

Some of Iraq's Christian Persecution Stories

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Info

- This Keynote is full of stories about Christian Persecution stories that happened in Iraq
- Iraq is one of the countries with a lot of Christian persecution in it.
- The persecution comes mainly from Isis militias

Kidnapping of Christine

- 11 months ago a three year old named Christine was kidnapped from her parents by militants of the Islamic State. Then the family was deported from Qaraqosh, Iraq. Her mother's name is Ayda and she is a mother of 5 with a blind husband. Her town was captured by militants and everyone fled from the town but her family couldn't because of her blind husband. She hoped for mercy from the terrorists. The Christian family was then told that they were going to get a "medical check up" from the terrorists. The other Christian families were brought there to because they couldn't flee from the city for similar reasons. They were brought there so they could steal their possessions. then the the leader of the group stole her daughter, Christine, and Ayda tried to stop them but she was then forced by gunpoint to get back on the bus and they drove them to a different location. Their daughter is still missing and the family fears their daughter is dead.

Vicar of Baghdad

- Vicar of Baghdad stands strong against the persecution of Isis. He lives in Mosul which is getting attacked by Isis and Isis demands that they either pay a fine, convert to muslim, or the people in their church die. Vicar is the head pastor of the church Chaplain of St George's Anglican Church in Baghdad, Iraq. He used to have over 6,000 people in his church, now 1,200 have been murdered or fled from their homes. He is the pastor of the last Anglican church left in Iraq.

Salem Coca

- A man named Salem Coca was found dead in his truck because he refused to convert Muslim. He was a 63 year old man and was known as a very nice and kind man in his committee. He left behind his 3 children and his wife. Police say his water truck was rigged with explosives, and they also think they killed him because he refused to do a suicide bombing. Muslim extremists sent death threats to his family, but didn't ask for a ransom. He stood strong even until the end for his faith. Even though this happened, Christians in his community are still standing strong in their faith and wear a cross around their neck to show their Christianity.

Thoughts on Christian Persecution

- I think Christian Persecution has to be stopped any way possible. What Christians are going through is terrible and everyone should be trying to help end it. Although Jesus said that Christians would be hunted and persecuted, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to help them.

Thoughts on What we can do About it

- I think we, as free Christians, have to do something to help the Christians that are being oppressed. I think even something as praying for them is a big step into helping them, but there are other ways we can help them like, writing a letter to your local representatives or donating to an organization that helps stop Christian persecution.