

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

T/COM.5/L.19  
3 August 1953  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

## COMMUNICATION FROM MR. ABEL MIMBIANG NYUBATA CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 and supplementary rule F  
of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Abel Mimbiang Nyubata  
Civil and Financial Services  
In custody at the prison  
Yaoundé, Cameroons

Yaoundé  
5 June 1953

To: Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,  
Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
New York

Subject: MY CASE

Copies attached

Sir:

Your predecessor, Mr. Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General of the United Nations who resigned, has left my case in your hands. Once again I come to bow before you, and to beg you by my present petition to re-open this case: File No. 1, TRI/130/5/03, dated 20 November 1950.<sup>1/</sup>

In the binder T/337 of 28 December 1948 covering the third session of the Trusteeship Council (16 June - 5 August 1948) page 189, document T/200, on local judicial organization, corporal punishment is admitted (reply to question No. 33 - page 227 of the report).

The Belgian representative, speaking of the use of corporal punishment in Tanganyika, said among other things that it was possible to explain why corporal punishment had to be applied to the indigenous population, but not to Europeans.

---

<sup>1/</sup> Note by the Secretariat: See T/PET.5/91 and addenda 1 and 2;  
resolution 333 (VIII)

The chief reasons, he said, were as follows:

1. Imprisonment was a real punishment for Europeans, while it was frequently not really so for the indigenous inhabitants. There were indigenous inhabitants whose standard of living at home and at liberty was definitely inferior to that of a prisoner. For them, imprisonment was not a punishment, and to be sentenced to it was not a shameful punishment.
2. The indigenous inhabitant was not afraid of going to prison; he did not consider that any lowering of his social status resulted from his term in prison, and in fact there was none (T/SR.87 pages 9 - 13).

But, in my opinion, that does not appear to apply to me at all. If there are indigenous inhabitants who enjoy living in prison in Africa, there are similar people in Europe, reduced to the same social conditions as we to whom the Belgian representative refers as "indigenous inhabitants". Will there be an end to this racial discrimination in this world? That is the reason why all Africa lives in prison and slavery, because it is treated as 'a friend of the prison'. Provocations, the work of 'colonialist obscurantism' rain upon its citizens, who leave their families, which are so difficult to bring together again when "these various persecutions and oppressions" are relaxed.

Mr. Victor Hoo, your Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, has been constantly sending me for more than two years the same reply to my request for the hearing of my case, under consideration before the competent courts (decision of the 343rd meeting, eighth session, 15 March 1951). Yet the French Government, entrusted with the study of my case, is so infatuated with the side of injustice as to send me as a convict to an imprisonment where I am to die. Consequently I have sent you many demands, and, to follow up, I am sending you a copy of your acknowledgement. You tell me that:

1. The resolution adopted as a result of my petition is the letter of 4 May 1951.
2. The Trusteeship Council does not call for any particular action in my case.

I would beg you not to imagine (as a mere nothing myself, I appreciate that you are a learned man) that I am making my present request in order to attack you.

No sir, I ask for justice, justice and justice: That does not mean the opposite: The whole essence of the truth is there.

I am therefore sending you all the documents relative to the case by registered post<sup>1/</sup> begging you once again on my knees for study, examination, and special investigation, in order to proceed with my case. Incidentally, you have never advised me of the resolution adopted in respect of my appeal against the Representative of the Cameroons Administration. Mr. Trygve Lie acknowledged receipt.<sup>2/</sup>

Protests such as that which I am raising in my present petition have their usefulness. Mr. Verniere uses agents provocateurs to stir up passions of which he is himself incapable.

Of all freedoms, freedom of opinion and expression is the most precious, because it is the symbol and condition of all the others. Freedom is indivisible. It cannot be defended in principle if it is allowed to be suppressed in fact. The freedom of others is also our own. When the freedom of others is attacked, our own is threatened. I have lost my wife, that is to say, my family; that was the masterpiece of high politics from Mr. Versiere to Mr. Soucadaux.

Therefore Providence has with good reason placed you in that position to enlighten the universal worlds. You must know that the stronger are trying to exterminate the weaker. "Politics are general". Help, help! Help! The Cameroons lacks justice.

On my knees I remain, etc.

A. Mimbang N.  
(signed) Abel Mimbang Nyubata

-----

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The enclosures referred to have been placed in the Secretariat files, and are available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

2/ Note by the Secretariat: Mr. Mimbang sent the Secretariat several letters after his Petition T/PET.5/91 and addenda 1 and 2 had been considered. In accordance with article 24 of the rules of procedure, these communications have been referred to the Trusteeship Council in the usual summary form.