



World Communion of Reformed Churches

Called to communion, committed to justice

11 August 2014

Dear friends,

While we have noted with dismay the significant drop in the numbers of Christians in Iraq over the last decade (from 1.5 million to less than 450,000) news has only recently been arriving about the current terrible situation of Christians and other minorities in Iraq.

In addition, we have received this message from a member church in the region:

You are aware of our region's situation. During these days a humanitarian crisis that could turn into genocide is taking place in northwestern Iraq.

As Kurdish and ISIS forces clash outside of Christian towns including Baghdede (Qaraqosh), Tel Cepe, Batnaya and Telsqof and in the Nineveh Plain the Christian (Assyrians) residents (such as Mosul), have begun to flee from the above-mentioned towns. The situation of the Christians is dire. Big numbers of Christian population have left Iraq, and a considerable number of those who have fled from Nineveh Plain to the Kurdish area are preparing to leave the country as well. There is little water and electricity and the people are near starvation.

However, we expect you our dear sisters and brothers once again to pay attention to our people's terrible condition and raise your voice. Do your best to turn attention of your associations, leaders and societies to Christians and other minorities' plight in Northern Iraq.

We call on our member churches to hear the plea for our brothers and sisters in Iraq, as well as for the other persecuted minorities. We call for prayers for peace and relief. We call for those who can to lobby their governments and the United Nations to act to protect those under threat.

Finally, we raise up the relief efforts of our ecumenical partners, the Act Alliance and the Lutheran World Federation, who need

assistance to help the half million people who have already been displaced by this conflict: [click to see their preliminary appeal](#).

This call is very important for both the incoming General Secretary, Rev. Chris Ferguson, and I. Both of us ask you to pray fervently and to engage in actions that will bring life to replace the forces of death.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Setri Nyomi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Setri Nyomi (Rev. Dr.)
General Secretary

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