

Secretary-General of the United Nations  
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
U.N. Headquarters, Room S-3800  
New York, NY 10017  
United States of America

**PETITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY OF THE CHRISTIAN STUDENTS  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MOSUL IN IRAQ ,  
FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF THE IRAQI CHRISTIAN PEOPLE  
AND OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Rome, 8 May 2010

Your Excellency,

Italian Association, *Salvaimonasteri* (Save the Monasteries) is presenting this petition in consequence of a new deadly attack that the students of the Christian village of Karakosh, in the Nineveh plain, underwent while transferring by buses to the University of Mosul on May 2, 2010. Two bombs exploded at their passage killing one person and injuring 171. Many of the young students were left missing legs, arms, parts of faces, most of whom are undergoing major plastic surgery. Two young women are still in danger of death in intensive care.

As it is becoming known, the Iraqi Christians are suffering discrimination, violations of human rights, and persecution on religious, ethnic, cultural grounds and as a consequence of the country's recent conflicts and political situation. Since the year 2004 the Iraqi Christian population has been halved with the resultant impoverishment of their social condition and of their civil and human rights.

*Salvaimonasteri* Association has been active in Iraq since 2005 through communication projects to alert the international community of the annihilating conditions facing the Christian population, the disappearance of these important communities with their unique cultural heritage, and the urgent situation of the refugees in the neighbouring countries. Notwithstanding the commitment of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other international institutions, the situation of the Iraqi Christians is getting worse. Especially in the city of Mosul and in the villages of the Niniveh plain the daily murder of ordinary Christian people continues as well as the attack and the destruction of churches and convents of religious sisters. These wild acts usually remain unpunished. The majority of Christians in this area have lost their jobs and property and have been done away with as a result of harassment, blackmail, and persecution. The young Christians will have no future in their country and their precious 2000 year-old cultural heritage is condemned to vanish.

We require the intervention of the United Nations in order to guarantee the right to study of the Christian students of the Governorate of Mosul in order to safeguard the Christian heritage in the plain of Niniveh and in all Iraq, and in order to re-establish the respect of the human and civil rights of the Iraqi Christians in their fatherland.

We require the United Nations to act with the Iraqi and the international governments and institutions in defense of the existence, and for the respect of the life and history, of the Iraqi Christians.

Salvaimonasteri Association , Rome , Italy

SIGN IN ON-LINE PETITION [www.savethemonasteries.org](http://www.savethemonasteries.org)