

Sulukule Nation ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS, we, the assembled Sulukule leaders do declare:

- A. The Sulukule Tribe is an inherently sovereign nation of nomadic tribes centered in Turkey. The Sulukule in Istanbul is the oldest Romani settlement in Europe, recorded in 1054. Officially, there are about 500,000 Romani people living in Turkey.
- B. The Sulukule government was established in 2012 and is made up of tribes of Sulukule which have agreed to form a tribal government in order to affirm Roma and Sulukule legal rights through ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- C. Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations recognizes and proclaims the rights and the inherent sovereignty of the indigenous Sulukule.
- D. The Sulukule nation, like all indigenous nations, has the sovereign inherent right to engage in international treaties and desires to establish equitable treaty relationships.
- E. The Sulukule and other affected tribal nations depend on aquifers and the ground springs they feed as groundwater sources, as well as for public health, general welfare, and sustainability of their tribal communities.
- F. The development of natural resources by the Turkish government poses a serious risk to the environmental and cultural resources of the Sulukule and its ability to ensure a safe, livable homeland for its people. The Sulukule language, cultural resources and sacred places of the Sulukule Tribe are also at risk.
- G. The Sulukule nation is deeply concerned about the protection of native peoples' sacred places, sacred objects and ancestors, wherever they are located or held, within tribal territories by whatever persons or entities, and is unconditionally opposed to their desecration or dispossession, and to any adverse impact, damage, endangerment, injury or threat to them.
- H. The lack of genuine government-to-government consultation between the Turkish government and the Sulukule tribe represents a failure of the Turkish federal government's trust responsibility. Through ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Sulukule will assume authority over their own lands and destiny.
- I. Consultations have been underway so Sulukule leaders may consider the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order that the Sulukule may be in a better position to claim legal authority over lands and natural resources and to document the Turkish government's obligations to conduct full and meaningful consultation with Sulukule communities.
- J. The Sulukule Tribe has provided comments to the deputy sheikh specifically requesting to engage in full and meaningful tribal government-to-government consultation in regards to ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

Sulukule Nation ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

1. The Sulukule Tribe hereby ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and affirms the Tribe's avowed intention to fully implement all its provisions in policy and in practice in consultation with other ratifying parties.
2. The government of the Sulukule nation affirms its commitment to protecting the inherent sovereign rights of the Sulukule people, including the right to engage in trade, commerce both domestically and internationally and to establish courts and other legal mechanisms.
3. The government of the Sulukule nation hereby affirms its rightful intention to engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation with Turkish governmental authorities to ensure the protection of Sulukule waters, lands, ancestral resting places and other sacred places.
4. This resolution shall be the policy of Sulukule until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Sulukule General Assembly on September 6th 2021 of the Common Era.

[signed]

Title
King

Name
Sultan rahmoun

