

# Armenian Yazidi resolution to ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, Yazidi people of Armenia, hereby deliberate and consider the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in order to protect our inherent sovereign rights to our ancestral lands as secured under this International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under its terms; and

WHEREAS, we retain the inherent right to self-determination that is defined and recognized by the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, we support other efforts to foster collaboration among our fellow Yazidis in Turkey, Iraq and Syria as indigenous nations, under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the Yazidi people of Armenia is to advocate in support of the issues contained in the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, for our own sovereign status and to protect our traditional lands and rights; and

WHEREAS, we Yazidi people of Armenia have the right to our unique heritage, language, beliefs and customs, a right reaffirmed by our ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, and by our support as a recent signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; and

WHEREAS, we also want our ancestral lands in Armenia to be recognized, to protect both our lands and our human rights; to do this we agree to adopt the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, from April 1915 onwards the Turkish government authorized, instigated and directed the genocide of 500,000 Yazidis during its Armenian genocide, the memory of which haunts Yazidis and Armenians alike to this day; and

WHEREAS, since its Armenian genocide officially began in 1915, Turkey has continuously occupied our ancestral lands including the area now encompassed by Batman; and

WHEREAS, Yazidis experience ongoing cultural strife and legal entanglements in our effort to protect our rights, express our culture and pursue our way of life; and

WHEREAS, Yazidis of Armenia who are descendants from the 1915 Armenian genocide experience ongoing discrimination due to Turkish colonization, displacement, and genocide in their ancestral homelands; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has a history of intentional and unjust imprisonment of Yazidi families since 1915; and

WHEREAS, all people have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs, including the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their

culture, including archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature; and

WHEREAS, sacred objects and other Yazidi artifacts are retained by museums in Turkey in contravention of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and other international covenants regarding human remains and cultural materials; and

WHEREAS, Armenian Yazidi clans and extended families maintain historical and spiritual connections to ancestral lands in Turkey today designated as federal lands, including ancestral lands being submerged by the Ilisu Dam Project; and

WHEREAS, Armenian Yazidis wish to continue to exercise their rights on their ancestral lands, including accessing and protecting those lands to visit burial sites, conduct prayers and ceremonies, gather sacred plants and conduct other cultural activities for traditional purposes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Armenian Yazidis hereby support and adopt the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Armenian Yazidis, under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, of Armenia shall be legally entitled to exercise inherent equitable jurisdiction over such ancestral lands; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of the Yazidi Council of Armenia until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by Yazidi autonomy Government Annual Session of the National Convention Center on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 C.E.

Title	Name
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