

## Marsh Arab Tribal Nation ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Marsh Arab tribes of Iraq, declare:

- A. The Arab-speaking ancestors of the modern Marsh Arab originally hailed from the northeast, from the southern part of Iraq, and settled in the present homeland of the Marshes in antiquity. Most Marsh Arabs today live in Iraq, where the Marsh Arab minority group has no official status. Their number today is estimated at 40,000. The Marsh Arabs are composing members tribes and confederation such as the Al bu Muhammad, Ferayghāt, and the Shaghanbdecades.
- B. The Marsh tribes were an independent sovereign nation long before the creation of the Iraq state. The Marsh Arabs were never dominated by the Iraq government: nor did the Ottoman Empire succeed in subjugating them fully. When the Marsh Arab felt their partial autonomy threatened in the early 19th century, they took up arms against Ottoman empire and fought against the troops of the British and Iraq for more than two decades.
- C. The Marsh Arab nation and tribes have their own unique histories, customs, traditions, and relationships with Marsh Arabs tribe in Iran. Marsh Arab autonomy is therefore deeply embedded in Marsh Arab thought and history.
- D. The current Marsh Arab leadership has entered into agreements between all three Marsh Arab tribes; through ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Marsh Arab tribal confederation seeks recognition as a sovereign nation.
- E. The Marsh Arab nation affirms that it is sovereign citing the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and international law as well as. Marsh Arab Customary laws and activities for the transmission of tribal culture shall be protected.”
- F. Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations is essential for Marsh Arabs civic leaders to execute their responsibilities to promote the general welfare of the Marsh Arab, given their unique structures and communities.
- G. It is customary and traditional for Marsh Arabs governments to provide honoraria to citizens who engage in civic participation opportunities related to the governmental general welfare operations that are essential for ensuring the transmission and protection of Marsh Arab culture, history and the long-term viability and health of its citizenry and overall community.
- H. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations affirms that, “Indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,” and further recognizes that, “Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.”
- I. In accordance with the principles enshrined in the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Arab tribes defer in how they choose to define their own customs, traditions, and ceremonial practices.

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- J. Since current state laws do not protect or maintain Marsh Arabs tribal culture and tradition, these issues should be addressed by Marsh Arab customary laws with the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as basis for legal codes to address these concerns and work with Marsh Arab tribes on a government-to-government basis.
- K. The Marsh Arab leadership has consulted with all three Marsh Arab tribes regarding the implementation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and have sought to interpret the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in terms of Marsh Arab customary law before establishing legal codes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

- 1. The Marsh Arab tribal confederation hereby formally ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and
- 2. This resolution shall be the policy of the Marsh Arab tribal confederation until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Marsh Arab tribal confederation on March 31st 2022.

Title	Name
Sheik	Mustafa Hashem

Signature

