

# Anatolian Ezidikhan Endorsement of the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS, we, the Anatolian members of the Ezidikhan nation, in order to preserve our cultural values, language, legal rights, sacred sites and otherwise protect our rights as a nation, have gathered in order to ratify and adopt the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to preserve for ourselves and for our nation the inherent sovereign rights secured under this Covenant; and

WHEREAS, Anatolian Ezidikhan and its Yezidi tribes were an independent sovereign nation prior to the formation of the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, the Yezidis of Anatolian Ezidikhan have owned and lived on their lands as its indigenous inhabitants under sovereign tribal government since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the rights of indigenous Yezidis to their lands, territories and resources are recognized in international human rights instruments, including the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Article 26) and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Article XXV); and

WHEREWHEREAS, the rights of Yezidis to their lands and resources are fully protected under Ezidikhan's Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Turkish government has throughout its history instigated widespread takeover of indigenous Yezidi lands by non-indigenous settlers, invasions that have often begun with the deliberate genocide of up to half a million Yezidi killed in the past century alone; and

WHEREAS, the current Turkish government and the Kurdish PKK continue to seize indigenous Yezidi lands and redistribute them to non-indigenous settlers and corporate interests; and

WHEREAS, this willful and deliberate pattern of destruction threatens Yezidi lands and livelihoods and the very existence of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the theft and destruction of Gobekli Tepe (*Gire Navike*), considered the seat of Ezidikhan religion and government, would be prohibited under the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, we Anatolian Yezidis, in exercising our right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to our internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing our autonomous functions; and

WHEREAS, because of such flagrant abuses of their human rights, Yezidis of Anatolia choose to endorse the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, which recognizes “the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in ratifying the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, Anatolian Yezidis shall provide opportunities for thorough consultation with other Yezidi tribes in greater Ezidikhan, in order to reach a treaty between all Yezidi tribes concerning the following principles under the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations:

- Honoring treaty rights, including our rights to sovereignty, self-determination, and self-government;
- The nation-to-nation relationship between indigenous states;
- Legal rights to lands and territory;
- The co-management or cooperative management of lands and natural resources of significance to Ezidikhan;
- Rights to economic freedom;
- Inherent rights to sovereignty, self-determination, and self-government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Anatolian Ezidikhan expresses its strong support for the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as we assert our rights of self-determination and self-government, and particularly the rights to our lands, territories and resources, and calls upon Yezidi tribal leaders of Anatolia and exile groups to unite as a nation in self-determination.

WHEREAS, the following are the traditional Yezidi villages that make up the Nation of Ezidikhan in Anatolia:

Çayırılı, Midyat	Çilesiz, Nusaybin	Çörekli, Midyat	Değirmencik, Nusaybin	Deveboynu, Beşiri
Güneli, Nusaybin	Güven, Midyat	Kaleli, Nusaybin	Koçan, Midyat	Kumgeçit, Beşiri
Kurukavak, Beşiri	Kuşçukuru, Beşiri	Mağara, İdil	Mağaracık, Nusaybin	Meydancık, Beşiri
Oğuz, Beşiri	Onbaşı, Beşiri	Oyuklu, Midyat	Sapanlı, Nusaybin	Üçkuyular, Beşiri
Uğrak, Beşiri	Uğurca, Beşiri	Yenice, Midyat	Yolkonak, Beşiri	Yolveren, Batman

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of Ezidikhan Government of Anatolia until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Ezidikhan Government of Anatolia on April 10, 2020 C.E.

**For Yezidis of Anatolia**

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Nedim Erkis Mir