

Ma'dān National Council ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Ma'dān tribal governments of Iraq and Iran, declare:

- A. The Ma'dān (معدان) or Marsh Arabs (عرب الأهوار), comprising members of many different tribes and tribal confederations, including the Āl Bū Muḥammad, Ferayghāt, Shaghanbah and Banī Lām, have for uncounted centuries inhabited the Tigris-Euphrates marshlands in the south of Iraq as well as the Hawizeh Marshes straddling the Iraq-Iran border.
- B. As hereditary stewards of the marshlands, we Ma'dān of Iran and Iraq have long practiced sustainable hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources for our Ma'dān peoples' continuing survival.
- C. Ma'dān current federal-state dual management has failed to adequately manage resources to meet the traditional and customary needs and practices of Ma'dān peoples in Iraq and Iran and does not adequately provide for Ma'dān participation, with no Ma'dān governmental representation to counterbalance the states' interests.
- D. The Ma'dān National Council, the oldest and largest national organization of Ma'dān tribal governments in Iraq and Iran, has established a Ma'dān Provisional Government.
- E. The Ma'dān Provisional Government recognizes that the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations offers a mechanism to adequately ensure the Ma'dān people of Iran and Iraq a role in the management of traditional resources.
- F. Through a series of broken promises by the states, the Ma'dān have been denied the right to manage hunting, fishing and gathering even on their own lands conveyed through the settlement of our land claims; Ma'dān communities wish to protect these rights as their own natural resources.
- G. Ma'dān communities, tribal governments, tribal consortiums, non-profits, and corporations possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to manage their traditional lands and resources since they have served as stewards of the land for uncounted centuries, maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems.
- H. Ma'dān tribes of Iraq and Iran wish to manage their own government and natural resources, with co-management rights and responsibilities to be at least equal to those of the federal governments of Iraq and Iran without limitation.
- I. By ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Ma'dān Provisional Government also hereby commits itself to implement all of its features in support of the sovereign rights of all Ma'dān tribes to govern themselves and co-manage their natural resources including water rights.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ma'dān tribal governments of Iraq and Iran hereby ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Ma'dān Provisional Government of Iran and Iraq 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 Ma'dān Provisional Government of Iran and Iraq on May 21st, 2021.

[signed]

Naeem Abed Mohalhl

