

**IRAQ COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
URGENT ACTION ALERT  
FEBURARY 26, 2010**

**IRAQ: URGENT ACTION NEEDED**

This past week, in Mosul, assassins broke into the home of friends of our Dominican family and killed the father and his two sons. The Iraqi sisters studying in the U.S. are very shook up and their Prioress, Sister Maria, has told them that the situation is very critical and the sisters living at their motherhouse are in grave danger. The friars have already left Mosul and are living elsewhere.

Eight Christians have been assassinated in Mosul in the last 10 days. Christians are fleeing by the hundreds, leaving everything except what they can carry. It is clearly the Christians who are being targeted. The elections are coming up. There are political motivations yet it is a true persecution approaching genocide. The situation has continued to deteriorate.

**We ask you to ask your communities for the following actions:**

1. Wear a black ribbon with your "I have family Iraq" button during Lent in solidarity with the Christians in Iraq.
  2. Invite members of the community to fast and pray, and report to the Iraq coordinating committee what you are doing.
  3. Please write a letter to the editor of your local paper. You may use pieces of the letter to the Cardinal or some of the news items that are attached in the email.
  4. Call Senator Carl Levin: [senator2@levin.senate.gov](mailto:senator2@levin.senate.gov)  
269 Russell Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2202  
Phone (202) 224-6221
    - a. Voice your concerns for the Iraqi Christian community and
    - b. Ask that Senator Levin move out of committee to the Senate floor for a vote Senate Resolution 322 (Title: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on religious minorities in Iraq.)
- [Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois and Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas are co-sponsors of S. Res 322. This is companion legislation to a bill that passed the House on Feb. 24 under the leadership of Gary Peters (MI-14).]
5. Call Michael Corbin, Near East Area, State Department Call: (202) 647-0554 or email: [Fenwickpa@state.gov](mailto:Fenwickpa@state.gov) and express concern about the deterioration of security for the Iraqi Christian Community in the last ten days. Ask them to please increase their efforts and call the Iraq Government to action on behalf of the Christians.
  6. Read the following news reports on Iraq:
    - a. [Asia News](#)
    - b. [Zenit, February 24, 2010](#)
    - c. [Apostolic Nuncio in Iraq](#)
  7. April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Iraq Coordinating committee will host a webcast for Dominicans across the US. The Dominican Sisters of Iraq will share what is happening in Iraq and also their reflections in light of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Advent Preaching on Human Rights in 1511. Please stay tuned.

8. April 10-21 Sister Beth Murphy (Springfield) will travel to the north of Iraq for Conversation with the Dominican family about our common concerns over the impact of the refugee crisis on the Iraqi Christian community and civil society, in Iraq, in countries of first asylum, and in the U.S. Beth is asking for donations toward her airfare, which will be about \$2,000.00. She will share her experience with our family in Iraq through the webcast upon her return. If you care to make a donation to this project, please contact Beth directly at [sbmurphy@spdom.org](mailto:sbmurphy@spdom.org).