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PETITION FROM MR. AHMED MOHAMAD OLO CONCERNING
SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

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United Nations Advisory Council

Mogadiscio

I, undersigned, AHMED MOHAMAD OLO, Somali, pension soldier, born in Warshiloi 1888, at present residing in Mogadiscio, capital of Somalia, which is now under the Italian Administration, address to you this letter knowing that you are the "touch-bearers of justice". I am asking for my violated rights.

I began to work in 1908 under the Italian Occupation Forces, with Lieutenant Banuchi in Warshiloi. I was transferred to Balad, a town about 35 kilometres from Mogadiscio, where I found work with Lieutenant Belori. Later I returned to Mogadiscio where I was appointed assistant-driver to the Italian Governor-General, Giaconio di Martino.

After, there came the war in Tripolitania to which I participated. There was an agreement between us, the Italian Forces and the Italian Government at the beginning of the war, that every person who was at the services of the Italian Army for twenty years, would be allowed a life-pension and besides he would receive an indemnity of one month's salary for every year of service. But this agreement became null and void. When the Ethiopian Government was ruling the country and was strong, and when the Somalians were governing their own country, the Italian Government offered the old people who were serving in the Army for a long time, a monthly salary.

Afterwards the Italian Army occupied the Ethiopian territory and they "swallowed" also the Somali region of Migiurtinia which then came under the Italian Administration. In this occasion many Somalians were killed, fighting

together with the Italians against the enemy, and thanks to them the Italian army could occupy the country.

But notwithstanding all this, the result was, the Italians violated the agreement and disregarded our rights. They discharged us from the army without respecting our rights. The fact that Europeans were surrounding Somaliland from every part, encouraged them to behave this way. They began to arrest, to discharge, to imprison and to commit injustices and with this they discharged me by force from the army, since they were no longer in need of an army because the country was in their hands now.

In 1939, I wrote a letter to General Pisenti, insisting on my rights and explaining that I had participated in many wars with the Italian Forces in the company called "Three Banners" during the war in Tripolitania. In the letter I mentioned the Italian Forces that stole my cattle under the command of Captain Burini and they did not even give me a mule to ride, and I was obligated to build a hut for myself near the military camp. Afterwards every Commandant sold his hut and my hut was among the things that were stolen. Very bad consequences resulted from my letter. What was the result? The result was in contradiction to every sense of humanity and personal dignity, they shaved my beard and my head and imprisoned me.

I hired a lawyer to plead my cause against the great injustice and I spent 500 rupies. At the end, the court declared me not guilty. The lawyer was Mr. Almanini, the witnesses were, Captain Gioriano, the Major of the Police Force and Captain Buss.

I sent seven applications to the United Nations Organization which remained unanswered. Only once, between the 1951-1954, the United Nations Organization sent me a letter^{1/} which I forwarded to Minister, Dr. Mohamed Hassan El Zayyat the United Arab Republic Representative to the United Nations Advisory Council in Somalia.

^{1/} See T/PET.11/283 and Add.1; T/OBS.11/3 and resolution 692 (XII)

I am getting old, I am seventy years old and I lost my right eye during military operations. They deprived me my rights while every soldier was paid what is due to him, according to his grade. I was paid So.800 as a gratuity and now, either the Government pay me what they owe me or they should give me a monthly pension until my death. I request the United Nations to intervene in this matter in my favour. I am oppressed, I was deprived of my legal rights. The International Laws should decide between us. I hope to obtain justice under the auspices of the United Nations.

My claims are: since 1951 until 1959 I have spent more than So.472 and I was obligated to sell my furniture.

At the beginning of the Second World War when the hostilities began in Somalia between England and Italy, the Italian Government decided to re-enlist us in the army after they had discharged us by force.

An official communication was issued by the Italian Government in which was stated:

"Every soldier on leave must present himself to the Governor of his residence, and in case of transfer, to the Governor of his new residence. In case of disobedience, he will be punished, also by death."

We participated in seven bloody conflicts. I was exhausted during my service with the Italian Forces and I became hoary. I have abandoned my wife and children because I have no money to support them.

I beg the United Nations to intervene on my behalf, in order to obtain for me my legal rights from the Italian Government, which is unjust and does not know the value of humanity.

I hope to receive an answer from you and to deserve your help and your mercy at the address of Dr. Mohamed Hassan El Zayyat, Egyptian Delegate to the United Nations Advisory Council in Somalia. A soldier of my grade is getting So.160 a month as of March 1951. The amount due me will be So.36,400 I began to work as a civilian in 1908 and then as a soldier in the army, without one day's rest. If you want I can produce ten hundred witnesses and more.

I hope that you will take into consideration my application.

Ahmed Mohamed Olo

Mogadiscio, 8 September 1959
