

Assyrians face Oppression, Harassment, and Murder in Iraq with the Rise of Islamists and Kurdish Power

List of "Reported" Assyrians murdered in Iraq in 2003.

Compiled by Fred Aprim

Violence against, attacks on, and cold blood murder of Assyrian Christians have increased with the rise of Islamists groups in Iraq. Furthermore, oppression and marginalization of Assyrians in northern Iraq has taken new phase with the rise of Kurdish power.

Below is a list of such oppression and murder by year. This list reflects only the reported acts of course. Much other violence acts and murder are not reported by the various media outlets or have not come to our attention for one reason or another or are not verified and have not been included.

* April 10, 2003 (Kirkuk) Hazim Petrus Damman, a chemical engineer, killed during Kurdish raid
www.zindamagazine.com issue 4/28/2004
(<http://www.aina.org/releases/karkukmosul.htm>)

July 17, 2003 (Baghdad) Husam George Tobeya, 31 years old, married and had one son. He was shot dead at a gas station in Baghdad. Consequently, his wife left Iraq. She and her son are currently in Jordan waiting to immigrate to the United States.
(Information received through relatives in the U.S.)

* July 19, 2003 (Mosul) A 16 year old girl, Hilda Zuhair Istifan, was kidnapped in front of her home in the Muthana district of Mosul. The kidnapping was conducted by Muhamad Thiya Al-din Jasim, a cousin of Saddam Hussain, and the son of high ranking army official in Saddam's army. Muhamad's uncle was the director of Saddam terrorist army group, Fida'yeen Saddam.
(<http://aina.org/releases/20040613151448.htm>)

* August 19, 2003 (Tikrit) Nadan Yonadam of Modesto, killed while working with the U.S. Army as a civilian translator.
www.zindamagazine.com issue 9/1/2003

* October 3, 2003 (Khaldiya) Napoleon and his son killed in front of their home
www.zindamagazine.com issue 10/6/2003 (Associated Press, 3 October)

* October 7, 2003 (Mosul) Safa Sabah Khoshi killed (and his cousin Mr. Meyaser Karim Khoshi critically injured) when his liquor store was attacked by RPG grenade.
(<http://aina.org/releases/20040613151448.htm>)

* October 12, 2003 (Falluja) Danny Isaac and William Cesar killed in front of their homes
www.zindamagazine.com issue 10/20/2003

* October 20, 2003 (Kirkuk) Zinda Magazine reports that a rocket-propelled grenade hit the office of the Assyrian Democratic Movement in Kirkuk on Sunday. Jevan Jerges, 29 was injured in the attack.
(<http://aina.org/releases/20040613151448.htm>)

* November 4, 2003 (Mosul) Ismail Yousif Sadeq, an Assyrian judge, shot dead outside his home
www.zindamagazine.com issue 11/3/2003

* November 18, 2003 (Basra) Sargon Nano, the Assyrian Democratic Movement (Zowaa) representative in Basra, killed
www.zindamagazine.com issue 11/17/2003

* November 20, 2003 (Mosul) Bombs have been discovered and leaflets found demanding that Christian students become Muslims or face death at schools in Baghdad and Mosul (northern Iraq) (ASSIST News Service)
(<http://aina.org/releases/20040613151448.htm>)

* December 24, 2003 (Basra) Bashir Toma Elias, killed by a single shot to the head. (Rueters)
www.zindamagazine.com issue 12/29/2003
(http://www.sotaliraq.com/file/article_2003_12_30_44158y.html)

* December 2003 (North of Iraq) ChaldoAssyrian Student Union boycotts elections due to unfair and oppressive acts by Kurdish groups.
www.zindamagazine.com issue 12/29/2003

* December 2003 (Basra) Assyrians leaving Basra due to terror and killings.
(http://www.sotaliraq.com/file/article_2003_12_30_44158y.html)