

Bani Murra Romas of Jordan ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, representatives of the Indigenous nation of the Bani Murra Romas of Jordan and Syria, declare:

- A. We, the Dom or Roma people, migrated from South Asia in the sixth century and gradually made our way through the Middle East before the time of the Crusades.
- B. The Bani Murra, Syria's Dom community, frequently referred to as 'gypsies' due to their formerly nomadic lifestyle, fled Syria at the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011.
- C. Like Europe's Roma, the Bani Murra are a persecuted minority who face widespread prejudice and hostility across the region. Due to popular stereotypes associating us with witchcraft, fortune-telling and criminality, we are often referred to as *nawar* or 'tramps' – a slur that even Bani Murra have adopted themselves.
- D. The Bani Murra continue to experience disproportionate levels of violent crime, substance abuse, domestic violence, suicide, incarceration and unresolved historical trauma.
- E. Any future genetic survey or research involving the Bani Murra Roma tribes shall be conducted only with the informed consent and/or specific approval of a recognized ethical committee set up or approved by the Bani Murra.
- F. Bani Murra tribal communities possess their own autonomous government system that includes tribal courts as systems of justice based alongside an imposed colonial and adversarial justice system.
- G. Our Bani Murra traditional system of justice often brings about more prompt and equitable results while operating more cost-effectively than the corrupt imported legal system.
- H. Tribal nations that now depend upon the state will henceforth rely on their own traditions that include a spiritual dimension relying on the connectedness of all things.
- I. The Bani Murra tribal community shall provide the basis for public safety, security and personal responsibility.
- J. The revitalization of our own Bani Murra traditions for finding justice, promoting healing and restoring dignity among our families, clans, communities and nations is a key component to overcoming problems ranging from historical trauma, colonization and genocide.
- K. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations unequivocally supports the right of tribal nations to reinvigorate and revive their own legal systems and forms of governments as well as the right to protect tribal traditions in the context their own communities and to support the efforts of all tribal nations to do the same.
- L. Support for efforts like Indigenous peacemaking initiatives and tribal nations seeking to implement peacemaking initiatives have been sparse and intermittent, thereby hindering their ability to utilize their own dispute resolution systems perfected over millennia of successful use within and between Bani Murra communities despite their desire to do so.
- M. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations shall be recognized as an integral part of our own legal system to bring justice and self-respect to the Bani Murra.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in the interest of protecting and promoting tribal sovereignty, strengthening tribal governments, advancing tribal self-determination and advancing the health and welfare of the Bani Murra, we do hereby ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bani Murra support and promote the National Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and encourage tribal nations to support the initiative.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Bani Murra shall advocate for enhanced rights for peacemaking for our tribes through implementing the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Bani Murra on November 21st 2021 CE.

[signed]

Sultan Rahmoun

Title
King

Sultan Rahmoun