



Speech at the European Parliament

April 1, 2009

This speech is presented by the Ahwazi 14th Agreement Members representatives :

- State of Arabistan National Association
- Ahwazi Democratic Party
- Ahwazi Islamic Sunni Organization
- Ahwazi Centre for Human Rights Foundation
- Ahwazi Nasser Union
- Central Agency for Information
- Ahwazi Radio and Television Broadcasting
- Ahwazi Red Crescent Association

Friends, colleagues, and guests - most honored citizens of the world, thank you for this opportunity to present the demoralizing, degrading, detrimental, and difficult depravity of the Ahwazi Arabs in Iran.

Several hundred years ago, a semi-autonomous nation was formed in the Southwestern area of Iran in what today is known as Khuzestan - however, its real name is ARABISTAN - this land was formed into a semi-autonomous country by the ruling family, Al-Khazaal, of the Ahwaz more than two hundred years ago.

After the discovery of the first oil well in the Middle East that was found in the province of Arabistan in an area called Mosque Al-Suleiyman, secret negotiations were made and the area was invaded by Iran in 1925. The Khazaal family was deposed and had to flee for their lives to Kuwait, Iraq, and other surrounding nations in the Gulf.

Arabistan was illegally invaded, and the lands, businesses, and property were confiscated by the Iranian regime. Today, the people of Arabistan, the Ahwazis, have suffered greatly in the continuation of this practice of confiscating lands that belongs to them and being taken away as the “rights of domain” by the government of Iran to build free trade zones, dams, nuclear plants, and to enlarge the area for oil exploration, and much more.

Most of the time, the Ahwazis are compensated a miniscule amount, if anything for the value of their lands, property, and business in exchange for “take what is offered” or it will be taken; and if they do not sign over the property, it is taken from them anyways with jail, beatings, torture, or worse.

We must think as a “global community” that is outraged at this type of behavior. There is no room for a “federation with Iran” - for how can one group that has values of justice, equality, and fairness, join itself with a group that does not practice the same values? It would be the same as a person marrying one who thinks differently and does not share the same values of equality, justice, and fairness - it would not work and would end tragically, just as this pretense of a “federation” will, which also does not share the same values.

As a global community, we must embrace the accountability, responsibility, and commitments to fairness, justice, and equality for ALL of humankind or how can we expect that any of us will survive life on this planet we call Earth, our home, if we do not practice for all what we expect

from one. Are we as “global citizens” lethargic, complacent, and apathetic to the plight of those who exist under tyrannical rule, do we turn a blind eye, turn the other cheek and look the other way? Brother, where are you? As Cain and Abel met in the VERY land that we are still debating today, brother, where are WE in the plight of the Ahwazi people?

Technology has changed and advanced, but human nature still battles within itself for the God of justice, fairness, and equality, which is firmly and soundly written of in all of the major holy writings on the Earth - the Koran, the Bible, and the Torah. We can NOT just ignore these teachings, which have been handed down for thousands of years. These holy writings are the ethical standards that most of the world lives by and most “civilizations” function. If so many people of the Earth value their validity to humankind’s existence, then we need to practice what we teach....justice, fairness, and equality for ALL, not just some. Today, there are skirmishes all over the Earth where we can see the injustice of one person to another, but in all of these lands, just as in Iran, there are those who believe in the value of these holy writings and what they mean to humankind’s existence, and what they will mean if we choose to ignore them.

And so, my friend, we can NOT ignore them, our very soul and spirit will not allow the degradation of harsh beatings, confiscations of lands without just cause, torture, and premature deaths to be ignored any longer. If any of you in this audience today have a conscience in regards to humanity, then you can NO longer ignore the “human rights violations” against the Ahwazis that is strongly documented with the UNHCR. The plan of the regime of Iran that has developed and is being developed using the strategy of “ethnic cleansing” of the Arabs in this area of Iran through “rights of domain” and confiscation of property, is still being practiced and will continue to do so as long as the world closes its eyes to the unjust reality. The refugee camps that exist today in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and have spread refugees to the United States and Europe, and throughout the entire

world are a testimony to this very fact. Is this a regime any sane person wants to have a “federation” with and belong to? The logic of this thinking totally escapes reality; the facts, and the evidence that has been presented to UNHCR many times speaks for itself.

It is a violation of human rights, human dignity, and human worth to say that one human’s life is worth more than another. We can not help but wonder at times throughout our history, is there a God of justice? Does such a word, “justice” have any meaning or value in the Earth today? How can one who is just - align himself or herself with one who is unjust? It will not work, therefore, this concept of “federation,” as it is - is just not possible to ask one group of people who believe in human values to align itself with one that does not - just ask the refugees of Arabistan, the asylum seekers, and those who could speak from their graves, if it were possible for them to do so.

We ask the great leaders in the world today, do you believe in human rights, civilization, and the brotherhood of humankind? If the answer is yes, you can NOT say yes to this “federation” - because it is joining the just with the unjust.

Even the respect of human rights is addressed in the Sixty-first General Assembly of the United Nations’ Third Committee 50th Meeting where it expressed a “serious concern at the continuing harassment, intimidation, and persecution of human rights defenders, political opponents, ethnic and religious minorities and other groups in Iran; as well as the country’s persistent failure to comply fully with international standards in the administration of justice, by the term of a draft resolution approved by the Third Committee.” (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, 2006). If they were not doing it then, complying with international standards, do you honestly think they are doing it now? Not very likely, or willingly either, international pressure or not, Iran will not conform to an

international code of ethics, conduct, and human behavior as long as the current regime exists.

Civilization is expected to be organized with a degree of continual acquisition of truth from the unknown while embracing what is right from the chaotic to gain control and be civilized, which becomes knowledge for all of its global citizens. If we allow chaos, crime, and conflict to exist in one area of the globe, then we have to allow it to exist in all areas of the globe, and then where is “civilization?” Global societies need to reflect on the adequate housing and standard of living component that is NOT currently being practiced in Arabistan/Khuzestan today in Iran, most especially in regards to gender equality and ethnic discrimination practices in force today for jobs, housing, and political affiliations (Economical and Social Council of the United Nations, March 2006). The UN Council has recognized the willingness of the Iranian government to implement adequate housing, jobs, etc; however, the reality reveals that discrimination is STILL being practiced and obstacles are STILL being placed with such strategies as inaccessibility to credit facilities, urban bias, land confiscation, forced evictions, and land and property inheritance taken away at random, willingly or not.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set down at the UN in New York in 1948, REQUIRES that a person has a right to be given a “fair trial,” that freedom of speech in beliefs, thought, and conscience, the right to an adequate standard of living and to own property, freedom of religion and assembly, the right of an occupation with favorable working conditions, and MOST important the freedom from torture, slavery, and harassment be established for ALL nations. This resolution was adopted by the UN in response to the death camps in Europe at the end of World War II. This was designed to prevent this “horrific holocaust” from ever happening again...but it continues in the world today in places such as Iran, to name only one place that has no regard for basic human rights for ALL its citizens to have access

to health facilities, education, housing, food, employment, property, freedom of expression and movement without fear of intimidation. The area of Arabistan/Khuzestan, the Ahwazi people, suffer greatly today from the continued discriminatory practices against them by the Iranian regime which is reflected in the disproportionately poor housing and living conditions of these groups of people in the area (Economic and Social Council, United Nations, March 2006, p. 2).

The components of demoralization, depravation, degradation, devastation, and death are all detrimental and difficult to understand for those of us who value basic human rights, which can NOT be ignored. The global community must ask itself if leaders are supposed to be accountable and responsible in the treatment of ALL its citizens, and if a regime is not practicing best practices for ALL of its citizens, then does that regime have a right to continue to exist without regard for the respect and dignity, health and well being of ALL of its citizens? Therefore, when the leaders of a country inhumanely violate the dignity and sanctity of any of its citizens, discriminating against specific groups, then it no longer deserves to be the custodian of its leadership; and, furthermore, it CERTAINLY does not deserve to have a “federation” formed with it.

There is one particular case of importance, which saddens the Ahwazi people, wherein an Ahwazi mother was given political asylum to Sweden with a Swedish *laissez passez* in her name, Maahsoma Al-Kabi. However, she was apprehended in Syria and taken along with her child to be returned to Iran by private jet and put in an Iranian jail with her child at her side. This is typical everyday behavior towards the Ahwazi people, and it is totally unacceptable.

Therefore, dear friends, colleagues, and fellow citizens of the world, these are our thoughts on the “federation” of Iran, and, in closing I ask you - How can one who is just stand alongside of one who is unjust and live in

peace? It is NOT possible and it will NOT happen. Arabistan needs to be returned to its autonomous state, and NOT be part of a “federation” that has no regard for basic human rights.