

UNITED NATIONS
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PETITION FROM SHEIKH SAID BAHMED AL AMOUDI CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F
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 Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in
East Africa.

No. 39

Petition from: Sheikh Sa'id Bahmed al-'Amoudi, Margherita, Lower Juba region,
Somaliland

To: The United Nations Visiting Mission, Mogadiscio.

Dated: 28 September 1954.

I, the undersigned, Sheikh Sa'id Bahmed al-'Amoudi, resident in Margherita, Lower Juba region, Somaliland, submit my case to you and wish to tell you what has befallen me.

I have an eight-room house in Margherita which was burned down on 25 April 1950, when the flag of the Administering Authority was flying. The fire occurred in broad daylight, when I, my family and all our possessions were inside the house. The Administration itself prevented us from learning the identity of the persons who set the fire for the Chief of Police at that time. Marshal Matsi came to our district and told us to go into our houses, saying that anyone who disobeyed would be shot by the soldiers; these he stationed to the right and left of the district and instructed accordingly. I went inside but shortly after the fire was raging all round the house and drove us out: we were unable to open the door because of the fire but in our despair we burst through it to safety.

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After we had left the house the Chief of Police came to us again and told us not to worry or grieve, saying that the culprits would be punished. On 18 May 1950, the District Officer, Doctor Manconi, and the Chief of Police asked us to draw up a list of the property damaged by the fire. We made out this list and kept a copy of it, but from that day to this we have been waiting: time has gone by but we have had patience and trusted in the promises made to us. The amount of the property damage, as described, is 28,300 shillings. None of the promises has been kept and all I meet with is procrastination.

I have also written to Ambassador Fornari and to Mr. Brusasca, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

I would inform you that I am an old man of 65 and have nine children, for whom I have not a stitch of clothing since the fire.

Please be so good as to submit this complaint to the United Nations and help me to obtain justice.*

(Signed) Sheikh Sa'id Bahmed al-'Amoudi

28 September 1954

* Translator's note: In an Italian text of this petition, dated 4 October 1954, the writer asks for a reply to be sent to P.O. Box No. 54, Chisimaio.