

# Jews of Morocco ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Jewish community of Morocco, declare:

- A. Moroccan Jews (Arabic: اليهود المغاربة, Hebrew: יהודים מרוקאים) are Jews who live or have lived in Morocco. Moroccan Jews constitute an ancient community, immigrating to the region as early as 70 CE. A significant Jewish population migrated from Spain and Portugal, after the Spanish Inquisition, to the area and settled among Arabs and Amazigh. A second wave of migration from the Iberian peninsula in the period immediately preceded and followed the 1492 Alhambra Decree, when Jews were expelled from Spain, and soon after, from Portugal.
- B. Before the founding of Israel in 1948, there were 250,000 to 350,000 Jews in Morocco, which gave it the largest Jewish community in the Muslim world, but today only 2,000 or so remain.
- C. The affection and respect between Jews and the Kingdom of Morocco is still palpable. Every year rabbis and community leaders across the world are invited for the Throne Celebration held every July 30th in Rabat.
- D. Indigenous nations and people have distinct identities, cultures, languages and traditions and have all experienced encroachment on their traditional homelands and lifestyle.
- E. There is an ongoing need for indigenous Jews to protect their rights across Morocco and globally.
- F. Indigenous nations retain the inherent right to self-determination as recognized by the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- G. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations recognizes and affirms the inherent rights of self-determination of indigenous nations, which include the right to enter into nation-to-nation agreements with one another for their mutual interest and benefit.
- H. Indigenous leaders from throughout Morocco met on April 11th 2021 and decided to declare autonomy, in order to create a forum for indigenous Jewish people from across Morocco to work collectively to protect their rights.
- I. An interim Executive Council has supported other efforts to foster collaboration among indigenous Jewish nations, including the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and to plan for a General Assembly in 2022.
- J. The Moroccan Jewish community rejoices in its newly-formed autonomy and encourages other indigenous nations of Jews in the Middle East to join in ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Moroccan Jewish community hereby formally endorses, ratifies and adopts the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations was adopted by the General Assembly of Moroccan Jews on May 24 2021 of the Common Era.

[signed]

Amine I Noo

