the hope of settling the incidents which had taken place. His intervention proved useless. On the night of his arrival the police beat a Somali; next morning we complained to the Resident. He replied that he would stop the troops from doing such things. The night after we had received his reply two Somali were beaten.

5. Saintwity Banadity, a captain in the Army, issued an order forbidding his men to mix with the Somali or to join their League. Any member of the armed forces disobeying this order would be dismissed.

On 11 March, the sergeant Mohammed Abdullah ordered his men to patrol outside the barracks in groups and to beat any Somali they met on the road. The Captain announced that he would dismiss any soldier who failed to do so. The ignorant soldiers began to beat the people; this they are still authorized to do. It is clear from the above that it is the Government's purpose to sow discord among the Somali rather than to serve their general interests.

6. There was a ferry over the Bardera River which was useful to all the inhabitants of the region. In order to sow disunity among the Somali the Government stopped the ferry, although it knew that the river would overflow. It is clear from the above that the

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Government does not have the interests of the country at heart.

7. The development of the country depends on education, but we have no schools, although Bardera has a large population. We have asked the Government repeatedly for schools but without avail. We appeal to the generosity of the United Nations to provide us with schools.

8. Your Excellency, we at Bardera, which is densely populated, appeal to the generosity of the United Nations for a large hospital and a sufficiency of medical supplies; we have a small hospital of only twelve beds.

We have asked the Government for a hospital and have received a satisfactory reply. However the Government makes promises which it does not fulfil.

9. Your Excellency, we are Somali and ask for rights in our beloved Fatherland; we do not wish anybody who is not a Somali to derive profit from our country unless our wishes are granted.

(signed) MOHAMMED SHEIKH HASSAN

Secretary of the Executive Committee  
of the Somali Youth League

Seal of the Somali Youth League