

No. 197 of 1866.

From

C. Gomme, Esquire,
Secretary to Government
Bombay.

3630

To. The Secretary to the Government of India
In the Foreign Department,

Political Department.

Dated 8th September 1866.

Sir,

I am directed to forward to you for submission to the Government of India, the enclosed copy of the translated substance of a petition from certain natives of India, complaining of the cruelties exercised towards pilgrims by the Turkish authorities in Mecca, and to state that Her Majesty's Consul and British Agent at Jeddah, has been requested to take such steps in the matter as he may deem advisable, after enquiring into the complaints now made against the Officers of the Turkish Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Bombay Castle, }
9th September 1866. }

C Gomme

Secretary to Government,

सर्वाधिकार सुरक्षित राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार
भारत सरकार के पास

No 477, of 1866.

Persian Department.

3631

17th August 1866.

Substance of a petition from Moonersoddeen and other natives of India without date and received and ordered to be translated on the 6th August 1866.

A. C. British subjects, who every year went to Arabia as pilgrims to Mecca, suffered a variety of oppression from the Bedouins, Camel-men and Turkish officers, but they bore all this cruelty with patience considering that they were strangers and made no complaint. But as the tyranny practised this year is beyond the limit of human endurance, we deem it necessary to bring their proceedings to the notice of Government.

2. When our Kafilah left Mecca for Medina the Bedouins attacked and plundered us at the instigation of our Camel-men, and killed some of us. One Mahomed Muskur, inhabitant of Rampoor, who, for some years remained in Bombay following the profession of physician and some other men with whom we had no acquaintance were killed.

3. The Camel-men also availed themselves of the opportunity and plundered and wounded some of us. One, Fazleah, a Native of Delhi, Akbar an inhabitant of Rampoor, Shik Mohyeddin & of Calcutta were wounded.

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3. We hired Camels from Mecca to Medina and back and advanced the amount due, on the advice of the Bookers, but the camel-men left some of us in Medina and took others by force to the port of Rais where they left them to their fate and ran away. Having been left in the desert without food and water the pilgrims were obliged to hire a Bugla and pay treble the amount for going to Jeddah. Many of them died of thirst in the Bugla. They offered as much as one Dollar for a small mishuk of water to the *Nakhoda*, but he refused to give it to them.

3632

4. When we returned to Mecca the Turkish Officers would not let us enter the city (although one day previous, one *Kafilah* had entered it) but sent us back to *Wadee Fatema*, a day's march from Mecca where we remained in the sun without food, until some of our acquaintances in Mecca on receipt of information regarding us sent us some supply of food. After four days we were permitted to proceed to Mecca but were again detained by the Turkish officers in *Shohada* a place about two miles distant from Mecca, men & women were all detained in the sun ^{under} the pretext of counting the number of the pilgrims.

5. Those who reached the coast of Jeddah after having been plundered by the Bedouins were not allowed to land by the Turkish officers who told them

1/11/20

them to return to their own country. They actually sent some of these (pilgrims) to Hodyda in a separate vessel, where nobody knows what misfortune may attend them. We do not know how they will be able to reach their country as they have nothing left to support themselves. Besides, the "burial" of those who were "mohammed" must have been interfered with.

Ceremonies of the "Lesser Pilgrimage"

6. The Turkish officers when counting us brought out by force our females from their tents and "sheddies" which is contrary to the customs of our country and which would have given rise to a disturbance had we not been restrained by the regard for the friendly relations existing between the British and Turkish Governments.

7. The Camel men had received their wages from Musca to Medina and back, but when we were detained in Wadec Natirra by the Turkish officers, most of them (the Camel men) left us and went away. The Turkish officers neither prevented them from doing so, nor did they take back our money from them. We were therefore obliged to hire other camels

which

which also left us in Shohada where we were again obliged to hire camels a third time.

3634

8. The Sepoys and Camel-men who accompanied us, entered Mecca without any hindrance.

Another Hafila that left Medina with us also entered Mecca a day previous without any opposition. A Hafila of Meccans who came after us were detained for a day only. We therefore wish to be satisfied why we alone were treated in such a manner.

9. The pilgrims who arrived at Jeddah afterwards were not permitted to go by the Turkish officers, who told them to wait till the time for going to Mecca arrived and so interfered with their "Umrah".

10. The pilgrims from India and Java who had returned from Medina to Mecca before the performance of the ceremony of "Haj" and who had arrived at Mecca (not being able to go to Medina for some reason or other) were expelled from the place and sent to Jeddah without any reason. Among them there were some women whose male relations

begged to be allowed to remain at Mecca until the return of their relations, but no body would listen to them.

3635

11. The Turkish authorities turned out all the poor beggars who lived either on the Sultan's or other people's bounty without giving them time to make preparations for their departure. If a beggar at the time of being turned out on seeing the House of God, applied to the officers for permission to perform his last duty, he was whipped. If one standing at one of the doors of the Holy place attempted to say his prayers, he was pushed in such a way as to throw him on his face.

12. The road to Medina is unsafe for every Kafilah especially of the Hindoos. We therefore petitioned the authorities at Mecca, but received no satisfactory reply. We have therefore made this petition and hope all these facts will be brought to the notice of the Sultan, in order that we may obtain redress.

Signed Unayak Wazoo Dew
Oriental Trans. to Govt

True Copy

Key.

Secretary to Government

सचिव

N^o 12 of 1862.

Secret Department.

From, Captain Felix Jones, H. M. I. S.
Political Resident, Persian Gulf

3636

To, A. Kinloch Forbes, Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

Dated 8th February 1862.

Sir,
With reference to para: 3 of my despatch to your address N^o 14 of the 11th Ultimo, I have the honor to forward for the information of His Excellency in Council the enclosed translation of extract of a letter to my address from the Chief of Bahrein on the subject, and Residency, Persian Gulf } have the honor to be,
Bushire, 8th February 1862. } (Signed) Felix Jones,
Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

Translated Extract of a letter

From the Chief of Bahrein,

To the Political Resident, Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Letter Dated Shaaban 2. 1278
February 3rd 1862

For 6th Rajab 1278
7th January 1862

A.C. Your letter dated the 16th Ultimo sent by the hand of your Agent Hajee Jassim has reached me. I was

rejoiced

3637

1862. Political
Department
A letter from the Acting
Secretary to Government Bombay
dated 4 April 1862

Copy: April
No 237

From the Resident in the
Bosnian Gulf with Encls
To the Acting Secy to Govt
Bombay dated 8 February
No 12 of 1862

No 1

Regarding the Convention
entered into with the Resident
and by the Chief of Bakuin

M. J. Westlake

From copy

Assistant Political Resident to Government

(Signed) H. J. Nicholson

of Extract

Five translated reports

which was desired -

under date the 20th Teekardoo 1278 (31st May 1861) has been
approved by His Excellency in Council the Governor &
General of India, and will accordingly be notified by
His Excellency the Governor of Bombay. This is precisely
that the Convention concluded between you and me
by you from the Allegiance Government (aguarding you)
understand, more especially that letters have been returned

What you communicated to me I have

Amplify may help you