

Mr. President

Ladies and gentlemen

Peace be upon you

Allow me first to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for giving me the chance to speak on behalf of my people, the Ahwazi, and reveal the suffering we have endured. For decades, we have exerted tremendous efforts to reach out to international organizations and submit our grievance and demands before the free world, albeit the willful disguising and isolation inflicted on us by the Iranian occupying authorities since 20 April 1925. The Iranian authorities perpetrated a crime against humanity when it carried out armed occupation over Ahwaz province, 440,000 Km, and population of more than 10 million, committed internationally prohibited crimes of ethnic cleansing against our people, and banned the Arabic language in schools, and official departments. The Iranian regime also renamed Ahwazi towns, villages and streets with Farsi names. They even tried to wipe off anything related to Ahwaz historical or literary legacy. It also blocked any political, cultural or intellectual channels allowing the Ahwazi people to identify themselves or call for their legitimate human demands. Moreover, supporters to these moves are threatened to be executed with the charge of “enmity against God and plotting against the country”. Executions are often carried out in public for the purpose of victimizing and sowing fears into their hearts. There are so many examples to cite, however they recently executed two brothers in Canaan castle on 28/9/2016. With such gruesome crimes Iran is classified by national and international organizations including Human Rights Council as one of the top countries which adopts systematic terrorism, extrajudicial executions and violation of human rights.

As for Iran’s economic policy and discrimination in Ahwaz, I can’t relate all the parts of this crime due to little time. However, I will mention some of these crimes so that the attendees become aware of the way Iranian regime is treating Ahwazi people. The oil-rich southwestern province constitutes over 80 per cent of Iran’s national income. Nevertheless, our people are plagued with severe socio-economic deprivation. The Iranian authorities brought hundreds of thousands Iranian people to work in our province and benefit from its rich resources by employing them in oil companies. The Iranian regime also confiscated 200,000 hectares of the farmland owned by indigenous people and granting titling to the Persians without any rights. According to some Iranian officials such as Sheikh Haidary, representative to Khamenei in Ahwaz province, the Iranian regime willfully built dams to direct the rivers to the Iranian cities of Qom, Yazd and Kerman. Lack of water in Ahwaz has led to hydration and unemployment, in addition to internal migration to the Iranian cities or even migrating abroad. All these attempts aim to alter the demography of Ahwaz province. Ironically enough, the Iranian regime makes

use of our rich resources to finance Shiite and Sunni sectarian militias to sow creative chaos in the region and neighborhoods. It's no doubt that the Iranian regime through the assistance of its terrorist cells is embroiled in all sectarian wars in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, as well as the Gulf countries.

Mr. President

Ladies and gentlemen present.

More than 91 years of aggressive policy inflicted by Iran hasn't broken the will of our people and will never do so. Our people denounced the Iranian status quo imposed by Iran through popular revolutions, and peaceful protests. For the cause of self-determination, we have provided numbers of martyrs and thousands of people remain under the prisons of Iran. We call for sending international envoys to inspect the catastrophic situation and crimes committed by Iran against the people of Ahwaz and non-Persian people who constitute more than 70 per cent of the Iranian population. In this forum, we therefore reiterate that we renounce all forms of violence and sectarian which Iran practices through its constitution. We would like also to use this platform to condemn the Iranian flagrant interference in the region for expansionist aims that has been a cause for not only international and regional insecurity and instability but deterioration of respect for human rights in the pan region.

I renew our thanks and sincere appreciation to you, and we hope that the international community will act to save my people from the Iranian ethnic cleansing policy.

Deputy Secretary-General of Ahwazi FDP,

A Faction of National organization for the emancipation of Ahwaz

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Secretary-General

Salah Abu Sharef Ahwazi