

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.11/292

3 July 1951

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ITALIAN

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## PETITION FROM MR. IARANE MAHAD GUDAI 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 9 June 1952 from Mr. Iarane Mahad Gudai 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.

52-7607

/To: His Excellency  
T/PET.11/292

Translated from Italian

To: His Excellency Minister Canino,  
Acting Administrator of Somaliland, Mogadiscio.

To: His Excellency the Chairman of the United  
Nations Advisory Council, Mogadiscio.

The undersigned in their name and as representatives of the inhabitants of the villages of Bullo Ibreno, Degai Bere and Farhane have the honour to bring to the notice of Your Excellency the following:

After the communication addressed to His Excellency the Administrator of Somaliland on 9 February 1951, copy of which is attached, in which a strong protest was made against the abusive and arbitrary occupation of 300 hectares of land (50 of which are now illegally possessed) belonging to the inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages on the part of an Italian named Angeleri: on 4 June, to their amazement, the undersigned, in their name and as representatives of the inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages, were called by the Residente of Merca who informed them that the Administration had decided to give Angeleri, in exchange for his old concession, which could not be irrigated - since water could not be made to rise to it - a piece of land consisting of 300 hectares owned by the inhabitants of Bullo Ibreno, Degai Bere and Farhane. In addition the Residente insisted on the complete evacuation of the land by the legitimate proprietors in favour of Angeleri; in addition the owners of the land of the above-mentioned villages have been asked to pay rent to the usurper Angeleri as if the land belonged to him. The Residente of Merca stated that what he had said was just a notice, since an ordinance on the subject was on the point of being issued.

On the basis of what law can the Residente demand the alienation of our legitimate property? What right can the Administration and its representative (the Residente) have to give our property to Angeleri? The attitude of the Residente of Merca in the name of the Trusteeship Administration is contrary to all democratic laws for the protection of the property of others and an open violation of Article 14 of the Trusteeship Agreement for this Territory.

/Angeleri

Angeleri pretends to have obtained the concession for this land from the former Fascist Government of Somaliland; this has no real foundation since in that case he would be able to show documents and the degree of concession of the land in question. In addition, if this were true, the Italian Fascist Government would have lost no time in sending us away from the land in question. But since no decree was published in the Somaliland Gazette and there was no transcription of the concession during the time of the former government of Somaliland, all the pretensions of Angeleri are logically unjustified.

Since, as we have said, the so-called rights of Angeleri on the land in question are not proved in any way whatsoever and since we do not believe that the expropriation of the land in favour of others is right, we request Your Excellency that the Administration take all necessary measures to have Mr. Angeleri evacuate the 50 hectares of land that legally belong to the inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages which we represent, and that all claims of Angeleri to the other 250 hectares be considered without any real merit.

Whilst awaiting a favourable reply from Your Excellency, we take the occasion to thank you and we have the honour to sign ourselves in our name and in the name of the persons represented by them:

1. Iarane Mahad Gudai, Chief of the Villages of Buslei and Degai Bere
2. Eino Hussen Medio, Chief of the Village of Bulo Ibreno
3. Idle Ido Barache
4. Mohamed Abdulla Assir
5. Sciardi Raghe Haiou
6. Gure Afrah Egalle
7. Mohamed Einta Fido

Mogadiscio, 9 June 1952

Received by the United Nations Advisory Council in Mogadiscio on 9 June 1952.

/Mogadiscio

Mogadiscio, 9 February 1951

To: His Excellency the Administrator of Somaliland,  
Mogadiscio.

Original to: Resident of Merca

Copy for information directly to: His Excellency the Administrator

Your Excellency:

The undersigned indigenous farmers of Bulo Ibreno, Degai Bere, Buslei and Farhane of the district of Merca, have the honour to bring to your notice the fact that when Mr. Angeleri Vittorio arbitrarily took possession of the farms belonging to the population of Ibreno village, some of the legitimate proprietors of the farms complained on 26 November 1950 to the Resident of Merca and sent a copy of the complaint to the Commissario of Merca. The Resident of Merca told the complainants to wait and that he would call them afterwards. Whilst the complainants were waiting to be called by the Resident to obtain justice, they saw the Commissario accompanied by the Resident and by a surveyor arrive on 24 January 1951 at the indigenous farms of the above-mentioned villages and the Commissario ordered the surveyor to measure 300 hectares of land belonging to indigenous farms for Angeleri Vittorio; the population of the above-mentioned villages who were dispossessed of their legitimate property protested the surveying of their farms and the Commissario told them not to resist but to come to him after eight days and that the population would then obtain justice and their rights would be respected. After eight days a part of the population of the above-mentioned villages including the chiefs and the elders went to the Commissario to obtain the promised justice and he told them that the only thing he could do was to intervene in order to enable the indigenous inhabitants to rent their own farms; he added that the indigenous owners would have to agree to work for Angeleri in order not to be dispossessed from their farms; the indigenous complainants answered that to work compulsorily for Angeleri was the system used by fascist colonialism and that they could not accept a compulsory colonialism. The Commissario said that if they mentioned fascism he would put them in prison, furthermore the Commissario said that he would ask Angeleri to give the



farms usurped from the natives, in rent to the natives at a reasonable price. The indigenous complainants answered that they could not agree to pay rent on their own properties and finally the Commissario told the indigenous complainants to appeal to the Administration through the usual channels, adding not to appeal against him. The natives had declared to the Commissario that the land surveyed by him for Angeleri was all private property, not public land, and that the owners had inherited this property from their ancestors who had also cultivated it and that there was no public land in the district and that the Commissario knew everything and knew the truth of what had been said by the indigenous complainants because he had seen with his own eyes that the land he had ordered to be surveyed for Angeleri was all cultivated and that there was no uncultivated land in the district. The natives had also declared both to the Commissario and to the Resident that Angeleri was the owner of a concession of 250 hectares near Goluen, that he had rented it to Mr. Elliott, District Commissioner of Merca at the time of the former British Administration, that this concession is now occupied by Mr. Elliott and that furthermore Angeleri has also another concession of 50 hectares at Caivero. The former Italian Administration had not expropriated the indigenous farmers of the above-mentioned villages to give the land to Angeleri and it seems strange that something not done by a colonialist and dictatorial government should be done by a democratic administration of a trust territory who should take greater care of indigenous interests. In the opinion of the undersigned the Commissario of Merca has taken an interest in the question only for a feeling of fellowship and because he is a compatriot of Angeleri, without thinking of the rights of others or of the 1500 souls of human beings who live in the district and who would be completely ruined if they were dispossessed of their property which is their only means of livelihood. The agricultural season is now approaching and the population of the above-mentioned four villages are in urgent need of working their lands in time and they do not possess other lands that can be cultivated except the lands surveyed for Angeleri.

The undersigned have not thought it advisable to let all the population of the four villages come to Mcgadiscio to protest against the attitude of the Commissario of Merca because they are convinced that they will obtain justice from

/Your Excellency

Your Excellency and certainly if they do not receive satisfaction in time to cultivate their lands they will be obliged to come to Mogadiscio, men, women and children, in order to protest this injustice.

Therefore the undersigned have the honour respectfully to request Your Excellency to return at the earliest possible moment the farms usurped by Angeleri to the population of the above-mentioned villages and they energetically protest against the attitude of the Commissario of Merca.

In the certainty of obtaining justice the undersigned thank you.

(Sgd) Mohamed Abdulla, Sciardi Raghe, Gure Afrah, Mohamed Mohamud, Mohamed Ente, Abdi Nur Sceghei Abdi, Sceek Ali Abdi Omar, Mohamed Ueledi Mussa, Bargas Said Abdi, Iarani Mahad, Ali Raghe, Mudei Hahi Omar, Idle Idor, Ali Nur, Mohamed Siad, Nur Omar, Mohallim Iusuf, Iusuf Mohamud.

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