Government-in-Exile

> *The legitimate governing body of the Republic of Sabah North Borneo Government-in-Exile*

What is a Government-in-Exile?

A government-in-exile is a political group that claims to be a country's legitimate government but is unable to exercise legal power within the territory it claims, and instead resides in a foreign country. This concept has a long and recognized history in international law and practice, stretching back at least to the Second World War, when numerous European governments operated in exile from London while their territories were under occupation.

Governments-in-exile are recognized under international law as legitimate political entities when they fulfill certain criteria: they must represent a genuine political community, operate with democratic structures, pursue their goals through lawful means, and maintain a credible claim to represent the interests of the people on whose behalf they act.

The RSNB-GIE meets these criteria. Proclaimed on 13 September 2025 in Melbourne, Australia, we represent the aspirations of the Sabahan people and operate in strict accordance with international law, democratic principles, and the norms of peaceful advocacy.

RSNB-GIE Structure

The Republic of Sabah North Borneo Government-in-Exile is organized along democratic lines, with clear lines of accountability and a separation of roles designed to ensure transparent and effective governance of our organization.

President

The President serves as the head of government and the principal public representative of the RSNB-GIE. The President is responsible for overall strategic direction, international representation, and the coordination of the Council of Ministers.

Vice President

The Vice President supports the President in all executive functions and assumes presidential responsibilities in the President's absence. The Vice President also oversees specific portfolios within the Council of Ministers.

Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers consists of appointed ministers responsible for key policy areas including Legal Affairs, International Relations, Communications and Media, Community Engagement, and Finance and Administration.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is composed of senior advisers drawn from the fields of international law, human rights, diplomacy, and Sabahan community leadership. The Council provides expert guidance to the executive on matters of strategy and legal approach.

Legal Basis & International Precedents

The legitimacy of governments-in-exile under international law is well established by numerous historical and contemporary precedents. These precedents provide the legal and moral framework within which the RSNB-GIE operates.

Free France (WWII)

The Free French government under General de Gaulle operated from London following the fall of France in 1940, and was recognized by the Allied powers as the legitimate representative of the French Republic throughout the war.

Central Tibetan Administration

The Central Tibetan Administration, based in Dharamsala, India, has operated since 1959 as the government-in-exile of Tibet, with widespread international recognition as the legitimate voice of the Tibetan people.

Palestinian Authority

The Palestinian Liberation Organization and its successor the Palestinian Authority have long been recognized by the United Nations and numerous states as legitimate representative bodies for the Palestinian people, despite territorial limitations.

Official Proclamation

"*We, the representatives of the people of Sabah, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Republic of Sabah North Borneo Government-in-Exile. In the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination recognized by the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, we assert the sovereignty and distinct political identity of the people of Sabah.*"

"*We call upon the international community to recognize the justice of our cause and to support the right of the Sabahan people to freely determine their own political destiny through peaceful, democratic, and lawful means.*"

— Proclamation of the RSNB-GIE, Melbourne, Australia, 13 September 2025

Recognition Efforts

Since our proclamation in September 2025, the RSNB-GIE has embarked on an active program of international diplomatic outreach aimed at building awareness and support for Sabah's cause among governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society worldwide.

Our recognition efforts include formal submissions to relevant UN bodies, engagement with parliamentarians and government officials in Australia, the United Kingdom, and other democratic states, and the building of relationships with allied organizations working in the fields of self-determination and decolonization.

We are engaged in ongoing dialogue with international human rights organizations, legal advocacy groups, and diaspora communities to build a comprehensive coalition of support. We welcome inquiries from governments, journalists, academics, and civil society organizations who wish to learn more about our work and the legal basis of our claims.

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