

2008 List of Assyrian Christians murdered, Attacked, and Harassed in Iraq

Compiled by Fred Aprim

January 6, 2008

Baghdad and Mosul

Today, several explosions targeted Churches and monasteries of different Assyrian Christian denominations in Mosul and Baghdad. The targeted churches and monasteries were: In Baghdad, Mar Giwargis (St. George) in al-Ghadeer quarters and the Chaldean Nuns Monastery of the Daughters of Mary in al-Zaafaraniya. A Greek Orthodox Church in Al-Tayaran Square was also a target.

In Mosul, the bombs targeted the Catherine Monastery of the Chaldean denomination, St. Mary's Cathedral of the Ancient Church of the East in al-Nour quarters (al-Shuhada' previously), Mar Poulus (St. Paul) Church in al-Sa'aa quarters, the Chaldean Nuns Monastery of the Daughters of Mary in al-Nour quarters and the Miskinta Church in central Mosul.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7175021.stm

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/10/2135231.htm>

<http://esna.se/eng/?article=544>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.157984.0.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=11177&size=A>

January 9, 2008

Kirkuk

Two churches were bombed in central and northern Kirkuk: The first at the Cathedral of Qalb al-Yasoo' (Jesus's Heart) of the Chaldean Catholic Church and the second at Mar Afram Church of the Syriac Orthodox Church in al-Umal (Workers) Square. Three people were wounded.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/10/2135231.htm>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.158818.0.html>

According to reports, a third church has been bombed, but no details are available.

January 17, 2008

Mosul

According to Aswat al-Iraq (Voices of Iraq), A car bomb detonated near the Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira (The Pure) in al-Shifa district, western Mosul, leaving one policeman and a woman slightly injured. The blast caused material damage to the external wall of the church and smashed its windows and doors, said a police who requested anonymity.

<http://66.111.34.180/look/english/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=66441&NrIssue=2&NrSection=1>

<http://www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&lang=en&length=long&idelement=5196>

February 1, 2008

Baghdad

Douglas Pnoel Samuel was killed when a bomb exploded in al-Ghazal market.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.165010.msg3015830.html#msg3015830>

February 7, 2008

Sarah Al-Los was kidnapped by a group of men while she was in front of the main gate of Mosul University. Sarah is a student in Mosul University. Her family has not been contacted yet as of April 2008.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.180965.0.html>

February 26, 2008

Baghdada, northern Iraq

A bomb went off at the entrance of a shop that sells alcohol in the center of this predominantly Christian town near Mosul. Seven people were injured and transferred to a nearby hospital for treatment.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.170875.0.html>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.170935.0.html>

February 29, 2008

Mosul

Mar Poulos Faraj Rahho, Chaldean Catholic Church bishop of Mosul, was abducted after he celebrated the Via Crucis. The three people (Samir, Faris and Rami) that were with him (his driver and two companions), were killed. The kidnappers are said to have already made a request. The abduction took place at 5.30 pm local time as Bishop Rahho had just left Mosul's Holy Spirit Cathedral.

<http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=11657&size=A>

<http://www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=56938>

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-iraq-archbishop-kidnapped.0.3625735.story>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.171625.msg3058934.html#msg3058934>

March 13, 2008

Mosul

The kidnapped Archbishop Mar Poulos Faraj Rahho, Chaldean Catholic Church bishop of Mosul, was found dead north the city of Mosul.

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/03/13/iraq.main/index.html?iref=mpstoryview>

<http://amywelborn.wordpress.com/2008/03/13/archbishop-rahho/>

According to the alrabita al-Iraqiya sources, the criminal [Kurdish] peshmerga gangs were behind the kidnapping of Mosul's Bishop Polous Faraj Rahho. Furthermore, the sources indicated that the person who was doing the negotiations was an accomplice of the Mosul police. The people of Mosul know that the Peshmerga are behind most of the crimes.

<http://www.iraqirabita.org/index3.php?do=article&id=13065>

March 13, 2008

B aghdad

Zaid Michael Atto was killed when a bomb exploded in central Baghdad.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.176013.0.html>

March 14, 2008

Mosul

A terrorist group tried to kidnap Rani Yousif Hanna (b. 1983) as he left St. Thomas Assyrian Church in al-Noor quarters in Mosul; however, he resisted and they shot him dead. Rani and his family fled to Syria in 2005 because of the escalation of terrorism against the Christians. He returned couple of weeks ago to take care of few personal issues and was planning to go back to Syria again.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.175988.msg3080432.html#msg3080432>

March 23, 2008

Baghdad

On Easter Sunday, Sargon Zahir Oshana was shot in his head by two bullets. He died later suffering from his wounds after struggling for his life in a hospital. Sargon had participated in the special Easter Sunday mass at Mar Elia Church. He left the church on his way home to celebrate Easter when he was intercepted by a fundamentalist group and shot.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.179701.0.html>

April 2, 2008

Baghdad

Three Assyrian Christian women were killed in al-Jadirriya quarters on Wednesday. The three women were in a car at the time when unidentified armed men riding a car as well approached them and opened fired on them killing them instantly.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.181031.msg3105676.html#msg3105676>

April 5, 2008

Baghdad

Gunmen shot dead an Assyrian Orthodox priest near his house in central Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood on Saturday, security officials told AFP. Youssef Adel, a priest with Saint Peter's Church, was killed by gunmen traveling in a car around noon local time.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gqZRoyLVPNkse9DQJvwgkTNVWuLw>

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/06/world/middleeast/06iraq.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

<http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSL05540909>

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7010547507>

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gkx-3oYeFwuWKCusr2jrojs98w8wD8VROKDO0>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7332339.stm

June 9, 2008

Baghdad

Monqedh Elias Essa was assassinated by unknown gunmen in al-Yarmouk neighborhood (al-Mansour district) in central Baghdad. The victim was riddled with bullets and the motive for the criminal act remains unknown. The victim (b. 1967) was married and the father of two girls and a boy.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=10220.0>

June 17, 2008

Baghdad

A Canadian parliamentary committee studying the persecution of religious minorities worldwide heard that since the Iraq war began in 2003, about 12 children, many as young as 10, have been kidnapped and killed, then nailed to makeshift crosses near their homes to terrify and torment their parents. One infant was snatched, decapitated, burned and left on his mother's doorstep. The committee was told that one in every three Iraqi ChaldoAssyrian Christians is a refugee.

Source: Jennifer Green, The Ottawa Citizen, June 18, 2008

<http://www.persecution.org/suffering/newssummpopup.php?newscode=7984&PHPSESSID=6c98a68ed3a863616a94b34ec4e29f84>

July 6, 2008

Nineveh Province

Unidentified armed men abducted two high school female students in Telkaif district of Nineveh Province. The two girls were on their way to school to take the final examination.

<http://www.aswataliraq.info/look/article.tpl?IdLanguage=17&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=84718&NrIssue=1&NrSection=1>

July 10, 2008

Mosul

Mazin Girgis Yaqou Aboona, a 34 year old Assyrian man, who used to sell household items out on the street was attacked by gunmen in a car, they surrounded him, stole all that he had, then riddled his body with bullets and fled the scene. The crime took place on Wednesday July 09 in al-Dargazliyya neighborhood in Mosul.

When Mazin's mother heard shouts of neighbors she ran out to find the body of her son in the street and as she hugged him, the shock was too powerful that she fell dead next to him.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=10574.0>

August 2008

Haytham Khidir was murdered in his lathe shop in the al-Sina'aa quarters in Mosul. The deceased brother, Potros Khidir, is a monk in Germany.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.221283.0.html>

August 28, 2008

Mosul

Police found the body of Dr. Tariq Qattan (65) east of Mosul. The source stated that the upper body and head reflected signs of beating and gun wounds. Dr. Qattan was abducted on August 24.

AFP

AsiaNews.it

<http://coptreal.com/ShowSubject.aspx?SID=9543>
<http://www.aina.org/news/20080902145953.htm>

August 31, 2008

Mosul

Nafi' Bashir Jamoo'aa was kidnapped and killed in Mosul. It is not yet known whether or not a ransom was paid.

AsiaNews.it

<http://coptreal.com/ShowSubject.aspx?SID=9556>
<http://www.aina.org/news/20080902145953.htm>

September 10, 2008

Mosul

A Nineveh Governorate police source who asked to remain anonymous said that a Christian, whose father was killed a week ago, was killed by an unknown armed group in al-Bakr neighborhood in eastern Mosul. It's been noted that an Iraqi army checkpoint is located 200 meters from the scene of the crime. The source added that: "The gunmen were on foot and they shot the man dead before they fled the scene". The names of the two victims were not released and the motives behind this latest crime remain unknown.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=11182.0>

Latest reports indicate that the victim is Rayan Nafi' Jamoo'aa, whose father was kidnapped and murdered earlier.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php?topic=221331.msg3341807.html#msg3341807>

September 16, 2008

Baghdad

Jihad Maskoni, his son Marwan (student of Engineering College) and his daughter Milad (student of Pharmacy college) were killed in front of the Personal Statute Court in Karrada neighborhood.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php?topic=224988.msg3367825.html#msg3367825>

September 28, 2008

Mosul

Bashar Nafi'a Sa'eed was murdered 10:00 a.m. at his workplace according to a priest of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Mosul. No other details are available.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.225709.0.html>

October 4, 2008

Mosul

Ivan Enwiya Yonadam, a 15 years old young Assyrian, was killed this afternoon (Saturday) by unknown gunmen near his home, beside AL-Zahra mosque in Tahrir district in Mosul.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=11478.0>

October 4, 2008

Mosul

Unidentified gunmen killed Hazim Toma Yousif, an Assyrian man in his 40s, inside his family clothing store in the old souk of Bab al-Sarai, central Mosul, before they escaped to an unknown place. "A gunman stormed the store owned by the victim, an Assyrian Christian, and opened fire at him from his gun he had in the crowded souk," the police source said, not giving more details.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=11477.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.227305.0.html>

October 6, 2008

Mosul

Ziad Kamal, a disabled 25-year-old in a wheelchair was killed at 10:00 a.m. this morning when a group of unknown gunmen riddled his body with bullets while he was inside his auto parts shop in al-Karama quarters in Mosul. The victim's family is originally from Mosul but they had moved to Bartilla lately due to the violence in the area.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=11503.0>
<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.227720.0.html>

October 7, 2008

Mosul

Unknown gunmen killed Amjad Hadi Boutros and his son Husam while they were working in a house during construction in al-Siddeq quarters. The victims were residents of al-Sukar neighborhood in Mosul.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=11515.0>
<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.228176.0.html>

October 7, 2008

Mosul

Gunmen stormed a pharmacy and killed assistant pharmacist Khalid Jirgis al-Sammak.

<http://www.assyrian4all.net/akhne/index.php?topic=11515.0>
<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.228176.0.html>

October 8, 2008

Mosul

Jalal Mousa Abd al-Ahad (38 years old) was shot and killed near his home in al-Noor quarters in Mosul.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.228343.0.html>
http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/37634

October 9, 2008

Mosul

75 Christian families fled Mosul in two days alone: 25 families on Wednesday and 50 on Thursday. The exodus from Mosul started early October when nine (9) Christians were killed since October 4 and cars with loud speakers drove through the city ordering the Christians to leave or be killed.

http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/37685
<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.228253.0.html>

October 10, 2008

Nineveh

Recent reports indicate that 571 Christian families had fled their homes in Mosul to the towns and villages of the Nineveh Plains in the past few days. The latest break-down distribution of these Christian families are as such: to Tellesqof 150; to Alqosh 45; to Batnaya 35; to Telkaif 73; to Bartella 84; to Baghdeda 150; to Karamlesh 25; to Nahla 9. There were no statistics yet about those who ended up in Ba'asheeqa and Mar Matti Monastery.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.228831.msg3394150.html#msg3394150>

October 11, 2008

Nineveh

The latest statistics on the Christian families that fled Mosul to the Nineveh Plains towns and villages from 10/6 to 10/11/2008 due to the latest killing of Christians included the followings (keep in mind that families are moving around): Baghdeda 138; Karamlesh 128; Bartella 72 families.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.229043.0.html>

October 11, 2008

The BBC – Arabic reported that about 1,000 Christian families have fled Mosul in the past 24 hours due to the bombing of some of their homes and the killings of 11 Christians in 10 days.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/world_news/newsid_7665000/7665614.stm

Meanwhile, the Middle East On Line reported that the Governor of Nineveh Governorate Duraid Kashmoola stated that there has been a mass emigration (nizoo) of at least 932 Christian families from Mosul within 10 days after the bombing of three homes belonging to Christians in al-Sukkar quarters. He said: 500 families fled on Friday and 432 families on Saturday. He stressed the killing of 11 Christians at least in the past 10 days.

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/?id=68370>

<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/depeches/0,14-0,39-37259654@7-60,0.html>

October 11, 2008

Baghdad - CNN

The CNN reported that at least 900 Christian families have fled Mosul in the past week terrified by a series of killings and threats by Muslim extremists ordering them to convert to Islam or face possible death. It reported that 13 Christians have been slain in the past two weeks.

<http://topics.cnn.com/topics/mosul>

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/10/11/iraq.violence/index.html#cnnSTCText>

October 11, 2008

Baghdad – AP

The Associated Press (Bradley S. Klapper) reported that 3,000 Christians have fled Mosul in the past week alone.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081011/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_iraq

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_IRAQ?SITE=AZMES&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,436481,00.html>

October 11, 2008

The McClatchy Newspaper Washington Bureau reported that thousands of Christians are fleeing their homes in Mosul after a spate of killings this week that left 12 dead.

<http://news.yahoo.com/s/mcclatchy/3069954>

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/251/story/53808.html>

October 14, 2008

Mosul

One of the gates of the Church of Miskenta on the east (right) side of Mosul city was damaged due to an explosion of a bomb that was placed near it. Worth mentioning that until today the Christians of the east side of Mosul city were not inflicted with the recent wave of emigration and displacement.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.229987.0.html>

October 15, 2008

Baghdad – Associated France Press

In a statement to France Press, Jawdat Isma'eel, Director of the Ministry of Migration and Immigration office in Mosul, stated that the number of Christian families that fled Mosul has risen to 1307 families.

<http://coptreal.com/ShowSubject.aspx?SID=11606>

A report here:

<http://coptreal.com/ShowSubject.aspx?SID=11638>

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Minister of Defense, Abd Al-Qadir Al-Ubaidi, stated in a meeting with notables and with political parties and families representatives in Mosul that 1894 Christian families have fled Mosul.

<http://ar.aswataliraq.info/?p=103273>

October 22, 2008

BAGHDAD (AP) — A car bomb exploded Wednesday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing four civilians as the local government acknowledged it has yet to persuade frightened Christians to return to the homes they fled, police said. A police officer in Ninevah province said the bomb went off in a parked car in a predominantly Sunni area of this city, where violence has continued against Christians and other religious minorities despite months of U.S. and Iraqi military operations to chase out extremists. Mosul officials said few of the nearly 10,000 Christians chased from their homes earlier this month are returning to the city, despite government pledges of financial support and protection.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hwK_CSpxNuVUEaDuOwmSSCiqGwD93VI1J00

November 12, 2008

Mosul

Two Christians, Lamy'a Sabeeh and her sister, were killed in al-Qahira quarters of Mosul when unknown assailant/s stormed their home and attacked the peaceful family. The mother of the two girls was seriously injured as well from repeated stabbing. The assailant/s then left a bomb in their house, which exploded as the police arrived. This crime occurred as many Christian families began to return to Mosul after last months forced exodus of Christians from the city.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,238704.0.html>