

Geneva, June 11th., 1930.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Slavery Convention

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE COUNCIL

Note by the Secretary-General.

On September 25th, 1926, the Assembly adopted a resolution in which the Council was requested to prepare every year, for communication to the Assembly, a document mentioning the laws and regulations forwarded to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 7 of the Slavery Convention. The Council was also requested to include in this document any supplementary information with which the States Members of the League might furnish it in regard to the measures taken to secure the progressive abolition of slavery and conditions analogous thereto.

On May 13th, 1930, the Council adopted the following resolution:

“In view of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on September 25th, 1926, the Council decides to forward to the Assembly the communications regarding slavery received from the Governments of Persia and of the Sudan.

“It further authorises the Secretary-General to communicate to the Assembly, three weeks before the opening of its eleventh ordinary session, a list of such laws and regulations as may be forwarded to him in accordance with Article 7 of the Slavery Convention, as well as any supplementary information furnished by the different Governments in regard to measures taken to secure the progressive abolition of slavery and conditions analogous thereto.”

Acting upon the first paragraph of this resolution, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the following documents to the Assembly:

1. Letter from the Persian Government, dated September 24th, 1929.
2. Letter from the Government of the Sudan, dated March 27th, 1930.

The information contained in these documents is, of course, separate from that received as a result of the resolution adopted at the last session of the Assembly, in which the Secretary-General was instructed to collect from the States Members of the League, and from those non-Member States which are parties to the Slavery Convention, all possible information on the present position of slavery. A special report on this subject will be communicated to the Assembly later.

**LETTER FROM THE PERSIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.**

[*Translation.*]

Teheran, September 24th, 1929.

I have the honour to communicate to you, together with a French translation, the Persian text of the Law of 18 Bahman, 1307 (solar) (February 7th, 1929), concerning the suppression of the slave trade in Persia and the liberation of slaves on entry into Persian territory. I should be grateful if you would bring this communication to the knowledge of the States Members of the League of Nations.

(Signed) H. GAFFARY,

Director-General of the Political Department.

**LAW CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE IN PERSIA AND THE LIBERATION OF
SLAVES ON ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY.**

Single Article. — No person may be held as a slave in the Persian Empire, and any slave entering Persian territory or Persian territorial waters shall immediately become free. Any

person who purchases or sells a human being as a slave or treats a human being as if he were his owner, or who acts as an intermediary in the trade in, or transport of, slaves shall be liable to a term of three years' penal imprisonment.

N.B. — All Government officials, on learning through the party concerned, or by other means, that a person has become a slave, or is being treated as a slave, shall immediately take steps to liberate that person and shall inform the nearest magistrates' court in order that proceedings may be taken against the offender.

This law, consisting of a single article, was passed by the Madjlesse at its sitting on 18 Bahman, 1307 (solar).

(Signed) DADGAR,
President of the Madjlesse.

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SUDAN TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Khartoum, March 27th, 1930.

In accordance with Resolution III, adopted in connection with Article 7 of the Slavery Convention of September 25th, 1926, I have the honour to furnish the following information supplementary to that contained in my despatch No. M.24 of April 15th, 1929¹.

2. In the second and third paragraphs of that despatch, I drew attention to action that had been taken to put an end to the slave traffic carried on between the "Watawit" living on the Abyssinian border and certain Arab tribes of the Sudan. I am happy to state that there has been no revival of this traffic during the past year, and those who took part in the trade seem fully to have realised the steps that would be taken if any such revival were to occur.

3. In the Fung Province, particular attention has been paid to the Berta population who had been living in servile or semi-servile conditions under "Watawit" masters on our side of the border, and meetings of the leading "Watawit" were called, at which it was pointed out that any attempt at interference with the personal liberty of the Berta would meet with severe punishment.

In the Kurmuk and Roseires districts, 239 cases of formal manumission have been recorded, and the eighty children recovered from the Arabs and referred to in paragraph 6 of the above-mentioned despatch have settled down in the Gezira.

4. A full registration of persons of servile origin was being made in the White Nile Province when I wrote my last report, and 6,000 negroids had already been listed. I am now able to report the listing of a further 7,000 negroids. Of the total of 13,000, 3,000 have been given freedom papers. The remaining 10,000 were either free or in a state of semi-independence which needed no further strengthening.

Over 200 freed slaves of Berta origin have been quite happily settled in three villages among the Arabs under the personal protection of the head sheikhs, to whom it is found they willingly refer their disputes for settlement. A careful check is kept upon their numbers and condition.

5. In Kordofan and Darfur, no importation from Abyssinia has been traced. A normal number of freedom papers was issued, but the majority of the recipients have returned to the tribes with whom they were previously living and have suffered no molestation at the hands of their former masters.

6. In other provinces, the situation remains as defined in paragraph 10 of my last report and calls for no further comment.

(Signed) J. L. MAFFEY,
Governor-General of the Sudan.

¹ See *Official Journal*, May 1929, page 833.