

Executive Council appoints CINMENA President and Secretary

(August 10) In a major development signaling the CINMENA's commitment to develop itself as an effective confederation, CINMENA's Executive Council has voted unanimously to approve the widely-expected appointment of Ezidikhan Justice Minister Nallein Sowilo as the Confederation's first President, granting her sweeping executive powers.

Under Section IV of the [CINMENA Constitution](#), the Executive Council is obligated to develop its Secretariat with a President who shall direct the Executive Council and Secretary. The Executive Council has accordingly appointed Ms. Sowilo as the first President of CINMENA effective immediately, vesting in her all the presidential powers described in its Constitution.

The currently 67-member Confederation of Indigenous Nations of the Middle East and North Africa is governed by an Executive Council that votes on issues of importance to its member nations. One member of the Executive Council appointed as President of the Executive Council is empowered to speak and sign agreements on behalf of the Confederation and its Executive Council.

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CONTENTS

[Home](#)

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At right, Nallein Sowilo seen attending a friend's wedding in Iraq in 2021

Patience and Humility

Nallein Satana Saddam al-Jilwah Sowilo Shingal (b.1993) grew up in Iraq and was educated in the United States where she grew up after her father Hadji Saado Mustafa Shingal was assassinated by al-Qaeda terrorists in 2007, forcing her and her mother to find refuge in the United States.

Despite a well-deserved reputation for being shy and reclusive, Ms. Nallein Sowilo has survived the loss of her father and risen to prominence out of sheer persistence and unwavering dedication to the cause of justice for victims of genocide — especially those victims of *Daesh's* assault of August 4th, 2014.

Secretary

[President](#)[Secretary](#)[Board of Editors](#)[Volunteer](#)

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Harrigan traces the role that Sowilo has played in the autonomy movement of Yezidis since 2014 and her subsequent leadership role among other Indigenous nations of the Middle East and North Africa.



Newly-appointed CINMENA Secretary Patrick Harrigan has long campaigned on behalf of Sri Lanka's indigenous peoples.

Described as a Florida-based South Asia specialist, editor and publisher who had already long been advocating on behalf of [Indigenous peoples of Sri Lanka](#), Patrick Harrigan

will continue to serve the Government of Ezidikhan and CINMENA as an unpaid volunteer until replaced.

"As challenging as it may appear," says Harrigan, "getting diverse Indigenous minorities to stand together on issues like crimes of genocide or colonialism is not at all difficult. Resources are scarce however."

It does involve a lot of patience, dedication and long hours communicating one-on-one with representatives of tribal and indigenous nations from across a vast swath of land across the entire Middle East and North Africa.

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