

Nubians of Upper Egypt ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Nubian tribes of Egypt's Upper Nile, declare:

- A. We, the indigenous leaders of the Nubian tribes of Egypt's Upper Nile, have engaged in a global dialogue concerning the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- B. The indigenous nation of Nubian tribes is seeking official status as a self-governing autonomous region of Egypt's Upper Nile.
- C. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations recognizes the "regular and permanent status" of constitutional and customary indigenous governments such as Nubian tribes of the Upper Nile.
- D. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations (ICRIN) affirms the status of Nubian tribes of the Upper Nile region as autonomous nations.
- E. Under ICRIN, Nubians of Upper Egypt are entitled to form autonomous tribal governments with local jurisdiction over their respective lands, resources, laws and courts.
- F. Through ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations (ICRIN), Nubian tribes of Upper Egypt mandate the protection of their tribal homelands.
- G. The historical and spiritual connections of Nubian tribes of Upper Egypt to these lands have not been extinguished as these lands include the remains of our ancestors and we continue to pray, hold ceremonies and gather traditional medicinal plants on these lands.
- H. Nubian tribes of Upper Egypt's indigenous government have legal and moral obligations to protect these traditional cultural territories in a manner that respects their cultural, historical, spiritual and religious importance to the tribes.
- I. Nubians of Upper Egypt have for millennia played essential roles in the Egyptian nation's history, religion, traditions and culture. For the Nubians, the land is holy with deep tribal, religious, cultural, archaeological, historical and environmental significance.
- J. Nubians of Upper Egypt oppose land exchanges of any kind that circumvent federal laws mandating the protection of native religion and culture because the proposal will destroy the religious and cultural integrity of our ancestors and set a dangerous precedent for all of Egypt by alienating indigenous lands that encompass sacred areas.
- K. Under the terms of ICRIN, Nubians of Upper Egypt shall begin stage-by-stage implementation of a limited Land Exchange that includes environmental assessments and government to government consultations with impacted tribes, with no transfer of lands to the foreign-owned mining corporation permitted until the environmental assessment and tribal government consultations are concluded with favorable results.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nubian nation of Upper Egypt hereby ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nubian tribes of Upper Egypt hereby solemnly pledge to take steps within six months to implement the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, ensuring full transparency and information sharing with the general public of the outcomes of tribal autonomy and its impact upon tribal religion and culture.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Nubian nation of Upper Egypt 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 leadership of the Nubian tribal nation on February 24, 2021.

[signed]

Mohammed Aboelazam