

The Supreme Spiritual Council Ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the appointed representatives of the Supreme Spiritual Council declare:

- A. The Yezidi Council was established to represent all Yezidi living in Iraq, ; and in order to protect the rights of Yezidis we have formed the autonomous government of the Ezidikhan of exile
- B. Yezidi and other indigenous peoples have historically suffered from injustice as a result of the colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources. Autonomous self-government by indigenous Yezidi peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions.
- C. Iraq regional governments, as a matter of federal law and policy, have forced Yezidi tribes to cede large tracts of culturally significant indigenous lands, with large portions of those ceded indigenous lands remaining under the ownership and control of the Iraqi federal government through its various agencies.
- D. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations (ICRIN) is the first comprehensive international law to address the rights and long-term social, economic and political interests of indigenous nations like Ezidikhan. This concrete initiative calls upon individual indigenous nations to directly decide what role they will play in international affairs. Provisions enshrined in ICRIN include:
 - a. Peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes between Nations and between Nations and States;
 - b. Measures concerning genocide against indigenous nations;
 - c. Protection and maintenance of cultural and biological diversity;
 - d. Protection of the lands and territories;
 - e. Protection of intellectual property; and
 - f. Procedures for resolving disputes through negotiation of treaties.
- E. We, the leadership of the Kurdish Republic's Provisional Government, have assembled to ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Ezidikhan nations, rights secured under this International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, and agreements with all the Ezidikhan nations, and all other rights and benefits to which our nations are entitled under international laws and treaties.
- F. The Provisional Government of the Ezidikhan Republic regards the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as an historic statement of our rights as a nation intended to guard against genocide, theft of lands and resources, all kinds of discrimination, and the political exclusion that Yezidi have suffered – and too often continue to suffer today.
- G. The Provisional Government of the Yezidi Council believes that ratification and implementation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations will help Yezidis an ancient nation to protect and advance the rights of Yezidi peoples both domestically and internationally.
- H. Under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, Kurdish tribes retain proprietary rights over ceded indigenous lands, including, among other things, the right to hunt, fish, gather traditional foods and worship on such lands.
- I. The federal government of Iraq has, without the consent or even consultation of affected tribes, routinely sold or conveyed titles and other interest in ceded indigenous lands to private owners or public entities such as state and local governments. Treaty rights over ceded indigenous lands are frequently ignored by private owners and public entities when the states sell or convey indigenous lands to them.
- J. Insofar as these indigenous Kurdish lands often contain important cultural resources and sacred sites, those indigenous cultural properties are directly imperiled, if not desecrated or destroyed, by private or public ownership.

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- K. Yezidi tribes should be allowed to acquire these indigenous lands through a reversionary interest that is triggered before any transfer of title to such lands to any other entity.
- L. The failure of Iraq to recognize the rights of Yezidi tribes manifests as those governments' control over Yezidi lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. The Yezidi Council hereby endorses and ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
2. The Yezidi council shall issue executive orders, legislation, and corresponding regulations requiring its various tribes to have legal jurisdiction over ceded lands to the appropriate tribe, or at least obtain the tribe's free and informed consent, before selling or otherwise conveying title or interest to such lands to any third party.
3. The Provisional Government of the Yezidi urges all Yezidi tribes to ensure and advance the full and effective implementation of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and other international treaties and standards that recognize, uphold, defend and protect the rights of indigenous Kurds, including the right to participate in decision-making and the rights of indigenous nation to participate as such, in all stages of this process.
4. This resolution shall be the policy of Yezidi council until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations was adopted by the leadership of the Yezidi on October 1st 2021 of the Common Era.

[signed]

Sheik of the Yezidi Supreme Spiritual Council
Qulo Avdo

