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PETITION FROM SHEIKH ABD AL-'AZIZ AND SHEIKHA ABBAI AYESHA
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 Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in
East Africa.

To the members of the United Nations Visiting Mission.

We, the undersigned, Sheikh 'Abd al-'Aziz and Sheikha Abbai 'Ayesha,
son and daughter of Sheikh Hajj Marjan ben Ahmed al-Ahmedi, urgently submit
our case to you, a case which is known to the former representatives of the
United Nations.

We have a piece of land inherited from our father, the late
Sheikh Hajj Marjen ben Ahmed al-Ahmedi, who is buried in Manomoffi in the
environs of Margherita, Lower Juba region, Somaliland. The property is situated
in Manomoffi itself and is well-known to all and sundry; it is our legal
property and was always in our possession until the time three years ago when
we were driven out and were most unjustly forced to abandon it. The so-called
Gallotti Company robbed us of it and we can do nothing about it, since behind
the Company is the District Officer, Doctor Alberto Baldili. He is the official
who was appointed by the Administering Authority to plunder us and give victory
to our enemies.

We lodged repeated complaints against the robber with the political officers
and again with the following: the District Officer in Margherita himself, then
the local administrative officer in Chisimaio and, finally, the Administrator in
Mogadiscio, explaining the whole matter. They failed to give us justice and we
turned to the United Nations representatives in Mogadiscio, explaining the matter

to them in our petitions. We have copies of all the complaints we sent to the Administration's officers. We obtained no satisfaction and did not even receive a reply.

We are in despair: we are plainly forced to leave our land and we have no one who will listen to us and give justice to the wronged.

We are the children of Sheikh Hajj Marjan, who was widely frequented as a man famous for his holiness in this district and elsewhere, and the Government, instead of keeping our enemies and evil men away from us, out of veneration and respect for our dead father, is continually plundering us and giving away our possessions to others out of malice. The man who robbed us is planning to drive us from our village and to demolish the stone tomb of our father and the mosque built alongside it. It is clear that he intends in the near future to put the land on which they stand under cultivation and to add it to the rest.

We beg you, now that you have arrived on your visit, to take the trouble to come to see us in this place. Here, on the spot, everything will be clear to you: there is nothing like seeing for yourselves.

(signed) Sheikh 'Abd al-'Aziz ben Sheikh Hajj Marjan
Sheikha Abbai 'Ayesha bin Sheikh Hajj Marjan
