

# Druze-Domari Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the Druze and the Dom or Domari (also called 'Gypsy') tribal people of Idlib and Aleppo, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our lands, rights secured under treaties and agreements of tribes, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and by the laws and Constitution of the Druze and Domari Nation, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Druze and Domari people, to preserve Druze and Domari cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Druze and Domari people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution.

WHEREAS the Idlib culture dates to over five thousand years ago and is among the oldest indigenous cultures in Syria; and

WHEREAS, our Government has legal jurisdiction as Government for Al Sham tribes that are unified as part of the Idlib *Tohonu* or Great Council of Idlib Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the current policy of the Idlib regional indigenous tribal Government toward tribal affairs is one of self-determination and tribal autonomy to strengthen our nations and encourage economic development so that Idlib and surrounding tribes can effectively govern and provide resources for their peoples; and

WHEREAS, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Sheikh Mohammed Al Sheikh enacted our Declaration of Sovereignty to establish the autonomous region of Idlib for the stated purpose of "promoting the political and legal rights and stability of the Idlib tribes by adopting the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and to protect future of tribes under government from further abuse"; and

WHEREAS, under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, tribal governments are included in the definition of states, recognizing the status of indigenous nations as representatives of people; and

WHEREAS, we claim the right to make governance decisions regarding the legalization of treaties, constitution, and establishing of courts; and

WHEREAS, the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations expressly recognizes the authority of Idlib tribal governments to declare their sovereignty and establish national autonomy ; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to our inherent sovereign authority and as expressly recognized by the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, we have created our own Constitution which shall establish our rights as nations; and

WHEREAS, the Idlib leadership of the Druze and Domari supports adopting the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as an official document of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Idlib leadership is aware of certain crimes by state and foreign powers that have been taking land and resources from our tribes and destroying sacred sites and artifacts of our people. These activities were never authorized by our leaders. Our laws under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations acknowledge our rights to these lands; and

WHEREAS, Idlib's leadership recognizes that engaging in the responsible conduct of economic development opportunities thereby advances the goals of many tribal governments to realize self-sufficiency and improve the lives of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is consistent with our previous efforts and policy to protect our lands, resources, people, and culture and to form an autonomous Government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Druze and Domari alike affirm our Alliance's right to legislate appropriately authorized laws in accordance with our Constitution and policy in exercise of our right to self-determination and self-government and, accordingly, the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations is hereby ratified and adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be the policy of the Druze-Domari Alliance of Idlib until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution of the established Druze-Domari Government.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was ratified by the leadership of Druze and Domari Sheikhs of Idlib on October 17th, 2020.

[signed]

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, sweeping arch at the top and several loops and flourishes below.

Sheikh Mohammed Al Sheikh  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a sharp, upward-pointing stroke followed by several smaller, more intricate strokes.

Sheikh Ahmad Isa  
Vice-Chairman