

On behalf of Ahwazi Source organisation

Water emergency situation in Ahwaz

Thousands of Ahwazi people demonstrated, during July 2021, in several cities and villages across Ahwaz in protest to the ongoing imposed drought by Iran.

Ahwazis protest against Iran's hydro projects and policies which have dried out rivers and marshlands, devastated agriculture and villages and caused forced collective displacement.

Our people demand Iran to open the valves of its dams which are known as Arab killer dams.

Iran but responded to this innocent people by hot bullets and killed more than 15 and prisoned more than 5000.

While Iran drowns down hundreds of Ahwazi villages during winters, it bans agriculture during summers in Ahwaz. According to the governor of Ahwaz more than 600 Ahwazi villages have no water, neither for drinking nor for agriculture.

Iran's projects have resulted in complete drought of rivers and wetlands, mass death of animals and fish, vast devastation of palms and desertification of hundreds on Ahwazi villages and forced migration of more than 800 hundred thousands of Ahwazis. These projects are as following:

- Establishing more than 86 dams over the Ahwazi rivers outside the province
- More than 10 tunnels transferring billions of cubic meters to central plateau of Iran, annually
- Establishing 8 mega sugar cane projects with huge water consumption and devastating salty effluent
- Establishing dams in salty areas which pumps salt continuously to Ahwaz which has devastated agriculture

Due to this vast pollution of Air, water and soil, cancer cases have increased between 2 to 10 folds and more than 5000 Ahwazis are dying due pollution annually and annual death rate increased by about 30%.

We ask the United Nation to follow this silent ethnic cleansing in Ahwaz and save the Ahwazi people from the imposed drought and save our rights in the shared waters with other provinces.

Mahdi Hashemi

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