

Ahwaz Education and Human Rights Organization

Please acknowledge the existence and the identity of minorities and provide credible statistics on the situations. While the Declaration had some successes in some countries, unfortunately after 20 years we have not any improvement in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As you know Dr. Almad Saheed Special Rapporteur form Human Rights has not been allowed to visit Iran, let alone minority provinces. Baosi Arab ethnic minority have continued to be viewed with suspicion and hostility by the central government in Teheran. They have been subjected to a sustained program of land confiscation, forced assimilation, ethnic restructuring or preconisation and unemployment at higher rates than the national average.

The Islamic Republic has consistently ignored the demand of non-Persian minorities groups such as Arabs, Kurds, Baluchi Azritamo and Turkman to implement articles 15 and 19 of the constitution which guarantees the use of regional languages and allows some degree of autonomy.

The Iranian Government does not recognise or acknowledge the existence and identity of Baozi Arab minorities as people, nationality or a community. Any demands for minority protection is considered secessionist.

Another positive measure would be to allocate certain jobs in the areas of where minority groups live. Arabs are faced with discrimination in civil service, the 70% of Arab population Khuzestan hold less than 5% of key government positions. With inadequate political representation the Baozi Arabs are unable to address the injustices faced by the people and they cannot make cultural, political and justice swears. Although ancestral Baozi land has the 90% of Iranian oil, its people have been viewed at best as an inconvenience or at worst as a threat. Oil revenues of the province is spent elsewhere. The Iranian Government has consistently refused to allocate just 1,5% of oil revenue as it has been demanded.

Thank you very much.