

Luristan ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS WE, the representatives of the Luristan tribal nation, proclaim the sovereign right of Luristan tribes to contract and co-manage tribal lands and natural resources, and do hereby declare that:

1. Lurs (Persian: لُر) are an Iranian people living in the mountains of western Iran and eastern Iraq, with the Iraqi Luristan region (Failiestan) consisting of Diyala, Wasit and Maysan Governorates. The four Luri branches—Bakhtiari, Mamasani, Kohgiluyeh and Lur—share a common language, Luri, a Western Iranian language spoken by four million people. For centuries the Failis have lived in the border area between Iraq and Iran on both sides of the Zagros Mountains.
2. Under the Pahlavi regime, for the first time in their long history, the Lurs were stripped of their traditional rights and political freedom, and were prohibited from organizing political parties, forming associations or expressing themselves through mass media and public gatherings.
3. Under the Pahlavi regime, the Lurs lost their freedom and their semi-independent status, and the Lurs' territories were divided into administrative units with no regard for traditional boundaries. For instance, Lur-i-kuchek has been limited to modern Luristan while Posht-kuh, formerly ruled by the Wali dynasty, was incorporated into Ilam province. The most dramatic change caused by the Pahlavi regime was the loss of freedom and the semi-independent status of the Lurs.
4. In the mid 1970s Iraq expelled around 40,000 Faili Kurds to Iran, alleging they were Iranian nationals. In 1980, Federal Decree 666 ensured that Faili Kurds were stripped of Iraqi citizenship and their properties were seized by the government.
5. In April 1980, up to 300,000 Iraqi Faili Lurs were stripped of their Iraqi citizenship. Many were expelled from their homes and were forced to march across the Iranian border into decades of exile and statelessness. Others became non-citizens in their own country. Though important steps have been taken by the Government of Iraq to restore the citizenship of these people, it is estimated that roughly 100,000 still lack a nationality.
6. Luri women have much greater freedom than women in other groups within the region. Luri women are free to participate in different social activities, to wear colorful traditional clothing and to sing and dance in different ceremonies. Their music, clothing and folk dances are among the Lurs most distinctive ethno-cultural characteristics.
7. Luri tribal citizens wish to implement solutions to remedy the societal, cultural, economic, and nutritional hardships induced by central government rules and policies that deprive Luris of their rights.
8. Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations will allow us to adapt Luri customary laws to use as mechanisms under international law to protect traditional Luri fishing and gathering practices.
9. Traditional uses of lands by Lurs include renewable resources for consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing or medicine; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.
10. Luristan actively advocates for access to food as a basic human right, and the right of tribal governments to be fully-engaged in the management of Luri agriculture and natural resources that

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they depend upon for their livelihoods, including the right to contract/compact or co-manage fisheries and wildlife in the waterways and on the lands within our territories, and to contribute to agriculture and wildlife management plans that affect traditional use areas.

11. A consensus among Luri governing councils supports the concept of tribal co-management as best expressed through the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
12. The Luristan general assembly has discussed and fully supports ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations that empowers tribal government with self-determination to protect traditional Luri culture and lands and way of life by enabling Lurs tribal governments to:
 - a. contract/compact to manage our own government including laws, court systems, control environmental resources; and
 - b. co-manage tribal lands and environmental resources with local tribal leaders in our capacity as stewards of our traditional homelands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

- A. The Luristan tribal nation does hereby formally ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- B. The Luristan tribal nation hereby commits to implement all provisions of the the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations internally and in all its dealings with other nations.
- C. This resolution shall be the policy of Luristan until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Luristan general assembly on October 12th, 2021.

[signed]

Tareq Lur Failiy

