



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.11/84

24 October 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

*INDEX UNIT*  
*13 NOV 1951*  
*MASIA*  
*IG/12w*

PETITION FROM THE WORKERS OF THE "AUTOPARCO CIVILE"  
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 24 September 1951 from the workers of the "Autoparco Civile" 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.

Mogadishu, 24th September 1951

To:-

THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S  
VISITIN MISSION FOR SOMALILAND  
MOGADISHU.

Your Excellencies,

We the Somali workers, employed by the AFIS at the AUTOPARCO CIVILE (ex BAS Transport Depot), beg to submit before your Excellencies this humble petition setting forth our unhappy situations and grievances, and hope that you will kindly take into careful consideration.

1. The Somali workers of the AUTOPARCO CIVILE are composed of some 300 well experienced and skilled somalies. They are all mechanics and drivers and their main job is to repair or drive all the cars, trucks and lorries of the AFIS.
2. Apart from the inhuman illtreatment, oppression, and discriminations that they are perpetually subject, these workers are compelled, if they wish to earn their living, to continuous work, and there is no fixed working hour. In fact they work from morning to evening. The queerest thing is that the monthly pay they draw is 115/- Shs. per person with no ration, compensation for infortunes sustained while working, and there has not been issued by the Administration any provisions for the safeguard and protection of the workers' interests. Since such a miserable salary is not sufficiently enough for the maintainance of a family's living need (in most cases a worker has to support a numerous family composed of many childrens with their mother as well as his own old-aged parents) it would be needless to say that one becomes a debtor to others. Should he give up his post it is certain that he will not find employment either from the Administration nor from other private workshops.
3. Any worker who reports sickness is sent to hospital, from where he gets back without even being visited by a medical officer, with a note testifying his unfitness to continue work and is subject to dismissal from service.

/4. The workers

4. The workers are illtreated only and solely on account of their colour, which fact deprive them from the right of equal pay for equal work. Imprisonments and arrests in the working hours is very common at the workshop. Workers are sometimes taken to jail without any plausible reason or dismissed from service. From time to time mechanics and drivers willingly wishing to continue their services are dismissed from services.

It would take a lot time and many a pages to enumerate all the claims and protests we have to lodge. We, therefore, would be extremely grateful to your Excellencies if you be kind enough as to visit us at the AUTOPARCO CIVILE, so that you might be verbally informed by the concerned workers themselves their manifold grievances. Let us draw the attention of your Excellencies to the fact that a few days ago the Administration has given the sum of So.100/- to some corrupted workers for the purposes of tolling to the Visiting Mission, if asked, that they draw So.500/- as monthly salary. All the AUTOPARCO CIVILE drivers stationed at the U.N. Advisory Council for the driving of your cars, have been given the same sum to each and we, are sure that should you ask them directly what is their monthly pay they will answer like parrots "So.500/- p.m."--

Should the AFIS come to know of this petition we are sure that we will loss our present position (and once we loss it we will fill up the country with people starving for hunger due to unemployment) or else we shall be illtreated and imprisoned. For fear of this facts, we refrain ourselves from signing this petition, and we hope that you will comprehend this attitude of ours.

We close by hoping that this humble petition will meet with your kind consideration, and that justice will be done in the light of the democratic principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

EMPLOYEES OF THE AUTOPARCO CIVILE  
DELLA AMM/NE FID. ITALIANA SOMALIA

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