

Tafsut Amazigh of Morocco ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the appointed representatives of the Tafsut Amazigh of Morocco, declare:

- A. Indigenous to North Africa, the Amazigh people, sometimes known as Berbers, have spent decades fighting for cultural recognition in the predominantly-Arab region. For years while Amazigh were excluded from decision making, Amazigh activists have engaged in a battle against oppressive policies while also trying to promote measures to help preserve Amazigh identity.
- B. Central to past and present Amazigh revival movements are the concepts of *Awal* (language), *Akkal* (land), and *Ddam* (blood).
 - a. Accordingly, one of the significant outcomes of Amazigh activism has been the designation of the Amazigh language Tamazight as an official language in both Algerian and Moroccan constitutions.
 - b. Regarding *Akkal*, Amazigh take land conservation very seriously, balancing the fine line between communal and private ownership.
 - c. The third pillar of Amazigh identity, *Ddam*, represents a sense of belonging through the cohesiveness of family and culture, while also signifying sacrifice. Indeed, the Amazigh believe that an issue sometimes can only be resolved once sacrificial blood is spilled.
- C. Starting as a grassroots effort, the Amazigh cultural revival movement has gradually gained more political influence over the years. The Amazigh people of the Maghreb have duly achieved a significant degree of recognition, particularly in Morocco with the Tafsut Amazigh movement.
- D. Amazigh of Morocco have not enjoyed the social, economic, and cultural rights to their ancestral and cultural artifacts and natural resources. We have been deprived of the significant cultural benefit of owning an interest in lands located within and around our traditional homelands.
- 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 Tafsut Amazigh of Morocco. 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.
- F. We, the leadership of the Tafsut Amazigh nation of Morocco, 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 our Amazigh nations, rights secured under this International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, and agreements with all the Amazigh nations, and all other rights and benefits to which our nations are entitled under international laws and treaties.
- G. The Tafsut Amazigh nation of Morocco regards 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 Amazigh and many nations have suffered – and too often continue to suffer today.
- H. The Tafsut Amazigh, the oldest, largest and most representative body serving the interests of Morocco's Amazigh tribes, has expressed its intent to ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

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- I. The Tafsut Amazigh shall establish an autonomous government and resolve land claims of Amazigh as a means to pursue the Amazigh people's economic development.
- J. Ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations will help to ensure the continued economic and cultural benefits and secure Amagazi ownership of their sacred and cultural sites in Morocco to preserve and protect Amazigh cultural properties for current and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Tafsut Amazigh nation of Morocco hereby ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
2. The Tafsut Amazigh nation of Morocco hereby recognizes and affirms the inherent rights of self-determination and self-governance of Indigenous Nations, including the right to enter into nation-to-nation agreements with one another for their mutual interest and benefit.
3. This resolution shall be the policy of the Tafsut Amazigh nation of Morocco 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 Tafsut Amazigh nation of Morocco on July 2 2021 of the Common Era.

[signed]

President of Association of tafsut

Ferhat Abbas

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