

On Human Rights

- My human rights
Our right to be
- 5 But what are they I hear some say
To go to school, to vote in peace, to live with human dignity
We don't have such things in our country.
Or **mine**, or *mine*, or MINE...
They are not for us...it is not our way.
- 10 So we moved to another.
Those who live there have human rights,
The people there, they have the right
To be human, to live as they choose
To be free, to live with dignity
- 15 Now we too can live that way.
Free from...
Corruption, oppression, mutilation, and persecution
of minorities.
Free as those foaming rivers rushing down mountains
- 20 And even those glacial waters are contaminated and polluted.
Like a river collecting and carrying detritus,
We bring with us some cultural baggage
Under the guise of cultural traditions
For our own good, of course
- 25 Like honour killings, FGM, hoodoo and oppression
And so even now, even in our new countries
Some of us still suffer from
Corruption, oppression, mutilation, and persecution
Of minorities
- 30 Why did we flee? For what reason, if not to get away?
But some of them, the oppressors, the instigators,
Those who traffic bodies and souls.
They too wanted to live with rights
Their rights, their *human* rights.
- 35 To be free.
To be the kind of human they wanted to be
You see, they too wanted to live as they wanted to be
Corrupters, oppressors, mutilators, and persecutors
Of minorities.
- 40 Free to live without humanity.

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