

Linguistic diversity, legal justice and the role of pro bono services



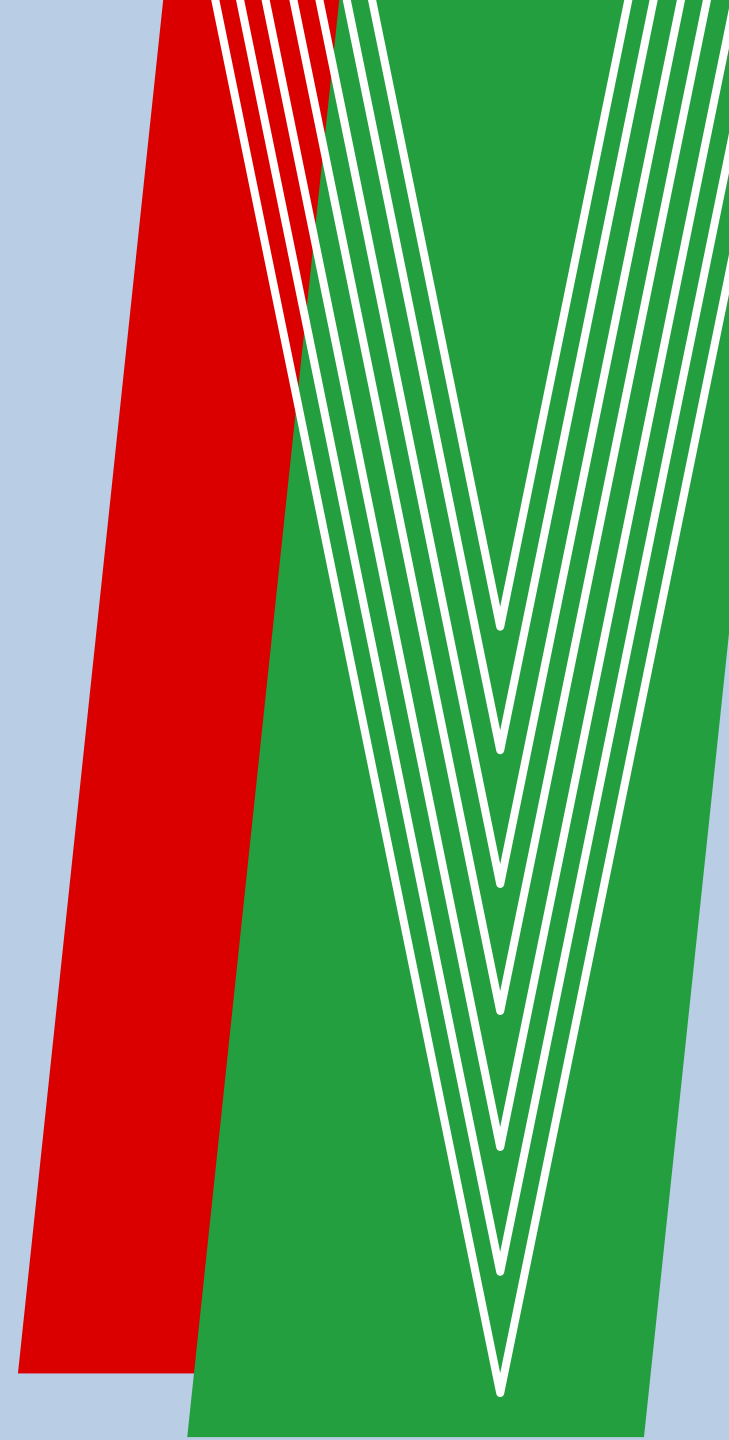
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IRAN
as a case study

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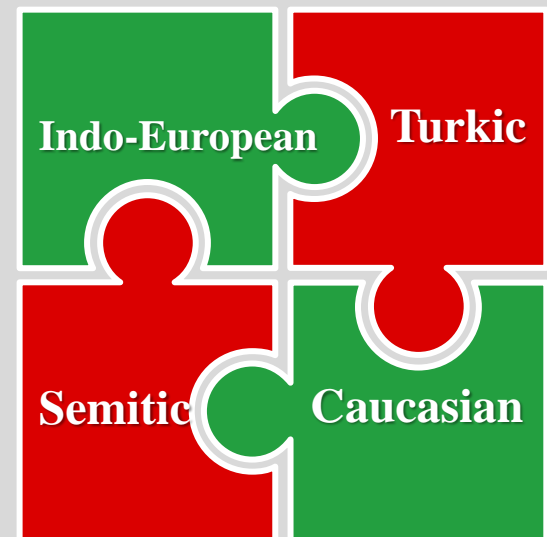


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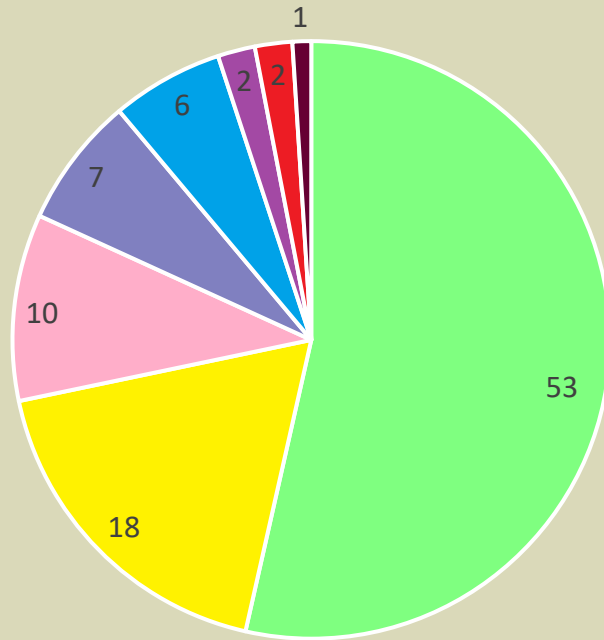


A brief Introduction to Iran's ethnic diversity

- The sole official language spoken and used is **Persian**.
- languages of Iran come from a number of linguistic origins.
- The country's different **ethnic communities** are concentrated in different parts of the country.
- Many languages spoken in Iran today will become **extinct** in the near future.



Iran as multilingual country



- Persian
- Azerbaijani and other Turkic dialects
- Kurdish
- Gilaki and Mazandarani
- Luri
- Arabic
- Balochi
- Other languages



legal recognition of local languages in Iran

- **Article 15 of the Constitution:**

Persian is the official and common language and script of the people of Iran. The documents, correspondence, official texts, and schoolbooks must all be in this language and script. However, use of regional and ethnic languages in the press, the mass media, and the teaching of their literature at schools, alongside the Persian language, is freely permitted.

- **Article 101 of Charter on Citizens' Rights:**

Citizens shall have the right to learn, use and teach their own local language and dialect.

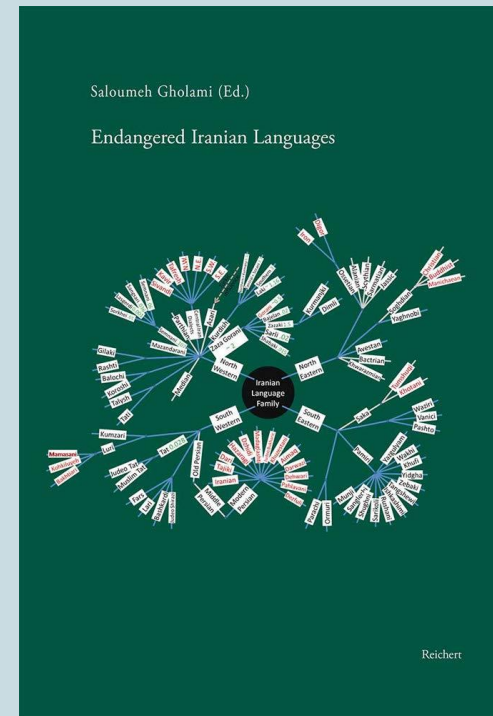
- **Article 16 of the Constitution:**

Since Arabic is the language of the Qur'an and Islamic culture and scholarship, and since Persian literature is completely interwoven with it, Arabic must be taught after elementary school, until the end of high school, and in all classes and in all fields of study.

➤ **Teaching Mother tongue or Mother tongue education?**

Using local languages

- The state TV channel operates 30 provincial channels.
- Persian language is used alone for schooling and for all **official government** communications.
- Important documents cannot be found in other languages.
- **Article 51 of Civil Procedure Code:**
written pleadings must be filed in Persian to proceed with a lawsuit in state courts.
- All other steps including the hearings is being done in **Persian**.



pro bono services role



In legal system

Provide opportunities to enforce law and help ethnic minorities to defend themselves through pro bono services

Trying to reform rules and regulations regarding local language rights such as education in Mother tongue



Other activities

Teaching law to local communities in their own languages

Help Creating recorded and printed resources of legal documents

effective legal aid services

- establish specialized legal clinics for minority rights

→ ethnic and linguistic minorities

→ near the minority **settlements**


❖ provide legal assistance with affordable cost

❖ Help them to bring a case against serious violation of linguistic rights

❖ Translate legal documents in local languages

students professors

Solidarity in Diversity

- Linguistic Diversity and Political Conflict
- coherent Political and education system Consolidation
- Threaten national sovereignty? 
- marginalizing local languages vernacular dialect
- Interacting with language:



enriches our language

Integration and Multiculturalism

Language communities should be permeable membranes rather than impenetrable walls.



**Thanks for Your
Attention**

