

Ratification by the Syrian Bedouin Confederation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Syrian Bedouin tribes, declare:

- A. The Syria Bedouin are some of oldest nomadic tribes in Syria today with over a million Bedouin living in Syria, traditionally making a living herding sheep and goats. The largest Bedouin clan in Syria is the Ruwallah who are part of the Anizzah, consisting of tribes like the Hassana, the Ruwalla, the Ageidat, the Fedaan and the Sabaa clans that arrived from the Arabian peninsula in the 18th century.
- B. Bedouin or Bedouin-descended populations dominate the sparsely inhabited desert that stretches from Homs, Hama, and the Qalamoun region in the west to Palmyra, Raqqa, Hasakah, Deir Ezzor, and the Iraqi border in the east. Bedouin tribal communities are found in the Aleppo countryside, in parts of the Ghouta agricultural belt around Damascus, and in the southern Houran region, as well as in cities throughout Syria.
- C. We, the leadership of the Syrian Bedouin tribes, have assembled to consider and ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of Bedouin tribes, rights secured under this International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, and agreements with other nations, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under international laws and treaties.
- D. 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 Bedouin of Syria. 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. Peaceful 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.
- E. Syrian Bedouin tribes regard the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as an historic statement of our rights as a nation intended to guard against genocide, theft of lands and resources, all kinds of discrimination, and the political exclusion that Bedouins and other nations have suffered – and too often continue to suffer today.
- F. The Syrian Bedouin Confederation urges its tribal governments to fulfill their treaty obligations and uphold the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- G. The Syrian Bedouin Confederation stipulates that it shall be entitled to a delegate in the government and tribunal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Syrian Bedouin Confederation hereby endorses and ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the assembly of Syrian Bedouins on June 24 2021.

[signed]

Syria Autonomy Tribal Council
Nouras Alshiekh

