

Amir Saedi

Ahwazi Human Rights Organisation (Ahro)

Thank you Chair lady, Ladies and gentlemen as minority human rights activist, on behalf of Ahwazi Arab ethnic minority in Iran I would like to thank you and the UN Human Rights Council, for giving me this opportunity.

20 years after the adaption of declaration as a filed activist I can say that there are no minority protection right for Ahwazi Arabs in Iran, Ahwazi Arabs cannot study their language, cannot exercise their cultural and social rights and in need of Persian translator to go court in their own land. Arabs in Iran who compromise 8-10% of population are deprived of their basic human rights. for instance according to former Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Millin Kathori, most Ahwazi Arabs villages do not have access to running water, electricity or education and children have to travel sometimes tens of kilometers to attend school. The illiteracy rate among Ahwazi Arab 4 times more than national average and employment is 6 times the national average; while

Ahwazi Arabs are an indigenous ethnic national and linguistic minority. Ahwazi Arabs have not been allowed to participate in running their own affairs; it does not have a true local or national representation. We are deprived of our cultural, economic, social and political rights. there is no public mention Ahwazi Arabs in the media, the Khuzestan province's political, military and security authorities, mayors and the governor have consistently

being appointed from non-Arabs. Persian language is the soul official language, therefore denying the linguistic rights of Arabs of their mother tongue. Ahwazi Arabs have been subjected to forced population transfer and replace with non-Arab settlers, a policy designed to change the ethnic structure and racial mix of Khuzestan.

Recommendation

We recommend that Dr Ahmad Shahid Special Rappoteur Human Right of Iran be allowed to visit the Arab and other minority areas of Iran that a portion of the oil revenue the allocated to the development of the area.