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PETITION FROM CHIEFS AND NOTABLES OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY OF BAIDOA
CONCERNING SCMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

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L of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: This communication was
transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United
Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory
of Somaliland under Italian Administration.

To: THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
MOGADISCIO

The undersigned, Chiefs and Notables of the Arab Community of Baidoa respectfully request that you take into benevolent consideration what we set out below, and assist us in the matter. For that purpose we advise you as follows:

The Arab Community of Baidoa regrets to inform you of several occurrences which happened in this territory and which did not occur before (that is, before District Commissioner Soleri came here).

The Arab Community and all its members do not intend to dabble in the politics, as they are foreigners, but merely ask to be left free to think as they want and to enjoy their rights as other foreigners in a territory (see Art. 2 of Declaration of Human Rights). But for some time now there have been cases of injustice against us and our Arab fellow-countrymen from people encouraged, as it would seem, by the District Commissioner, to create discord against the community itself and the Arabs. The Baidoa Community, and all the Arabs with it, do not intend to give rise to any discord with the Somalis, with whom they have lived many years; there have never been such inconveniences.

and uneasiness before as are now occurring daily in Baidoa; the gossip exists and is reported by some people working under the District Commissioner and in Administration offices. (ref. Art. 2/3). As soon as this came to Arab Community's knowledge, it immediately informed the appropriate authorities and the District Commissioner, but no measures were taken by the authorities. So we believe that there is encouragement on the part of the District Commissioner, whereas we know that, according to Art.10, it ought to be quite different. Many times the Khadi passed unjust sentences, not confirmed by the local police. For example, there is a case which occurred in 1941, among the Arabs, a question between Ali Salah and his father-in-law son of the father-in-law (sic). The question was ended by the former Administration and he was released with its departure.

Khadi Shekh Mahallim Abdio Mahallim intervened, instigating some Tribal Chiefs against them to settle the question according to their custom.

The Community asked rightly that the sentence be passed by the Khadi and the Italian Judge, whereas he showed to be somewhat indifferent, and in 1953 sent a letter to the Chief of the Arab Community indicating notable actions they had to obey even if not just constitutions used by "sied sagal".

It is just that an alien be aware of customs in use in a foreign country, and come to know his own rights as a citizen, Ref.Art. 10 and 15 (12) of Human Rights.

Another occurrence which took place on 28th November 1951: in a question between an Arab and a Somali, the latter was ordered to pay the amount of So. 2.300, but the Arab, up to date, has not been paid all he was entitled to, Ref. Art. 8. In 1952 several "shambas" were destroyed at night by unknown persons, and, so far, in spite of several complaints, no measure has been taken or the culprit arrested. We know that the same thing happened to an Italian and the culprits were immediately arrested six of them, and all damages were compensated. Why the same was not done for us Arabs? From this we can see that the District Commissioner shows no concern. To note that the Italian's shamba was situated about 20 Km. from Baidoa, whereas that of Arabs was at about one Km. from Baidoa.

Many other questions were settled to the detriment of Arabs, questions submitted to the Khadi without any decision being taken by the District Commissioner and the Authority, Ref. 10, such as that of an Arab, who was to be paid So. 1.500, another one So. 300, still another one So. 700, so far without any result, referring to Art. 7 and 8 of Human Rights. The latest case stated by us on 6/2/54 concerns the destruction of an Arab's shamba.^{1/} These questions occurred after the visit of U.N.O. Representative who came to Baidoa on 3 February 1954.

We are waiting for a prompt reply.

Several cases occurred, brought about by people encouraged by the District Commissioner, by letting the police report about us Arabs, thus creating disharmony among the Arab community.

Therefore the undersigned beg you to intervene in this matter, bearing in mind that such unpleasant facts ought not to occur, as they are harmful to society.

Trusting in your comprehension and intervention, we beg to remain

Your obedient servants

The Arab Community

Mohamed Osman

27 signatures in Arabic

1 unreadable in Italian

2 fingerprints

7.2.54

1/ Note by the Secretariat: See T/PET.11/399.