

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER  
AND OF THE SON  
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AMEN.

*In the beginning was the Word, and  
the Word was with God, and the  
Word was God.*

*John 1:1*



# IRAQ

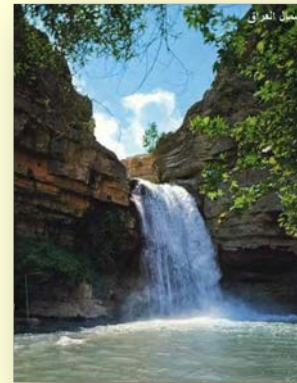
**Iraq, a triangle of mountains, deserts, and fertile river valley, is bounded by Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.**



**Land area: 169,234 sq miles**

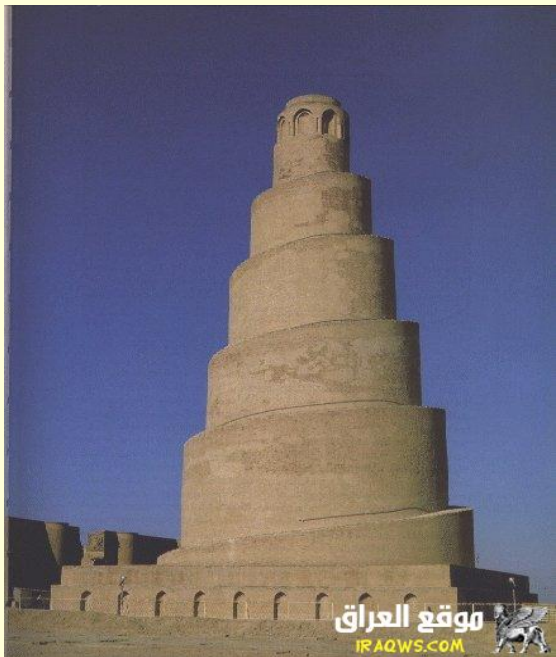
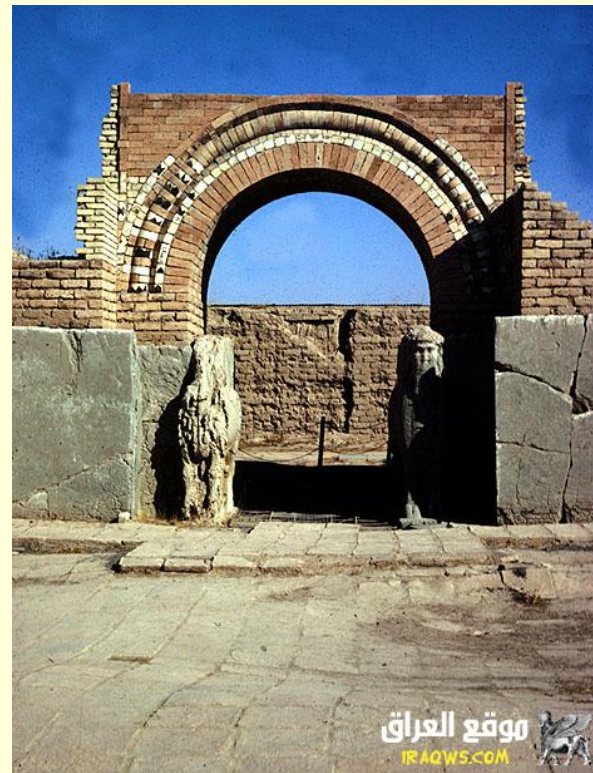


South of Iraq



North of Iraq

- **Population** :(2007 est.):  
**27,499,638**
- **Literacy rate**: **74%** (2003 est.)
- **Religion**: **Islam 97%** ,  
**Christianity & others 3%**.



**Capital: Baghdad**

Is the largest city in Iraq

**Area:** 78.84 sq. miles

**Population:** 7,200,000  
(2011 est.)

**Nineveh**

is the second large governorate  
& its main city is Mousel

**Area** :14.410 sq. miles

**Population** :2,500,000 (2003 est.)

**Detroit, MI**

**Area:** 142.9 sq. miles

**Population:** 688,701 in  
2013

**Caro, MI**

**Area:** 2.799 sq. miles

**Population:** 4,138 in 2013









# The Christian's in Iraq

Iraqi Christians can proudly claim a two thousand year presence in Iraq going back to the times of St Thomas the Apostle when he came to Nineveh, Considered by many as the putative father of Christianity in the country & is first mentioned in the Bible in (Genesis 10:11).

Nineveh is an ancient Mesopotamian city located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, opposite the modern city of Mosul. It was a capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire until it was destroyed by a coalition of Babylonians and Medes in 612 BC.

# The Christian's in Iraq

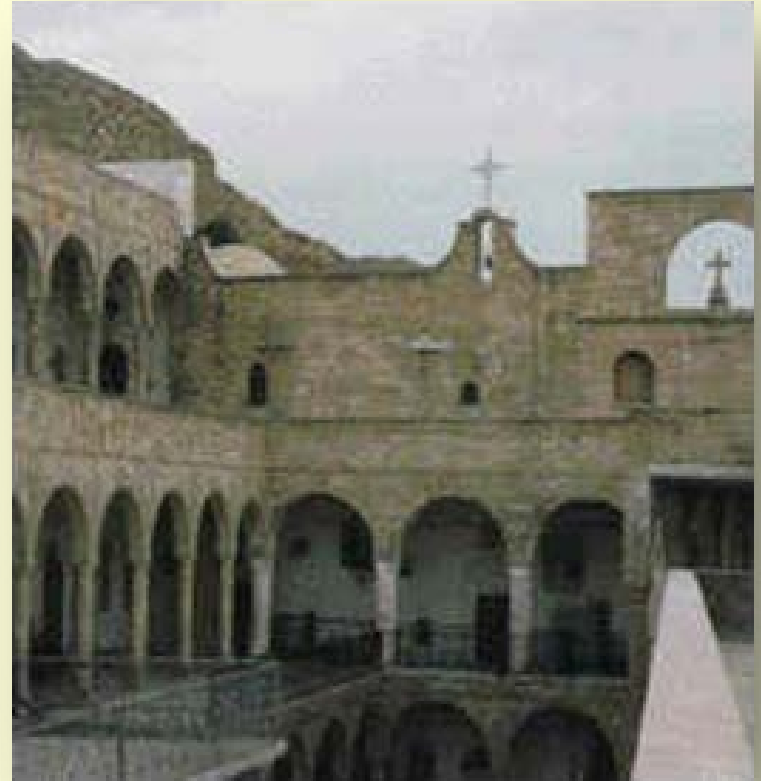
Now most Christians live in the capital Baghdad, Nineveh (Mosul) and its villages, Kirkuk , Basrah and Irbil.

Out of a population of 27 millions, the Christians constitute only 3%. They belong to different denominations and rites (Churches) such as the Chaldeans, the Syriac Catholics, the Syriac Orthodox, The Armenian Orthodox, the Armenian Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian Church, Greek Catholic and Adventist.

# Pictures of some Churches



**The Roman Catholic Church in Mosul**



**Monastery of St. Matthew**

# “Our Lady of Deliverance” Church for Syriac Catholic -Baghdad





**The Syriac Orthodox Church -Baghdad**



**The Roman Catholic Church-Baghdad**

March 20, 2003

# **The Invasion of Iraq**

The most important in 2003 was the invasion of Iraq. This War toppled the Saddam's regime.

They promised to bring **PEACE & DEMOCRACY** to Iraq. However, the results were devastating.

This war brought us terrorism, destruction, violence and the people paid this bill especially the **CHRISTIANS..**





This terrorism was and is still  
targeting our Churches, Priests  
& all Iraqi Christians

Let the below pictures to talk:



AP









AP







New targeting stage begun on 2009, while the government said that the situation is better than the pervious two years, the Christians were targeted in two times, First on the beginning of 2009 more than 10,000 Christian People in Mousel – Nineveh forced to leave their houses and go out their city.

Second, on Sunday 12 of July 2009, seven Churches were attacked around the same time during the day in Baghdad and Mousel. The terrorists have used Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Bombs and cars loaded with explosives to target those Churches . 8 persons died and more than 32 persons were injured and all of them were at church to celebrate the Sunday mass.

Here we want to mention, that all of these attacks were a repetition of the same scenario of targeting the Iraqi Christians from time to time after the invasion of our country.

As usual there were no concrete reaction from the government who is supposed to be responsible for the security, but it has been incapable of preventing these attacks.

What happened in this Sunday was carefully organized & planned and it aims for spreading terror & panic amongst the Christians who are sticking to their own churches.

The problem did not stop at this point. But the problem generated many repercussions...

Most of the Christians leave their houses either they are forced to leave or they are afraid of being targeted, few of them run away to the north of Iraq (Kurdistan - the safer place in the country) and most of them spread into different countries as refugees or immigrants and live in too bad situations, we can say that most of them do not live as humans.

And those who have been threatened and couldn't leave a country, go to other places in Baghdad and live in a worse life and here the disaster started.

The CHRISTIAN in Iraq live in a worse condition, no safety, no security, no freedom and more people live under the poverty line.

On the other hand , there was a tragedy that the Church of Iraq was suffering, which is the migration of most of its youth leaders due to the reasons mentioned before.

Here I would like to highlight , how would the Church support the community and how would the community serve the church with the absence of their youth?!!!

# October 31<sup>st.</sup> , 2010

Al - Qaida attacked my Church “The Lady of Deliverance” and took the people who were celebrating Sunday mass as a hostages, once they entered inside the Church they started to kill the people especially the youth and their goal was to destroy the whole Church by putting TNT in all its corners to make the Church fall down over all the people. But after more than 4 hours the special Iraqi forces broke into the church and saved the people who were still a live (their action was too late).

The result is 47 people Died including two Priests : Fr. Thaer and Fr. Waseem and about 100 people injured .

Some of the victims were related to the same family for example a whole family was killed inside the Church consist of a young man with his wife and their son (4 months old) and also his dad. another case a girl who got married one month before the attack , and another case two brothers were killed. The above are few examples of what happened and the next few photos may help you to imagine how the Disaster was?



2010.11.01























After this attack, the rate of immigration is increased and reach to double the rate before 2010.

The tragedy is Iraq after 11 years of USA invasion is heading toward the abyss and is inflicted with Violence, Terrorism, Destruction of the Infrastructure, restrictions on personal freedom and the freedom of belief in addition to poverty.

# Genocide

On Jun 2014, the terrorists “ ISIS “ took control over many cities in Iraq and as a result: hundreds of thousands families left their homes to become IDPs or refugees in neighboring countries.

As always the Iraqi Christians are the most vulnerable and they pay the highest price. ISIS targeted them, attacked their cities and villages, and destroyed more than one church in Mousel, Nineveh and kidnapped many.

ISIS give the Christians three options:

**Convert to Islam , Pay tribute or Die.**

Our Sisters and brothers in GOD there had no option but to flee for their lives.

**Today Mousel now has zero Christian**

Nevertheless, ISIS didn't stop at this point, they reach to our Christian villages close to Mousel and took control over most of them.

So, now we have more than 100,000 Iraqi Christian IDPs in very bad conditions. They lost everything, their houses, money, properties and everything; they have only the clothes they are wearing.



لا اله الا الله  
الله اعلى  
محمد رسول الله

الطريق  
البرادار









*Allen kakony*









Abdul Hamid Zibari (RFE/RL)





Finally, what happening now in Iraq is not a coincidence, it is carefully organizes and planned, we would like to draw your attention to the local, regional and global silence regarding the Christians in the Middle East in General and in Iraq in particular.

What is happening to the Iraqi Christians and other minorities in Iraq is close to a genocide and is a striking violation of the International Humanitarian Laws. Sadly the reactions of the International Community are too weak and inefficient.



*Do not be afraid, little flock,  
for your Father has been  
pleased to give you the  
Kingdom*

*Luke 12:32*



*Iraqi Christian Youth Committee*

**ICYC**



Our movement ICYC consists of selected & active youth leaders from most of Christian denominations in Baghdad .

We always strive to achieve gender balance and representation of students and senior friends.

ICYC is an affiliated movement in World Student Christian Federation WSCF.



## **THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD FOR ICYC**

Is responsible of organizing and coordinating the committees work and Local/Regional activities.

According to our constitution, we have an election every two years of the board members and to assign responsibilities such as, Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

# Main Goal

**To Prepare Youth Leaders  
in their Churches**

**to improve the role of the youth in  
the ministry of Church**

# ICYC Activities

We lived the worst situations in Iraq after the war, this lead most of the Christian people specially youth to leave the country till now. This is mostly due to the reasons mentioned before.



In spite of this, our faith has been strong. We look at these hardships as an opportunity to glorify God's Name and serve the Holy Church. We believe that our experience is unique and that the Lord entrusted us with a mission and we have to carry it on.

The Iraqi Christian Youth Committee hopes to be a message of faith and hope.

Although the times were difficult our activities  
Continued

**Regionally**

**&**

**Locally**

## *Regionally*

we participated in the World Student Christian Federation – Middle East WSCF-ME activities.

Here we want to mention some of these activities

# Seminar “ Ecuminism education and youth capicit building” Jordan – Sept. 2004









# Conference

## “Apartheid against Women”

### October 2006

### In Syria





# Conference “ Christian & Muslims Dialogue “ August 2007 in Lebanon





# Conference “ecumenisim and the church Testimony in Arab Land” Sept. 2008 in Lebanon.





# Local Activities



In may 2007, the committee arranged a full day conference with the youth of “Our Lady of Deliverance” for Syriac Catholic Church.



The lecturer Fr. Yousif Toma

The title of the conference was  
“Youth in the Church “  
a lecture was given on this topic  
as well as an interactive  
workshop.



The youth distributed in the workshops



ICYC board members



The lecturer Fr. Nimat Al-Kass



In September 2007,  
a meeting was  
arranged with the  
youth of  
“St. Paul and Peter”  
Church for Syrian  
Orthodox under the  
title  
“The Good Leader”



In October 2007, we arranged a training workshop for the ICYC members



The workshop was titled “*we come to work together*”.

It included an introduction to the movement, ice breaking session, and an exchange of experience from members who attended regional seminars and workshops.



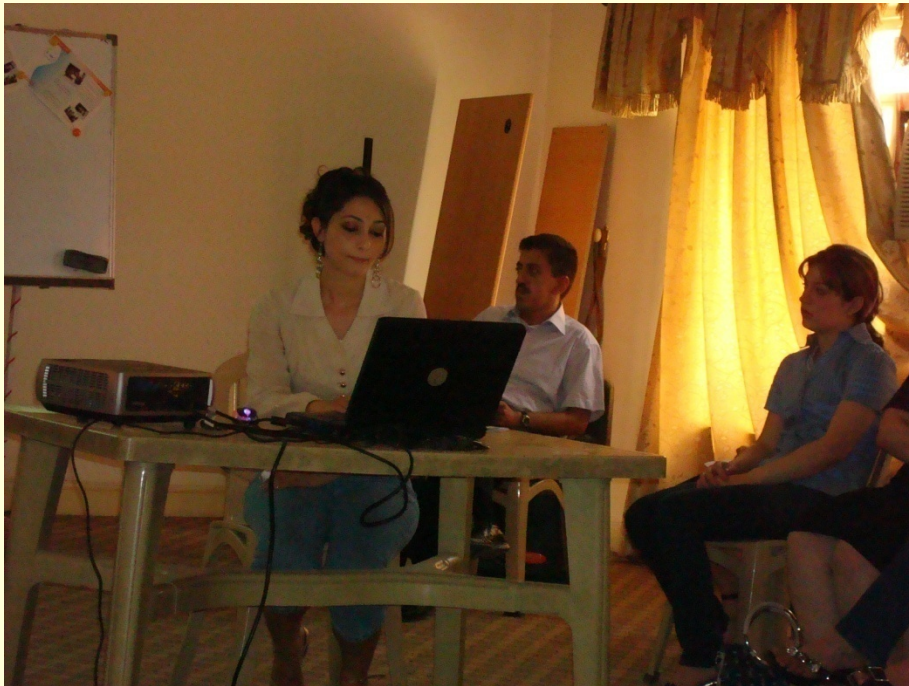


ICYC Members



On August, 2009

we arrange a general meeting for our members including workshops and training and planning for next year.









# General Meeting of ICYC members

## May 31, 2011







# Meeting with the youth gathering of three Churches July 20 2012











# *Day Prayer*

On 20 March, 2010 we arrange a day prayer for Our country , this taken place in Armenian Orthodox Church



We Praying  
to our  
Lord  
Jesus Christ  
to save and  
protect us and  
to Protect the  
Iraqi Church  
and To make  
the peace in  
whole our  
Country, ME  
& the World







# Leadership Training Seminars for Iraqi Youth

It's a very important activities for us, one of the steps of formation and development of ICYC



First  
Seminar in  
Jordan  
2004





# Second Seminar in Jordan 2005





# Third Seminar in Jordan 2008









# Fourth Seminar in Syria 2009









# Fifth Seminar in Jordan 2009







**Those steps gave a great feed back especially it comes after the war and below there are some of those testimonies from the participants :**

**Nawar said:**

***"This Leadership training Seminar is a unique project that gives us the trainings in several issues that we very needed in our church life. And we miss it in our country"***

**Manar said:**

***"This gives us the development and build up the personality, how to know our capacity and how to build it"***

**Mariam said:**

***"This type of seminar encourage us to stick to our churches, community and country"***

# CALL

- Call for prayers throughout the world for the Christians in ME and especially in Iraq.
- Reach out to the decision makers and communicate our message through all forms of media and social networks.
- Call for urgent humanitarian Relief work for the Iraqi Christians and other IDPs.
- Urge the international community to assume its duties towards the Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq. The most urgent of these duties is to take all the necessary measures to restore security and the rule of law in Mousel and the other devastated villages so IDPs can safely return home.



*And Teaching them  
to obey everything I have  
commanded you.  
And Surely I am with you  
always to the very end of the age.*

*Matthew 28:20*