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His Beatitude Emmanuel III Delly  
Patriarch of Babylon for Chaldeans  
P.O. Box 6112  
Al-Mansour  
**Baghdad, Iraq**

Fribourg, September 28, 2007

### **Christians in Iraq**

Your Beatitude,

Day per day we learn that the Iraqi people and in particular Christians are victims of a terrible fury on the part of terrorist and criminal groups and that the force of arms with its murderous consequences create never ending human drams and untold sufferings.

Although the entire Iraqi population is concerned of these tragic and difficult circumstances, the Christians are particularly exposed to kidnappings, assassinations and violent murders. As to the media it is to fear that within a short time half of the Christians living in your country will have escaped abroad.

Also in Switzerland, Christians and in particular the Catholics are most concerned about the desperate situation and the tragic fate of their brothers and sisters in Iraq.

As President of the Swiss Catholic Bishop's Conference I would assure your Beatitude Emmanuel III, Patriarch of Babylon for Chaldeans, as well as all Christians in Iraq of our deepest solidarity and the great support of the Catholics in Switzerland.

We will pray our Lord and our heavenly mother Mary to protect you and your faithful people. May the Lord who is peace give you and all devoted Christians in your country the force to stay and overcome this difficult trial and motivate the responsible persons in politics and religion to make courageous attempts to bring back to your country the so much expected peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Mgr Kurt Koch  
President of the Swiss  
Catholic Bishop's Conference