

Annual Report - 2009 Human rights situation of Christians in Iraq.

Our Organization has issued annually a special report on the situation of Iraqi Christians, Assyrians Chaldeans, Assyrians, Armenians, including supplements and statistics on the volume of attacks and acts of murder, kidnapping, rape on them each year, especially after 2003. The organization has already issued reports for them in the years 2007, 2008. The present report is the third of its kind. Our organization Usually adopt field research, surveys and the facts and investigations of direct and indirect with the victims or their families, relying on letters and complaints received by the organization and calling for assistance and support.

Compared with the report of the Organization of the previous year direct attacks has decreased somewhat in this year's, killings depends on identity, kidnapping, threats, displacement and looting of property and struck interests and detonated in some areas, but these practices and the business has not been exists in other areas such as Mosul, Kirkuk and Baghdad.

The violence continued unabated in the three governorates, but is growing in the cities of Kirkuk and Mosul recently. Deliberate killings, abductions, robberies and looting have seen in the three provinces. Some of them within the apparent aims to obtain funds, but in part, partial lining is designed to instill fear and terror in the Christian community pushing for Migration, the beatings, threats and detention of civilian citizens. As the organization has recorded nine cases of attacks on churches this year, four of them in Baghdad province and five in the city of Mosul recently. The Organization also noted that large sums of money paid in ransom for the release of innocent civilians.

Year 2009 was distinguished from the other years by uprising the operations targeting Christians in Kirkuk. Doctors, businessmen, technicians and civil servants have been subjected to murder and kidnapping. Aziz Rozko, director of financial control in Kirkuk, was killed in April. This directorate, which means the follow-up funds and the disbursement in official directorates and projects implemented in the province, Our organization believes that Mr. Aziz is killed by groups involved in corruption and in order not to leave any evidence of involvement. It seems that Mr. Aziz had significant information about the corruption going on in many quarters of the province. Imad Elia Abdul Karim have also been killed, an employee in the health department in Kirkuk, and the abduction of Dr. Samir Georges specialist in pediatrics, as exposure to physical and psychological torture to approximately three weeks and released after paying a ransom.(Note Appendix A and Appendix C).

In Nineveh did not get a significant improvement for the benefit of Christians, Dr. Mahasin Bashir Toma pros, specialist in diseases of midwifery and women in the

town of Bartella had been abducted not released until a ransom was paid and abduction of Hikmat Saed after he returned to work which he had left because of the impact of displacement that took place last year in Mosul in September and October 2008. He was freed after paying large ransoms. Another child was killed in Mosul, Rami Khajik not to exceed sixteen years old, a student of Junior high school. In addition to many other events (note the Appendix A, C).

As in Baghdad, despite the low level of killing and abduction in comparison with previous years, Our organization has recorded six deaths and three cases of abduction, the lowest recorded since 2003, and the most prominent event was the killing of The Engineer Samir Muwafak in a checkpoint of the Iraqi army in al-Ghadeer, and that Mr. Sameer was one of the competencies of young Christian. He was obtained a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and the Higher Diploma in software. One of peculiar cases in Baghdad is the killing of an elderly woman age 85 years called Wardi Nicholas Zarroq in Al-Dora District - mechanics, have been confirmed later that the goal behind the killings is to get the money obtained from the sale of her home.

In Nineveh plain where the majority of the Christian Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriac, our organization followed with deeply worries the Christian Status as the towns of this region have been attacked by a number of car bombs, as a car bomb was exploded in the center of the Hamdaniya has killed seven people including one child in the end of June, as were the town Khazna which is populated by the majority of Shabak, was attached by cars bombs claimed the lives of large numbers of innocent people. While a number of car bombs were defused in this area was prepared to detonate. The town of Bartella 25 km east of Mosul , the mainly Christian witnessed riots in the Christmas holiday December 25, 2009, against the backdrop deviation of the funeral procession customary for Muslims of the Shiite practice of the Shabak in the days of Ashura from its traditional religious framework, which is often takes place annually in the main street of the town Bartalah and changed its course to the streets and alleys, which includes churches, where Christians were praying the Christmas morning, when prevented by security guards assigned to protect the churches of traffic within that path. Numbers of members of the convoy with angry reaction tore and remove the Christmas decorations that Christians had placed near the church so that it evolves and becomes to riots and gunfire toward the churches and shops nearby and tearing banners and other practices have led to casualties among the parties and material damage.

Christians and other minorities also exposed to pressure and suppression of freedoms of opinion and the confiscation of free will under the influence of Kurdish influence in the region. Our Organization has noticed that citizens were summons to the party organizations to influence their political views, and further arrests outside the scope of legal rules and outside the framework of the judiciary, where Hazem Noah Kayf was arrested, member of district council for several hours in Asayish

(Kurdish Security) of TelKayf and calling him in improper insulting words to influence his opinions at the district council of TelKayf.

As our organization listened to different testimonies expressed its resentment of the various parties and Asayish intervention in the affairs of the administration ... As noted by the organization the complain of the people in the region as a result the burden of tolerating conflicts and political contradictions between the political blocs in the territory of Kurdistan, Kurdish and Sunni Arab bloc in Nineveh.

The organization has obtained information from the displaced Christians who have been victims of displacement targeting Christians in Mosul in the autumn of 2008 and are currently residing in the Nineveh Plain, they are deprived of their benefits just like other internally displaced, as they are approximately more than 500 families refused to return to Mosul, as the Ministry did not classified them within the list of displaced under the pretext that they are reluctant to Mosul sometimes.

As noted by our organization and despite the relative improvement in the security situation in Iraq in general compared to previous years, migration of the Christian is still flowing, as our estimates suggest that ten families on average per day to leave outside the country, which means 300 families per month, most of whom are qualified and professionals and from youth people.

Concerning the return of refugees and displaced persons, our organization noted some minor return from abroad, especially university professors and engineers associated with contracts of employment at the universities of Iraq and reconstruction projects, mostly in the Kurdistan region of Iraq ... Our Organization saw the return of more than 800 IDP families from Mosul, who left in the events of September and October 2008 to their homes at the center of Mosul, but a surge in killings of a group of young people experienced recently, especially in Mosul in December 2009 and attacks on churches may explode portends a new migration of the Christians again.

On the other hand more than 500 families opted to stay in the areas of the Nineveh Plain and not to return to the center of Mosul. But in Baghdad, despite the improving security situation, the organization had not recorded wide return, having witnessed the return of a small number of Christian families, which were abandoned in Al-Dora, totaling more than four thousand family departed in 2006 and 2007, while the proportion of return never reached to 5% of the total displaced ..

Going back to the statistics of the organization data, they reveal clearly lists the names of the killed civilians, whose number was (730) people who were killed while exercising their normal daily lives over the past seven years, as well as providing details of their dates and places they died in addition to those targeted and Supplement (a) and diagram(1), is to illustrate the annexes unambiguous that the

responsibility for the blood of these victims had been distributed to the following:

- 537 people were killed by unknown gunmen
- 126 people were killed while they were in places where the blasts occurred carried out by unidentified
- 30 people were killed by U.S. forces or the multinational force.
- 21 people killed in crossfire between U.S. forces and insurgents, or by random bombardment
- 10 people were killed during U.S. military operations before 9/4/2003
- 6 people were killed by National Guard troops.

Statistics also show through the diagram number (2) differing rates of escalation of violence for years to have the highest percentage of killed Christians in 2004. It accounted for 29% of the total number of killed Christians who spotted by the organization, and then gradually percentage was decreased in 2005 to 14 % and reached in 2006 to 10%, while returned to escalate in 2007 to 21%, especially when sectarian killings intensified, while the security situation improves somewhat in 2008, the rate was 10% then dropped to 4% in 2009, which is the lowest recorded by our organization, and also the statistic illustrate that 52% of the victims died in Baghdad, where more than half a million Christians were living before 9/4/2003, and 29% of the dead, died in the province of Nineveh (the second largest Christian community after Baghdad), which included 250 thousand Christian. Hundred thousand of them live in the center of the governorate and the remaining estimated 150 thousand people living in the Nineveh Plain, and the percentage of victims in Kirkuk is, 4% and 3% in Basra, while 2% in the cities of Salah al-Din and Anbar , 1% in Diyala and 8% were distributed to other provinces. (Note the diagram No. 3)... The diagram No. 4 refers to 94% of victims aged between 18-60 years , while the rate of children is 4% and the elderly 2%, while the diagram number (5) shows the proportion of victims of competencies, which include doctors, engineers, university professors, pharmacists, researchers and others is 16% While the proportion of women 13%, and the clergy of 2%.

The organization has also noticed (182) cases of abduction and disappearance of civilians and clerics, some of them were freed for ransom payments, and some were killed although they paid the ransom (Appendix C), and the number of abductees have registered with our organization is only 10% of the total cases of kidnapping suffered by Christians during the past seven years, where the Organization can not document all cases of abductions and cases of threat to plentiful on one hand and the fear of the victims of the organization media or to say in order to avoid further violence against them or their families ...

Statistics of the organization also show that in 2009 to a low level of violence against Christians in Baghdad, to the extent of the past years, involving serious violations, mentioned by our previous reports, which included the practice of religious coercion and threats of death and displacement, which led to a huge exodus to safer places

from Baghdad or to other provinces and some of them leave the country to abroad ... As our organization documented various terrorist campaigns against the Christian churches and monasteries in Iraq, where it appears extension (A) Details of the attacks took place on more than (51) church and a monastery, as exposed to the different attacks by gunmen or suicide car bomb or by explosives. The report also includes the other supplements containing various violations include cases of murder and kidnapping, which affected the clergy, it is found a dozen of Christian cleric killed and the kidnapping of more than fifteen others, were released for a ransom, and a number of other assassination attempts which miraculously survived (note supplements a, c, e). The report contains appendices refer to different attacks, such as taking property, property, robbery, theft, rape, arbitrary arrests and other (note the appendix h). The organization also keep testimony documented in pictures, movies and CD-ROM and audio tapes of the threats and killings, physical and psychological torture of citizens and clergy, in addition to some of the documents and texts of threatening letters addressed to them.

The organization following up and monitoring within the situation of Christians in all other parts of Iraq, we have noticed a clear improvement of their situation in Basra after the military operations carried out by the Iraqi government there in (2008) named Knights operation, the organization had not been recorded cases of killings of Christians in the mentioned period and the cases of restriction of individual freedoms had also fallen especially the freedom of women after it was imposed the Christian women the veil and a pattern of clothes which is disproportion with their traditions and culture, as the life began in this city which is one of the three largest cities in Iraq as well as Baghdad and Mosul in terms of population, as life began gradually returning to normal, which was before the spread of uncontrolled armed militias there. Yet the fear factor in control of the Christians in the city and state of anticipation and uncertainty still exists, which is reflected in the process of return, as the organization did not record the return of Christian families who have left it 2004, 2005, 2006, to their places, and it is clear indication of the absence of reassuring, with increased in the volume of patrons to the churches and the practice of Christian rites and rituals in the city.

On the general political issue, it has been in relative pay attention to the importance of political presence, it has been allocated (5) seats in Parliament Kota for them out of a total 325 seats in the election law, which has recently been approved, which is less than their entitlement of quantity and quality, but it remains the advanced case compared to 2008, where they were reducing the share of representation in the law of provincial councils, in the process that caused much controversy in the parliament and political circles.

Also the organization have followed not to provide opportunities for Christians in proportion to their abilities and skills but also in the number of appointments which

are subject to quotas as long as the major political blocs, involving considerations of national and sectarian minorities were in general and Christians in particular the biggest victims of this process.

In Kurdistan region of Iraq, despite of the reconstruction in the Territory of a good number of the Assyrian Chaldean villages that were destroyed during the Anfal operation and before, but still numbers of villages and larges lands are under encroachments by the symbols of clan and influential figures in the Kurdish community , and the official authorities and the regional government did not seem serious about the reactions of such a waiver for the development of treatments and solutions to it, despite the many petitions for those Christians affected in this regard.

Our organization have followed the files for a number of villages suffer from the problem of abuse and to help them, suggested ways to address through the means of official Iraq's Kurdistan region by the government and Parliament, especially after receiving complaints from citizens, the violation of their rights to land and trespassing on farms and fields, but those efforts were challenged obstacles and did not feel by any positive response from the authorities in the Kurdistan Regional Government up to the preparation of this report. On the other hand Christians in the province are facing, a form of discrimination is dominated by a political nature, especially in the issue of appointments, which are often less favorable than belong to the two main Kurdish parties or their supporters, and financial and administrative corruption prevailing in the region play a role in this process, as our organization received a set of complaints of families of martyrs and missing in the Anfal operations, they claimed that they had not received their dues, which is usually given to the martyrs and they face constraints in the promotion of their transactions under the pretexts were not objective.

Proposals and recommendations to urge the Government to act urgently:

Our Organization See on the light of our report, that it is the humanitarian duty to provide a number of proposals and recommendations that would improve the situation of human rights in Iraq in general, and the conditions of the rights of religious minorities and Iraqi nationalism in particular.

- Our organization calls the Federal Government of Iraq and the government of Kurdistan region to do everything in its power to provide security for Christians and other religious minorities and nationalism in terms of constitutional responsibilities.

- Our Organization Demands Iraqi government to take serious action to ensure the survival of Christians and other religious components and micro-nationalism, and work to reduce or stop their migration from inside Iraq through support of their

constituents and by improving their economic and social, political situation, and paying attention to the issue of participation in state institutions to achieve the principle of citizenship, partnership and equality. Also our organization demanded the need for the Iraqi government to announce the results of investigations of the attacks, which affected the Christians of Mosul in September and October, to the public opinion, and to ensure that those responsible for it or who are behind it to present them to justice. It also calls for increased attention to provide protection to the churches and houses of worship, especially in Mosul.

- Our Organization calls for the Federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to continue the coordination between them to design and work to remove all pockets of informal armed groups and putting an end to a militia.
- Our Organization Calls the Iraqi government for forming high-level panel or commission of work and planning for the return of refugees and displaced Iraqis to their areas, especially minority of them, like Christians, Yazidis and Shabak.
- Our Organization calls the Ministry of Displacement and Migration to solve the suffering of more than 500 Christian families, who have opted not to return to Mosul and stay in the Nineveh Plain, and the need to include them in the lists of displaced people which resulted in the rights and benefits just like the rest of the displaced.
- Our Organization calls the Federal Government of Iraq to build a national army to be loyal to the country more than any other religious, national, political loyalties, and avoid building military sectarian or national formations units outside the national framework encouraging marginalization.
- Our Organization is calling the government to facilitate the involvement of minorities in the security institutions and army and police, and the need to be based on Iraq's security institutions in minority areas of its people.
- The Organization is calling on the government to form a ministerial body or commission that include number of ministries under the umbrella of its banner with the basic task of pay attention to the economic situation and development activities and development network for minorities in their areas.
- The organization calls for the government to take practical steps in coordination with UNHCR and the U.S. forces for the return of refugees displaced Iraqis to their areas, among them Iraqi religious minorities by ensuring their security and stop attacks in their areas.
- The Organization is calling the government to clean up the security services and the national armed forces of cases of violations, and the multiplicity of loyalties, especially in the province of Nineveh.
- The Organization is calling the government of Kurdistan to work to stop attacks on

Christians and other minorities in the Kurdish party headquarters in the areas of the Nineveh Plain, and to prevent arrest or detention practices that take place outside the framework of the judiciary.

- Ensure free and fair elections in minority areas without the use of violence or threats of action and to take actions and measures to prevent fraud with the participation of international control under the supervision of the United Nations.

- Treatment of demographic change and stop all previous resolutions and violate the rights of these minorities, which had been order to change, and marginalization and the abolition of the identities of these cities and towns through the establishment or the formation of city councils from the people of the minority to be the one to decide their destiny.

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