

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding recent threats to human rights and religious freedom in Iraq, particularly those of the Christian minority. Persecution of religious minorities has escalated since the start of the country's recent electoral season. Many have been under threat of attack, some even murdered by insurgent groups. Sadly, the Iraq government failed to give reasonable protection for the vulnerable in this situation.

As you know, the Iraq Constitution protects the religious freedom of all of its citizens; while recent developments clearly show this rule of law was not upheld.

For centuries, Christians in Iraq have been forced to make a difficult decision to either remain under attack in their homeland as its indigenous people, or flee as refugees to foreign countries. The high percentage of Christians among Iraq's refugees is evidence of the need for action in defence of those whose human rights are being violated.

I would like to thank the government of Canada for their commitment to the freedom and fair treatment of the Iraqi people. I respectfully ask that the Canadian government remember these incidents while continuing to stand up for human rights in Iraq.

Sincerely,