

# National Charter of the Empire of Yoahltl

## *~Preamble~*

As time goes on, it becomes necessary for a nation to establish for itself a body of laws to ensure domestic order and the preservation of the values that define it. So too is it for Yoahltl, which has for almost a decade now existed without a charter to define its government and protect its core - that all people, regardless of origin, beliefs, politics, or characteristics, are welcome and accepted here, so long as they work for the betterment of the community as a whole. Therefore, we of the Empire of Yoahltl hereby establish this charter as the supreme law of the land, and the framework of our new government.

The aims of the government defined here are to coordinate the interaction of the nation with foreign powers, to defend the people under its protection from external threats and attacks, to keep the peace within its borders, and to ensure the prosperity of Yoahltl as a whole.

## *Article I: The Rights of Citizens*

1. All Yoahtlans have the right to freedom of expression.
2. All Yoahtlans have the right to self-defense against an unlawful aggressor.
3. All Yoahtlans have the right to freedom of belief.
4. All Yoahtlans have the right to a timely and just trial.
5. All Yoahtlans have the right to privacy.
6. All Yoahtlans have the right to peaceful assembly and protest.
7. All Yoahtlans have the right to be free from discrimination and harassment.
8. All Yoahtlans have the right to freedom of movement

## *Article II: Internal Affairs*

1. Internal Affairs is responsible for the construction and maintenance of public factories, roads, and other public property; for creating and enforcing laws, taxes, and tariffs; for expanding and maintaining the national snitch network; organizing a census of active

citizens; and for carrying out other duties necessary for maintaining a strong and positive community within the nation. It shall be headed by the Alcuahatl.

- a. The Alcuahatl, by edict, may appoint deputies or create bureaucratic offices to aid in carrying out these duties. Such positions will be part of the Internal Affairs branch, and answer directly to the Alcuahatl or their deputy.
2. The Alcuahatl may be removed from office by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the National Council, resulting in the accession of their appointed successor to the position.
  - a. The Alcuahatl appoints their successor, who shall also act as their deputy when needed.
  - b. If the Alcuahatl is inactive for a period of 3 months or greater, their position will be considered abdicated and their deputy will assume the position.
  - c. The Alcuahatl, if they have appointed a deputy, may resign at any time, for any reason, which shall result in the accession of their deputy to the position.
3. Legislative power shall reside with the Council. Bills are proposed by councillors, and become laws when approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority "aye" council vote and given the OK by the Alcuahatl. A petition signed by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the active citizenry of Yoahatl must be voted on by the council to determine if it will become law or put into effect.
  - a. In the event of a rejected petition, the council or Alcuahatl should provide a public rationale for why it was rejected.
4. Judicial power shall reside with the Council. Councillors shall act as judges for criminal, civil, and constitutional trials.
  - a. In criminal trials, concerned with the accusation of an individual of a crime by an aggrieved party, the defendant must be treated as innocent until proven guilty. A single judge will oversee the case, weigh the evidence and arguments, determine guilt, and pass sentencing.
  - b. In constitutional trials, concerned with
  - c. In the event a Trial by Carrot is opted for, instead of a civil trial, a councillor must preside over the proceedings and ensure the duel is fair.
    - i. Participants in a Trial by Carrot are not allowed to wear armor, use any weapon other than a carrot, use potions, or receive aid from an outside ally. The winner is the last participant left standing, and they will decide the verdict.

- d. If no councillors capable of judging a trial without bias are available, the Alcuahltl shall serve as judge.
  - e. The loser of a trial may appeal the decision of the judge within 3 days of the verdict being passed. The Alcuahltl will then decide if a miscarriage of justice has occurred, and if needed preside over a retrial. The verdict of the retrial will be final.
5. Executive power - the enforcement of laws as written and interpreted by the council - shall reside with the Alcuahltl when such enforcement relates to Internal Affairs. Supreme leadership of the national militia, the ability to appoint officers of the militia, and the ability to call the militia to arms also lay with the Alcuahltl.
6. City Charters must be approved by the Alcuahltl and a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the Council.
- a. A City Charter is a brief outline of how a city will be governed and what its purpose is, including a map of its borders.
  - b. A city charter may be revoked by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the Council, and with the Alcuahltl's approval, if the city fails to fulfill its purpose or becomes abandoned.

#### *Article II: External Affairs*

1. External Affairs is responsible for managing the official interactions of Yoahltl with foreign powers through the medium of treaties, alliances, and declarations of war, as well as establishing and maintaining embassies with foreign powers. It shall be headed by the Excuahtl.
- a. The Excuahtl may appoint ambassadors, or create bureaucratic offices, to aid in carrying out these duties. Such positions will be part of the External Affairs branch, and answer directly to the Excuahtl or their deputy.
2. The Excuahtl may be removed from their office by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the Senate, resulting in the accession of their deputy to the throne. Should they have no appointed deputy, the Senate shall pick a new replacement by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote.
- a. The Excuahtl appoints their successor, who shall also act as their deputy when needed.
  - b. If the Excuahtl is inactive for a period of 3 months or greater, their position will be considered abdicated and their deputy will assume the position.

- c. The Excuahtl, if they have appointed a deputy, may resign at any time, for any reason, resulting in the accession of their deputy to the throne.
3. The power to represent the country in negotiations with foreign powers shall reside with the Excuahtl. Negotiations will not be considered official or binding if the Excuahtl, their deputy, or an appointed ambassador is not present for negotiations.
4. The power to approve treaties shall reside with the Senate. A treaty must be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the Senate in order to be considered binding, as well as requiring the consent of the Excuahtl and Alcuahatl.
  - a. The Senate shall be comprised of a representative from each chartered city of Yoahatl, chosen by methods decided upon by each city individually.
  - b. No treaty shall change national law within Yoahatl without a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote from the Council as well.
5. The power to declare war shall reside jointly with the Excuahtl, the Alcuahatl, and the Senate. All three bodies must be in agreement (with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the Senate) to declare war on another nation.
  - a. In ending a war, the Senate must first vote to approve a peace effort. Details of the peace treaty will then be left to the discretion of the Excuahtl and their chosen ambassadors.
  - b. In the event of an attack on the Empire of Yoahatl, either diarch may take direct action to put an end to the threat without a declaration of war. Military action must cease after 72 hours have elapsed, unless a war is declared against the attacker by Yoahatl during that period of time.

### *Article III: Territory, Citizenship, and Property*

1. The territorial claims of the State of Yoahatl consist of all lands claimed by Yoahatl and any autonomous regions.
2. Yoahatl's laws are supreme in its territory. All pearls taken on Yoahatlan land must be tried by Yoahatlan courts, under Yoahatlan law.
3. Citizenship in Yoahatl is open on request to all players resident on Yoahatlan territory.
4. Property in Yoahatl shall be defined as any structure or development of the land that does not conflict with existing ownership of property and for which all material has been legally obtained, such as a structure's legally obtained contents.

#### *Article IV: Amendment*

1. Amendments to this constitution may be made by mutual consent of the Alcuahatl and Excuahtl, as well as a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of both the Senate and Council.
2. Amendments should be included at the bottom of this document in the provided "Amendments" section. Where the text of an amendment conflicts with the text of the main body of this charter
3. In the event the majority of the government is inactive and unreplaceable, the remaining active members may suspend this constitution and institute a provisional government to manage the nation in the interim.

#### *Article V: Secession*

1. A chartered city may leave Yoahatl, taking with it its land claims, if it follows the following procedure.
  - a. A good-faith, honest attempt to resolve the issues the city has with the national government must be made.
  - b. A referendum shall be organized, with a 3 day campaigning period to allow secessionist and loyalist factions to debate and make arguments for their camp.
  - c. If the population of the city vote by simple majority to leave, and the Alcuahatl and Excuahtl consent to the secession, the city may secede peacefully. Negotiations on any relevant topics with the national government should commence, and the city will be free to go once they are concluded.
2. Secession by any means other than the approved procedure above is forbidden, and attempts to do so shall be considered an act of treason.

#### **Amendments**

- I. If a councilor, senator, or other government official is inactive without warning for 3 weeks, their position will be considered forfeit and a replacement appointed at earliest opportunity, or a special election held if the position is elected.
- II. A member of the council can not serve on the Senate during the duration of their term; likewise, a member of the Senate can not serve on the Council while serving on the Senate, unless the size of the Empires' active members is below 7 or other adequate number in the opinion of the diarchy.