

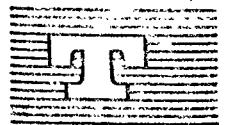
UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

INDEX UNIT

3 APR 1952

MTD



GENERAL

T/PET.5/108

19 March 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE "COMITE REGIONAL DE
L'UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN A FOUMBAN"
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, seven communications dated 26 and 27 February, 6 and 7 March 1952 from the President of the "Comité régional de l'Union des populations du Cameroun à Fomaban" concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration.

COPY

PETITION

NjiKen, head of the Njimatie family, Foumban

I have a piece of land at Maringoue, with a palm-grove which used to give me five casks of oil a day and 150 kilos of palm-cabbage a day, several cola trees which yielded fifteen sacks of nuts a year, and a cacao-tree. All these were taken from me by Supreme Chief Njikam on the orders of the French administration.

2. On a second piece of land at Malantouen I had planted enough palm trees to give me two casks of oil a day and 75 or 80 kilos of palm-cabbage a day. This was seized by Supreme Chief Njimouliom Nfoulan Fban.

3. A further piece of land at Mangouenmoungni was seized by Chief Njimogui. This land was planted with cola trees which yielded ten sacks of colas a year and grape vines which gave me five demi-johns of wine a day. All this was seized for 1.25 francs by Chief Njimogni.

Signed by the Chairman of the Comité Régional of the Union des Populations du Cameroun at Foumban, Cameroons

(seal): UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN
SECTION CAMEROUNAISE DU R.D.A.
OUEST CAMEROUN
(Signature illegible)

Foumban 27 February 1952

Received at United Nations Headquarters
on 4 March 1952

/My name

COPY

My name is Njifouanta, of the village of Mafouatie. I ask the United Nations whether there is a law whereby the Administration can seize someone's property and give it to someone else? Supreme Chief Njimouliom took it upon himself to seize my personal land and it was the French who gave him that land. I ask you to come; otherwise you will hear about a great crime in the Cameroons.

We three are writing to you through Mr. Mlombo Zakari, Chairman of the Comité Régional Bamoun at Foumban, French Cameroons, West Africa.

Signed by the Chairman

KBOVOMBOWO ZAKARI

(seal): UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN
SECTION CAMEROUNAISE DU R.D.A.
OUEST CAMEROUN
(signature illegible)

/My name

COPY

My name is Njitamekobe and I am very dissatisfied with my lot. From the time the French came here in 1918, right up to 1952, neither I nor my sons have failed to pay our taxes. What have I done to deserve that my property should be seized and handed over to the Chiefs? My property was seized by Chief Njifenjou of Mahan, who says that it was given to him by the French. I am an old man of ninety-five. I salute you and hope that I shall have an opportunity to see you shortly.

My name is Njimotiesbe of Mafouatie. I am Chief of the village of Mafouatie and I founded this village. The land on which I used to live with my family supplied me with oil and palm-cabbage, but when the Chiefs were appointed, the Supreme Chief Njimouliom took this land which belonged to me and my family and told me that if I complained he would put me in prison for no reason. I ask you, "Is this death or life?" I await you and salute you cordially.

Foumban, 26 February, 1952

/Madame Rainatou

COPY

Madame Rainatou Mbouo
Palace of the Sultan Seiolou
Foumban, French Camerouns

I have the honour to submit this petition to inform you that my land has been seized and that I am a woman of this country. The land was seized by Nsangou Nguero, Chief of the village of Makpa, who gave it to Nfombu Ibrai. My father gave me the land to help me even if I got married. When I lived on the land, the palm trees gave me six casks of oil, 200 kilos of palm-cabbage and a demi-john of palm-wine a day. I am writing this eight years and two months after my land was seized. During that time the present owners have received 17,880 casks of oil, 596,000 kilos of palm-cabbage and 2,940 demi-johns of palm-wine. They claim that the French said that women should not own property like men. The land in question forms part of the land under Supreme Chief Njimogni. I have heard that you are going to come here and I look forward to meeting you.

Signed by the President

Comité Régional Bamoun

NBOVOMBOVO ZAKARI

(seal): UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN
SECTION CAMEROUNAISE DU R.D.A.
OUEST CAMEROUN

(signature illegible)

Foumban, 26 February 1952

* /Dam Adamou

COPY

Dam Adamou
Prince under the Sultan Njoy at Foumban

Sir,

I have the honour very respectfully to inform you of the wrongs that were done to me while I was away doing forced labour.

Chief Njitamame seized my forest at Toripâh and, with the support of the Administration, Supreme Chief Torifounu of Njiyouom seized my palm-grove at Mapka. My vineyard at Nkougagnu was seized by NjihFandap. Another vineyard at Fougame was seized by Njitambe and yet another at Koussam was seized by Njiakousoam. Another piece of land which I received from my father was seized by Sultan Seidou, who claimed that it was French and that I must either take it back by force or return without being able to go back to my property. Another piece of land was taken by Doyap, supported by Sultan Seidou. This land had been given to me by my elder brother. When I returned, my father had died and I found that all the property which he had given me had been seized.

My property was taken while I was doing forced labour.

I have been fighting for my rights since 1922.

Foumban, 6 March 1952

/Sir,

COPY

Sir,

We very respectfully submit this petition. Since 1922, we have been driven from our village and our opinion was not asked. In this village Chanas and Privat were putting up their buildings and we were transferred to another place, from which the Administration again drove us in order to establish farms and build resthouses. Nji Yamgouet, to whom the village belonged, had left for Ngaroua to work for the Administration as a veterinary assistant. When he returned he asked us if we had come to some arrangement with the Administration and we told him that we had not.

2. With the support of the Administration, Njimouliom, Supreme Chief of Malantuem, had driven from our palm-grove at Malantuem all the guards that we had placed there to hinder him and had taken our palm-grove for himself. This is the third village which has been used to feed the the region and which is still being used for that purpose today. We are appealing to you because we do not understand why that should be. These measures were taken while we were away on forced labour and, at first, we could do nothing, being like water bottled up, and ordered about more by blacks than by Europeans. That is why, in 1952, God showed us an institution which defends the peoples. In 1952, we found a Chief in the Bamoun region who understood that we had been robbed. He understands that men are human beings and not animals. Is it permissible that the work a man has accomplished in the course of forty years should be taken from him in this way? How is he to live? Must he move to another large village? I implore you to give heed to my sad complaints.

Echou Issiaka Njiyanguet

Mayom

Foumban

Foumban, 6 March 1952

/Bombo Zacsrie

COPY

Bombo Zacsrie
President of the Comité Régional Bamoun
of the Union des Populations du Cameroun
Foumban

Petition in reply to Mr. Watier's report

1. This is to let you know that it was not Sultan Njoya who appointed the Supreme Chiefs in the Bamoun region. Before doing all that, the Administration arrested the Sultan's Notables and sent them to prison at Dschang, where others had been put to death.
2. The other Notables, with their wives and almost all the Sultan's servants, were arrested because they were no longer with him.
3. Now that chiefs have been elected, all the property belonging to the Sultan -- fruit trees, raffia plantations and palm-groves -- is left for the chiefs, at the orders of the Administration.
4. The so-called chiefs now claim that this land is their property and that they received it from the Administration.
5. In 1931 the Sultan was sent to prison at Yaounde, where he died in 1933. Both before and after his death all his property and the contents thereof had already been seized by the chiefs.
6. In 1951, when a chief had to be installed at Fombot, the authorities arrived with a troop of soldiers armed with guns. After arriving, they formed up in two lines and began to beat people. No one was allowed to talk and they imposed their wishes on us and, as usual, forced us to accept a chief, since they always give us a chief instead of allowing us to elect one ourselves. After that they telegraphed to Douala requesting that a battalion should be sent as soon as possible to arrest all the people of Fumbot and take them to prison. This had become the usual procedure.
7. Who sold the very large number of plantations in the Bamoun lands which the Europeans cultivate and from which they derive such large profits.

/Mr. Watier

COPY

Mr. Watier says that Sultan Njoya did all this. We do not know anything about that. You will see the names of all those who have been arrested for having asked that they should be allowed to choose their own chiefs.

Mr. MBOUO MBOUO ZAKARI

President of the Comité Régional Bamoun
of the Union des Populations du Cameroun
at Boumban ..

(seal):

UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN

SECTION CAMEROUNAISE DU R.D.A. OUEST CAMEROUN

(Signature illegible)

/PAFOURA MAMOUDA

COPY

79

PAFOURA MAMOUDA	1
GBOUMIA PIERRE	2
FOPOU AMADOU	3
PARA ADAMOU	4
NJIKAM SALIFOU I	5
TCHIFIH LOUIS	6
MOUNCHILI ADAMOU	7
FONCHON FRANCOIS	8
WAKO ALPHONSE	9
MOUNLAP MBEMA	10
MONANSIE ADAMOU	11
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NJIKAM SALIFOU II	13
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MOTAPON OUSMANOU	15
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