

Churches for Middle East Peace



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James Fine, Chair of the Board
Amb. (ret.) Warren Clark, Executive Director
Julie Schumacher Cohen, Legislative Director
Carolyn Danckaert, Field Director

July 22, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, DC

Dear Madam Secretary,

We have been distressed to learn of the recent resurgence of violence perpetrated against the minority Christian community in Iraq. According to reports seven churches in Baghdad and Mosul were attacked over the weekend of July 12, resulting in the loss of several innocent lives and many injuries, mostly women and children. This is a sign of the continuing challenge to establish rule of law and security for all Iraqis.

We deplore all acts of violence against Iraqi citizens of all religions and ethnicities, especially violence directed against vulnerable minorities. Past attacks against Christians in Iraq have undermined that community and contributed to large scale migration. We are encouraged that the Iraqi government has condemned the attacks and promised to implement measures to better protect churches, including the imposition of curfews and road blocks.

We hope you will work closely with the Iraqi government to ensure that all possible security measures are taken to combat these violent attacks. As the US military presence in Iraq is reduced, we urge you in particular to develop policies that will effectively protect the ancient but vulnerable faith communities there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Fine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Fine,
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Warren Clark
Executive Director

Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service Committee

Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

Armenian Orthodox Church

Catholic Conference of Major
Superiors of Men's Institutes

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Common Global Ministries Board

Church of the Brethren

Church World Service

Episcopal Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

Franciscan Friars (OFM)
English Speaking Conference,
JPIC Council

Friends Committee on National
Legislation

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America

Maryknoll Missioners

Mennonite Central Committee

Moravian Church in America

National Council of Churches

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Reformed Church in America

Unitarian Universalist Association

United Church of Christ
Common Global Ministries Board

United Methodist Church
General Board of Church and Society
General Board of Global Ministries:
Women's Division