

Iraq: Christians Evacuate Following Turkish Airstrikes

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Persecution of Christians in Iraq: Clearly the Turkish government is using its military actions against the Kurds to further its longstanding persecution of Christians, which includes the ongoing discrimination against of and harassment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the remaining Christians of Turkey; the occupation and ethnic cleansing of northern Cyprus; the long imprisonment of Pastor Andrew Brunson and other Christian leaders; and much more.

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, once again appeals to the United Nations and all nations that are concerned about human rights to do all they can to protect the Christians of Syria and the Middle East in general, and to do all they can to bring an end to the unjust and illegal actions of the Turkish government.

For previous ChristianPersecution.com coverage of the persecution of Christians in Iraq, [click here](#).

“Iraqi Christians Evacuate Following Turkish Airstrikes,” International Christian Concern, July 4, 2020:

07/04/2020 Iraq (International Christian Concern) – Since the beginning of Turkey's airstrike operations in northern Iraq, nine of the 11 Christian villages in the Zakho district have reportedly evacuated. The Turkish Defense Ministry began Operation Eagle Claw in mid-June, bombing alleged Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) positions in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Turkey-PKK conflict has not only displaced several Christian communities but also severely impacted the livelihood of the civilians staying behind. Christian villagers complain of serious economic tolls, as agriculture is burned during the airstrikes and tourists are prevented from utilizing the hospitality industry.

...For many of these Christians, they are also struggling to recover from period of ISIS's genocide against religious minorities. Many see no difference between then and now, except that the main actor has changed.

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