Office of the Prime Minister of Ezidikhan

The Honorable Barjis Soso Khalaf

Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Ezidikhan

Lalish, Shekhan, Ezidikhan

3 November 2019

Honorable Alice Walpoe Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance United Nations Mission Baghdad, Iraq

Dear Special Representative Walpoe,

I write to you today in response to your inquiry about the intentions of the Ezidikhan government in these difficult times in Iraq. First I wish to extend to you my personal greetings and greetings of my government to UN Secretary General Ontónio Guterres.

As you may know, the Ezidikhan government exercises its autonomous self-governing powers over some 46 villages of Yezidi people; and my government further works in cooperation under the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Middle East to advance the social, economic, political and security interests of an estimated 3 million people. Yezidi are located in villages in northern Iraq, Syria and in southern Turkey. While we have suffered extreme violence perpetrated by the Islamic State beginning in 2014 and continuing ISIS attacks in conjunction with their allied forces since then my government has worked with diligence to rebuild our lands and economies, restore health to our people and to organize efforts to return Yezidi who sought refuge in other countries.

To effect these goals and objectives my government has reached out to other indigenous nations near us to form a mutual assistance and cooperation alliance. This Alliance now includes the Mandaeans, Shabak, Zoroastrians and the Dom and Lom. It is our belief that such an alliance is necessary to establish economic, political and security arrangements to restore normal life among our peoples. We have undertaken this process without the aid of any state including the Iraqi government or the Kurdish Region Government—both of which have been hostile to our efforts.

My government, and the Alliance as well, nevertheless intend to promote nonviolent political solutions to the economic, infrastructure, and political power distribution problems so responsible for the public protests of the last month. We believe that constructive political relations are essential.

What are our intentions? Well, we seek to normalize political relations with our neighbors and to activate nonviolent measures through a Peace Pact of Iraq, which my government is proposing to Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Al-Sistani in Najaf. We believe that Iraq must be restructured based on regional authorities allowing for rebuilding the economy from the ground up instead from the top down. The Iraqi government, we believe should no longer dictate to the peoples on the ground, but receive the influence of peoples through decisions made on the ground.

I invite your good offices to continue this exchange and support our efforts to organize a conference of regional interests: Ezidikhan and its Alliance, Kurdistan, al Dulaim and the Shi'a Tribes. We would very much wish to have the UN play a role as a "disinterested party" bringing its political influence, resources and peaceful intentions to Iraq. I am open to meeting with you.

Sincere regards,

Barjis Soso Khalaf



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