

Ezidikhan Customary Laws

A Blueprint for Indigenous Justice

By Patrick Harrigan, MA

ABSTRACT

Drawing from interviews with Nallein Sowilo, Justice Minister of Ezidikhan, this article explores the philosophical and historical underpinnings of the NICT as well as its potential to reshape the international legal system. The Yezidi tradition of reparative justice composes the core philosophy by which the NICT addresses humanitarian crimes and safeguards Indigenous sovereignty. Improving on existing institutions like the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the NICT prioritizes culturally specific and community-based solutions. Case studies, including Barbados, Germany, and Armenia, illustrate the court's ability to promote solidarity and foster knowledge exchange among ally nations. The NICT is also proven to encourage a more expansive understanding of human rights violations, including genocide, ecocide, culturicide, and gender-based violence—thus accounting for transgressions previously overlooked and ignored among the international community. Serving as a blueprint for nations enduring ongoing oppression, the NICT provides a vision of a value-driven global order based on dignity, accountability, and collective justice.

Keywords: Reparative Justice, Indigenous Sovereignty, Humanitarian Crimes, International Legal System, Nations International Criminal Tribunal (NICT), Genocide, Ecocide, Culturicide, International Criminal Court (ICC), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Executive Summary

This article explores the groundbreaking integration of Yezidi customary laws into the framework of the Ezidikhan Court for International Crimes (ECIC), presenting a unique model for indigenous justice. It highlights the philosophical underpinnings, jurisdictional scope, and practical applications of this innovative legal system, which aims to address historical grievances and promote accountability

for atrocities committed against indigenous peoples.

The ECIC Code, a central element of this legal framework, blends traditional Yezidi practices with international standards, prioritizing restorative justice, cultural preservation, and community healing. Unlike conventional Western legal systems, the ECIC emphasizes reconciliation and atonement over punitive measures, reflecting the communal

and spiritual values of the Yezidi people. Key features include mediation by councils of elders, culturally specific penalties, and the incorporation of ecocide and culturicide into its jurisdiction.

The article further examines the tribunal's assertion of universal jurisdiction, which enables it to prosecute crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and gender-based violence that transcend national boundaries. This expansive approach addresses gaps left by state-centric systems and provides a platform for indigenous nations to assert their rights in the global legal landscape.

In addition to its legal innovations, the ECIC serves as a beacon of self-determination for Ezidikhan, reinforcing its autonomy and sovereignty. Its integration of traditional Yezidi justice mechanisms challenges existing norms, offering a model for addressing systemic injustices faced by indigenous communities worldwide.

The article concludes by emphasizing the global significance of Ezidikhan's efforts. The ECIC exemplifies how indigenous legal systems can complement international frameworks, providing innovative solutions for justice and accountability. As a precedent-setting initiative, it underscores the importance of cultural context in the pursuit of global justice, calling on international institutions to recognize and support the transformative potential of indigenous-led tribunals.

Introduction

Ezidikhan, the historic homeland of the Yezidi people, stands as a testament to resilience and cultural richness amidst centuries of adversity. Rooted in the heart of Mesopotamia, the

Yezidis' indigenous heritage traces back to the ancient Sumerians, thus blending deep spiritual traditions with a distinct legal framework. This unique cultural identity has endured, even as the community faced waves of persecution and displacement, culminating in the catastrophic genocide of 2014.

The Yezidis' struggle for self-determination is inextricably tied to their survival. For centuries, they have navigated the challenges of systematic marginalization, often operating in the shadows of dominant political and cultural systems. The 2014 genocide, orchestrated by ISIS, marked one of the darkest chapters in their history. Thousands of Yezidis were killed, women and children enslaved, and sacred sites destroyed. This atrocity exposed not only the brutality of extremist ideologies but also the failures of state and international systems to protect vulnerable communities. The genocide galvanized the Yezidis to assert their rights and demand justice, laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Ezidikhan government.

At the heart of Ezidikhan's vision for the future lies the Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT). This indigenous-led tribunal is a direct response to the systemic injustices faced by the Yezidi people and other marginalized communities. Recognizing the limitations of existing international legal systems, the NICT seeks to provide a framework for accountability that respects and incorporates indigenous sovereignty, customary law, and restorative justice. It is not merely a court but a transformative approach to justice—one that integrates the Yezidi community's values and traditions with global human rights standards.

Ezidikhan's journey toward autonomy and justice serves as a powerful example of how indigenous communities can reclaim agency in the face of historical oppression. The NICT is a cornerstone of this effort, representing both a call for accountability and a vision for a more inclusive and equitable international legal order. As Ezidikhan advances its mission, it sets a precedent for indigenous nations worldwide, affirming that justice can be shaped by those who have suffered the most in its absence.

The Roots of Ezidikhan's Legal Traditions

Ezidikhan's legal system is deeply rooted in the traditions of its ancestors, drawing from Sumerian law and oral systems that date back thousands of years. As one of the oldest legal traditions in Mesopotamia, Yezidi customary laws have been preserved through generations, transmitted orally by elders and religious leaders. These laws are not merely a set of rules but a reflection of the community's spiritual beliefs, cultural values, and social structures.

Historically, Yezidi legal traditions emphasized communal harmony and conflict resolution, prioritizing the well-being of the group over individual interests. This system was integral to maintaining social cohesion in a region often marked by external pressures and conflicts. By retaining their oral legal traditions, the Yezidis have safeguarded their cultural identity against centuries of marginalization and persecution.

Restorative Justice as the Core Philosophy

Central to Ezidikhan's customary law is the principle of restorative justice. Unlike punitive

justice systems that focus on retribution, restorative justice seeks to repair the harm caused by wrongdoing and rebuild community trust. This approach aligns with Yezidi spiritual teachings, which emphasize forgiveness, reconciliation, and the reintegration of offenders into society. This approach reflects the values of Ezidikhan's customary law, where justice is understood as a process of restoring balance within the community. Restorative mechanisms employed by the NICT include:

- Victim-led processes that allow survivors to voice their experiences and influence reparative measures.
- Community-based resolutions that focus on rebuilding relationships and addressing the root causes of harm.
- A focus on cultural restoration, which ensures that the impacted community's traditions, heritage, and spiritual practices are preserved and revitalized.

Restorative practices in Ezidikhan often involve mediations led by elders or religious leaders, where victims and perpetrators come together to address the impact of the offense. These processes aim to heal relationships, provide restitution to victims, and foster a sense of accountability within the community. By prioritizing healing over punishment, Ezidikhan's legal system offers an alternative model that challenges the adversarial nature of many Western justice systems.

As Ezidikhan transitioned toward establishing its own government, it sought to integrate traditional Yezidi values with contemporary legal frameworks. This fusion ensures that governance

in Ezidikhan remains culturally authentic while meeting international legal standards.

The Ezidikhan government's constitution reflects this balance, codifying the sovereignty of the Yezidi people and the principles of customary law. Tribal councils and elders continue to play a vital role in decision-making processes, while modern institutions provide administrative and judicial support. This hybrid system not only preserves Yezidi traditions but also guarantees that governance structures are equipped to address the challenges of the modern era.

Autonomy in Land and Resource Rights

Land and resource rights are fundamental to Ezidikhan's pursuit of self-determination. For centuries, the Yezidis' connection to their ancestral lands has been central to their identity and survival. However, colonial and state-centric policies have stripped indigenous communities of these rights, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

In response, the Ezidikhan government has taken bold steps to assert control over its resources. A landmark example is the 2018 resolution on seed sovereignty. Recognizing the importance of agricultural self-sufficiency, this resolution established the right of Ezidikhan farmers to retain and reuse traditional seed varieties, countering international patent laws that favor corporate monopolies. This policy not only protects the community's food security but also reaffirms their autonomy over natural resources.

By foregrounding land and resource rights, Ezidikhan underscores its commitment to

sustainability and resilience. These efforts serve as a powerful example of how indigenous governance can challenge global systems that prioritize profit over people and the environment.

Through its customary laws, Ezidikhan has crafted a framework that honors its rich heritage while addressing the realities of contemporary governance. The integration of restorative justice, traditional values, and resource autonomy demonstrates Ezidikhan's determination to build a society that reflects the aspirations and needs of its people. This legal legacy not only empowers the Yezidi community but also offers a model for other indigenous nations seeking to reclaim their sovereignty in the face of systemic oppression.

The Need for an Indigenous-Led Tribunal

For decades, indigenous communities worldwide have faced systematic marginalization within traditional justice systems. Crimes against indigenous peoples, such as genocide, cultural erasure, and resource exploitation, are often overlooked or inadequately addressed by state-centric and international institutions. The Yezidi genocide of 2014 is a tragic example of this failure. Despite global condemnation, international courts struggled to hold perpetrators accountable, leaving survivors without meaningful recourse to justice.

In this context, the Ezidikhan Government recognized the urgent need for an indigenous-led tribunal to address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities. Such a tribunal would prioritize indigenous sovereignty, incorporate customary laws, and provide a platform for prosecuting crimes that existing institutions

and justice. By leveraging its unique position as a sovereign entity, Ezidikhan established the tribunal as a cornerstone of its commitment to accountability and the restoration of dignity for the Yezidi people and other indigenous communities.

Complementing and Challenging Traditional Frameworks

The NICT operates at the intersection of indigenous sovereignty and international law, complementing and challenging traditional justice frameworks such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). While these institutions have made significant contributions to global justice, their limitations are evident. The ICC, for example, relies heavily on state cooperation and jurisdictional referrals, often excluding non-state actors and marginalized groups. Similarly, the PCA's arbitration-focused model, while flexible, lacks the cultural specificity needed to address crimes rooted in the erasure of indigenous identity.

The NICT addresses these gaps by asserting universal jurisdiction over crimes of genocide, culturicide, ecocide, and other atrocities disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples. Its hybrid legal framework integrates customary laws with international human rights standards, creating a tribunal that respects cultural traditions while maintaining global legitimacy. Unlike state-centric models, the NICT empowers indigenous communities to lead their own justice processes, ensuring that their voices are central to the pursuit of accountability.

At the same time, the NICT challenges the

dominance of Western legal paradigms in international justice. By prioritizing restorative justice and community-led solutions, the tribunal offers a compelling alternative to retributive systems that often fail to address the root causes of violence and inequality. This approach not only disrupts the status quo but also sets a precedent for how indigenous nations can reclaim agency within global governance.

The NICT represents more than a tribunal; it is a vision for a more equitable and inclusive legal order. By addressing systemic failures and championing indigenous leadership, the tribunal seeks to transform the way justice is conceived and delivered. As it continues to develop, the NICT stands as a beacon of hope for marginalized communities worldwide, demonstrating that justice can be reimaged to serve those who have historically been denied its protections.

The NICT's Jurisdiction

The Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT) is defined by its broad and inclusive jurisdiction, encompassing crimes that have historically devastated indigenous communities and marginalized groups. The tribunal's mandate includes genocide, ecocide, culturicide, and gender-based violence, each of which has unique and far-reaching consequences for the societies targeted.

- **Genocide:** The systematic eradication of a people's physical, cultural, and spiritual existence. For the Yezidis and other indigenous nations, genocide often manifests through mass killings, forced displacement, and the destruction of sacred sites, all of which the NICT is designed to address.

- **Ecocide:** Recognizing the deep interconnection between indigenous communities and their environment, the NICT prosecutes deliberate acts of environmental destruction that threaten a community's survival. This includes deforestation, pollution, and the exploitation of natural resources without consent.

- **Culturicide:** The deliberate erasure of a peoples' cultural identity through the destruction of traditions, languages, and heritage. The NICT acknowledges this as a distinct crime, emphasizing the importance of preserving the cultural fabric of indigenous societies.

- **Gender-Based Violence:** Crimes such as sexual slavery, forced marriages, and systematic rape have been tools of oppression and control, especially during conflicts. The NICT's jurisdiction ensures that these atrocities are prosecuted with the gravity they warrant, providing justice for survivors and communities.

By addressing these interconnected crimes, the NICT takes a holistic approach to justice, guaranteeing that the full scope of harm inflicted is recognized and redressed.

Customary Law in NICT Operations

A cornerstone of the NICT's framework is its integration of Ezidikhan's customary laws. These traditions, rooted in Sumerian legal systems and oral practices, emphasize collective well-being and the interconnectedness of justice and cultural identity. By incorporating these principles, the NICT ensures that its operations resonate deeply with the communities it serves.

Key ways Ezidikhan customary laws shape the NICT include:

- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Trials and hearings are conducted with respect for indigenous traditions, including the use of native languages and culturally significant rituals. This approach fosters trust and engagement from affected communities.
- **Restorative Practices:** Drawing on Ezidikhan's emphasis on reconciliation, the tribunal facilitates truth-telling and reparative processes that prioritize community healing over adversarial proceedings.
- **Inclusivity in Governance:** Indigenous leaders and elders play a central role in shaping the NICT's policies and practices, ensuring that the tribunal's work aligns with the cultural and spiritual values of its constituents.

The NICT's legal framework offers a transformative model that bridges the gap between international legal standards and indigenous customary law. By recognizing and addressing the unique dimensions of crimes against indigenous peoples, the tribunal sets a precedent for justice systems worldwide. Its commitment to cultural resonance, universal jurisdiction, and restorative justice exemplifies how legal systems can be reimagined to serve the needs of marginalized communities while upholding global human rights principles.

Case Studies: Addressing the Yezidi Genocide and Beyond

The Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT) was founded with a commitment to

prosecute the gravest crimes against indigenous and marginalized communities. Among its priority cases are those stemming from the 2014 Yezidi genocide, a catastrophic event that exposed systemic failures in international justice.

The genocide perpetrated by ISIS involved mass killings, forced conversions, sexual slavery, and the destruction of sacred sites. Thousands of Yezidis were murdered, while over 6,000 women and children were abducted and enslaved. While these atrocities have been globally recognized as genocide, justice for the victims has remained elusive. The NICT seeks to address these crimes comprehensively by prosecuting individuals, organizations, and state actors complicit in the genocide. The tribunal's holistic approach includes examining cultural erasure, systemic violence, and the long-term impacts of displacement, ensuring that justice is not only punitive but also restorative.

In addition to addressing the Yezidi genocide, the NICT plans to tackle cases of ecocide and culturicide that threaten indigenous communities worldwide. By prosecuting crimes such as resource exploitation, environmental destruction, and the suppression of indigenous languages and traditions, the tribunal underscores its commitment to preserving cultural heritage and ensuring sustainable futures for affected communities.

International Collaboration

As part of its mission to establish a robust legal framework, the NICT has engaged in ongoing negotiations with Barbados for treaty ratification. This partnership reflects the tribunal's commitment to building global alliances that

support indigenous sovereignty and justice. Barbados, with its history of advocating for marginalized communities, represents an ideal partner in advancing the NICT's goals.

In 2024, Daymon Gerard Corrie, Ezidikhan's ambassador-at-large, facilitated discussions with the Barbadian government, delivering the NICT Charter for review. These negotiations included proposals for Barbados to host the tribunal's proceedings, providing a neutral and supportive venue for international cases. Additionally, plans are underway for Tunisian judges from the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) to contribute their expertise under the tribunal's framework. This collaboration underscores the NICT's commitment to integrating diverse judicial perspectives while maintaining its focus on indigenous leadership and customary law.

Ezidikhan: A Model for Indigenous Legal Systems

The NICT's establishment positions Ezidikhan as a global leader in reimagining justice for indigenous communities. By prioritizing cultural resonance, restorative justice, and universal jurisdiction, Ezidikhan's legal framework offers a transformative model for addressing historical and ongoing atrocities. This approach challenges the dominance of state-centric legal systems, demonstrating that indigenous nations can lead the way in prosecuting crimes against humanity, genocide, and ecocide.

Ezidikhan's innovative use of customary law within a modern tribunal framework sets a powerful precedent for other indigenous nations. By blending traditional practices with international standards, the NICT creates a legal system that is both culturally authentic and

globally relevant. This model inspires indigenous communities worldwide to reclaim their sovereignty, assert their rights, and seek justice on their own terms.

The Future of the NICT

As the NICT continues to grow, its potential impact extends far beyond Ezidikhan. The tribunal aims to:

- Expand its jurisdiction to include additional cases of genocide, ecocide, and culturicide impacting indigenous peoples globally.
- Strengthen international partnerships to enhance its capacity and legitimacy.
- Advocate for the recognition of indigenous-led justice systems within international legal frameworks.

By addressing systemic injustices and amplifying indigenous voices, the NICT represents a bold vision for the future of justice. Its work seeks not only to heal past wounds but to build a foundation for a more equitable and inclusive global legal order. Through its efforts, Ezidikhan and the NICT are paving the way for a world where justice truly serves all communities.

Building Alliances with Key Nations

International partnerships are at the heart of the Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT), enhancing its ability to address complex crimes and ensuring global recognition of its mission. Key collaborations with nations such as Barbados, Germany, and Armenia have bolstered the tribunal's operational capacity and legitimacy.

- Barbados: As a prominent advocate for justice and human rights, Barbados has

emerged as a pivotal ally in advancing the NICT's goals. Ongoing negotiations for treaty ratification underscore Barbados' commitment to supporting indigenous-led initiatives. Plans for the country to host tribunal proceedings further highlight its dedication to providing a neutral platform for international cases, particularly those addressing crimes against indigenous communities.

- **Germany:** Germany's track record in prosecuting crimes against humanity and its leadership in global justice initiatives make it an invaluable partner for the NICT. German courts have already demonstrated their commitment to addressing the Yazidi genocide by prosecuting ISIS members under universal jurisdiction. This alignment with the NICT's principles strengthens the tribunal's foundation and provides opportunities for collaboration on legal expertise and case management.

- **Armenia:** With its historical experience of genocide and tradition of advocating for marginalized groups, Armenia has been a steadfast supporter of the NICT. The country's recognition of the importance of cultural preservation and justice for oppressed communities aligns closely with the tribunal's mission. Armenia's involvement lends credibility to the NICT and reinforces its emphasis on addressing systemic crimes against indigenous peoples.

Engaging with Global Institutions

The NICT's engagement with international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

has amplified its reach and influence, ensuring that its work resonates within the broader global justice framework.

- **United Nations:** The UN's support is critical to legitimizing the NICT and its mission. Ezidikhan's leadership has actively lobbied for recognition of the tribunal, emphasizing its alignment with international human rights standards and its role in addressing crimes often overlooked by traditional systems. UN endorsement not only enhances the NICT's credibility but also fosters international collaboration on pressing issues like genocide, ecocide, and culturicide.

- **International Commission of Jurists:** The ICJ has provided invaluable technical expertise and advocacy support for the NICT. Its involvement underscores the tribunal's adherence to international legal norms and its commitment to delivering justice in a manner that respects the rights and sovereignty of indigenous communities. By working with the ICJ, the NICT gains access to a global network of legal professionals and resources, enhancing its capacity to address complex cases.

Amplifying Legitimacy and Capacity Through Partnerships

These partnerships are more than symbolic; they are instrumental in strengthening the NICT's operational framework and ensuring its long-term viability. By collaborating with supportive nations and global institutions, the tribunal can:

- **Enhance Resources:** Access to financial, technical, and logistical support from partner nations and organizations ensures the tribunal's

ability to manage high-profile cases and conduct thorough investigations.

Build Credibility: Endorsements from respected international entities and nations lend legitimacy to the NICT, making it a recognized authority in addressing crimes against indigenous peoples.

Foster Knowledge Exchange: Partnerships facilitate the sharing of best practices and legal expertise, enabling the NICT to adopt innovative approaches to justice and governance.

The NICT's success in building international partnerships highlights the power of collaboration in achieving justice for marginalized communities. By uniting nations, institutions, and indigenous leaders, the tribunal sets a precedent for global cooperation that amplifies the voices of those historically silenced. Through these alliances, the NICT not only addresses past atrocities but paves the way for a more diverse and equitable future in international justice.

A Precedent for Indigenous-Led Justice Systems

The Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT) represents a transformative shift in the pursuit of justice for marginalized and indigenous communities. By placing indigenous leadership and customary laws at its core, the NICT establishes a powerful precedent for justice systems worldwide. This model demonstrates that indigenous nations can lead in addressing systemic inequalities and crimes against humanity, challenging the dominance of state-centric frameworks that often exclude or marginalize them.

Through its hybrid approach, which integrates indigenous traditions with global legal standards, the NICT redefines the role of indigenous nations in the international legal landscape. It validates their sovereignty and the legitimacy of their justice systems while offering an alternative to mechanisms that have historically failed to address the unique harms experienced by indigenous peoples.

Inspiration for Post-Conflict Societies

The NICT's framework offers valuable lessons for post-conflict societies seeking to rebuild and heal. Traditional state-led justice mechanisms often fall short in addressing the cultural and societal dimensions of violence. By contrast, the NICT's focus on restorative justice, cultural preservation, and community-led processes provides a blueprint for hybrid legal frameworks that resonate deeply with affected populations.

Post-conflict societies can draw inspiration from the NICT's emphasis on:

- **Restorative Practices:** Rebuilding social harmony through reconciliation and community-driven solutions rather than purely punitive measures.
- **Cultural Integration:** Protecting and revitalizing cultural traditions and heritage as an integral part of justice.
- **Inclusive Governance:** Empowering local leaders and affected communities to play an active role in shaping justice mechanisms.

The success of the NICT underscores the potential of these practices to foster sustainable peace and justice, making it a model for nations emerging from conflict and systemic oppression.

Reshaping International Legal Norms

The establishment of the NICT challenges paradigms entrenched within international law, advocating for a more inclusive and equitable system that prioritizes the voices of marginalized communities. Traditional international legal institutions, while instrumental, often overlook the specific needs of indigenous populations and fail to adequately address crimes like culturicide and ecocide. The NICT's recognition of these crimes as central to justice sets a new standard for how global systems can evolve to address the complexities of modern atrocities.

By asserting universal jurisdiction and integrating indigenous legal principles, the NICT pushes the boundaries of international norms, advocating to:

- **Broaden Legal Definitions:** Expand the scope of recognized crimes to include those that target cultural and environmental heritage.
- **Decentralize Authority:** Empower indigenous nations and non-state actors to lead in prosecuting crimes that affect their communities.
- **Promote Equity:** Ensure that the most vulnerable voices are not only heard but are central to the pursuit of justice.

The NICT's innovative framework invites international institutions and governments to rethink their approaches to justice, fostering a legal order that is more reflective of the diverse realities and histories of the global community.

As the NICT continues to develop, its influence extends far beyond Ezidikhan. It is not only a

response to historical injustices but also a vision for a future where justice systems are inclusive, culturally resonant, and accessible to all. By challenging systemic inequities and amplifying marginalized voices, the NICT positions itself as a catalyst for change in the international legal landscape, inspiring others to follow its lead.

Conclusion

The Nations' International Criminal Tribunal (NICT) stands as a profound symbol of Ezidikhan's resilience and unwavering commitment to justice. Born from the ashes of historical atrocities and systemic neglect, the NICT embodies the Yezidi people's determination to reclaim their sovereignty, preserve their cultural heritage, and ensure accountability for crimes that have long gone unpunished. It is a testament to the power of indigenous leadership in shaping a more equitable world.

As the NICT continues to grow, it serves as a rallying call for global support in empowering indigenous communities to seek justice on their own terms. The tribunal's innovative approach—blending customary law with international legal standards—offers a blueprint for addressing the unique challenges faced by marginalized groups. By amplifying the voices of those historically excluded from justice systems, the NICT paves the way for a more inclusive and restorative global legal order.

Looking to the future, Ezidikhan is poised to lead the charge in redefining justice for oppressed and vulnerable populations worldwide. The NICT is more than an institution; it is a movement that challenges the status quo,

demands accountability, and fosters healing for communities ravaged by violence and exploitation. Through its vision and actions, Ezidikhan demonstrates that justice can be reimagined to reflect the values of equity, cultural integrity, and collective healing.

The NICT invites the world to join this journey. It calls upon nations, organizations,

and individuals to support the tribunal's mission and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples seeking justice. Together, we can build a future where justice knows no boundaries and the dignity of all communities is upheld. The work of the NICT is not only a beacon of hope for Ezidikhan; it is a light guiding the world toward a more just and compassionate future.

This article may be cited as:

Harrigan, P. (2025). Ezidikhan Customary Laws: A Blueprint for Indigenous Justice. *Fourth World Journal* 25(1), 235-246.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Patrick Harrigan, MA

Patrick Harrigan has served the Yezidi nation of Ezidikhan since 2014 as a policy advisor and secretary to Justice Minister Nallein Sowilo. He earned a master's degree in Asian Studies at the University of Michigan and is trained in comparative religion and Indology.