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PETITION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE, BRANCH OF SCUSCIUBAN  
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rules F and  
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 United Nations representatives,

We have received your letter dated 3 April 1954 with very great pleasure.  
We recognize your great endeavours on behalf of the Somali people and express our  
thanks to you on behalf of all branches in Scusciuban.

We submit to you the following complaints:

1. The northern Midjurtein, which is under the administration of Commissioner  
Gipponi, includes many districts both on the coast and inland where there is no  
Resident but only the police; yet their inhabitants have much property. These  
districts are also significant from the point of view of commerce, finance and  
population and possess sailing boats. All the inhabitants support our party, the  
Somali Youth League. We report that they are subjected to tyranny and oppression.  
They are oppressed because the Administering Authority excluded them from the  
elections and from voting for the freedom of their region and our dear fatherland.  
They have been excluded from the elections by the Administering Authority because  
the aforesaid region is solid in its support of the Somali Youth League.
2. These regions, crushed by tyranny and violence, have been excluded from the  
elections which you organized for the freedom of the country and for progress and  
justice. These areas, which are devoted to the Somali Youth League, have been  
excluded from the elections by the officers of the Italian Administration in  
Somaliland.

The areas which have been excluded from the elections and which demand their rights both now and in the future are:

(a) Hordio: This is, as is well known, the second port after Hafun for the transport of salt. Thousands of workers and hundreds of merchants are occupied there.

(b) Hafun: You undoubtedly know its earlier history. Today also thousands of tons of salt and fish are exported from it.

(c) Bargal: This is an old town with many merchants and many exports such as olibanum and wood.

3. These regions are of great importance to Somaliland and have great sources of wealth, such as the Customs and other commercial revenues. You would be well acquainted with everything if you came to these districts of our country. We are prepared to put everything before you. The aforesaid regions are much greater than Scusciuban from the point of view of population, commerce, civilization, imports, exports and Customs revenue. We submit our request to you for justice, because oppression and tyranny weigh on our party, the Somali Youth League, and we are deprived of our rights. In many districts which come within the jurisdiction of other Residencies, such as the port of Tohen, Varama, Olloch, Bereda, Veregsamo, Afkakhio, Abo, Ghessellei, Merhagno and Durbo, the people who are members of our party, the Somali Youth League, have been excluded from the elections.

4. The port of Beila, which comes under the Resident of Garoe and the inhabitants of which all support our party too, has been excluded from the election except for certain intellectuals who take advice from the Government. Four years have passed, and we continue to submit to you, the United Nations representatives, our petitions referring to oppression and tyranny by the Administering Authority. Our party, the Somali Youth League, was successful in many districts and won 142 seats while the other Somali, Hindu, Arab and Italian parties obtained less than half. If the elections had been conducted fairly, you would have seen that the Somali Youth League would have obtained a victory everywhere because we have confidence in the United Nations.

5. Gardo, which is a big town in comparison with Garoe, which is on the highway and which has a considerable trade, was excluded from the election with the knowledge of the Resident, who has his seat in the harbour of Eil, a small town with few inhabitants who support the Administration and take advice from it and who claim that they are intellectual leaders. We submit all our complaints and ask you to eliminate all the things which distress us such as those we have mentioned. We would ask you to ensure that in future we may live free of oppression and privation. The Administration has excluded the aforesaid districts from the election because it knows that the inhabitants belong to the Somali Youth League Party. Give heed to us and to the people of these districts and take note of what we say. You will know that they are all adherents of the Somali Youth League, for you have seen the country with your own eyes.

We ask you to deign to come and see us and take our situation into account. Four years have passed and all our people are listening to you and applauding you. If you made a tour of investigation our rights would be apparent and evil would vanish.

Small villages, where not even a stone building is to be found and where there are only forty or fifty inhabitants belonging to the parties which support the Administration, were admitted to the elections. You know their names, for the Administration has published them. Yet districts with thousands of inhabitants and an active commerce but which support the Somali Youth League were excluded from the elections. We ask you to give consideration to our complaint fairly and compassionately.

(Signed) Ali Yusuf Ali  
Secretary  
Somali Youth League  
Scusciuban

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