

Yarsan Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the Yarsani, Ahle Haqq or Kaka'i people of Iraq and Iran, 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 international law and the laws and constitution of the Yarsan tribal government, to promote a better understanding of Yarsan faith and culture, to preserve our cultural values, and otherwise to promote the health, safety and welfare of the Yarsan, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan tribes have resided peacefully in Iraq and Iran for over six centuries and are among the oldest indigenous nations in Iraq and Iran; and

WHEREAS, in ratifying the International Covenant of the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Yarsan autonomous government acknowledges the sovereign right of the Yarsanis to be a self-governing indigenous nation, with sovereign authority over its members and territory; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan government pledges that it will observe the “utmost good faith” towards other indigenous nations, tribes and confederations of indigenous nations and will acknowledge their sovereignty and implement all Articles in the International Covenant of the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Yarsan autonomous government recognizes our sovereignty as an indigenous nation; and

WHEREAS, religious leaders and councils of Iraq and Iran have recognized the Yarsan as an indigenous tribal nation with inherent sovereign authority over its members and territory; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan autonomous government has entered into multiple treaties with various Yarsan tribes, both in Iraq and Iran, to form an unified autonomous entity and enacted numerous statutory agreements with seven Yarsan houses in various districts and tribes, and has issued through this Declaration executive orders establishing sovereignty and reserving lands as “permanent homes” for Yarsan tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan autonomous government has established its authority to govern its members and to develop, manage, preserve and protect Yarsan lands and natural resources, and to regulate commerce, impose taxes, and administer justice; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Yarsan autonomous government to promote Yarsan self-determination and tribal autonomy; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan autonomous government wishes to ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to acknowledge our rights to free elections and our own tribal judicial system and government, ensuring our peoples’ rights to autonomous self-government within our lands and territories; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan autonomous government, the Methra organization of Yarsan and other regional and national organizations wish to institute the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as an Executive Order to establish the sovereignty as the Yarsan government; and

WHEREAS, the Yarsan Council was established to coordinate governmental policies with the goals and objectives of honoring the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and international treaties creating a tribal judicial system, promoting prosperous, sustainable, and resilient tribal

communities, supporting indigenous education, youth affairs, health care, and tribal justice systems; protecting and preserving Yarsan lands, natural resources and the environment; and promoting sustainable economic development, including energy development, and tribal job creation; and

WHEREAS, the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations is ratified by Yarsan autonomous government to address important societal and cultural issues that impact the jurisdiction of Yarsan people, including: children and youth, family affairs, education, housing, health care including mental health care and suicide prevention, lands, environment, and natural resources, energy, economic development and job creation; and law enforcement, tribal justice systems, and legal jurisdiction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yarsan autonomous government hereby endorses and ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and intends to propose legislation to establish a policy on sectarian crimes against Yarsan peoples and to institute an autonomous Yarsan legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Yarsan leadership and the Methra organization of Yarsan join other indigenous nations in support of the ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and to promote a Declaration of Sovereignty for the Yarsan nations of Iraq and Iran.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Yarsan tribes of Iraq and Iran and the Yarsan autonomous government until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Yarsan nations of Iraq and Iran on the seventeenth day of October 2020 CE.

[signed]



Sayyed Rajab Kakay

Founder of Methra organization of Yarsan in Iraq and Iran



Methaq Kakay