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# The Mandaean Associations Union

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## **For how long will the international community watch before it Acts to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Mandaeans in Iraq**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, may,2010 a young mandaeen man Mr.Baha Sori Zaggi was killed on his way home from work.He was kidnapped before paid ransom of \$25000 ,was IDP and returned back to his area of Al Dorrah in baghdad ,he received threats prior.

Another crime against the Mandaeans of Iraq was committed on 25<sup>th</sup>,April.2010 in Al Soyrah city – Kut south of Baghdad, a young man 27 years old Mr. Bassam Hassaney Raheim was shot in the head by unmasked men with silenced guns in a busy market place in the early hours of the morning he was transferred to a hospital in Baghdad .He died later from his injuries on the 28<sup>th</sup>,April.2010.

This fellows another similar killing with silenced guns with shots to the head also to another mandaeen man Mr., Niem Younes Medlol on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Feb., 2010 in AL Saiedia district in Baghdad, also in the early hours of the morning in a busy market place.Mr.Niem Younes went back to work in Baghdad from Syria to support his family as they run out of funds.

Prior to that on Saturday 19th of September 2009. This time is in Basra, Iraq. Two Young mandaeen men, Mr Farqad Faiq Authman and Mr. Muhand Qasim Abdul-Razzaq both in there twenties were massacred by four unmasked gun men using silenced guns and knives. After several bullets in their heads they were knifed down and left to die in their shops.Mr.Muhand Qasem returned to Iraq with his family from Jordan to work as they used all of their savings after the rejection of the Australian authorities to their application for humanitarian asylum as refugees, his father died soon after their arrival in Iraq.

These are the most recent crimes in the series of crimes against the Mandaeans in Iraq that happened in the last months. Other previous killing in 2009 is

- On the 2nd of September of Abdul Wahid AlBender and his family were attacked in their home in Baghdad Aljedida district by armed men resulting in the killing of this elderly gentleman and the injuries of his wife.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup>,august 2009 the killing of Mr. We ‘am Abdul Nabi Lazem in his shop in Iskan district of Baghdad.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup>,april 2009 Mr.Sameer Araby shamkhi killed in Al Shaab district- Baghdad
- On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009

In the same way the killing of two men Mr.Haytham Hameed Al Badri ,Mr.Louay Asad AlBadri and a child of 8 years old Uns Haytham Hameed Al Badri in Tobchi area Baghdad . All professionally executed in busy shopping areas with security presence, the total number of the reported killings to the MHRG –the Manadaean Human Rights Group stand now at 166 since 2003.

The recent incidences are taking a cyclical pattern which raise the possibility of a programmed cleansing as it is not related to the security situation in Iraq in general .. These incidences caused a lot of fear and disturbance in our communities inside Iraq and our refugees in Syria and other countries.

The Mandaeans are minority community that lived in Iraq for thousands of years. Out of a community of 50,000-60,000 before 2003 less than 5,000 remain inside Iraq. 85% of the community are either refugees or are seeking refuge and are mainly in Syria and Jordan as a result of targeted and

sustained extreme religious hatred and violence.

We ask of you to act to stop this genocide against one of the oldest monotheistic communities in the Middle East. Their only crime is they are different in religion and ethnicity. We ask of the international community to stand up and force the Iraqi government to act to provide security and safety to the Iraqi minorities we the undersigned condemn these serious crimes and demand the following:

- That the IRAQI Government acts immediately to stop the genocide against the Mandaeans and find the criminals and the organizations behind them and bring justice to the victims.
- That the Iraqi government instates a system of protection for the Mandaeans and Other Minorities in Iraq by establishing the minorities' Security Council.
- That the international community intervenes to secure the rights of ethnic and religious minorities according to the UN articles and international laws.
- That the United States, Australia or the European Union should act immediately to accept the 1000 Mandaean refugee families in Syria collectively without delay and resettle them in one place to prevent the demise of this small peaceful community.
- The International community should take serious and active steps to stop the destruction of Mandaean people and their culture and find a durable solution to their desperate situation.

The Mandaeans are in danger of extinction in their homeland. The international community must stand up and save the Mandaeans of Iraq. We ask you all to help stop these atrocities and to bring peace and security to The Iraqi Mandaeans.

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