

1937

38066

CO 533/479

38066

24

KENYA

24

ITALIAN OCCUPATION OF ETHIOPIA

MALTREATMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

-4-

Previous

38229/35

Subsequent

1938

FILE A

		218	9/11
		297	12/11
		<del>R. 309</del>	10/11
		Mr Parkin	16
		297	8/12
		309	10/12
		Mr Parkin	11/12
		303	
		298	2/12
		297	4/37
		309	6/1
		Mr Parkin	7.1
		303	✓
		R. 299	19/11
		298	24/11
		297	
		309	3/5
		R 303	✓
		(1) C.D.	14/8
		(2) 299	17/8
		297	20/10
		309	1/11
		Mr Parkin	7/11
		303	4/11

TITLE: Nominal. Tr's. with comments, copy of sworn statement by a British Somali, Saleh Ali, regarding his treatment at the hands of the Italian Authorities in Italian Somaliland.

The pass to Kismayo issued by the ~~de facto~~ <sup>de jure</sup> Consul, I think, only have been a pass under the Native Passes Office (Cap. 128 Ken. Edu Kenya Laws), & would not have been recognised by the Italian Authorities as a passport.

? Send a copy to F.O. & ask that if Mr. Selby Eden sees no objection, representations may be made in the sense desired by the Governor.

C. J. G. [Signature]  
14/7

J. J. [Signature]  
14/7

[Signature]  
14/7

2 To F.O. (Int'l)

all  
copy — 21 7 37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

3. F.O. (J. 3286/3286/66) ..... 31.7.37  
Trs. copy of despatch No. 773 of 29.7.37 sent to  
H.M.R., Rome regarding the ill-treatment of a  
British Somali.

**R.D.**  
3 16  
14

Copy of encl. to Kenya

C. J. Pasconi

3/8/37

4 to Kenya - 686 - (903 revul) a/c - 17/8/37

No reply received from FO ref 1102 -

J.P.

9/25  
30 0 0

The FO. would pay any attention to a  
reminder if for any reason they think it needs  
to be sent Rome. So there will be no alarm if we  
? remind FO

Clotby White 1/10/37

J.P. Pasconi  
7/21

at

To FO - 3pm - 9/21/37 - cons - 9/11/37

6 FO (J. 3286/3286/66) 12/10/37  
This copy of communication from British Ambassador,  
Rome, stating that no reply has been received from  
the Italian Govt.

Put by Clotby White  
15/11

J.P. Pasconi  
14/21

at

Enquire whether any prospects are now seen of obtaining satisfaction  
from the Italian Govt with regard to compensation for three British  
subjects - report of their imprisonment at Mogadishu

1. Clotby White has been asked about this since 15/10/37  
2. 5/23/37, a request is made that the Italian Govt should be asked  
whether the Italian Government is in a position to provide information  
concerning the matter has been asked to be taken up with the  
Italian Govt. It is suggested that the Italian Govt should be asked  
whether it is possible to obtain information from the Italian Govt  
concerning the matter.

Clotby White  
11/12

Copy to FO & cons to be advised -  
the reply to be returned

J.P. Pasconi  
11/12

at

To F.O. (w/c T) - 21/11/37 - cons - 21/12/37

REMOVED UNDER SECTION 1

9 F.O. (J. 5295/5295/66) ————— 4.1.38

(Ref. 8) To: copy of letter sent to British Embassy,  
Rome on 3.1.37.

? Wait  
C. M. White 6/1/38

Send the Gov. an interim  
reply saying that the F.O.  
have asked the Embassy  
to check the matter up with  
the Italian Govt. otherwise  
be reply as soon as possible.

Copy to F.O. LF

(11)

W. M. B. Ave

7.1

10 To: Kenya 29. 7. Howard. 19 JAN 1938  
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

11 To: F.O. (W.C. 10). B/1A ————— 24.1.38.

5295 | 5295 | 66

C. O. B.

With Mr Lambert's  
compliments.

(ref: C.O letter no 38066/24/37  
of 21 December 1937)

Foreign Office  
4 January 1938.

J. J. Paskin Esq. MC  
Colonial Office

COPY

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(J 5295/5295/66)

3rd January, 1936.

Dear Chancery,

Jebb's letter to Thompson No. 141/14/35 of the 17th September, 1935 and our despatch No. 33 of the 8th January, 1936; imprisonment of three British natives at Mogadiscio.

We should be glad if you would ask the competent official at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for a reply to the question which Noble left with Count Kopei in regard to this case, which has now been outstanding for more than three years.

Yours ever,

EGYPTIAN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Rome.

KENYA

No. 106



7  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

NAIROBI

KENYA

RECEIVED  
1937

22 November, 1957.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Mr.

(14) ON 23283/34  
Malcolm MacDonald's despatch No.818 of the 7th October, 1935, and related correspondence on the subject of claims for compensation by three British subjects in respect of their imprisonment at Mogadiscio, and to state that Ali Sigara has recently made enquiries whether the Italian Government will meet the claims. I shall be glad to learn, therefore, whether any prospects are now seen of obtaining satisfaction from the Italian Government as the result of the further representations envisaged in Mr. MacDonald's despatch No.480 of the 2nd July, 1935, in order that the claimants may be finally informed of the result of their representations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

*R Brooke-Popham*

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL  
GOVERNOR.

copy to F.O. 8  
Command (10)

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. CEMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

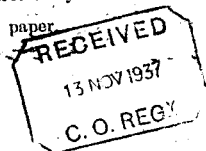
LONDON, S.W. 1.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote  
No. 3286/3286/66  
and address—not to any person by name, but to  
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his  
compliments to the Under Secretary of State  
for the Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of State,  
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office.

12 November 1937.



Reference to previous correspondence

c.o memo of 9 November (38066/24/37)

Description of Enclosure. (5)

Name and Date.

Subject

from Rome Chancery  
to Egyptian Dept.,  
22 October 1937.

Ill mean of a  
British Somali  
Italian authorities  
in Italian Somaliland.

Similar letter sent to ✓

Copy.

3286/3286/66

266/297/37

BRITISH EMBASSY,

ROME.

22nd October, 1937.

Dear Department,

Your P.L. No. 1066 (J 3286/3286/66) of the 18th October enquiring how the matter stands regarding the ill-treatment of a British Somali by Italian authorities in Italian Somaliland, which was the subject of our despatch No. 773 of the 25th July.

A Note Verbale was sent to the Ministry on the 9th August and as this evoked no reply we wrote a reminder on the 9th October. So far no reply has been received but we will not lose sight of the matter.

Yours etc.

CHANCELLOR

Egyptian Department,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote -  
No. J 3286/3286/66  
and address - not to any person by name, but to -  
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

36 / 3

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned report

Foreign Office,  
31<sup>st</sup> July, 1937.

RECEIVED  
2 - JUL 37  
C.O REGY

Reference to previous correspondence:  
C.O letter No 38064/24/37 of 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1937. (2)

Description of Enclosure

Name and Date.

To H.M. Representative,  
Rome,  
No 743,  
29<sup>th</sup> July, 1937

Ill treatment of a  
British Somali by  
Italian authorities in  
Italian Somaliland.

Copy placed to Kenya - (4)

Similar letter sent to

No. 773.

(J 3296/3296/66)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29th July 1957.

Sir,

I transmit to Your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office regarding the alleged ill-treatment of a British Somali, and the alleged imprisonment of two others, by the Italian authorities in Italian Somaliland.

2. I request that you will enquire of the Italian Government as to the facts of the matter. I will keep the matter before the Italian Government until a reply has been received. Consideration of the question of awarding compensation must, however, be deferred pending receipt of a statement of the facts.

I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,  
(For the Secretary of State)

(S) R. C. ...

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

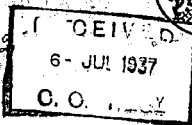
Sir Eric Drummond, G.C.M.G., G.B.

etc., etc., etc.

Rome.

KENYA

No. 35



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

NAIROBI,

KENYA.

28 JUNE, 1937.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the accompanying copy of a sworn statement made by a British Somali, Saleh Ali, regarding his treatment at the hands of the Italian Authorities in Italian Somaliland.

2. This Government was informed in August of last year by friends of Saleh that he had proceeded to Kismayu in the previous April to dispose of some stock which he possessed there, had been arrested by the Italian Authorities in May and later taken to Mogadishu. It has been ascertained that Saleh was in possession of a "pass" to Kismayu issued to him by the District Commissioner, Isiolo, a District in our Northern Frontier District.

The Italian Consul General at Nairobi was approached in the matter with the result that after a delay of seven months this Government was informed on the 11th March last that Saleh had been arrested at Kismayu, had for most of the time been under police control only, and had now been expelled from Italian Somaliland, "the examination of his case having not proved a guilt justifying a more severe punishment."

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE.  
W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,

1.

LONDON. S.W. 1

copy info end to FC (2)

3. Although it is probable that Saleh's statement contains exaggerations, I see no reason to doubt that he was, in fact, submitted by the Italian Authorities to grave ill-treatment, and I shall be glad, if no objection is seen, if enquiries may be made of the Italian Government into the facts of the case, and if some compensation may be awarded to Saleh in the event of the enquiries substantiating his statement.

4. It will be observed that Saleh states that two other Somalis, Ismail Ali and Jama Obseye, are also imprisoned on the island of Denane, and I shall be glad if any representations made can include an enquiry into the cases against the two Somalis.

5. I would emphasize the fact that Saleh was not sent to Kismayu by the Government, nor was he in any sense in the employment of this Government: he was merely proceeding on his lawful occasions with the object of looking after his own property.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*R. Brooke-Popham*

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL,

G O V E R N O R.

CONFIDENTIAL.

13

BALSH AET, Herai Hulbahanta, Somali,  
arrested, states:

During May, 1956, I went to Kismayu to  
see my cattle. Upon my arrival there I was met  
by an Italian Colgoi (Dubas) who told me I would  
be arrested as a spy, as information had arrived  
from Kenya that I was coming over the border.

On the following day I was arrested by  
Italian Police, and taken before the Marshal  
(Police officer) who questioned me as to my  
tribe, age, etc. etc. I told him I had cattle  
in Kismayu.

After this enquiry, I was taken outside  
the office to the jail. I was put  
in the "stocks" sitting on the ground in the sun  
with my legs wide apart (a log being placed  
to which my ankles were tied) and my wrists were  
tied to my ankles.

I was kept in the 'stocks' like this for  
five days and nights, my ankles were never untied  
but my hands were released when I was fed and  
given water to drink.

I was fed only twice a day, at mid-day  
and 6 p.m. and this food consisted of two small  
loaves of bread, a very little soup and coffee in  
a cup. A Police sentry stood close to me day and  
night, and I could not possibly have escaped.

This sentry kept saying to me, "If you  
tell the truth you will live, otherwise you will  
die". The food I received was insufficient for  
a human. I was starved.

After three or four days in the 'stocks' the Resident came and told me he had sent his report to the Governor at Mogadiscio.

I was then sent handcuffed under escort, in a lorry to Mogadiscio and taken before an Italian Captain called the 'Officio Permissione'. This Officer ordered that I be tied to an electric crane by my wrists and I was lifted off the ground some four or five feet and dropped on to the ground again. This punishment I received two or three times a day and every time I landed on the ground I was beaten with a stick by a Police Officer and told I should speak the truth.

After this I was taken before the Captain who said: "What did you say to me?" As I replied that Evans Glenday had said nothing and that I had come to see my father, I was taken out again and put on the electric crane.

I underwent this punishment and questioning for three days.

I was then sent by boat to an island off Mogadiscio and was imprisoned for about ten months. I was put in a perfectly dark cell, alone, during this time. I was fed on boiled starch and one cup of coffee per day, the food was insufficient and was not fit for human consumption. I was given no bed or blankets and the floor was of sand from the sea shore.

I was taken to the sea to wash three or four times during the ten months imprisonment and twice the Marshal came to me and said: "If you don't tell the truth and what Glenday told you you will die here".

After this I was brought back to Mogadiscio where I heard from an Abyssinian interpreter that Genl General Gratziani had ordered that I be returned to British Territory.

I was sent to Kismayu by boat and from here by dhow to Kiunga where I was released. Next day I met the District Commissioner, Lamu, on safari and reported to him. I was given food and brought to Lamu and then to Isiolo.

I have never seen my cattle which number twenty-five, but I hear they are all alive.

When I was returned to Mogadiscio from the island of Denane I hear that 30 more Somali were imprisoned on the island. Their names are: Ismail Ali and Jama G. albahante.

I served with the 5th King's African Rifles for about five years and have three war and the General African Service medals.

I have never been well since my treatment by the Italians and I have got considerably thinner.

A. C. G.

Sd. G. B. Rington.  
First Class Magistrate.

Isiolo,  
Northern Frontier,  
21st May, 1937.