

AUGUST 2014

Trumpet Call

Effective Christian action for Truth, Justice and Righteousness

BREAK THE SILENCE A MOST URGENT CALL



Horrific acts of barbarism are now being committed in Iraq, yet there has been very little news coverage in mainline UK media. One of the oldest centres of Christianity in the world, Iraq, is now being purged of Christian and other minority religious communities.

FACTS

- Ten years ago the estimated Christian population of Iraq was 1.5 million. This has been reduced to 200,000 over the last decade through systematic and ruthless persecution of Christians. **NO** Christians are now left in Mosul, one of the major centres, and those who have had to flee are threatened with extinction.
- A systematic and rapid advance, by a well organised and financed fanatical faction of Islamist militants - ISIS, now renamed IS (Islamic State) - has swept through Northern Iraq (where the majority of religious minority groups live). IS fighters are using the most evil, barbaric forms of violence to drive out and kill any one who will not align with their cause by converting to their version of Islam. Their violent acts include the rape of women and children, mass executions, burying victims alive, and there are also reports of beheading.

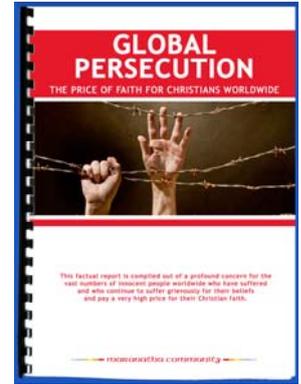


A video reportedly produced by IS shows Iraqi prisoners, including what appear to be children, piled onto trucks before being driven off for execution.



- A warning was recently broadcast through the loudspeakers of the mosques in Mosul giving Christians three choices: (i) conversion to Islam, (ii) the dhimma contract - payment of a high tax for the practising of another religion, (iii) death by the sword. In fact the second option was rapidly withdrawn.

- Since elections in Iraq in April this year, no government has yet been formed.
- **CHRISTIANS ARE NOW THE MOST WIDELY PERSECUTED PEOPLE GROUP IN THE WORLD TODAY.** This is clearly set out in the recently published Maranatha report 'Global Persecution - The Price of Faith for Christians Worldwide' - available for free download from:
www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/download.aspx?file=Global-Persecution-Report-2014.pdf
 and a hard-copy is available for £6.50 from the Maranatha Office.



PRAY

- For the truth of the situation in Iraq to be made clear and widely known, especially through mainline UK media.
- In unity with our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq, for Protection, Provision and Perseverance for the remaining Christians in Iraq - this is the specific prayer request from Canon Andrew White, the 'Vicar of Baghdad'. Pray too for the assistance of the angelic hosts.
- For the rapid establishment of a stable government and clear leadership in the country.
- For all those in positions of authority - in Iraq, the United Nations and key global leaders.
- For all religious leaders, that they would have a desire for truth, peace and justice and that Christian leaders would confirm that this is not simply a physical battle but a spiritual one.
- For members of IS to be restrained and disarmed, both spiritually and physically.

ACT NOW

- Bring this situation **NOW** to the attention of other Christians, locally and beyond.
- Arrange prayer gatherings **NOW** to intercede for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Make a financial contribution **NOW** to support those who are in desperate need. Organisations who have local workers in Iraq include
Open Doors Tel: 01993 777300
Christian Aid Tel: 020 7620 4444
Aid to the Church in Need Tel: 0208 642 8668
- If you have access to any computer sign this petition **NOW** to our government
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/67979>
- Write to your MP **NOW** asking them to speak out for the plight of Christians and other minorities in Iraq and elsewhere. Tell them also about the recently published Maranatha report 'Global Persecution - The Price of Faith for Christians Worldwide', containing hundreds of facts about persecution. A copy of it is being sent to the United Nations and to political and religious leaders throughout the world.

A SCRIPTURAL PRAYER FOR YOUR USE

Hasten, O God, to save them; come quickly, Lord, to help them. May those who want to take their life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire their ruin be turned back in disgrace. May those who say to them "Aha! Aha!" turn back because of their shame. But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say "The Lord is great!". But as for them, they are poor and needy; come quickly to them, O God. You are their help and their deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

(Adaptation of Psalm 70)