

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL

UN LIBRARY  
JAN 7 - 1960  
UN/SA COLLECTION



Distr.  
LIMITED

T/PET.11/L.68  
5 January 1960  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ITALIAN

PETITION FROM THE "ASSOCIAZIONE PER LA DIFESA RELIGIONE ISLAMICA"  
CONCERNING SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules  
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Associazione per la Difesa Religione Islamica

Mogadiscio (Somaliland)

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Dag Hammarskjöld

Lake Success

The Associazione per la Difesa Religione Islamica has the honour to submit  
the following facts to you:

(1) First and foremost, the fundamental basis of life is religion and  
Somaliland is wholly Islamic and has for centuries followed Islamic sharia law,  
that law is now losing its authority in Somaliland and is no longer applied,  
despite the fact that this Association has repeatedly protested to the local  
authorities.

(2) The penal side has been taken out of the hands of the sharia cadis and  
the civil side is under Italian judges, who administer it as they think best,  
therefore the people are oppressed and grieved by the absence of Islamic sharia  
law.

(3) The Associazione per la Difesa Religione Islamica has repeatedly requested  
the Administration to arrange for the country's ULOMA (scholars) to participate  
in the work of the Judiciary and Parliament but unfortunately the request has not  
been taken into consideration, but qualified cadi are appearing, almost all young  
men, who pay attention only to the Italian judges and do not apply sharia law  
except after consultation with the Italian judge, while the scholars (Ulama)  
are excluded and kept at a distance.

(4) The country, far from progressing in knowledge and education, has become indecent, no one behaves correctly, it has become full of prostitutes who go about unveiled and openly, which formerly custom and usage forbade their doing. This is because Islamic sharia law is not enforced.

(5) The Italian lawyers interfere with sharia law and humiliate the Islamic Ulama (scholars) and act as they think fit, so that lawsuits are never settled for years and years and the country is suffering and afflicted on account of the Judicature, neither under sharia nor under canon law does it meet with justice.

(6) In the name of the entire population, we request the United Nations to suggest that the Ulama should take part in the work of the Judiciary and Parliament, so that sharia law and the customs and usages of the country may be applied and the Islamic religion may also be respected in Somaliland, because nowadays practically all the people have become unbelievers and they do not observe the Islamic precepts.

Trusting that the above request will receive favourable consideration, the Associazione Difesa Religione Islamica thanks you and has the honour to be, etc.

Mogadiscio, 13 November 1959

ASSOCIAZIONE PER LA DIFESA RELIGIONE ISLAMICA

(Hajji Mao Aues)  
Chairman

Comitato per la Difesa Religione Islamica  
Via Cardinale Massaia  
Mogadiscio (Somaliland)

(Signed): (illegible)  
Chairman

-----