

Ezidikhan to host International Criminal Tribunal

90 indigenous nations call for Nations' International Criminal Tribunal



The Yezidi nation of Ezidikhan, in collaboration with 90 other indigenous nations in talks with states globally, has since 2018 been laying the foundation for a permanent Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT) with the planned expectation that the Tribunal may be established in Yezidi

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—NALLEIN SOWILO, EZIDIKHAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE

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Ezidikhan Prime Minister Barjis Soso Khalaf has stated, “The Nations’ International Criminal Tribunal is being established to hold accountable those who murdered and enslaved our people. It will serve as an international court to hold responsible perpetrators of crimes committed against Ezidikhan and other indigenous nations for prosecution and legal judgment.”

The United Nations approved the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide—an important state-based international law ratified in 1951—that makes it a crime to commit acts intended to destroy a people in whole or in part obligates ratifying states to pursue enforcement and prohibition. By 2022, 152 of the world’s 206 internationally recognized states will have ratified the Convention.

Despite the Convention on Genocide adopted by state governments, no legal or political action was ever taken against alleged perpetrators of crimes until 1993. In 1993 the United Nations-sponsored the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (in Cambodia) for the 1975 – 1979 mass killings of 2 million people) in 2009.

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Acknowledging the disappointing record of the Convention on Genocide, Ezidikhan Justice Minister Nallein Sowilo remarked, "A mere fifty individuals being held accountable for the millions of indigenous people killed, forced from their ancestral territories due to colonization, rape, torture, and suffering from destroyed lands and resources caused by states and corporations is ridiculous. The fact that states are neither preventing or punishing crimes of genocide dictates the need for a Ezidikhan-sponsored Nations International Criminal Tribunal."

"The time has come, and we will take the necessary steps to hold perpetrators accountable."

—NALLEIN SOWILO, EZIDIKHAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE

According to the Center for World Indigenous Studies, since 1945 there have been more than 181 additional alleged crimes against humanity and genocide. These alleged crimes have been committed against the Yezidi in Iraq, Kurds in Iraq and Iran; the Chakma and Mio in Bangladesh; the Krah, Gio, and Mano peoples in Liberia; and among many other indigenous nations since the adoption of the Convention. More than twelve million indigenous

Humanity demands a fierce commitment to holding responsible states, corporations, individuals, and even those indigenous nations that commit crimes against other indigenous nations. The time has come, and we will take the necessary steps to hold perpetrators accountable”, states Justice Minister Sowilo.

 Rudolph Ryser  November 19, 2022  NICT

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