

2007 List of Assyrian Christians murdered, Attacked, and Harassed in Iraq

Compiled by Fred Aprim

January 5, 2007

Baghdad

Like other minority members in Iraq, Mardon Matrood, a 44-year-old Assyrian shopkeeper in Baghdad, has had enough of the country's sectarian violence. "Minorities in Iraq are targeted by insurgents and militias, who want us out of the country as they promote what they call the 'cleansing of Iraq, of non-Muslim communities'," said Matrood who is living with his family of six in an abandoned government building. Four months ago Matrood's family failed to pay a ransom of US \$50,000 to kidnappers who had abducted his nephew. The nephew was later found dead. "We are a poor family...we couldn't pay [the ransom money] and after two weeks we were informed that the police had found his body near a mosque in Adhamiyah district (northern Baghdad). It was totally mangled, burned and tortured," Matrood said. <http://electroniciraq.net/news/2794.shtml>

January 16, 2007

Mosul

In al-Wahda Quarters, unidentified armed group attacked Sargon Sabah Yacoub and his family while on their way to Baghdeda to visit relatives. Sargon (b. 1979) was killed. His wife Zeena and son Fadi were critically injured and are in hospital.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,72925.0.html>

January 16, 2007

Baghdad

After a kidnapping that lasted three days, Malek Mansour Behnam Hanna was found murdered by his abductors. His body will be transferred to his home town of Karamlesh in northern Iraq.

<http://karemlash4u.com/aaaaa/viewtopic.php?p=61417#61417>

January 16, 2007

Mosul

Two Christian brothers, Wisam and Nasir Banni, were murdered in front of their home in al-Hadba' quarters of northern Mosul. A group of armed men fired at the two brothers while they were in front of their home and killed them, police said.

Source: Aswat al-Iraq News

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,73102.0.html>

January 18, 2007

A car bomb explosion in al-Sadr City in Baghdad killed Firas Yousif Yacoub al-Hayali who lives in al-Habibiya quarters.

<http://karemlash4u.com/aaaaa/viewtopic.php?t=15116>

January 19, 2007

Khalis

Warda Slewo was murdered by the enemies of democracy in al-Khalis as he was returning to Baghdad. Martyred Warda was a member of the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM) and was the distributor of Assyrian Bahra Newspaper. He traveled between Baghdad and Nineveh plain and other regions where Assyrians are present to distribute the newspaper, which is printed in Baghdad. Martyred Warda was born in 1955 he is leaving behind a wife and four children, two boys and two girls: the oldest one is 14 years.

Source: ADM News.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,73508.0.html>

January 31, 2007

Baghdad

A high ranking Assyrian official of the Iraqi Airways was gunned down by unknown assassins near his home in Mekanik (Daura). Mr Isaac Esho Alhelani was stopped whilst driving with his wife, forced out of the car and shot twice before the assassins fled with his car. According to his children living in Australia, he was then taken to a hospital in Baghdad, but the hospital did not have the resources or medication to treat his serious wounds. He was then flown by helicopter to the city of Arbil where he died. His body was later taken by car to the city of Kirkuk, the place of his birth, for burial by his wife and sister. Isaac was a graduate from an aircraft engineering school in Scotland in the early 1960's where he studied under a scholarship from the Iraqi Government. Upon his return to Iraq after completing his studies with distinction, he was appointed as an aircraft engineer in the Iraqi Airways and climbed the ladder of promotion until he reached the position of Deputy Director. Isaac, who was 64, retired in December 2006. He leaves his second wife in Iraq and four children from his first marriage. Three of the children, his daughter and two sons live in Australia, and his youngest son is in Syria where he escaped to from Baghdad after being threatened with kidnapping.

<http://www.aina.org/news/2007020791201.htm>

February 4, 2007

Baghdad

After over two months of his kidnapping, the body of Faris Daniel was found and identified. Faris' body was transferred to his hometown of Telkepe for burial. Faris and Shakeep Poulus were kidnapped together. The body of Shakeep was found earlier.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,75629.0.html>

February 4, 2006

Baghdad

Firas Sabah Aboosh Momeeka was one of the victims who were killed when a car bomb exploded in al-Sadriyya quarters of Baghdad. His body was transferred to his hometown of Baghdada for burial.

<http://www.bakhdida.com/>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,75623.0.html>

February 5, 2007

Baghdad

Deacon Abd al-Khaliq Bakos Mussa Qaryo was murdered after he was kidnapped while back. Despite paying the ransom, the kidnappers decided to kill him. His body was transferred to his hometown of Baghdada for burial. He is the brother of Sister Sophia Bakos of the Christian Dominicans.

<http://www.bakhdida.com/>

February 7, 2007

Baghdad

Luana, a 22-year-old Christian university student in Iraq confesses that an Iraqi soldier raped her inside her home. She stated, "I thought very hard before agreeing to tell my story. But I cannot allow other girls to suffer the same violence I suffered. In addition to being discriminated against and lacking support." Luana stated that her entire family had fled to Jordan and from there to Sweden with the exception of her and her brother who decided to wait until she finishes university. She continued to state that one day, while her brother was at the university, a group of Iraqi soldiers raided their home saying that they had information that there were insurgents in the area. She added that, "When they were inside my home I saw them giving me strange looks. They asked me questions for about 15 minutes and then they left." Two days later, on the afternoon of November 27, 2006, Luana was alone again when one of the soldiers who had raided their home earlier forced himself into the house and raped her threatening that if she made any noises or told anyone then he was going to return to do it again, kill her brother and take the home away. Luana and her brother went to the police, but the police did nothing. Two months later, Luana realized that she was pregnant. She and her brother went to a doctor where she had an abortion.

She concluded, "I hope my story will help girls who are raped in Iraq to decide to tell their story even though it is hard in a traditional Muslim country such as Iraq. But if we remain silent, there will be more girl victims and more girls will lose that so precious thing that God gave them, their virginity."

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=773&sid=d010fb2f773b65b96fbaac9dba0822b8>

February 12, 2007

Mosul

Goldsmith (Jeweler) Haitham H. M. Ghazala was murdered this morning in Mosul.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,76459.0.html>

February 25, 2007

Baghdad

Bassam Jamil Mansour Breekho was killed in Baghdad due to a bomb explosion at the Administrative and Economy College, University of Mustansiriyah.

<http://karemlash4u.com/aaaaa/viewtopic.php?t=16089>

February 26, 2007

Baghdad

Architect Walid Abd al-Ahad was killed in al-Nidhal Street while on his way to work.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,78402.0.html>

March 2007

Baghdad

Muslims in the Dora neighborhood of Iraq are forcing Assyrian Christians (also known as Chaldeans and Syrians) to pay the jizya (poll tax), a tax imposed by the Koran on non-Muslim Christians and Jews in exchange for being allowed to live and practice their faith as well as being entitled to 'Muslim protection' from outside aggression. At least two cases have been reported to a government employee -- who wishes to remain anonymous -- in which the Christian Assyrian wives were instructed to go to a certain mosque and pay, which they did out of fear.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070318132901.htm>

March 19, 2007

Kirkuk

Ziyad Zito was killed when a car bomb exploded as he was on his way back home.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,81921.0.html>

March 27, 2007

Kirkuk

Two elderly Christian women were stabbed to death in their home in Kirkuk. Fadheela Naoum, 85, and her 79-year-old sister Margaret, were stabbed multiple times by intruders who raided their home Monday night near the Cathedral of the Virgin in Kirkuk. They lived alone and there was no sign of a robbery.

<http://www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&lang=en&length=long&idelement=4817&backpage=archives>

<http://www.aina.org/news/2007032791913.htm>

The Chaldean bishopric of Kirkuk issued a statement on March 27 stating that the two sisters were not nuns as reported earlier.

April 3, 2007

Baghdad

Fredrick John Shimshon Al-Bazi (b. 1943) was kidnapped at 1:30 by unknown armed militias as he was returning home from his office in 'Aamiriya. Al-Bazi completed his postgraduate studies in civil engineering in Britain. He served his country for more than 39 years as an academic in Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriyah Universities, as an executive director of one of the main bureaus concerned with irrigation and reformation, and as deputy minister for Iraqi Mineral Resources. According to eyewitness reports fully covered and armed individuals riding an Opel vehicle kidnapped Al-Bazi. They also reported that he was beaten severely before he was taken away.

Source: Firodil Institute. Contact (info@firodil.co.uk)

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,84339.0.html>

He was released later after paying the ransom.

April 14, 2007

Baghdad

An unidentified Islamic group has been threatening the Christian Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs) in the Dora district of Baghdad, a traditionally Assyrian area. The Islamic group issued an ultimatum yesterday to Assyrian families, telling them to leave Christianity and convert to Islam within 24 hours or they would all be killed. The Islamic group also issued a fatwa (a religious edict) to confiscate the property of all Christians, to force Assyrian women to veil themselves, to forbid genuflection (making the sign of the Cross) and the wearing of the Cross. Earlier the same Islamic group forcefully removed the Cross from the churches of St. John and St. George. An affiliated Islamic group in Northern Iraq occupied the Assyrian monastery of Raban Hormuz.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070414141226.htm>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.85801.msg2515333.html#msg2515333>

April 23, 2007

Tellesqof (Tell Esqof), northern Iraq

Around 10:00 a.m., a suicide car bomb attack took place in Tellesqof, 9 miles north of Mosul. The attacker detonated his car and at least 10 people were killed and 20 wounded. The car bomb exploded in the middle of the village market, in front of the social club near an elementary school. Tellesqof is a predominantly Christian town. This was the first terrorist attack in this tight-knit community since the Iraq war started.

http://www.zindamagazine.com/ThisWeek/04.25.07/index_thu.php

April 24, 2007

Baghdad

On Tuesday, H. Nazar Maskooni was killed when a time bomb exploded at the College of Dentistry in Baghdad. Maskooni was one of the top ten students at the college.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.90243.0.html>

April 26, 2007

Northern Iraq

An Assyrian (also known as Chaldean and Syriac) man traveling from Kirkuk, North Iraq to Syria was abducted at noon today. The man, identified as Wesam Khamis Sliwa, was traveling with his wife and sisters when their car was stopped by masked and armed men. Mr. Khamis was taken out of the car and driven away; the women were not harmed. The reason for the kidnapping is unknown and the kidnappers have not made contact yet. Mr. Khamis holds a degree in physical education and was born in the 1950s.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070426153743.htm>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.87859.0.html>

April 2007

Sargon Ashur, a member of the Assyrian Democratic Movement passed away on April 26, 2007 after spending two weeks in a coma. He was ambushed, fired upon and hit in his head while on his way to work. Sargon was married and had a girl Oryana (4 years) and a son Mattai (1 year).

<http://www.zowaa.org/nws/ns7/n260407-7.htm>

April 26, 2007

Baghdad

Hani Hanna Yousif Bidawid (b. 1949) was shot down on Thursday morning in al-Ghadeer quarters of Baghdad as he was on his way to work. Bidawid was married and had two children, Saamir and Sally.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.87697.msg2529491.html#msg2529491>

May 5, 2007

Baghdade, northern Iraq

Two Assyrian men were abducted on Tuesday by unknown gunmen in Baghdede as they were heading to work at al-Salam Hospital in Mosul. The reason for their abduction and their whereabouts is still unknown.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=2984>

May 8, 2007

Damascus

The NBC "Nightly News" with Brian Williams (5:40 p.m. West Coast Time) addressed the issue of Iraqi fleeing to Syria. The NBC correspondence interviewed Najeeba, an old Christian woman, whose husband was killed when one of the churches was bombed in Iraq. The Islamic fundamentalists asked her to convert to Islam or face death. She packed one suitcase, left everything behind and fled to Syria. The cameraman videotaped the one bedroom apartment that Najeeba shared with eight others. Najeeba pays \$300 monthly for the room and the landlord had informed her that he was going to increase the rent to \$600. Najeeba stated that she has nothing left.

May 10, 2007

Baghdad

An armed Iraqi group has in recent days begun targeting Christians in the residential al-Doura neighbourhood of Baghdad, according to an interior ministry source quoted by the pan Arab daily al-Sharq al-Awsat. Information obtained during probes and the interrogation of various terror suspects arrested last week indicate that this group is linked to al-Qaeda and is made up of 200 militiamen, most of them foreigners.

AKI

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070510124515.htm>

May 11, 2007

Baquba, Central Iraq

Mr. Gabriel Khamis Khamis an Assyrian citizen living in the Na'eeriya district in Baghdad was kidnapped by unknown gunmen with his wife Feryal, his grandson Jason (4 years old) and the taxi driver on the Baghdad-Kirkuk road. Mr. Khamis's son in law and his daughters Lina, Nour and Sara were in another car but they were able to escape and report the incident at the nearest police station. Some time later the wife and the grandson were found in the Habhab desert after they were stripped of their jewelry while the fate of the husband and the taxi driver remains unknown.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3057>

May 12, 2007

Baghdad

In the past few days alone, more than 100 Assyrian Christian families have fled the Dora district of Baghdad, which had a Christian majority as the threats to leave their homes, pay the jizya tax or convert to Islam continues. Many members of parliament, including Mahmoud Uthman, Noor al-Deen al-Hayali, Haydar al-Abadi protested these acts against the Christians and called upon the Iraqi government to protect the Christians.

http://iraq4allnews.dk/index.php?sec=news&act=view_news&id=15405

May 15, 2007

Mosul

A car bomb in Ras al-Jaadda near Qabr al-Bint on May 10, 2007 claimed the life of Manhal Hanna Abbo as he was returning home from work. Abbo died immediately as he suffered severe head injuries. He was born in 1968 in the Assyrian town of Tellesqof. He was married and had a baby daughter five months old.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3147>

May 17, 2007

Dora, Baghdad

An Islamic militant group burned many parts of the St. George Assyrian Church of the East in Dora district in Baghdad. A bomb targeted this same church three years ago. The group responsible reached to the Cross and destroyed it with their bare hands at the time when the bomb failed to do so.

<http://www.brob.org/news/07/05/18/bent18a10.htm>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.91570.0.html>

May 18, 2007

Baghdad

The crisis for the Assyrian community in Baghdad's Dora neighborhood is deepening. Islamists are systematically targeting the Christian Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs), forcing them to pay the jizya (AINA 4-17-2007, 3-18-2007), a "protection" tax demanded by the Koran, or convert within 24 hours or be killed. Dora is located 10 kilometers southwest of Baghdad. Families are abandoning their homes and seeking refuge in Churches:

14 families have fled to the Al-So'ud Chaldean Church.

7 families have fled to Saint Odisho Assyrian Church (3 families are in the church and 4 in the Saint Adai Patriarchate, the old church building).

An unknown number of families have fled to Saint George Chaldean Church.

Islamic groups are preventing families from bringing any belongings as they flee their homes.

Hatem Al-Razaq, the sheik of the Al-Noor mosque in Dora, has toured Dora, visiting each Assyrian family and instructing them to pay 250,000 Iraqi dinars (\$190), saying this sum is the jizya because "you are not Muslims." Families that cannot pay this sum are told to send one family member to the mosque on Friday to announce their conversion to Islam. Families who refuse to do this must leave their homes immediately and not take any of their belongings with them because "your properties belong to the mosque." Families that do not leave and do not convert are threatened with death.

In a report by the Catholic News Agency (AINA 5-18-2007), Mar Addai II, the Patriarch of the Ancient Assyrian Church of the East, says "Only the families that agree to give a daughter or sister in marriage to a Muslim can remain, which means that the entire nuclear family will progressively become Muslim." Also, Assyrian families are forced to turn over their homes as ransom for their kidnapped relatives.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070518111715.htm>

<http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=9301&size>

May 19, 2007

Baghdad

A Chaldean priest was kidnapped this morning in Baghdad. He is Fr. Nawzat Potrous Hanna, parish priest of Mar Pithion, from the Baladiyat quarter. Confirmation of the abduction was announced by Msgr. Shlemon Warduni, Chaldean auxiliary bishop in the capital, who has invited Catholics to "pray for Fr. Nawzat's immediate release". The abductors have already made contact with the Chaldean Patriarchate, but as of yet there is no further news. The priest was leaving the house of an ill parishioner, when he was stopped by a group of persons who had been waiting for him, says the bishop.

<http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=9313&size=A>

<http://www.st-addai.com/HTML/News%20Page/Chaldean%20Church/2007-051.htm>

May 21, 2007

Baghdad

The Reverend Temathaus Eisha, pastor of the Church of St. Shimoni in the besieged Dora district of Baghdad, confirmed to ankawa.com that the information published about the forced displacement of Christian Assyrians from their homes in the district is accurate. He added that the conditions were horrible, especially in the Al-Ta'ma, Al-Iskan, Al-Mo'alimeen, Al-ShurTa, Al-Sitten, and Asia neighborhoods. The three remaining neighborhoods that are relatively calm are Hay Al-Athuriyeen (Assyrian quarter), Al-Jim'ia, and Al-Sihha.

The large-scale campaign consists of expelling all Christians, unless they convert to Islam or the Jizya, or leave their homes and belongings. He added that the majority of Assyrians have abandoned these areas.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070521131857.htm>

May 21, 2007

Mosul

Jameel Hanna Sayfo, his wife Muntaha Hadi Sleiman and Ra'a Najeeb Mikha were in their car, completing family obligations, as they were killed by 'friendly' fire from the coalition forces in the mist of heavy fire exchange in the Baladiyat district in Mosul city. Jameel and Muntaha are survived by one son and two daughters. Ra'ad is survived by one son and two daughters as well.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.92352.0.html>

May 22, 2007

Baghdad

The Grand Mufti (High Commission of Legal Opinion) of Iraq, Sheikh Jamal Abd Al-Kareem Al-Dabban, sent a letter to the Head of the Vicar Council of Churches in Iraq acknowledging the attacks and persecution of Christians. He condemned the Iraqi bloodshed and the perpetrators.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070523112338.htm>

May 24, 2007

Baghdad

Hikmat Faraj al-Safi was killed on May 17, 2007 at the hands of unknown gunmen as he was unloading a truck of provisions for his store in the Mechanic area in Dora. Al-Safi was born in 1952 and a father of seven children.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3436>

May 25, 2007

Nineveh Plain, Nineveh Province

Tensions are mounting in Nineveh Plains as the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (previously Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq), a Shi'aa bloc in the Nineveh Province Council (5 members out of 40), are demanding to construct a building for the al-Mihrab Martyr in the Christian dominated Nineveh Plain region. Al-Mihrab is a recess in a mosque indicating the direction of prayer, i.e., prayer niche. The Shi'aa bloc are claiming that the administrative authorities are not executing their demands. The Governor of Nineveh Duraid Muhammad Kashmoola stated that the demands of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq are personal and political in nature and that he denied the request to construct the building because it was exceeding and traversing on governmental lands. Furthermore, the governor stated that such action is designed to create tension between Muslims and Christians and that such actions will oppress and/or terrorize the rights of the Christians in the region. The 5 members of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq have boycotted the meetings of the Nineveh Governorate Council. Tensions continue to rise. Worth mentioning that the two Kurdish parties of the KDP and PUK bloc dominate the Nineveh Governorate Council, followed by the Sunni al-Tawafuq (Conformance) bloc, then the Shi'aa bloc, 2 Christians and a Turkomani member.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3414>

May 2007

Baghdad

An undated letter issued by Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi army to Christians in Baghdad orders Christian women to veil themselves or face grave consequences. The letter, obtained and translated by AINA, states that the Virgin Mary was not unveiled and so Christian women should not be unveiled. The letter ends with an ominous note that committees have been established to monitor the Christian populace and enforce the decree.

For the Christian Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs) in Baghdad, the imposition of Shari'a (Islamic law) is coming from both Sunnis and Shiites. On March 18 al-Qaeda moved into the predominantly Assyrian Dora neighborhood in Baghdad and demanded payment of the jizya (AINA 4-17-2007, 3-18-2007), the poll tax demanded by the Koran which all Christians and Jews must pay. Families that could not pay the jizya were instructed to give a daughter or sister in marriage to a Muslim (AINA 5-18-2007).

Here follows the Mahdi Army letter:

The Legal Veil

Allah be praised, said in His perfect and noble book:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

(And do not display yourselves like that of the times of ignorance) -- Affirmed Allah the Mighty

Surah Al-Ahzab --- Verse 33

According to Ali, Prince of Believers (peace be upon him), he said, "We were with the Prophet (saas) and he said, Tell me what is best for women? The Prince of Believers said, when I went back to Fatima (peace be upon her) and told her about what the Prophet (saas) said to us, Fatima said: 'It is best for women not to see men and for the men not to see them.'"

And in the Noble Narrative (She who went out of her home adorned with finery and ornaments or scented with perfumes is under the cursing of Allah, angels and the people all together until she goes back home. Neither a religious duty nor a gift shall be accepted from her until she performs the ritual ablution.) According to martyr Mohammad Sadiq al-Sadr (Sacred be his noble secret): "Was the Virgin Mary (peace be upon her) unveiled so that Christian women be allowed to be unveiled? Was Fatima al-Zahra unveiled? And were the wives of the Caliphs in the First Caliphate or others unveiled? No and then no...Allah forbid and far be it from all of them."

Furthermore, His Eminence Mohammad al-Sadr prohibited self-adoration and not wearing the veil in a number of religious edicts, including:

Question: What is the punishment of the woman who does not commit to the legal veil?

Answer: In the name of the Supreme Being, She is an adulteress, and she even proclaims sinfulness, challenges and fights Allah and his Prophet and ignores and neglects religion. So what would be her fate but hell and that is best outcome for her?

Question: What measure should be taken against a woman who disobeys her father, husband, or her guardian by not committing to the legal veil?

Answer: In the name of the Supreme Being, they must order her in a courteous manner to abstain from the forbidden. If she refuses, he then must guide and educate her religiously in order to convince her. If she is not convinced still, then they must imprison her at home and do not expose her to the forbidden interaction with men.

Note: Based on this, special committees have been established to follow up on this matter and she who is warned is excused.

Preparation

The People's Foundation for the Master al-Mahdi Army.

1 Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam (saas). This is an expression that Muslims use whenever the name of Prophet Muhammad is mentioned or written. The meaning of it is: "May the blessings and the peace of Allah be upon him (Muhammad).

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070529235134.htm>

May 28, 2007

Baghdad

An Assyrian couple that worked for the US embassy in Baghdad has been killed by an al Qaeda-led group. The couple was killed on Monday, May 28. According to Reuters, after the husband went missing late last week his wife went to look for him and then she too appeared to have been abducted.

U.S officials, who wish to remain anonymous, told AINA the couple's car was stopped and the husband was abducted while the terrorists screamed "you filthy Christian traitor." When the wife, Amal, attempted to deliver the ransom to the kidnappers, described as a Sunni group, she was killed.

The self-styled "Islamic State of Iraq" said in a statement published on the Internet "God's ruling has been implemented against two of the most prominent agents and spies of the worshippers of the Cross...a man and woman who occupy an important position at the U.S. embassy...The swords of the security personnel of the Islamic State of Iraq...are with God's grace slitting the throats of crusaders and their aides and lackeys."

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070602131612.htm>

On July 8, 2007 the BBC stated that the American Embassy in Baghdad Ryan Crocker confirmed that two employees were murdered indeed and that the killers will be tracked down. Another American employee at the embassy who refused to declare his identity stated that the two employees were Hazim Hanna and Amal Maskoni.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/arabic/world_news/newsid_6281000/6281666.stm

June 2, 2007

Baghdad

Fouad Salem Benni Bello was assassinated in Baghdad. The victim was originally from the town of Baghdeda (Qara Qosh). He was married to Ibtisam Jameel Habash and a father of two small children Firas 5 and Mina 3 years old.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3833>

June 3, 2007

Mosul

One priest and three deacons were gunned down in Mosul as they left the Church after having finished Sunday Mass. Fr. Ragheed Ganni, Deacon Basman Joseph, Deacon Bassam and Deacon Ghassan of the Holy Spirit Church were killed by a hail of bullets from a group of gunmen. Their bodies were dumped in front of the church and are remained there. Residents are afraid to remove the bodies from fear of being shot. According to the AFP News, the four had finished mass at 7:30 PM and were driving away in the priest's car when they were intercepted by four men in a car about 100 meters away from the church. Fr. Ganni was born in Mosul in 1972; he held a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Mosul (1993). He studied in Rome from 1996 to 2003 where he obtained a Masters in Divinity (Moscone Theology).

AFP News

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070603143027.htm>

According to The Christian Century Foundation, an interview by the Vatican Radio with Iraqi-born Younis Tawfik, a Sunni Muslim and now a professor at the University of Genova in northern Italy, described the assassination of the four Christians in Mosul as part of a plan to eliminate an enlightened and intellectual community. According to Tawfik, "The Christian community has links with Western countries through their faith. Now some people want to empty the country of an enlightened and intelligent class, to plunge the country in a tunnel of obscurantism."

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1058/is_14_124/ai_n19394985

June 4, 2007

Baghdad

The St. Jacob Church Near the Asia Neighborhood (Hay Asya) in Dora was attacked and the Christian guards killed, the church was looted and will be turned into a mosque. St. John the Baptist Church near the Hay Al-Athoriyeen (Assyrian quarter) was also looted.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070604130634.htm>

June 6, 2007

Baghdad

A Catholic priest and five young Christians were kidnapped in Baghdad, Catholic news service AsiaNews reported on Wednesday, three days after the murder of another priest and three of his assistants in Iraq. AsiaNews said the Chaldean Catholic priest, whom it named as Hani Abdel Ahad, was seized with the five in Suleikh, a Sunni neighborhood in northern Baghdad. It was not immediately clear when the kidnapping took place.

http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007-06-06T203213Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-301792-1.xml

Fr. Hani was released under unspecified deal with the abductors after 12 days of captivity. His story is here:

<http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=11193&size=A>

June 11, 2007

Mosul

Ramzi Elias Yaqoub Shamasha and Ismael Azaria Na'amo Shamasha were abducted by an armed group on Monday. The families of the two men paid a ransom of \$20,000 for their release but the armed gang murdered both men on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. The bodies were delivered to their families on Monday, June 18, 2007 and funeral services were held in their town of Telesquf, Tuesday, June 19, 2007. Ramzi was born in 1957, married and the father of five girls and two boys; he was a resident of al-Khaleej district in Baghdad. Ismael was born in 1959, married and the father of three boys and a girl was a resident in al-Ameen district in Baghdad.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3973>

June 12, 2007

Baghdad

Nisreen Markus Hermis (b. 1958) was killed in front of her house in Baghdad Sunday evening at the hands of some terrorists.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=3874>

June 19, 2007

Mosul

Anmar Akram Raffo Yaqoub was murdered Tuesday by an armed group in al-Wahda district in Mosul as he went to check on his home, which he had left because of the security conditions. He was buried in his hometown of Baghdada. Yaqoub was born in 1979. He was married and the father of two children (twins).
<http://www.ana-ashur.net>

June 21, 2007

Baghdad

Iraqi Police said that unidentified armed men kidnapped a group of eight Christian university students and a lecturer. The students and the professor were in a community bus that is provided by the local church. The students were going home after completing their final examinations.

Source: Reuters

<http://esna.se/eng/?article=212>

The group was released the next day after an amount of \$200,000 dollars was paid as ransom to the armed kidnappers. The names of the released are: Seif Sami, Atheer Hesh, Ghareed Sabah, Nasir Bashir, Savio Albert, Anas Abd-Allah, Robert Adnan and Wissam Girges. The armed gunmen had stopped the bus, verbally abused the students and the professor, threatened to kill them if the women did not veil themselves or if the males sat next to the females.

June 26, 2007

Baghdad

George Yousif Jajjo and his wife Laila Yacoub Hermis died of starvation and siege. Hours after his wife Laila (68 years) passed away, an acute psychological trauma killed George Yousif (aged 74). The Assyrian couple was living alone besieged in their home due to the imposed blockade on Christians by terrorist groups. The Assyrian couple lived in al-Hadar district between al-Mechanic and al-Sahha areas in Dora. They had consumed what food, water and medicine they had, thus George risked his life and left home seeking help when his wife fell unconscious, arriving at his sister in law's place they called the police, but by the time help arrived George's wife was already dead. This tragic incident is part of the calamities befalling the Assyrian Christians with their different denominations due to terrorist acts, Jizya (head tax) demands and forced conversion to Islam.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4241>

June 27, 2007

Mosul

Unidentified gunmen killed two members of the Assyrian's Patriotic Union of Beth Nahrain, Sahir Yusuf Istayfo (b. 1958) and Lewi Sleman Numan (b. 1986), in a drive-by shooting in central Mosul, police said.

Source: Reuters

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,101079.0.html>

June 27, 2007

Mosul

Aamer Bahjat Mikha was murdered Wednesday on the highway between Mosul and Baghdad when an unidentified militant group stopped his car and shot him. Mikha was married with three young children, a boy in primary school and two little girls.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4200>

July 3, 2007

Baghdad

Sources in the Spanish Foreign Ministry mentioned yesterday that an Iraqi Christian employee in the Spanish embassy in Baghdad was found dead with three of her family members. The Iraqi Christian woman who had been working in the embassy for 10 years disappeared last Friday and was thought to be abducted. The four bodies were found July 01, 2007 and they were shot. The Spanish sources mentioned that this incident has nothing to do with Spain but every thing to do with the violence in Iraq

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4226>

July 3, 2007

Baghdad

Sa'eed Elias Sam'aan Estephan Sheekho was murdered in Baghdad as he left his home in al-Za'afaraniya district. The victim was married and father of six children. He was buried in his hometown of Baghdada Today.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4240>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,102662.0.html>

July 4, 2007

Mosul

A statement by an Islamic group that calls itself the Islamic Emirate of Mosul threatened to kidnap or kill all Christians whether Students or employees in Mosul University if they did not leave the university campus in three days. According to the statement that was posted on city streets, the Islamic group threatened as well all Christians living in Mosul to leave the city within three days or the group will behead any Christian who will remain in the city. The Islamic Emirate of Mosul had killed four Christians living in the al-Sa'aa and al-Yarmook quarters of the right littoral of the city after they were kidnapped and their bodies were found in the Wadi 'Aaqab cemetery. The group had killed as well two Christians who arrived from Hamdaniya District to Mosul where they worked. The said group murdered another female Christian employee of the Iraqi Central Bank in Mosul.

<http://esna.se/?article=238>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,102891.0.html>

July 5, 2007

Baghdad

Mouwafaq Philip Boutros was murdered by a group of armed terrorists who asked him whether he was a Sunni Muslim, but when he answered, "I'm Christian" his body was riddled with bullets. The victim was 58 years old, married, and had three children. He had left his home in Baghdad three days ago and was murdered in al-Saidiya district.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?p=4282#4282>

July 5, 2007

Baghdad

An armed group attacked al-Mashtal area in Baghdad near the Hydro Company, opening fire on shop owners yesterday. Some shop owners were killed while others were abducted. Fathalla Hazem Batti was shot with three bullets and killed. The victim was born in 1967, married with two children, Marios (3yrs and 6 months) and Alber (1 yr and 9 months), and he lived in the area of Palestine Street. Eyewitnesses mentioned that up to eight people were killed in this attack.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4276>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,103253.0.html>

P.S. al-Mashtal area has a high concentration of Christians.

July 12, 2007

Samarra

Amira Abd al-Massih Hermiz from the village of Telesquf was killed today in her home in Samarra. The victim was born in 1970, married to Jalal Shaya Marogi and a mother of 7 children the eldest 16 years old and the youngest a baby of two months. Details about the circumstances of her death aren't available yet.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/viewtopic.php?p=4410#4410>

July 13, 2007

Mosul

Matti Boulos Markus Moma, an Assyrian from Baghdada, was kidnapped couple days ago. The kidnapers demanded for \$20,000 ransom to release him. The money was raised and paid by his wife. Still, Matti was murdered and his body was found today Friday.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4423>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,105206.msg2661860.html#msg2661860>

July 17, 2007

Baghdada, Nineveh

Fadi Nazar Habash was killed when a force of Kurdish forces "Peshmerga" fired towards his car while he was driving on al-Hizam Street in Baghdada.

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070720041736.htm>

http://www.nirgalgate.com/asp/v_news.asp?id=4661

July 22, 2007

Baghdad

Osama al-Nujaifi, a deputy of the National Iraqi bloc led by Ayad Allawi, accused the Kurds of murders against a number of citizens in the Nineveh Governorate. The deputy said that the Kurdish forces and their members in the Iraqi army are committing murders and terrorizing the people while they stand to guard the Kurdish parties headquarters. He accused the Kurdish Alliance of following a Kurdification policy. He added that there are districts such as Sinjar and Zommar that follow the area of Tel-afar as well as Telkaif, Hamdaniya and Sheikhan, which are administratively part of Nineveh Governorate, but immediately after 2003 Iraq War the Kurds moved into those areas and began to run them directly.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4614>

August 3, 2007

Mosul

Unidentified gunmen in three cars approached Thamer Najib Azzouz in an attempt to abduct him in al-Hadbaa' district in Mosul. Azzouz refused to leave his family and two little children in order to yield to the gunmen's request, and when he fought the kidnappers, they shot and killed him instantly then they fled the area.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=4880>

August 7, 2007

Baghdad

Unidentified gunmen forced themselves into the house of two brothers Falah and Sabah Nasouri 'Alka in al-Karrada district of Baghdad. The two brothers were brutally attacked before being killed. Falah died following a savage beating and torture while Sabah was shot. Falah, 52, was a pharmacist who ran al-Rabab pharmacy in al-Karrada district while Sabah, 55, was an entrepreneur and worked in trade.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=5059&sid=59775238ca6ab535ce84c98d11ee49ec>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,112852.0.html>

August 11, 2007

Dohuk (Nohadra), Northern Iraq

Hizni Khadida al-Margahi, Farouq Giwargis from the Naf Kindal village and Nabil Yousif from the Leevo village were killed when a car exploded in the Zammar district near al-Rabi'aa area as they were on duty in a military regiment of the Iraqi National Guard.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=5013&sid=8a42e5a64620877c766e28c72efe6b46>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,112425.0.html>

August 13, 2007

Baghdad

Jeffrey Ramzi Boutros (28) was killed in al-Mansour neighborhood of the al-Dawoodi district in Baghdad. Jeffrey was an only child to his parents.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=5119>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,113797.0.html>

August 20, 2007

Baghdad

Baher Sabah Kallo (b. 1975) was killed in Baghdad. He was a lecturer at Baghdad University. Kallo was abducted and a ransom was paid in exchange for his release, still the abductors murdered him.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=5364>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,117124.msg2739248.html#msg2739248>

August 24, 2007

Kirkuk

The Assyrian Democratic Movement announced that Joseph Abd Ibrahim Hermiz (b. 1986) was murdered Friday at noontime in al-Qadisiya al-Thaniya behind the Public Clinic. No further details were available.

<http://assyrian4all.net/akhne/viewtopic.php?t=5301>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,116186.0.html>

September 21, 2007

Baghdad

Assyrian Christian families that had fled Dora district affirmed that their homes were looted by armed groups. Security forces didn't take any action to stop the looting. It is believed that between 125-150 homes were robbed and looted of all their contents, including electric appliances, furniture, carpets, etc. In addition to that iron windows and doors were removed from the houses, while more than 100 houses have been occupied by strangers without a prior agreement with their legitimate owners nor their knowledge.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=5744.0>

September 27, 2007

Mosul

The explosion of a car bomb at a checkpoint between Mosul and Arbil on Wednesday killed Matthew Shamoun Boutros.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=5848.0>

September 29, 2007

Mosul

At around 1:00 p.m. local time, a horrific car bomb explosion shook the Assyrian town of Baghdeda (around 13 miles northeast Mosul). According to the preliminary reports, a suicide bomber in a pickup truck caused the explosion and it happened inside the market facing al-Rafidain bank in the town's center. Evan Yousif Zora and Rabie Sabah Shandar were killed in addition to three unidentified policemen. The estimated 15 wounded were transferred to the hospital with one of them being in a serious condition.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=5873.0>

October 3, 2007

Baghdad

Samir Estephan Micah Doda was murdered today. No details available yet.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=5995.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,129680.0.html>

October 7, 2007

Baghdad

Franco Issac was murdered today. No details available yet.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=5995.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,129680.0.html>

October 9, 2007

Mosul

Bassam Yousif Elias al-Khadim was kidnapped after completing his service at the al-Tahira Church. Later, his body was found in one of Mosul's quarters.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,129898.msg2804173.html#msg2804173>

October 12, 2007

Baghdad

Miyyssar Mansour Hanna Rahel was abducted by unknown gunmen on Thursday (Oct. 11) in Baghdad. He was found dead on Friday (Oct. 12). He is originally from the northern Iraq town of Karamlish. The victim had a brother named Malik Mansour and he was also murdered in Baghdad few months ago.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6071.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,131037.0.html>

October 12, 2007

Baghdad

Najah Salman al-Los (b. 1960) left his home in New Baghdad quarters to go to work in Dora quarters. He was attacked, fired at with several bullets and murdered while driving on the highway. Al-Los was married with five children.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,133097.msg2822470.html#msg2822470>

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6189.0>

October 21, 2007

Ba'asheeqa, Mosul

Ayman Abd-Allah Ishaq Hanna, son of Fr. Abd-Allah Hanna, priest of St. Shmouni Syriac Orthodox Church in Ba'asheeqa was gunned down as he was returning Saturday from Dohuk (Nohadra) to his hometown.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6203.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,133550.0.html>

October 22, 2007

Mosul

Fawzi Aukania Apas (b. 1968) was killed in Mosul. Unknown gunmen riddled the victim with bullets while he was driving his car from Arbil. Apas was married and he was a father of five children.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6232.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,134059.0.html>

October 22, 2007

Baghdad

A group in police uniforms who claimed to be from the Ministry of Interior approached Behnan Rehana al-Bijwaya, on September 27, 2007. The group abducted him and demanded a ransom of \$250,000 that was reduced to \$50,000 Dollars. However, after they stole his car, his body was found on October 22, 2007 with apparent and visible torturing marks. The victim was 45 years old and married.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6299.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,135578.msg2837666.html#msg2837666>

October 30, 2007

Mosul

Khaled Giwargis Sako (b. 1971) was killed in al-Hadba' neighborhood in Mosul. He was a member in St. Paul's Church group. The victim had returned home from work when several shots riddled his body in front of his house. Sako was married and father to three children, a boy in 4th grade, a daughter in 1st grade and another daughter in kindergarten.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6341.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,136277.msg2842411.html#msg2842411>

November 7, 2007

Mosul

Close to 2,500 Assyrian students that live in the Assyrian villages of Qaraqosh (Baghdada), Bartilla, Karemlish, Ba'ashiqqa, Bahzaneh, Tel-Kaif (Tel-Kepeh), Tel-Esquf, Batnaya, and Sharafiya, expressed their fears of not being able to continue their higher studies in Mosul University and other technical, academic and art institutions due to the continuous acts of violence, threats and harassment, which are exposed on the roads and highways leading to Mosul. Few months back eight Assyrian university students from Baghdada were abducted as they were on their way to Mosul. Parents fear for their children's lives and make the

decision to keep their children home. A number of students said that they had tried to enroll in the universities and colleges of Arbil and Dohuk (Nohadra) but they were faced with many hurdles, red tape, unusual local laws and measures which imposed in these institutions which aren't found in other universities and colleges such as students' hosting and restricted admissions because they're considered not to be part of the so-called Kurdish region (North of Iraq-Occupied Assyria).

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?PHPSESSID=67fc36f0a3ac3cf6b91fb43bed279cb1&topic=6439.0>

November 30, 2007

Baghdad

Luisa Matti Jameel was killed in al-Khalis area north of Baghdad. Luisa was on her way back home to Baghdeda (in Nineveh plains) from Baghdad.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.147286.0.html>

December 6, 2007

Baghdad

An explosion in al-Karada district in Baghdad claimed the lives of three residents from Baghdeda. The three victims are Haitham Sabeeh Toma (b. 1975) and a father of two small children, Amer Aziz Hashko and his sister. Amer and his sister were in the capital city preparing for his own wedding, which was to take place in three days.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6851.0>

December 9, 2007

Mosul

Unidentified gunmen killed Hana' Nisan Behnam in the area of Nabi Younes (Prophet Jonah) in central Mosul on Sunday, a police official said. "Gunmen in a vehicle opened drive-by fire at the 24-year-old Christian at al-Nabi Younes market, killing her instantly," Brig. Muhammad Abdul-Aziz al-Wakkaa, the director of Nineveh police operations room said. "The girl's body was removed to the morgue in Mosul," Wakkaa said, not giving further details on the incident. Ms. Nisan was from the town of Telkepe and was in Mosul shopping. She was married and a mother for three children.

<http://www.assyrian4all.com/akhne/index.php?topic=6893.0>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.150740.0.html>

<http://www.zahrira.net/?p=3904#more-3904>

December 9, 2007

Basra

A groups of eight men kidnapped Usama Fareed (age 45) from his home. Then, his sister Maysoun Fareed (age 42) was taken from her work place as well. An hour later, the brother and sister were found dead in the quarters of al-Jamhooriya (3 km from town center) with more than 11 bullets in their heads.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.150875.0.html>

December 9, 2007

Mosul

Pamphlets and notices were floating all over Mosul University threatening Christian female students from not wearing the Islamic dress code. The Islamic groups gave the Christian students three days to comply or face death.

<http://www.karemlash.com/>

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic.150754.msg2918918.html#msg2918918>

December 10, 2007

Basra

According to alarabiya.net, female Christian students faced numerous threats on their first day at Basra University from students that appear to be members of Islamic militias. The female students were given the option of wearing the Islamic veil or face death while the male students were told to raise their beards in the Islamic fashion. The alarabiya.net referred to an article on December 9, 2007 in the Sunday Times about the issue.

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2007/12/10/42733.html>

December 11, 2007

Baghdad

The family of Saalim Yousif Karash (originally from Baghdeda) was attacked while inside their own home and during daylight (2:00 p.m.) by an armed group in Zayoona quarters in Baghdad. They hit the father severely until he was unconscious. One of his two girls, Lena, who was inside the house was afraid of being raped, beaten or kidnapped, threw herself from the balcony of their apartment on the fourth floor. Then the armed gang stole most of what they gather and left. The mother was hysterical and had nervous breakdown. The father is in critical condition in local hospital while the daughter underwent surgery for a crack in her skull and she is still unconscious in the hospital. The other two sons and one daughter are safe since they were not at home when the attack occurred.

<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php/topic,153016.msg2933421.html#msg2933421>

December 21, 2007

Baghdeda, northern Iraq

The body of Fadi Michael Hanani Aolo was found in the outskirts of the Assyrian town of Baghdeda. It was established that the body has been left there for about four days. The circumstances are still very sketchy. Fadi did not return home since he left four days ago after he received a phone call.