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PETITION FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE "UNIONE GIOVANI BENADIR"  
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule D 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.

REGISTERED LETTER

UGB

Unione Giovani Benadir

Headquarters - MOGADISCIO

Somaliland

Post Office Box No. 378

Telegraph address: UGBMOG

Subject: Report

Mogadiscio, 7 May 1956

TO H.E. ENRICO ANZILOTTI, ADMINISTRATOR OF SOMALILAND - Mogadiscio

TO H.E. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL - Mogadiscio

TO THE SOMALILAND OFFICE OF THE FORMER MINISTRY FOR ITALIAN AFRICA (M.A.I.) -  
Rome

Sirs,

The Unione Giovani Benadir, which has its headquarters at Mogadiscio, has  
the honour to bring the following to your attention:

- (1) As is known, the legislative elections were held in Somaliland on  
29 February 1956 with the participation of the entire Somali population.

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Unfortunately these elections were not brought to their logical conclusion, because the Somali police used force and every illegal, illicit and brutal means to prevent them from following their normal course. It is unnecessary to add that the police officers are all members of the Somali Youth League; not only did they vote for the League but they also prevented members of other parties from voting, arbitrarily stopping them, ordering them not to vote, seizing their ballot-papers from them and arresting those who opposed this outrage as though they were common criminals. As a result of this, many people refrained from voting. The Administering Authority and the officials of the carabinkeri were notified of these acts of violence but made no attempt to prevent the outrages.

(2) The elections were preceded by proper shirs within the Territory in order to determine the exact numerical strength of each party. Unfortunately, however, these meetings were not held under normal conditions either, since a group of several hundred persons was joined by another group consisting at times of thousands of outsiders, for the obvious purpose of increasing its number, an occurrence which was often repeated to our complete disadvantage and to the advantage of our adversaries. The matter was reported to the various supervisory committees but nothing was done.

(3) Only one seat was assigned to Mogadiscio, whereas five seats were assigned to minor centres in the interior such as Buracaba and Bulu Burti, which are far smaller centres than the capital; this makes clear and evident the intention of damaging our party, which has thousands of adherents. This too was brought to the Administrator's attention verbally before the elections, but he replied that he could not go into the merits of the case since it had already been decided in his absence.

(4) Our party, which emerged from the elections as a whole with 21,619 votes, has received no seats, although seats were given to other parties with a smaller number of votes than ours.

(5) Before the elections, H.E. the Administrator called all the party

leaders together in his office, asked them to be scrupulously careful to maintain order and discipline, because the future of the Territory depended on the way the elections were conducted, and pointed out to them that representatives of the International Bank were soon to visit the Territory and that, if anything happened, it would prejudice the situation, with the unfortunate consequence that no aid would be given to the Territory.

Our party, obediently complying with these admonitions, refrained from counter-demonstrations or at least from violence against the abuses of power by the police, as has been stated above, and limited itself merely to bringing these unpleasant facts to the attention of the competent authorities either verbally or in writing. Unfortunately, however, these steps had no effect.

In view of these facts, the Partito Giovani Benadir requests that you take steps to provide stricter and more efficient supervision of the next elections, with the active participation of the Italian police in order to ensure impartial supervision and thus to guarantee that the elections are held in a proper and regular manner, since we can no longer trust the Somali police, which has already, to our personal knowledge, given evidence of irregular conduct.

We have the honour to be etc.

(Signed) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UGB

(Signed) Sherif Mohamud Hussen,  
Chairman

Secretary

C. Secretary

and six members