



Human Rights Report on Assyrians in Iraq 2010

Assyria Council of Europe (ACE)

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Assyria Council of Europe

The Assyria Council of Europe (ACE) is an independent body that has been formed to take responsibility for raising awareness of the plight of Iraq's Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans or Syriacs) after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime within the institutions of the European Union (EU). ACE is concerned that if urgent action is not taken to alleviate the dire situation of the Assyrians in Iraq then in the near future Iraq may be devoid of its native inhabitants. Furthermore, ACE believes that the EU, with its increasingly important role in Iraq, is in a good and important position to be able to contribute to the successful maintenance of Iraq's Assyrian community and that true democracy can only prosper in Iraq if it is based on plurality and the rule of law, principles the EU is itself built upon.

I. Introduction

In the year 2004, the historically indigenous population of Iraq, the Assyrians, also known as Syriacs and Chaldeans, still constituted the third largest ethnic group in Iraq. Their total number was estimated between 1.5 and 2 million people¹. The current population of Assyrians, as estimated by their own organizations, ranges from 400,000 to 600,000. More than 60 percent of the Assyrian population has fled the country because of kidnappings, murder, church bombings and harassment and discrimination. Assyrians are regarded as rich but without protection, since they have never had any tribal or militia ties. Moreover, being Christians in an increasingly strict Islamic environment, Assyrians are at particular risk because of their perceived ties to the West and to the multinational forces in Iraq. The fact that Christians, along with Yezidies, under the previous Baathist government were allowed to trade in alcohol has also made them a target as it has made them easily identifiable as members of minority groups.²

In the past, attacks have occurred against female Assyrian university students because of putting on make-up or refusing to wear the veil. Assyrian women across the country are under increasing pressure of extremist groups to adapt to traditional Islamic dress code. However, it is not always jihadist ideology which leads to attacks. According to Human Rights Watch, organized criminals sometimes fake a jihadist identity to mask a real motive of extortion and thievery³, but in many cases are politically motivated. After 2003 the Kurds moved into the Assyrian heartland claiming that their militias alone could provide security for minorities living in the area. Day-to-day harassment by the Kurdish occupation forces in the Nineveh Plain, a lack of development funds and the continued political stalemate have led many Assyrians to flee the country for exile abroad. A gradual extinction and an uprooting of one of the most ancient people is the result.

The purpose of this report is to give the facts and figures on the attacks on Assyrians on the basis of reported incidents and their consequences for the Assyrian community in the year 2010. It is, however, a state of play based on reports but not as it actually exists. The number of victims is very much higher but firm figures are very difficult to come by as there is still a general fear among Assyrians to report such cases.

¹ Michael, John C. 2004, 'The ChaldoAssyrian Cause in Iraq: Implications for Maronites', presented at the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention in Orlando, 16 July 2004, in <http://www.aina.org/articles/namjm.htm>, (Accessed: 27 February 2011).

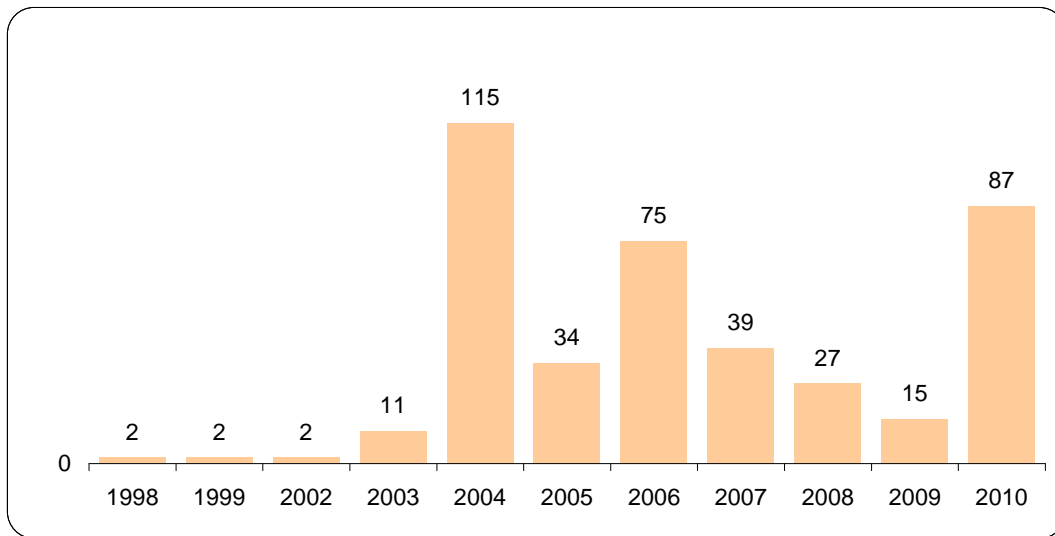
² Chapman, Chris and Taneja, Preti 2009, 'Uncertain Refuge, Dangerous Return: Iraq's Uprooted Minorities', Minority Rights Group International.

³ Human Rights Watch 2009, 'On Vulnerable Ground: Violence against Minority Communities in Nineveh Province's Disputed Territories', <http://www.aina.org/reports/hrwiraq20091109.pdf>, p. 31 (Accessed: 27 February 2011).

II. Abstract

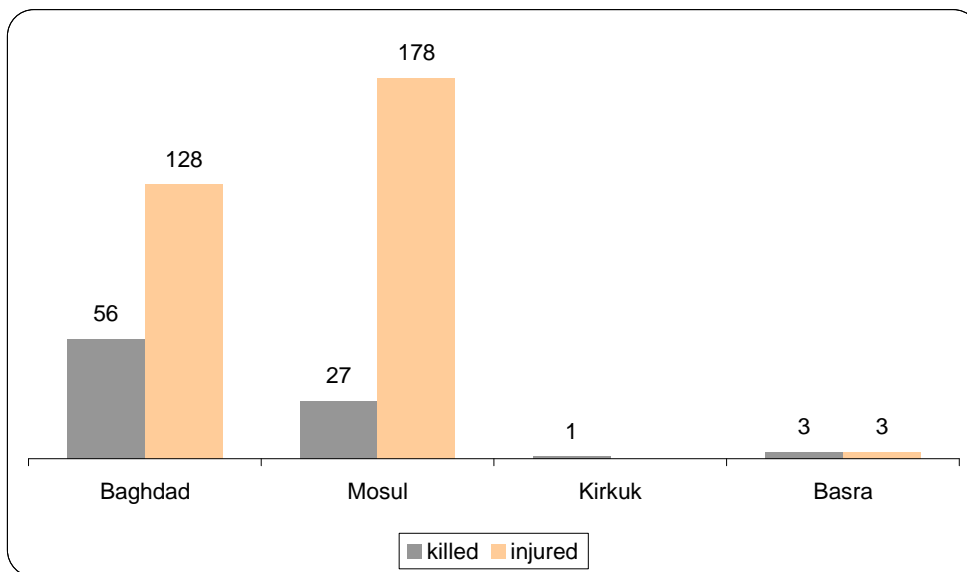
In 2010 violence against Assyrian Iraqis remained at a high level. The year 2010 had the second highest, after 2004, murders of Assyrians since the beginning of the war. 87 Assyrians were killed From January to December 2010 in robberies, bomb attacks and kidnappings. Most single incidents of violence happened in Mosul. Because of the Sayidat al-Nejat (Our Lady of Deliverance) cathedral attack, the highest death toll of 54 Assyrians was registered in Baghdad, with a spike of violence in the last months of 2010.

Figure 1: Killings of Assyrians, 1998 - 2010



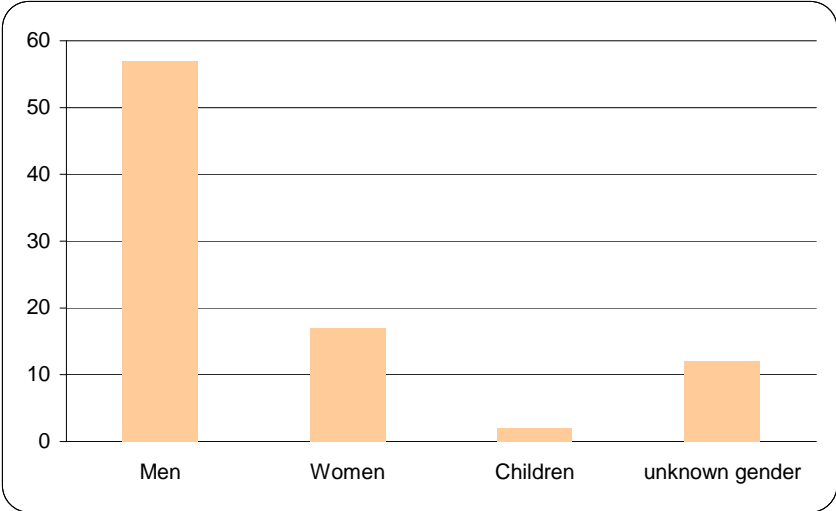
Figures 1998 - 2009: BetBasoo 2010

Figure 2: Death toll and number of injured



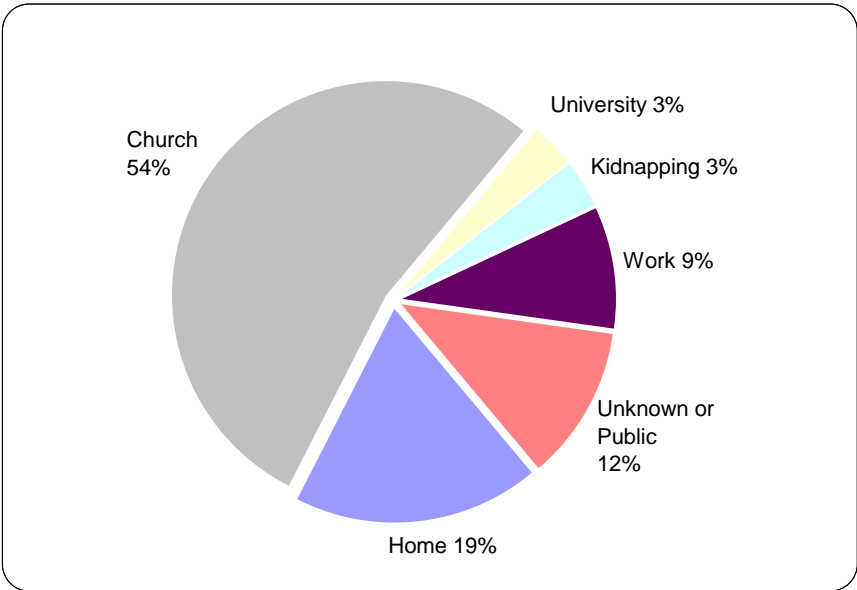
The majority of the victims were men. They are easier targets as the dependence on the father as bread winner would likely cause the rest of the family to flee or to starve. This means that the attackers do not simply wish to kill single persons because of their faith. They want this specific group to give up their future in Iraq and to leave the country in order to minimize their role in the future political landscape of Iraq. It is assumed among local Assyrians in Iraq that most of these attackers are criminals or forces within the ruling parties, the Arabs and Kurds, pretending to be “Al Qaida” or “Islamic Terrorists” so that no investigation will take place.

Figure 3: Gender of victims in total



54 % of the victims died in a church or on a church attack which can be traced back to the high death toll of the Baghdad church attack. Because of inadequate security churches were an easy target for terrorist to achieve their jihadist ambition to terrify the whole community.

Figure 4: Places of killings



Christians continue to face grave threats. According to monitors of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Baghdad security measures have therefore been increased like the creation of security checkpoints near the home of Christians in Baghdad. Furthermore several leaders are in contact with Iraqi security forces for assistance in protecting their communities. However, not even security checkpoints are reliable instruments for providing protection. An atmosphere of extreme insecurity still remains among Assyrians in the two biggest Iraqi cities, Mosul and Baghdad. Many Assyrians intend to move or emigrate. The will to settle down somewhere else is reinforced by rumors in Baghdad of impending violence against Christians, in order to force them to flee and to drive down prices of their homes.⁴

Although regarded as havens for minorities, the political and social situation in Northern provinces leaves much to be desired. There are many reports on the pressure that is exerted on members of the Assyrian community in Kurdish administered areas, in order to meet political demands of the Kurdish population. Assyrians are forced to support the Kurdish political parties or to declare their identity as Kurdish in order to strengthen Kurdish demands for land. Members of all minorities in the KRG administrated area such, as Turkmen, Arabs, Assyrians, and Shabak, complain about coerced assimilation by Kurdish militias. Minorities have developed a feeling of distrust towards formal protection instruments and police forces.

III. Discrimination in the Iraqi Police force

Assyrians are increasingly fleeing Mosul to the Nineveh Plain, which is heavily populated by minorities. However, an investigation of Assyria Council of Europe has shown that security institutions are kept weak by Kurdish leaders. The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) deploys its own forces, the *Peshmergas*, and sets up group of armed guards from minority communities in the Nineveh Plain -- an area which doesn't belong to the Kurdish administrated area -- who are loyal to the KRG. Having its own political and strategic interests, the KRG thus tries to give the impression it protects the population of the Nineveh Plain. Kurdish leaders are successfully blocking the establishment a police force comprised of minority groups, as decreed by the Iraqi government, which form the majority population of the Nineveh Plain. The result is that the ethnic make-up of the Iraqi police force in the Nineveh Plain does not reflect the ethnic structure of the population.⁵

⁴ IOM, 'IOM Emergency needs assessments – Displacement of Christians to the North of Iraq', 31 January 2011, http://www.iomiraq.net/library/IOM_displacement_monitoring_reports/special_focus_reports/-2010/Christian%20Displacement%20Update%2031%20January%202011.pdf, (Accessed: 27 February 2011)

⁵ Assyria Council of Europe, 'Ethnic discrimination in the Iraqi police force: The case of Assyrians in the Niniveh Plain of northern Iraq', December 2010, <http://www.assyriacouncil.eu/resources/ACE+-+Ethnic+Discrimination+in+the+Iraq+Police+Force.pdf>.

IV. Gender-based violence and discrimination

Gender-based violence continues to be a serious problem for Assyrian women and girls in Iraq. Minority Groups International states that “minority women and children represent the most vulnerable section of Iraqi society”.⁶ Women remain at risk of attack from extremists. The German Syriac Orthodox nun Sister Hatune, who has been helping victims of violence in Iraq and in the refugee camps in Syria and Jordan since 2005, reports on many cases of rape as well as verbal and physical sexual harassment in public. Depression and despair is very common, especially among those who have chosen not to leave their homes because of fear. In particular women in refugee camps are vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation or forced prostitution due to financial hardship.

Evidence in this report shows that ongoing threats restrict Christian women’s right of expressing their particular religious and ethnic identity through the way they dress. Not wearing the hijab and the western-style clothing adds to the visibility as Christians and thus causes difficulties for women. After having been harassed, numerous Assyrian women have opted to wear the hijab for security purposes.⁷

The ongoing threat of violence forces Assyrian women to adapt to Islamic rule and thus seriously restricts their freedom of movement. This limitation in turn restricts their access to education and employment.

V. External and Internal Displacement

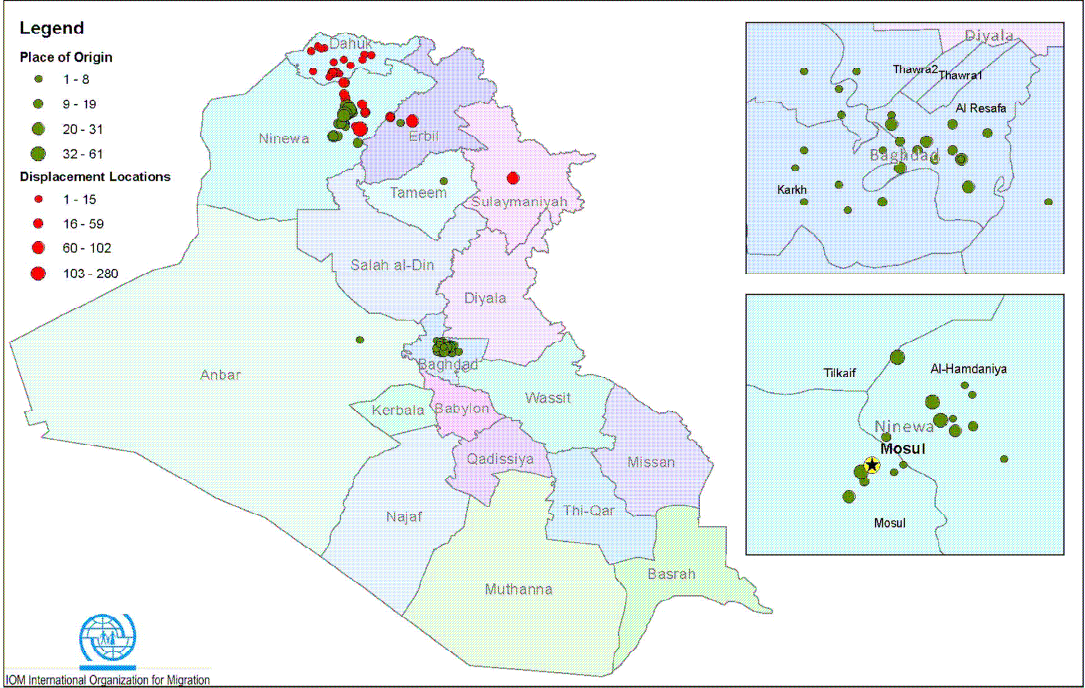
Threats and targeted bombings of Assyrians in 2010 produced two major waves of displacement in March and October, from Mosul and Baghdad to north Iraq and abroad. However, the attack of October 31 on the Sayidat al-Nejat church marked the beginning of a more systematic campaign of violence against Christians.⁸

⁶ Lalani, Muntaz, ‘Still Targeted: Continued Persecution of Iraq’s Minorities’, Minority Rights Group International, June 2010.

⁷ Aina and US Department of State 2010.

⁸ IOM, ‘IOM Emergency needs assessments – Displacement of Christians to the North of Iraq’, 15 December 2010.

Figure 5: Origin and number of Christian families displaced in Iraq in November and December 2010



source: IOM 2010

The latest UNHCR figures on refugees outside the country and internally displaced persons are from March 2010. The UNHCR reported 223,000 active refugee cases for Iraqis living outside Iraq and estimated that approximately 1.8 million Iraqis had fled and remain outside the country. 13 percent of all Iraqi refugees registered in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Egypt are Christians. According to AINA, up to 40% of the Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria are of Assyrian origin.⁹ Internally displaced persons inside Iraq are estimated 2.8 million, including 5 percent Christians.

Assyrians fleeing from Baghdad to the north face with many challenges, including employment, shelter and education. Rental prices for accommodation in northern governorates have risen 200-300% since the exodus of November 2010.¹⁰ Many live with host families and relatives in overcrowded homes. Children are particularly vulnerable after the trauma of displacement since they are often unable to continue their education due to language barriers or difficulties registering with new schools.¹¹ Many university students have stayed in Baghdad and Mosul in order to complete their exams, having found it difficult to continue their studies in their location of displacement.

⁹ AINA, 'Assyrians in Tehran Demonstrate Against Baghdad Church Massacre', 17th November 2010 <http://www.aina.org/news/20101116204331.htm> (Accessed: 1st March 2011).

¹⁰ IOM, 15 December 2010.

¹¹ IOM, 15. December 2010.

Attacks on the Assyrian community in Iraq in 2010

The following is a list of attacks on Assyrians in chronological order beginning January 2010. Information and figures are based on reports from news agencies, including the Assyrian International News Agency (AINA) as well as on the US Governments' International Religious Freedom Report 2010. However, it is assumed that a great number of crimes against Assyrians remain unreported or unpublished and therefore the data collected do not necessarily give the full picture of the situation. Assyrian refugees in abroad have stated that they or family members or friends were victims of murder and violence; but many of these refugees were too fearful to report the incidents, even when living outside of Iraq.¹²

1. January 2010

On January 2, 2010, a man in Mosul was kidnapped.¹³

On January 10, 2010, three students were injured by a bomb that hit a bus transporting university students from Mosul University to Hamdaniyah being predominantly inhabited by Assyrians.¹⁴

On January 11, 2010, Hikmat Sleiman, a 75-year-old vegetable merchant was killed by gunmen in front of his house in the al-Sinaa al-Qadeema area of western Mosul.¹⁵

On January 17, 2010, Saadallah Youssif Jorjis, a 52-year-old Assyrian from the Syriac Catholic Church, married with two daughters and owner of a fruit and vegetables shop, was killed by gunmen in the al-Majmoua Al-Thaqafiya neighborhood of northern Mosul. The murder coincided with the day of the ceremony for the arrival of the newly appointed Assyrian Archbishop Emil Shimoun Nona of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Mosul. The ceremony was attended by personalities from the local government as well as by leaders of the Muslim community.¹⁶

On January 18, 2010, again the owner of a food store in the Al-Sadeq neighbourhood of northern Mosul was killed by a gunman entering the store.¹⁷

¹² BetBasoo, Peter, 'Incipient Genocide – The Ethnic Cleansing of the Assyrians of Iraq', 12 June 2008/ Revised 8 December 2010, AINA, p. 8.

¹³ Asia News 2010, 'Mosul: Christian merchant killed as "ethnic cleansing" continues', 12 January 2010, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mosul:-Christian-merchant-killed-as-ethnic-cleansing-continues-17322.html>, (Accessed: 27 February 2011).

¹⁴ US Department of State 2010

¹⁵ Asia News 2010, 'Mosul: Christian merchant killed as "ethnic cleansing" continues', 12 January 2010, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mosul:-Christian-merchant-killed-as-ethnic-cleansing-continues-17322.html>, (Accessed: 27 February 2011).

¹⁶ Asia News 2010, 'Mosul, a Christian businessman killed as the faithful celebrate their new archbishop' 18 January 2011, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mosul,-a-Christian-businessman-killed-as-the-faithful-celebrate-their-new-archbishop-17372.html>, (Accessed: 27 February 2011)

¹⁷ US Department of State 2010

2. February 2010

On February 14, 2010, Fatukhi Munir was killed inside his shop in Mosul in a drive-by shooting.¹⁸

On February 15, 2010, Rayan Salem Elias, owner of a business dealing with traditional meat dish, was killed outside his home in East Mosul.¹⁹

On February 16, 2010, again in Mosul, a 21-year-old engineering student, Zia Toma, was shot and killed while another 22-year-old pharmacy student, Ramsin Shmael, was injured in the same attack.²⁰

On February 17, 2010, the body of Wissam George, a 20-year-old student to become a teacher, was found shot to death on a street in the neighborhood of Wadi al-Ain in South Mosul.²¹

On February 20, 2010, Adnan al-Dahan, a 57-year-old, was found in the northern Mosul district of al-Belladiyat with bullet wounds to his head. He had been kidnapped from his grocery store in the neighborhood of Al-Hadba the week before he was found.²²

Also on February 20, 2010, gunmen entered the house of the Aishwa Maroki, 59-year-old, and shot and killed him and his two sons, Mokhlas 31-year-old and Bassim, 25-year-old.²³ His wife and daughter witnessed the murder but were spared by the criminals.²⁴

As a result of these frequent attacks in February, 4,100 Christians fled the northern city of Mosul, according to the United Nations. The 683 displaced families moved to the two districts of Al Hamdaniyah (479 families) and Telkaif (204 families) in the Nineveh Plain.²⁵ Extremists with ties to Al-Qaida are believed to be responsible for the attacks.²⁶

¹⁸ BetBasoo, Peter, 'Incipient Genocide – The Ethnic Cleansing of the Assyrians of Iraq', 12 June 2008/ Revised 8 December 2010, AINA, p. 35.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Mohammed, Mujahid (AFP), 'Three Christians Killed in North Iraq', in: AINA, 17 February 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20100216185803.htm> (Accessed: 18 February 2011).

²¹ Mohammed, Mujahid (AFP), 'Fourth Assyrian Killed in Northern Iraq in As Many Days', in: AINA, 18 February 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20100217223828.htm>, (Accessed: 18th February 2011).

²² AFP 'Fifth Assyrian Killed in a Week in North Iraq', 20 February 2010, in: AINA <http://www.aina.org/news/20100220114044.htm> (Accessed: 18 February 2011).

²³ AFP, 'Five Dead, Including Three Assyrians, in Iraq Attacks', 24 February 2010, in: AINA: <http://www.aina.org/news/20100223204557.htm>, (Accessed: 18 February 2011).

²⁴ Asia News 2010, 'Bishop of Mosul: humanitarian emergency. Hundreds of Christian families fleeing violence', 25 February 2010, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-of-Mosul:-humanitarian-emergency.-Hundreds-of-Christian-families-fleeing-violence-17726.html>, (Accessed: 27 February 2011).

²⁵ United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Iraq – Displacement in Mosul' Situation Report No. 1, 28 February 2010

²⁶ US Department of State 2009

3. March 2010

On March 17, 2010, an armed man shot and killed the owner of a glass factory, Sabah Yacoub Adam, married and father of a child, who had returned to Mosul after fleeing the city prior to his killing. The killing took place near the Church of the Dominican Fathers in the neighborhood of al-Saa in Mosul.²⁷

On March 27, 2010, a bomb planted near the home of an Assyrian family in Mosul exploded, killing a three-year-old child and injuring three other family members at the house.²⁸

4. May 2010

On May 2, 2010, a convoy of buses bringing Assyrian students from Hamdaniyah to the University of Mosul exploded on the outskirts of Mosul, killing four people and injuring 171, at least 17 seriously. The owner of a nearby car repair was among the fatalities. The attack happened in Kokjali, an industrial area. According to the Chaldean Archbishop of Mosul, Emil Shimoun Nona, the attack began with an explosion, followed by the detonation of a car bomb parked on the roadside just before the caravan entered town. The buses crossed a security checkpoint staffed by American, Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers. An Iraqi security official said, the buses were escorted by Iraqi soldiers because of past threats and attacks against Christians in that area.²⁹

Having found a connection of the assailants to Kurdish guards, parliamentary representatives in Baghdad, the international press as well as the British Member of Parliament Edward Leigh claim that not Al Qaida but Kurdish forces were behind the bombing.³⁰

5. June 2010

On June 7, 2010, Hani Salim Wadi, a 34-year-old businessman, was shot and killed in front of his house in Kirkuk. According to AsiaNews, eyewitnesses described the murder as a “targeted killing”.³¹

²⁷ US and Asia News <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mosul,-another-targeted-execution-of-Iraqi-Christian-17904.html>

²⁸ U.S. Department of State 2010, ‘Iraq - International Religious Freedom Report 2010’, 17 November 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148821.htm>, (Accessed: 17 February 2011).

²⁹ Dagher, Sam, ‘Bombs Hit School Buses in North Iraq’, NYT, 2 May 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/03/world/middleeast/03iraq.html> (Accessed: 28 February 2011); Catholic News Agency (CNA), ‘Four dead after terrorist attack near Mosul targets buses of Christian students’, 4 May 2010, http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/-four_dead_after_terrorist_attack_near_mosul_targets_buses_of_christian_students/, (Accessed: 28 February 2011).

³⁰ Sonntagsblatt, ‘Zuflucht in der Ninive-Ebene, Christen im Irak: Die Ninive-Ebene – ein Quasi-Staat für Christen’, 18 July 2010, Ausgabe 29/2010, http://www.sonntagsblatt-bayern.de/news/aktuell/2010_29_01_01.htm, (Accessed: 13 March 2011).

³¹ AsiaNews 2010, ‘The killing of a Christian businessman in Kirkuk rekindles fear among Christians’, 8 June 2010, <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-killing-of-a-Christian-businessman-in-Kirkuk-rekindles-fear-among-Christians-18622.html>, (Accessed: 28 February 2011).

On June 9, 2010, four gunmen killed three Mandaean goldsmiths and injured four others during a robbery of three shops in the city of Basra.³²

6. August 2010

On August 27, 2010, the glazier Luay Barham al-Malik was kidnapped and killed by several shots in his head in northern Iraq after his family had paid his kidnappers 15,000 Dollars as a ransom for his release. His body was found in a field in Nimrud. Prior to his abduction Malik had fled from Mosul to Hamdaniyah.³³

7. October 2010

On October 31, 2010, terrorists stormed into the Sayidat al-Nejat cathedral (Our Lady of Deliverance), a Syriac Catholic church in central Baghdad during the Sunday evening mass. 44 parishioners, two priests, seven policemen and soldiers as well as five of the terrorists were killed, 75 persons were wounded³⁴. Some parishioners survived the attack because they were hidden in the sacristy or because they were lying among the bodies pretending to be dead. A week after the attack thirty-five of the most badly wounded were flown to a hospital in France.

Three days after the church massacre Islamic State of Iraq announced that all Christians were legitimate targets for mujahedias.³⁵

8. November 2010

On November 9, 2010, three bombs outside Assyrian homes in western Baghdad detonated, wounding at least three people.³⁶

On November 10, 2010, a series of bomb and mortar attacks targeting Christian areas in Baghdad killed at least five people and injured more than 30 people. The predominantly Christian areas of Camp Sara, Sinaa Street and al-Ghadeer in central Baghdad were among the districts hit in the attack³⁷

³² US Department of State 2010

³³ AFP, 'Kidnapped Assyrian Killed in Iraq Despite Ransom Paid', AINA, 28 August 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20100827220511.htm>, (Accessed: 28 February 2011).

³⁴ AINA 2010, 'Baghdad Church Massacre Victims in Paris for Treatment, Recount Harrowing Ordeal', 3 December 2010, <http://www.aina.org/releases/20101203112343.htm>, (Accessed: 17 February 2011).

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Karadshesh, Jomana, 3 bombs explode outside Christian homes in Baghdad, 9 November 2010, CNN, <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/11/09/iraq.violence/?hpt=T2>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

³⁷ Muir, Jim, Christian Areas targeted in deadly Baghdad attacks', BBC News Middle East, 10 November 2010, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11724378>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

On November 15, 2010, in Mosul Christians were targeted in an attack that killed 7 people including two Christians. One of the victims was an Assyrian member of the Syriac Catholic church employed in the provincial anti-corruption office. The other was an Armenian joiner.³⁸

On November 16, 2010, gunmen stormed a family's house in al-Zahraa neighborhood in eastern Mosul, killing a 50-year-old man, his wife and his sister.³⁹

On November 22, 2010, two brothers, Saad Hanna, 43, and Waad Hanna, 40, were shot dead in their welding shop in west Mosul.

On the same day in a separate incident, an elderly Assyrian woman was found strangled in her home in central Mosul.⁴⁰

On November 30, 2010, Fadi Walid Gabriel, 25-years-old, member of the Syriac Orthodox Church, was killed in Mosul by Muslim terrorists.⁴¹

9. December 2010

On December 5, 2010, four gunmen raided the home of Hikmat Sammak and his wife Samira in the Baladiyat neighbourhood in eastern Baghdad and shot and killed the couple and their daughter.⁴²

On December, 30, 2010, one day before New Year's Eve, ten Assyrian houses in Baghdad were targets in a wave of bombings. The coordinated strikes took all place within one hour. Explosives were left outside in the garden or on the doorstep of the houses. According to the Ministry of Interior, two people were killed and 20 others wounded, all of them Assyrians.⁴³

The house of Fawzi Ibrahim, 80, and his 75-year-old wife, Jeannette, was one of the targets hit by militants. The couple was killed by a bomb hidden in a piece of luggage which had been placed on the doorstep.⁴⁴

³⁸ The Telegraph, 'Christians attacked again in Iraq as gunmen kill two', 15 November 2010, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8135615/Christians-attacked-again-in-Iraq-as-gunmen-kill-two.html>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

³⁹ AINA, 'Three Assyrians killed in Mosul', 17 November 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/-20101117005600.htm>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

⁴⁰ AINA, 'Three Assyrians Killed in Iraq Today', 23 November 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20101122185631.htm>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

⁴¹ AINA, 'Assyrian Man Killed in Mosul', 1 December 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20101130210328.htm>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

⁴² AINA, 'Iraq Attack Kills Elderly Assyrian Couple At Home', 5 December 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20101205140738.htm>, (Accessed: 1 March 2011).

⁴³ Leland, Ohn/ Al-Jawshy, Omar, 'Christians are Casualties of 10 Baghdad Attacks', in New York Times, 31 December 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20101230220100.htm>, (Accessed: 13. March 2011).

⁴⁴ Parker, Ned/ Salman, Raheem, 'A Christian Priest Faces Grim New Year in Iraq', in Los Angeles Times, 1 January 2010, <http://www.aina.org/news/20101231191550.htm>, (Accessed: 13 March 2011).