

The reality of Tamazight in Morocco in 2017



On the occasion of the Amazigh New Year

In regards to the reality of Tamazight in Morocco in 2017

This annual statement presents the results of monitoring and follow-up carried out by Azata Amazigh during the year 2017 concerning the status of Amazigh in Morocco as well as the violations that may occur. This has been achieved through observing and analysing the work of the government, parliament and other institutions along with evaluating its interest in Amazigh and its efforts to activate the constitutional obligations of the Moroccan state. Furthermore, this statement tends to detect and stand against the practices discriminating agendas against the Amazigh people and Tamazight (the language) whatever source these practices might be engendered from.

The year 2017 has not witnessed any tangible progress in the Amazigh status in Morocco. The constitutional activation of the officialisation of Tamazight has remained stagnant for the last six and a half years, namely after the end of a one legislative mandate and the launching of



another under a new constitution, whereby which Tamazight is recognized as an official language that the state has to protect and promote its use.

Every time, in the absence of the constitutionalising law, the government refrains from taking any positive action towards the Tamazight. Indeed, it proceeds with decisions that are contrary to the spirit and the constitution of Tamazight. It also has persisted on the policies of marginalization and impoverishment of the Amazigh areas through the exploiting of natural resources and the restricting tribes and communities of the ownership of land and forests.

While the legislative institution was limited to the circulation of the governmental initiative embodied in draft laws 26.16 and 04.16 whose fate has not been decided, taking into account the need to review the contents of the two projects, which is the responsibility of parliamentarians at this stage.

The judiciary and the other institutions have not taken any step towards the protection of the Amazigh language and the Amazigh cultural rights, despite the violations of these rights by the State, its representatives or by third parties.

2017 witnessed the continuation of the militant initiatives of the Amazigh movement in order to bring justice to the Amazigh Language, civilization and identity, despite what it has witnessed of prevention and belittling.

The movement of the countryside reflected the size of the development divide in the margin areas and highlighted the demands of the Amazigh identity. The problem of using the Amazigh language in litigation was raised in the midst of the controversial trials of more than 500 rural detainees, including about 24 minors. It should be noted that the relevant authorities were assisted by the translation into and from Hassaniya in the trial of Akadem Izik.



As per Aztag Amazigh, it has held its fifth national conference since October 2017 and filed its legal file three months ago without being able to obtain the temporary deposit receipt from the authorities concerned. This has negatively affected the implementation of commitments with partners, the restriction of the right to use public spaces and to attain the public support, and the impediment of the renewal and establishment of branches and regional organs of Aztag Amazigh.

We do not deny the initiatives taken related to Amazigh in 2017, yet they do not ascend to the qualitative leap needed for Amazigh, which makes fairness and reconciliation acts not slogans aimed at political marketing and the perpetuation of corruption and tyranny.

At the international level, the year 2017 marked the world's celebration of the 69th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At the 72nd session of the General Assembly, the United Nations declared that inequality, terrorism and environmental change were the most important challenges facing humankind.

UNESCO also had an extensive discussion of its roles and functions in the context of the renewal of the Organization's leadership in October 2017, which was unanimous in urging States to make greater efforts to value multilingualism and cultural diversity as helping to build peace in the minds of humankind.

In North Africa, Amazighs and Tamazight are still equally subject to both international and domestic influences. Activists and members of the Amazigh Council of Libya are excluded from any dialogue about the future of Libya and are targeted by criminal terrorist movements.

In Algeria, despite the issuance of an important presidential decree manifested in the recognition of the Amazigh New Year as a national holiday, the year 2017 did not stop the state attack on Amazigh Ghardaia and were prosecuted outside the country, similarly to the what happend with Saleh Abouna and Khdir Scoti, who were arrested in Spain in the month of September and whose transfer was demanded by the Algerian authorities. The Kabylie region also witnessed mass protests in mid-December against the State's contempt for the teaching of Tamazight and the lack of publicisation.

In Tunisia, where Amazigh identity has become increasingly known to individuals and organizations, Amazigh activists continue to be harassed, either by preventing the release of Amazigh names or by refusing to recognize Amazigh organizations and to limit the physical safety of Amazigh activist Dima Trabelsi in October 2017.

The Amazigh Daispura has again expressed its pride in its identity and its involvement in all the struggles that concern the country and its causes.

After six months of consultations, the government was formed, then issued its statement in April 2017. Despite the approval of the Amazigh Declaration, it did not depart from awaiting the outcome of the two organizational laws submitted by the previous government and were the object of criticism and rejection of all components of the Amazigh movement. The government has not cut off programs and measures that discriminate against Amazigh.

Since 2011, Morocco has received about 25 recommendations from the Independent Expert on Cultural Rights, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2015 and the Committee on Civil and Political Rights 2016, all of which focused on speeding up the formalization for the Tamazight, for the generalization of its education and the lifting of the urban registration of Amazigh names and other recommendations related to information, art and culture. Yet all of these are still overthrown while violations are very recurring. The year 2017 was characterized by the participation of Morocco in the Universal Periodic Review session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, where the Moroccan commendable efforts were appreciated and recommended to continue towards the development of national languages and the promotion and protection of Tamazight and the Amazigh cultural heritage. The Council called for ensuring equal access to social and economic resources, including access to higher education in the Tamazight.

In accordance with the requirements of participatory democracy, particularly with regard to petitions addressed to the public



authorities, the Prime Minister's Decree of 25 May 2017 determined the composition of the petitions committee, its terms of reference and the manner in which it is to be conducted. Its members were also appointed on 31 July 2017.

The Law No. 79.14 concerning the equalization and combating of all forms of discrimination, which is updated under Chapter 19 of the Moroccan Constitution, was promulgated in the Official Gazette No. 6612 of 12 October 2017. It will enter into force on the date of appointment of the Chairman and the appointment of its members.

According to this law, the Commission has its headquarters in Rabat and can make regional branches whenever conditions are met. It is an independent national institution with legal personality and financial independence. Its head is considered the ruler of the budget and is subject to public accountability and the Supreme Audit Council. The Commission is competent to express opinions and make recommendations on laws and regulatory texts on its own initiative or

at the request of the King, the Government or one of the two Houses of Parliament. It also encourages the realization of the principles of equality, equality and non-discrimination. It encourages the government to adapt the national legal system to Morocco's international obligations, monitors discrimination against women and proposes every effective measure to rectify the situation in a way that does not conflict with the principles of the nation and within the framework of respect for the components of national identity, The Authority's responsibilities in the public and private sectors. The Board of the Commission consists of a president appointed by the Royal Decree and 24 members, including four members appointed by the Prime Minister and representing civil society associations available for at least 10 years of employment, and two members representing civil society associations available for at least 10 years of employment, appointed by Parliament.

The membership of the Commission is voluntary, with the possibility of granting compensation for tasks that are determined by a decree.

The membership of the Commission is also incompatible with membership in one of the constitutional institutions stipulated in chapters 161 to 170 of the Constitution.

The Commission also has standing committees: The Study and Evaluation Committee, the Monitoring and Complaints Committee, the Communication and Awareness Committee.

However, it appears from the text of the decree that the jurisdiction of the Commission is to discriminate against women without mentioning the grounds for such discrimination or expanding the scope of the Commission's intervention to include all other forms of discrimination as contained in international instruments and in the Moroccan Constitution.

Under the current government, the Finance Act of 2017 was issued on June the 9th and the Finance Act 2018 was passed on December the 25th. Both did not include measures for the benefit of Tamazight, such as financial posts, an increase in financial support or the opening of special funds for Tamazight.

The National Archives Council was established by the Decree No. 2.17.384 of August the 8th, 2017 and published in the Official Gazette No. 6616 of 26 October 2017 as an advisory body to the Prime Minister, which monitors and implements the national strategy in archiving, organizing, valuing and protecting archives.

It proposes any measure it deems necessary to ensure the proper implementation of the national archival strategy at the regional and national levels. It also develops the archival legal reference framework, examines the annual report presented by the Director of the Morocco Archive Foundation to the Prime Minister, Programs and projects aimed at improving the national archive, enriching it and rationalizing its exploitation systems.

On the 21st of December 2017, the Government Council adopted the National Plan for Democracy and Human Rights 2018-2021. Several measures and recommendations, including the speedy promulgation of the organizational laws contained in Chapter V of the Constitution, included the strengthening of Tamazight and the Amazigh culture in the cultural, administrative and judicial spheres, and their occasional integration into education and training programs, in the school and

university environments and in all aspects of the public life. Also, it tends to review the books of the public media in order to increase the share of the Amazigh broadcast and to provide them with the necessary financial and human resources. Perhaps the most important measure of the plan in the field of culture is measure No. 101, which calls for the promotion of remedies and redress relating to discrimination in the field of cultural rights. It is disappointing that the plan's measures include the transfer of all powers vested in the High Commission for the Civil Status in the matter of family names to the judiciary, without reference to the transfer of the same competences to the judiciary in the area of personal names, They chose the Amazigh names for their newborns as we shall see later.

In the field of the integration of Amazigh in training institutions, the Prime Minister issued a circular on 04 June 2017 concerning the teaching of the Amazigh language in some institutions and higher institutes, stressing that the goal is 'gradual downloading in the experimental phase of the Amazigh language and activating its official character'. It is interesting to note in the Prime Minister's publication that it is necessary to complete a pilot phase of Amazigh from the

coming year, pending the issuance of the organizational legalists, pointing out that the aim is to learn the lessons to consolidate Amazigh download at the level of administration, litigation, media and cultural and artistic creativity. The Higher National School of Administration, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary, the Higher Institute of Information and Communication, the Higher Institute of Audiovisual and Film professions, the Higher Institute of Theater Arts and the Revitalization, and the National Institute of Archeology and Heritage.

The publication called on the various governmental sectors affiliated with these institutions to develop training programs in Tamazight in coordination with the Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture, pointing out that the aim is to rehabilitate those who follow up their composition in Amazigh institutions.

In a similar initiative, the Minister of Health issued a memorandum to the directors of the Institutes for the Training of Nurses and Health Technicians. The Ministry called upon the directors of the institutes to prepare training programs in the Tamazight through their inclusion as a language of learning and teaching within the language and



communication units of the Higher Institutes of Nursing and Health Technology. The Royal Directorate of Amazigh Culture, with the provision of the Directorate of Human Resources procedures, planned for the success of these workshops.

In the field of education, despite the recognition of the Minister of National Education to the lack of workshops in the generalization of the Tamazight, and to make a promise to rectify the shortage, the allocation of 500 positions to teach the Amazigh, but unfortunately did not exceed the number of positions allocated to Amazigh in primary education 150 within the positions competed in the games of employment under contracts Announced by the regional academies of education and training. As for preparatory and rehabilitation education, there is no Amazigh language or anything looming on the horizon.

The government's support for the culture sector has raised strong condemnation against the poor share of Tamazight in support of the book, once the Ministry of Culture announced the results. The same ministry also aroused the anger of the followers when it created

research and research centers on Portuguese, Andalusian and Hassani heritage, in a clear exclusion of the Amazigh culture despite its constitutional status.

The Minister of Culture endorsed the Pedagogic Control Book of the Choreographic and Music Institutes (published on 03 April 2017), which excludes Amazigh music and instruments within school subjects and excludes Tamazight within the languages of communication and teaching.

Although the decisions of how to support the theater, music and writers were amended on 20 September 2017, they did not bring anything new about Tamazight. The decision of the Minister of Culture No. 3202.17 of 20 November 2017 determined the form and content of the artist's card, with the complete absence of Tamazight in the languages used. The Minister of Culture appointed the Chairman and members of the jury of the National Award for Theater on 22 November 2017 and did not include any artist or cultural actor Amazigh or interested in the Amazigh theater.

On the issue of cinematic support, a decree was issued on 02 August 2017 to establish a special committee to support the production of foreign films in Morocco, while Amazigh production is still banned from any public support and conditional on its translation into Arabic to accept its candidacy to support the Moroccan Film Center.

At the media level, the disregard for the Amazigh artistic and media product is still the predominant feature of the various media organizations. The books of campaigns are still not respected, and the quality of the paragraphs presented in Amazigh is still subject to the monopoly of production by certain producers. For example, advertising links of awareness raising (the 'pathology-trajectory-cheating-road safety' program) are broadcast in Arabic or French even on the Amazigh channel screen, in complete disregard of the language of the channel and the language of the target group.

The most prominent evidence of the disregard of the Amazigh officials in the media is the announcement by the Director General of

SNRT about the recruitment of journalists working in the Amazigh channel, requiring them to obtain an information diploma or a B.A. in Arabic or foreign languages without providing a B.A. in the Amazigh studies.

After several decades of delay, the Ministry of the Interior announced the lists of rights belonging to the racial groups and made new appointments to the Administrative Trusteeship Council on 18 April 2017. These appointments were the head of the courses and the writer and some members and deputies of the ethnic groups of the tribal lands. However, all these measures have not been positively reflected on the parties concerned, as courtrooms are still full of judicial disputes related to the land of the masses, and the tribes continue to innovate in the forms of resisting the unfair exploitation of their lands, forests and natural resources in their influence. Resulting in mass human rights violations, arrests and judicial proceedings. Perhaps this state of tension is due to the lack of guarantees of participation of citizens in the decision-making process, and the absence of care for the informed and informed consent of stakeholders on development

and investment projects, with the activation of quick and transparent rulers in case of compensation of those affected.

The Ministry of the Interior remains responsible for the continuation of the process of preventing the immediate registration of Amazigh names. The Minister of the Interior has attempted to deny the responsibility of his sector to this dilemma by taking responsibility for those involved, which is inconsistent with the content of the grievances reached by Aztag Amazigh Which I visited. The following is an inventory of cases monitored by Az ta Amazigh this year:

1	SIMAN	Azilal	08 June2017
2	MASSIN	El Maaarif Casablanca	July2017
3	SYLIA	Awlouz Taroudant	August2017
4	AMNAY	Imilchil	Septembre 2017
5	SYLIA	Eljadida	14september20 17
6	SIFAW	AinSbaa- casablanca	12October2017
7	SYLIA	Errachidia	02November20 17

8	MASILYA	Tarrast - Inzegane	17November20 17
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We have established the conviction that repeated cases of prevention and delay in the registration of Amazigh names and their removal from the regulations adopted by the Ministry of the Interior systematic behavior covering the various national territory and diplomatic and consular missions, which raises it to the level of gross violation of human rights.

The General Directorate of National Security worked to change the uniform of the police and renovate the vehicles and equipment, but completely ignored Tifinagh's character in all that was written, and ignored Tamazight when it announced the recruitment of the police.

In the year 2017, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs amended the system of study and examinations of ancient education, the University of the villagers, the Islamic school and Dar al-Hadith al-Husayniyyah without incorporating these changes into Tamazight and the Amazigh culture.

The ministry has also started the process of framing pilgrims and mosques through campaigning and literacy programs in Arabic



without the use of Tamazight, despite their importance in these services.

The traditional industry in its decision of March 2017 introduced a system of training in the traditional arts academy without adopting the traditional Amazigh arts, especially in relation to the character of Tifnag and musical instruments.

Bank Al-Maghrib issued a commemorative coin under the decree of the Prime Minister dated August 17, 2017. In the second article of the decree, the specifications of the monetary item were not specified, including the use of Amazigh symbols or letters.

The first national portal for citizen complaints was created, an interactive portal in French and Arabic only.

A number of committees have been formed, including representatives of civil society associations, but in which the actors and bodies concerned with Amazigh are excluded. These are the Commission for the Award of Excellence for Moroccan Women, the Civil Society Award Committee and others.

Parliamentary life has been affected by the repercussions of what is known as the media of the government bureaucracy, and the House of Representatives began its current mandate to ratify the accession of Morocco to the African Union, a step that will have legal and institutional implications for the work of human rights in Morocco. A study day was organized on the draft organizational law on activating the official character of Amazigh in the House of Representatives with the participation of representatives of the government, concerned institutions and civil society actors. In its speech, Aztag Amazigh expressed its position on the organizational bill contained in its April 2006 interactive note. (The note and the speech are posted on www.azetta.org).

In the context of the Parliament's oversight of the government, a parliamentary deputy from an opposition team asked whether Tamazight was excluded from employment matches under education contracts and a second question about the refusal to register Amazigh names.

A parliamentary deputy from a majority team asked the minister in charge of the public office about the adoption of the Amazigh New



Year as a national holiday and an official holiday, and the minister's response was criticized for his ignorance of the community debate and his reluctance to open the debate.

With regard to social behavior and practices, the Raja Casablanca team used racist and derogatory speeches to describe the inhabitants of the Sous region, which aroused deep resentment among them, especially after the document was documented and broadcast on public channels and social networking sites. In the absence of intervention by any official institution to restore matters to the quorum and stop discrimination or apology from the representative of the team or its audience, the Association of fans of the group Alsosi to file a complaint on the subject to the International Federation of Football.

Archaeological inscriptions were exposed to the Jewish navigator of the small Atlas ovens to vandalize and not prosecute the suspects or take any action to deter the saboteurs and protect the cultural relics of our country.

The pioneers of social networking sites also traded pictures and news on the use of rocks containing historical inscriptions in a building of

the National Electricity Office in Tata. The news was not denied, nor was a judicial or administrative investigation opened.

The year 2017 was characterized by an unprecedented interest of some trade unions in the education sector at the site of the Tamazight in the Moroccan school, where it issued a thematic report on the integration of Tamazight in education and the first national forum for Tamazight teachers. These are welcome steps that we hope will multiply because the rehabilitation and rehabilitation of the Amazigh community is a matter of collective determination and courageous initiatives.

And we take the opportunity to conclude this statement to wish you a Happy Amazigh year, and recall our current demand:

An organizational law that takes into account the reality of the competition between languages, whose purpose is to consolidate



the guarantees of the Amazigh protection and to develop their use and to open all fields and jobs for the Amazigh culture.

The National Council for Languages and Culture is based on a language policy, with which it is compatible, and which seeks linguistic justice and parity between the two official languages, and embraces all linguistic and cultural components and national expressions.

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