

Ratification by the Shabak Nation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the autonomous Shabak nation Liwa al-shabak and the Qawat Shal Nineveh, declare:

- A. The Shabak are an ethnic and linguistic minority located in a handful of villages east of Mosul, in the Ninewa plains, and a small group in Mosul itself. Shabak consider themselves as a distinct ethnic group, neither Arab nor Kurdish. Shabaki language draws on Turkish, Persian, Kurdish and Arabic. Shabak have been in Iraq since 1502, and today are mainly farmers. Our Shabak community numbers approximately 250,000.
- B. Shabak living in the KRG-controlled area and disputed territories reported heavy pressure to support Kurdish political aims. Since the Kurdish Regional Government does not recognize the Shabak as a distinct ethnic group, our language is not taught in schools and is at risk of extinction.
- C. The Shabak have expressed their wish to form an autonomous government and defense force that will protect tribal resources and promote the Shabakis' health, welfare and human rights.
- D. We, the leadership of the Shabak Provisional Government, have assembled to ratify and adopt the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our nations, rights secured under this International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, and all other rights and benefits to which the Shabak nation is entitled under international laws and treaties.
- E. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations (ICRIN) is the first comprehensive international law to address the rights and long-term social, economic and political interests of indigenous nations like Shabak. This concrete initiative calls upon individual indigenous nations to directly decide what role they will play in international affairs. Provisions enshrined in ICRIN include:
 - a. Non-violent resolution of conflicts and disputes between Nations and between Nations and States;
 - b. Measures concerning genocide against indigenous nations;
 - c. Protection and maintenance of cultural and biological diversity;
 - d. Protection of the lands and territories;
 - e. Protection of intellectual property; and
 - f. Procedures for resolving disputes through negotiation of treaties.
- F. The senior leaders of Shabak at the joint session expressed their concerns and approved the full and effective implementation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Shabak government hereby ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
2. The Shabak government urges all Shabak tribes to ensure and advance the full and effective implementation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and other international treaties and standards that recognize, uphold, defend and protect the rights of indigenous Shabaks, including the right to participate in decision-making and the rights of indigenous nation to participate as such, in all stages of this process; and
3. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of Shabak until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Shabak government on June 19th, 2021 of the Common Era

Supreme Spiritual Leader

Shabak National Assembly Hussain Mahmood Alqadlo

