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PETITION FROM MESSRS. DAHIR SCIAFUL, GHELBE DUALE GULED AND OTHERS
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. It is addressed to the Representative of Egypt on the Advisory Council.

Communication 822 from Chief Dahir Sciacul and others, Mogadiscio

To the representative of Islam, Kamal Eddine Salah

To you, the representative of Islam, we present the following petition concerning the misfortunes and calamities which have befallen us.

1. These include imprisonment or arrest to which we are subjected in contravention of the law and of Islamic law. We are greatly distressed by this, because if a man is arrested he is kept in prison for a long time, perhaps two years or more. After that long imprisonment he is brought before the courts after beatings and intimidation during his imprisonment. He is handed over to the judges who deal with his case in a way which is inconsistent with Islamic or European law. They sentence him according to their ideas and opinions so that he is more dead than alive. This is the first matter which distresses us.
2. We strongly protest against the health and sanitation conditions. God dispenses health and sickness, but he has provided a remedy for every malady save death and a cause for every effect and over these he disposes. We are a people who desire a good life, progress and advancement for the individual, but we have no possibility of sharing in the benefits of progress in health and similar fields unless the present Government changes certain health and sanitation

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conditions. There are no hospitals, and no drugs or medicines are manufactured. We are unable to obtain even the slightest remedy from the Government although at the present time it controls the sale of medicines in the towns and elsewhere. If any one of us is injured there are no medicines and he can only be cured by amputation of the injured limb. Is an evil to remain without remedy or cure? We request you to devote attention to this pressing evil, which has been brought to light.

3. We are a peace-loving people, but it is an undoubted fact that the Administration has made a habit of inciting us against each other until brother is ready to attack brother. If such incitement produces any incident among us the authorities seize all our property; the judge says that two tribes are at variance and the property of both must be confiscated at his pleasure and the two tribes end up by losing their property. We therefore protest against this incitement to strife among tribes and individuals to which a stop must be put.

4. We bring to your attention some points in connexion with agriculture. There are two great rivers in Somaliland the waters of which should be for the general use of Somaliland, but in fact these waters belong to the Italians and the Europeans who seize and appropriate the waters of these two great rivers by force and violence while the Somalis derive no benefit from them. The cultivated area is divided into two parts. One part is cultivated with machinery and implements which are needed for irrigation. This part is not in our hands and we therefore derive no advantage from the mechanical cultivation. The other part is dependent on the rains and, if the rains are plentiful and the harvest is good, the Administration of course takes it over by force and pressure by buying at an unfair price, and confiscates much of our produce, fruit and vegetables. The Administration seizes the food and we have nothing to eat.

5. In submitting a complaint with regard to the motor vehicles and boats, we wish to inform you that the boats in Somaliland are laid up and cannot go out and sail to any part of Somaliland or elsewhere. They have been laid up in Somaliland until the present time. Once upon a time they used to sail east and west, but now they do not go out of port and yet an extraordinary tax is levied on them.

6. We bring to your attention that we are in great distress so far as our economy, which is the most important thing in the world, is concerned. Perhaps we mentioned this to you in an earlier letter, explaining certain matters without definite reference to the economy, when we made a suggestion to you the first time. The essential and incontestable fact is that we cannot live while our economy is in its present plight. We appeal to you and to the whole of Islam for help. We do not want help from the Italians or from other enemies of ours, not any help at all. A man may live or die but we are not living like men nor dead like exiles. We ask you very urgently to help our economy.
7. We reiterate to you our complaint that the present distress is general, that life is not possible. The municipal official awakens without money and returns to his home with his hands and his wallet full of money. He scans the roads and takes everything he can lay hands on and condemns people in contravention of the law for no reason and without the commission of any offence; he is indifferent to justice. This situation is contrary to Islamic law and to European law yet he constrains us. He does not have the houses or markets or anything else cleaned. If one of us is arrested naturally no legal action may be taken against the person who arrests him and he is sentenced contrary to the provisions of Islamic and European law. If he is handed over to the court, the judge sentences him in accordance with what the police say. This bad and infamous custom which was current in the time of Fascism, has been revived so that it is evident to the world that our present administration is an evil one, a rule without law and without reason. We ask you to heed our repeated appeals and the various letters which we have sent to you. If humanity and fraternity have any rights accept our petitions. We have sent you information and have received no reply at all.
8. Furthermore we have a department called the Guardie di Finanza. This department is worse than the former one in every way because it constantly endeavours to obtain profits from shops and restaurants and enters our houses without our knowledge and without warning. Its officers break into our houses violently and suddenly and take what they want of the profits and indeed some of the capital. This department breaks the law and takes our property and profits. We ask you, who are our guide, to heed our repeated appeals. I pray God that all our rights may be restored to us.

9. It is clear that the present administration is endeavouring in every way to deprive the Somalis of education and culture and of the means to obtain them, for it compels the workers to return to work in the afternoon so that they are unable to obtain education and instruction. Formerly we used to study in the afternoon and work in the morning but, when it was learned that the people were thirsty for instruction and culture, the well-known order was published ending education in the afternoon and prescribing a return to work. Thus it is clear that there has been repeated interference with education. This is a most infamous measure.

(Signed)

Ahamad Hasan Bahr

Vahrat Julid

Ali Othman

Ahmad Farih

Adam Ali

Gili Varsam

Ahmad Hajj Abukar

Nur Awad

Yasi Hasan

Farih Hasan

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