



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF AZETTA AMAZIGH ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW AMAZIGH YEAR 2969



THE SITUATION OF AMAZIGH IN MOROCCO

THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF AMAZIGH IN MOROCCO - 2018





Through its ANNUAL REPORT, the Amazigh Network for Citizenship - AZETTA AMAZIGH - aims to provide legal and factual data and information about the situation of Amazigh in Morocco for the year 2018, according to the following areas of focus:

I. GLOBAL CONTEXT

II. TREATY PRACTICE OF MOROCCO

III. WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION

IV. GOVERNMENT'S DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

V. DAILY REALITY AND PRACTICE

While working on this report, we have taken into consideration the new international and national developments and updates on human rights in general and Amazigh language and cultural rights in particular.

I. GLOBAL CONTEXT

At the international level, the year 2018 was marked by the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as world leaders renewed the call for the promotion and upholding of human rights on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly.

In this respect, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to make of 2019 the Year of Indigenous Peoples' Languages. Accordingly, the UNESCO was entrusted the mission to develop an ad hoc agenda and to supervise its activities, namely the organization of international symposium on these this theme by the end of 2019. Moreover, the aforementioned resolution urged the UN bodies and agencies to include in their various programs some activities related to the subject of indigenous peoples. Add to that, the General Assembly also called upon civil society, experts and academics to contribute eagerly to the activities of the International Year of Indigenous Peoples' Languages 2019.





The said resolution again reminded the United Nations Member States of their obligations towards indigenous peoples, especially those related to the development and adoption of legislative and procedural measures to protect their fundamental rights and protect them from discrimination with full respect for their culture, language and lifestyle.

As such, paragraph 23 of the resolution calls upon the Member States to establish national bodies and institutions, with sufficient funding, with a view to implement the Action Plan of the International Year of Indigenous Peoples' Languages 2019. As it calls upon them to ensure that indigenous peoples and their representatives are fully included and involved in every stage of decision-making and its implementation.

Outstandingly, in the conclusion of the annual session of the Committee of States Parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Classification of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the said Committee listed "the Pottery of the women of Sejnane" as one of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. This sort of pottery is well-known in the region of Bizerte in Tunisia, and it stands for a product of the Amazigh women in this region. The decoration and colors its uses are similar to the Amazigh colors and decoration found in tattoos, carpets...etc.

Perhaps the international calls for more attention to human rights, namely the rights of indigenous peoples and their languages, have been repeated over and over to deal with the inevitable outcome of the growing threats against multiculturalism and linguistic diversity seen across the world, due to the changes imposed by globalization, internal disturbance, oppression of minorities and the zero-tolerance approach to the differences between individuals and communities.

II. TREATY PRACTICE OF THE MOROCCAN STATE

The year 2018 was marked by the visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to Morocco. The honorable Rapporteur concluded her visit by a press conference held on December 21st, 2018, in which she provided her initial conclusions and recommendations.

The Special Rapporteur reminded the Moroccan State of its international obligations in the area of human rights, namely those linked to the implementation of the International





Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the submission of its periodic report overdue since 2014.

Bearing in mind the fact that the Constitution provides for multiple components of national identity, criminalizes discrimination and provides for equality; Morocco, however, still lacks a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to fight all aspects of racial discrimination, based on its spirit and its reference to the international human rights covenant. And according to the UN Special Rapporteur, striving for equality among citizens and cherishing it represent a prerequisite for achieving the goals of the Constitution, otherwise it shall remain mere letters on paper. Also, she recommended that the situation of the vulnerability and marginalization of the Amazigh areas and its inhabitants must come to an end immediately, and that their expropriation and illegal exploitation of their land must be discontinued. And she called upon the Moroccan state to:

- Adopt, without further delay, the organic law on the formalization of the Amazigh language;
- Step up its efforts to promote the use of Amazigh language in the judiciary system and public facilities, while working on the adoption of the aforementioned organic law;
- Take immediate measures to ensure that Amazigh people enjoy their fundamental rights, especially in terms of education and freedom of expression, freedom of gathering, affiliation to peaceful organizations and linguistic and cultural rights.

And finally, the Special Rapporteur affirmed her keenness to stay focusing and following up the status of Amazigh and Amazigh People in Morocco based on the demands and information provided by the Amazigh Movement and the answers and clarifications made by the Moroccan State.





III. WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION

All the stakeholders on the Amazigh question eagerly looked forward to the approval by the legislative institution of bill No.04.16 concerning the National Council for the Languages and Culture of Morocco and bill No.26.16 concerning the gradual formalization of the Amazigh language. Unfortunately, the two bills are doomed to stay dull on the shelves of the Committee for Education, Culture and Communication, as a result of regular postponement, most recently on November 21st, 2018. As per the reasons for postponement, the media reported a disagreement between the parties of the governmental majority on the details of the bill, especially with regard to the wording of it.

In return, about 130 members of the Parliament submitted a petition to the President of the Government requesting him to fulfill his regulatory authority and approve the New Amazigh Year as an official holiday and a national holiday in addition to the holidays set forth in Decree No.2.00.166.

The Finance Law for 2019 was adopted by the Parliament, without the parliamentary groups and clusters having made proposals on the question of Amazigh. Thus, the aforementioned Law, like the previous ones, neglected the financial costs to compensate the Amazigh and formalize it.

The Parliament also ratified Law No. 02.15 on the reorganization of the Arab Maghreb News Agency (MAP), which has kept the name of the Agency despite its racial insinuation and despite the calls made by a number of voices to change this name and to stop the use of the term Arab-Maghreb, by virtue of new Constitution 2011.

With regard to the Judiciary Organization Law No. 38.15, the Parliament ratified and included amendments to some of its Articles, whereas Article 14 remained unchanged. This latter entrenches the dominance of the Arabic language in adjudication, and hereby states:





Article 14:

The Arabic language shall remain the language of adjudication, pleadings and the wording of judicial decisions before the courts, with the formalization of Amazigh in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Constitution.

Unless the Court decides otherwise, the Court and the parties to the dispute or witnesses may, during the hearings, use a jury-appointed interpreter or assign a person to translate after being sworn in front of the jury.

Moreover, the Parliament has approved Law No. 31.13 that sets forth procedures for the exercise of the right of access to information. An ad hoc committee was established before the President of the Government, and among its members, it includes representatives of civil society organizations, with a view to ensuring the proper exercise of the right of access to information.

The Law No.103.13 on combating violence against women, which was approved by the Parliament, has been criticized by the women's movement, especially when it comes to proceedings to file a lawsuit and establish allegations of violence and/or harassment.

Likewise, the Law No. 70.17 on the reorganization of the Moroccan Cinematographic Center and the organization of the cinematographic industry, did not give much attention to the Amazigh film production, despite the constraints it already suffers in this respect.

The Law No. 76.15 on the reorganization of the National Council for Human Rights was adopted in 2018. Its Article 37 provided that the cultural and linguistic diversity shall be taken into account in the appointment of the Council and its regional committees:





Article 37:

The selection of members of each category, as appropriate, shall take into consideration the principles of social pluralism, equality, cultural, linguistic and regional representation, the representation of associations of Moroccans living abroad, youth groups and persons with disabilities and children.

IV. GOVERNMENT'S DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

In 2018, the government officially announced the National Plan for Democracy and Human rights. Though the adoption such plan represents a positive response to an international request and an important achievement for the human rights movements in Morocco, we can still make some remarks on the said plan. This latter deals with Amazigh language and culture as cultural rights, not as a constitutional obligation of the State to seek the harmonization of its government's policies (Measures 100 and 102 of the Plan).

In this respect, the Measure 247 provides for the transfer of all powers vested in the High Commission of the Civil Status in the matter of family names to the judiciary. While the problem of names arises specifically with regard to Amazigh first names. As for the controversial issues, the Plan did not specify the formula to be adopted to deal with these issues and to discuss them thoroughly.

The organic laws on the territorial communes accentuated the necessity to enact the legal texts on the implementation of these laws within a deadline of 30 months. On January 24th, 2018, the said deadline was expired and a number of texts had not yet been issued. This affects the implementation of the Advanced Regionalization.

Decree No. 2.18.90, issued on March 14th, 2018, concerning the creation of the Morocco Book Award, has come up with important benefits to the Amazigh language, as it sets forth the creation of:





Morocco Encouragement Award for Amazigh Literary Creativity
Morocco Award for Encouragement of Amazigh Culture Studies

However, the Minister of Culture and Communication Decision No. 1689.18 of May 15th, 2018 appointing the chairman and members of the committees of the "Morocco Book Award" for the year 2018 did not include Amazigh stakeholders active in this field.

Along these lines, the President of the Government issued a series of decrees and decisions that completely contradict the constitutional obligations of Morocco and establish a clear distinction between the two official languages:

- Decree No.2.17.741 on the driving license, which authorized the Minister of Equipment to determine the application form and the driver's license file, which unfortunately did not provide for the use of the two official languages in these documents.
- Decree No.2.17.742 on the Professional Driving, did not explain the Amazigh position and status in the training program for professional drivers.
- Decree No.2.18.434 on the creation of the Permanent Ministerial Committee for the Development of Rural and Mountain Regions, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture. In this regard, the Presidency of the Government continues to publish decrees on the delineation of forests zones, despite the frequent demonstrations of people and the faulty forestry delimitation ruled by previous procedures.
- Decree No.2.17.646 on the reorganization of the Higher Institute of Information and Communication, didn't include Amazigh as a language of training.
- Decree No. 2.18.541, issued on July 18th, 2018, approving Bank Al-Maghrib (The Central Bank of Morocco) Decision to produce and promote a silver coin of 250 dirhams in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights did not reflect any Amazigh symbol or letter.





- Decree No. 2.18.546, issued on August 24th, 2018 concerning the determination of a list of professions, must take into account the specificities of the Amazigh art.
- Decree No. 2.18.44, issued on May 29th, 2018 specifying the terms and conditions of labelling food products, which imposed the Arabic language as the sole language used to communicate with consumers.
- Decision No.3.28.18 on the definition of the petition template to be submitted to the President of the Government, picked up Arabic and neglected Amazigh language.
- Decision of the President of the Government No. 3.18.18, issued on May 29th, 2018 specifying the conditions, procedures and programs of a recruitment examination with the Prison Administration, stipulated that the exam must be in Arabic and a foreign language, excluding the Amazigh language.

The same thing applies to other recruitment exams with the various government sectors and its training institutes, regardless of the sensitivity of some job positions and the importance of Amazigh language to perform some required tasks, for instance:

- The Minister of the Interior Decree No. 1338.18, issued on April 25th, 2018 specifying the system of an entrance exam to the Royal Institute of Territorial Administration, which stipulated that the exam must be taken in Arabic language and excluded the Amazigh once again.
- The various Decrees issued by the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs regarding the entrance exams of imams and guides to the Dar al-Hadith al-Hassaniyya and the entrance exam to University of Al Quaraouiyine – Section Arabic calligraphy. All the exams excluded Amazigh language.
- The Minister of Culture and Communication Decree No. 3033.18, issued on October 1st, 2018, specifying the number, types and locations of the music and art-choreographic institutes of the Ministry of Culture and Communication, did not include any institution or training of Amazigh music.
- The Minister of Culture and the Minister of National Education Joint-Decision No.2928.17 issued on March 27th, 2018, approving the National Curriculum of the





National Institute of Archeology and Heritage, excluded the Amazigh language in the training.

- The Minister of Culture and the Minister of National Education Joint-Decision No.1368.18 issued on May 3rd, 2018, approving the National Master Curriculum of the Higher Institute of Audiovisual and Film professions, excluded the Amazigh language in the training.
- The Acting Minister of Health Decision No.2658.17 concerning the creation and organization of health services vocational training institutes, excluded the Amazigh language in the training.
- The Minister of Family and Solidarity and the Minister of National Education Joint-Decision No.1339.18 issued on April 25th, 2018, approving the National Bachelor of Arts Curriculum of the National Institute for Social Work, does not include Amazigh as language of training, regardless of its importance in this field.
- The Minister of Youth and Sports and the Minister of National Education Joint-Decision No. 711.18, issued on March 13th, 2018 approving the National Master Curriculum of the Royal Institute for the Training of Youth and Sports Officers.
- The Minister of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research Decision No. 1913.18, issued on June 19th, 2018, approving the National Curriculum of B.A in Science of Education, excluded the Amazigh language in the courses and languages of training, although it represents a major determinant in education and teaching. Such act aims to neglect the graduates of the Amazigh studies and others holding diplomas in Amazigh education and teaching.
- The recruitment exams of contractual teachers hired about 180 successful candidates specialized in Amazigh language teaching, which remains a small number compared to the large Amazigh population. This is another act of exclusion committed against Amazigh language, added to the fact that this latter is excluded from the secondary education.





In addition, when it comes to the sponsorship of artistic and cultural production, we notice that Amazigh has not got its fair share in this respect, since some ministerial decisions have been issued in this regard without bringing on any good news, like for example:

- The Minister of Culture and Communication and the Minister of Economy and Finance Joint Decision No. 2948, issued on January 19th, 2018 specifying the conditions, criteria and methods of paying up foreign cinematographic and audiovisual production works in Morocco.
- The Minister of Culture and Communication Decision No. 768.18, issued on March 20th, 2018 appointing the Chairman and members of the Committee for the Examination of Financing Requests submitted by associations and cultural bodies and cultural and artistic events and festivals.
- The Minister of Culture and Communication and the Minister of Economy and Finance Joint Decision No. 2462.17 determining the methods of supporting associations, cultural bodies, trade unions, festivals and cultural and artistic events.

In the same vein, the Minister delegated to the President of the Government in charge of Relations with the Parliament and Civil Society issued Decree No. 2111.17 concerning the rules of procedure of the Civil Society Award. The said decree committed a clear discrimination against the Amazigh language, especially when it excluded it and chose Arabic instead as the language of nomination for the Award.

Chapter II

How to submit the candidacy

Article 3

The file of the association or organization candidacy for the civil society award shall be made in Arabic and shall consist of:

Article 4:

The file of the association or organization candidacy for the





civil society award shall be made in Arabic and shall consist of:

The implementation of this decision in its current wording shall inevitably result in:

1. Exclusion of an official language from the official award procedures
2. Disqualification of national Amazigh associations as candidates for a national award
3. Disqualification of Moroccan Amazigh civil personalities as candidate for a prize dedicated to celebrating Moroccans

Also, the Minister of Handicraft and Social Economy Decision No. 1309.18, which was issued on April 20th, 2018, used Arabic as the sole language in the application form for the recognition of the distinctive mark of the products of the traditional industry.

Likewise, the Minister of Labor and Vocational Integration Decision No. 3350.18, issued on October 30th, 2018, specified that Arabic must be the sole language to be used in the employment contract template for foreigners.

The Director General of National Security Decision No. 214.18 issued on September 21st, 2018 specified the distinctive characteristics of national security officers' uniforms and included inscriptions in Arabic and Latin letters and excluded Amazigh Tifinagh letters.

V. DAILY REALITY AND PRACTICE

Unfortunately, the systematic policy continues to reject and disapprove the immediate registration of Amazigh names in the civil status records. In response to some protests of the Amazigh activists, the Ministry of the Interior issued a statement stating that the staff did not prevent the registration of Amazigh names for the newborns, but they required some time to make their ad hoc consultancy. A measure rejected by Azetta Amazigh and other Amazigh associations and actors since the policy represents a measure of unjustified discrimination. Thus, we call for a fundamental and comprehensive amendment of the Civil Status Law to allow immediate registration and free choice of Amazigh names.





In this respect, Azetta Amazigh noted at least three cases, where people were prevented the right to register their newborns with Amazigh names, and they are as follows:

the	Name : “Amnay” in Sidi Ben Bernoussi - Casablanca - January 2018	Also,
	Name: “Arius” in Erfoud Province - January 2018	
	Name: “Erie” in Ain Chak Province - Casablanca - February 2018	

Amazigh TV-channel continues to broadcast for 12 hours only. And in response to a parliamentary question, the Minister of Communication said that the channel broadcasts its programs for 24 hours that the 12-hour story is merely a lie and a distortion. In fact, the minister considers some advertisements and other automated broadcasting publicity shots as programs.

In addition, the channel suffers the dominance of Arabic language, especially on some TV shows and programs. There is also the dominant presence of some foreign animators speaking foreign languages.

In its report on pluralism in the Amazigh TV channel in 2018, the High Authority for Audio-visual Communication reported that the government and the parties of the parliamentary majority had the greatest share on shows and interventions, exceeding ten times the share of the parliamentary opposition.

In the same respect, the Ministry of the Interior has completed a publicity link on the occasion of the updating of the electoral regulations aimed at encouraging citizens to register. But it was completed in Arabic only, as if Amazigh speakers were not interested in their constitutional right. The same thing applies to the Greenline-number hosted by the Ministry of the Interior to receive complaints from consumers, which does not provide services Amazigh language.

In 2018, the regional branch of the Moroccan Syndicate of Musical Profession protested on the occasion of the National Day of Music on May 7th, 2018, and issued a statement in





which it noted with great regret the decline in production and promotion of technicians due to imitation and piracy of music and song production.

The syndicate branch also noted the major shortcomings in the programs of TV channels and the ways in which the artistic and lyrical content, especially Amazigh, is presented. This is considered a systematic siege against the Amazigh song and distorting its features. With regard to the organized musical festivals across the national territory, it emphasizes the need to codify and consolidate them and rely on professional qualifications and professional and technical specialties.

In a provocative move, the Agadir City Council took a decision at one of its sessions to change the names of alleys and streets of the city and replace them with names from Palestine. Such act sparked a wave of protests, as this action affects the cultural and civilizational components of the city of Agadir.

Furthermore, activists from the Amazigh Cultural Movement (MCA) have been attacked brutally at some university campuses, because they practiced their right to express their opinion. Some of them were even victims of threats and physical attacks by other student factions. And according to Agadir News Website, a group of students from the MCA was arrested and detained in December 2018 for reasons related to their student activity in a university campus.

The issue of land was a central theme for the activities of the Amazigh movement this year, culminating in a national march in Casablanca on 25 November 2018, in which thousands of Souss residents and sympathizers went out shouting out and screaming in defense of their rights. However, these protests did not stop the problem, as the pastoral migrants/shepherds continue to attack local people and properties. The State also accelerated the implementation of the provisions of Law 113.13 on pastoral migration, especially in the area of Souss, where the Regional Committee for Pastures held its first meeting on 28 December 2018 upon a summons of the Governor of the Region. It should be noted that this law is one of the reasons of protest led by the population to express their rejection to this law and call for a final resolution to this persistent problem.





The year 2018 is another year of discrimination and racism against Amazigh. It was marked by the ongoing racist and sacrilegious discourse made by the Imams in mosques and the judicial and administrative institutions discriminatory deeds and mistreatments.

The speeches of hatred adopted by official bodies, such as the information found in the introduction of the Encyclopedia of the Souss Massa in March 2018. This work included many images of defamation against the Amazigh figures and towards the symbols and history of the Souss Region as a whole.

Having said that, in a positive move, the Directorate General of National Security has written banners and facade of buildings in Tifinagh letters, a step followed and duplicated by many institutions and public and private administrations.

HAPPY NEW AMAZIGH YEAR 2969





Amazigh Network for Citizenship - Azetta Amazigh

A Moroccan NGO founded in July 2002

It deals with Amazigh language and cultural rights and human rights issues

Headquarters at:

No. 63 Al-Qaadi Ayad-Dior JAMAA- Rabat

Telephone: 00212537200211

Website: www.azetta.org

E-mail: azetta.cordination@gmail.com

