

Zargari Nation of Iran ratifies the the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Zargari people of Iran, declare:

- A. The Zargari people are a Romani-related ethnic group deriving from Zargar, Iran and neighboring villages speaking a distinct Zargari dialect of the Romany language.
- B. Zargari (or Romāno) is a dialect of Balkan Romani, spoken in Zargar region (Abyek district) in the Qazvin Province of Iran by the Zargari people. The language can be found in surrounding regions as well. It is one of the only Indo-Aryan languages still spoken in Iran, and is considered endangered.
- C. The Zargari are Romani; our homeland is Iran. The residents of Zargar predominantly belong to the Pāsālār Zargar, Qazvin of Iran. Zargari have had traditional self-government since our early ancestors came to Iran many centuries ago.
- D. Although the Zargari once consisted of several clans, most of these have dispersed and lost their native language. The residents of Zargar predominantly belong to the Pāsālār clan.
- E. The Zargari nation and representatives have joined with Zargari from other regions with significant Zargari populations including Zargar, Qazvin and holy areas of the Pāsālār.
- F. The Zargari and their leaders wish to ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to support the long standing aspirations for Zargari autonomy.
- G. The Zargari endorsed the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and consider it as a treaty between different tribes of Zargari to form a unified Zargari government.
- H. The Zargari nation has been actively involved in the ratification process of this International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations which includes establishing a government with elected leadership and support for international justice tribunals.
- I. The Zargari view the ratifying of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as an historic statement of Zargari rights intended to guard against the genocide, theft of lands and resources, discrimination and political exclusion that the Zargari and many other indigenous peoples have suffered – and too often continue to suffer today.
- J. In accordance with a request from the Zargari leadership for consultations, the Zargari Planning Commission on Autonomy convened a high-level plenary meeting that agrees to endorse and ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and sets forth a number of concrete actions to be taken by the Zargari nation to implement the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- K. The Zaragi government will achieve its purpose of implementing concrete actions on the part of the Zaragi tribes through ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, including lasting, effective institutions to monitor and facilitate its compliance and implementation.
- L. The best way to implement the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and safeguard indigenous rights is for Zargari indigenous peoples, represented by their own local governments, to be able to participate fully and permanently in the work of Zargari national autonomy.
- M. The Zargari nation advocates four priorities, namely to: 1) implement the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; 2) establish the valid legal status of indigenous governments

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at international treaties and tribunals; 3) prevent violence against indigenous women and children; and 4) protect sacred places and objects.

- N. Ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations creates critical pathways that must be identified and followed in order to achieve full implementation and realization of the principles, rights, and protections provided by the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Zargari nation hereby formally ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
2. By ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Zargari nation encourages indigenous Zargari administrative bodies and individuals to take their rightful place as a part of the international community and to coordinate with member states as they work to develop recommendations regarding
 - a. how to use, modify, and improve existing mechanisms to achieve the ends of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and
 - b. options to enable the participation of Zargari Indigenous governments with the right of self-determination held by indigenous peoples as recognized and affirmed by the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
3. This resolution shall be the policy of Zargari 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 Zargari nation of Iran on June 25 2021 of the Common Era.

[signed]

Hojer Nissi

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