

## Resolution: Afrin Yezidis endorse the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS, we, the Afrin Yezidi Council of Ezidikhan, have come together to consider and ratify this resolution on the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and to adopt and implement policies that formalize our rights under autonomous self-government to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights secured under the constitution, proclamations and treaties of Ezidikhan and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of autonomous Ezidikhan, the Ezidikhan nation of Rojava does hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, Ezidikhan was established by our Sumerian ancestors and is the oldest indigenous community in Syria; and

WHEREAS, the Ezidikhan tribe of Afrin is an integral part of the Confederation of Greater Ezidikhan in Iraq with its own unique culture, laws and constitution, and is one of nine legally recognized tribal governments of Ezidikhan; and

WHEREAS, the Ezidikhan nation traditionally occupied a broad swath of Syria as its part of Greater Ezidikhan that includes lands in modern Syria, Iraq, Anatolia and Armenia; and

WHEREAS, under the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, the Ezidikhan Government proclaims and defends the rights of our ancestral nation encompassing Afrin through Aleppo extending to the Tigris River and beyond, and has never ceded or abandoned its ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, the ancestral lands of Syrian Ezidikhan provided the Yezidi people with a homeland, an economic base and an adequate livelihood for thousands of years, with these lands having deep religious and cultural significance to the Ezidikhan nation and the Yezidi people; and

WHEREAS, Yezidis have historically and for more than six thousand years occupied their ancestral lands, known as Syrian Ezidikhan, which however was forcefully appropriated and is now managed by the Kurdish Democratic Army and PKK, entirely without Ezidikhan consultation or permission; and

WHEREAS, Rojava Ezidikhan consists of 27 villages inhabited by ten thousand Yezidis living in scattered communities, primarily due to conflict and land theft by PKK and Kurdish Democratic Forces; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent and critical need to provide economically and culturally adequate land rights for Syrian Yezidis and to ensure the cultural, political and economic survival of Ezidikhan as a nation; and

WHEREAS, the Ezidikhan nation has prepared a sustainability plan for the utilization and economic development of existing Yezidi lands, transferred ownership pursuant to this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ezidikhan Government of Rojava, on behalf of its citizens, hereby recognizes the critical necessity to ratify the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations to

include Yezidis whose ancestors had migrated from Syrian Ezidikhan, even if they do not hold citizenship in the Syrian state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Syrian Ezidikhan fully supports adopting the Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations as a means to protect their tribal sovereignty, their right to self-determination and to preserve Ezidikhan Government's rights under international law; and

WHEREAS, Yezidis of Syrian Ezidikhan traditionally inhabit the following communities:

Afrin	Alaresh	Antariye	Awgira	Baflun	Basufan
Berzan	Bur Said	Chava	Chelhuriye	Chetele	Derdere
Dogerki	Drechik	Feqira	Gondor	Gumar	Gumar Gharbi
Hasheri	Jeyde	Jidale	Kerengo	Khan Temir	Khirbet Batana
Khirbet Dilan	Khirbet Feqira	Khirbet Jamal	Khirbet Khazal	Khirbet Khidir	Khirbet Khwekulye
Lizga	Mehek	Mehmudiye	Merekis	Merkebe	Mizgeft
Morik	Mozko	Nasriye	Otelja	Qastel Jindo	Qatma
Qibar	Qislachuk	Slemaniye	Sheikh Hmud	Shirkan	Shukriye
Tell Aswad	Tell Beydar	Tell Eliye	Tell Hishk	Tell Khanzir	Tell Khatun
Tell Naif	Tell Sakhar	Tell Tawil	Tolko	Zeydiye	

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

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by Ezidikhan leadership of Afrin on April 10th 2020.

For **Afrin Ezidikhan**:

Sheikh Said Jondo

Sheikh Said Jondo

Sheikh Smir Ziade

Sheikh Smir Ziade