



The cruel aggression against Christians in Iraq has become systemic, turning into a real genocide. Ideologists of the so-called “Islamic State” are carrying out the task of total eradication or banishment of Christians from the territories that they have come to occupy through massacre, forced deportation and property deprivation. Meanwhile, proponents of this grouping are openly holding demonstrations and propagating the militants’ symbols in various European countries.

The problem of Christians’ hardships in the region has been raised for several years now by the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church. “Again and again we state the need to stop the violence, to resume peace political dialogue and call to defend the persecuted minorities. I would like to stress that the growth of religiously motivated extremism is a serious challenge to the entire world community”, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia stated on May 28, 2014.

The terror unleashed by extremists against Christians and people of other faiths in Iraq deserves to be resolutely condemned. The Moscow Patriarchate calls upon all the political forces concerned and all the people of good will to exert every effort to defend the religious minorities in Iraq. The vanishing of the oldest Christian presence will have far reaching, catastrophic consequences for the entire region. We express solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ and hope that the international community will take all the measures necessary to save the Christian community in Iraq.

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