

Amazigh

Bedouins of Egypt ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Bedouin tribes of Egypt's Upper Nile, declare:

- A. The indigenous leaders of the Bedouin tribes of Egypt have engaged in a global dialogue concerning the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- B. Indigenous governments, including the nation of Bedouin tribes, are seeking official status as self-governing autonomous regions of Egypt's Upper Nile.
- C. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations recognizes the "regular and permanent status" of constitutional and customary indigenous governments such as Bedouin tribes of Egypt.
- D. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations (ICRIN) affirms the status of Bedouin tribes of Egypt as autonomous nations.
- E. Under ICRIN, Bedouins of Egypt are entitled to form autonomous tribal governments with local jurisdiction over their respective lands, resources, laws and courts.
- F. Through ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations (ICRIN), Bedouin tribes of Egypt mandate the protection of their tribal homelands.
- G. The historical and spiritual connections of Bedouin tribes of Egypt to these lands have not been extinguished as these lands include the remains of our ancestors and we continue to pray, hold ceremonies and gather traditional medicinal plants on these lands.
- H. Bedouin tribes of Egypt's indigenous government have legal and moral obligations to protect these traditional cultural territories in a manner that respects their cultural, historical, spiritual and religious importance to the tribes.
- I. The lands to be secured under the protection of ICRIN include the red desert of Giza which is their ancestral homeland where indigenous people go today to pray, conduct ceremonies such as Holy Ground and the puberty rite that some refer to as the Sunrise Dance, which celebrates a young woman's coming of age, gather medicines and other ceremonial items and seek peace and personal cleansing.
- J. Bedouins of Egypt have for millennia played essential roles in the Egyptian nation's history, religion, traditions and culture. For Bedouins, the deserts are holy with deep tribal, religious, cultural, archaeological, historical and environmental significance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedouin tribes of Egypt hereby ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bedouin tribes of Egypt hereby solemnly pledge to take steps within six months to implement the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, ensuring full transparency and information sharing with the general public of the outcomes of tribal autonomy and its impact upon tribal religion and culture.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Bedouin tribes of Egypt 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 Bedouin tribes indigenous communities on February 24, 2021.

[signed]

Amazigh

Mohamed Aboelazam

