

**Minority Rights Group International: “Directory: Iraq—Assyrians”**  
(Updated 2018)

“Assyrians comprise a distinct ethno-religious group in Iraq, although official Iraqi statistics consider them to be Arabs. Descendants of ancient Mesopotamian peoples, Assyrians speak Aramaic and belong to one of four churches: the Chaldean (Uniate), Nestorian, Jacobite, or Syriac Orthodox, and the Syriac Catholic.”

<http://minorityrights.org/minorities/assyrians-2/>

**Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization: “Assyria”**  
(Updated 2018)

“The Assyrian nation is composed of multiple sub-identities known as Souyrayih, Chaldeans, Nestorians, Syriacs, Jacobites, Maronites, and Arameans. They are all coming from an historical heritage that is extracted from the Assyrian ancestry.”

<http://www.unpo.org/article/7859>

**Gatestone Institute: “Turkey Threatens to Invade Greece”**  
(February 2018)

“The greatest 20<sup>th</sup> century Turkish assault against Christians took place in the 1914-1923 genocide of Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians (Syriacs/Chaldeans) in Ottoman Turkey.”

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/11907/turkey-greece-invasion>

**World Politics Review: “In Northern Iraq, Ethnic Minorities are Key to Rebuilding After ISIS”**  
(November 2017)

“Before the war, Dora was home to more than 100,000 Assyrians—an Aramaic-speaking, largely Christian people known also as Chaldeans or Syriacs, depending on denomination. By 2014, it had just 1,500 Assyrians.

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/23578/in-northern-iraq-ethnic-minorities-are-key-to-rebuilding-after-isis>

**Cambridge Scholars Publishing: *Nation and Identity Construction in Modern Iraq: Reinserting the Assyrians***  
(May 2017)

“For the most part, Iraqi studies either completely exclude Assyrians from the ‘story of Iraq’ or distort their identity. The latter is committed through the removal of Assyrians’ ethnicity and referring to them as merely ‘Christians;’ or, similarly, through the fragmentation of their identity by dividing them denominationally or linguistically and referring to them as ‘Chaldean,’ ‘Syriac,’ or ‘Jacobite.’”

Mariam Georgis, *Nation and Identity Construction in Modern Iraq: Reinserting the Assyrians* (United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, May 2017), 73.

**Fox News: “Iraqi Christian villages to begin rebuilding process with first 100 homes”**  
(May 2017)

“Ethnic and religious minority groups like Assyrian Christians were driven from their ancestral homelands across the Nineveh Plain, a vast region in Northern Iraq, when the Islamic State attempted to establish their caliphate.

Also known as the Plain of Mosul, the Nineveh Plain has long been the ancestral homeland for the Assyrian-Chaldean-Syriac Christians, along with other religious minority groups like the Yazidis.”

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/05/05/iraqi-christian-villages-to-begin-rebuilding-process-with-first-100-homes.html>

**Oxford University Press: *The Year of the Sword***  
(2016)

“Known by different names—Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Nestorians, Jacobites, Arameans—the Assyrians, called *Aissors or Assoris* by the Armenians and *Suriyani* by the Turks, are the descendants of...ancient Mesopotamia.”

Joseph Yacoub, *The Year of the Sword: The Assyrian Christian Genocide, A History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), 2.

**CNN: “Teen hits back at ISIS by sculpting Nimrud’s ruined artifacts”**

(December 2016)

“For Thabit, an Assyrian Christian [from Bakhdida], the 3,000-year-old city—which once formed the capital of an Assyrian empire reaching from Egypt to parts of modern-day Iran and Turkey—was a source of pride. He considers the artifact of Nimrud to be the work of his ancestors.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2016/11/17/middleeast/nimrud-iraq-mosul-artifacts/index.html>

**Fox News: “No home for the holidays: Assyrian Christians unable to return to villages destroyed by ISIS”**

(December 2016)

“Ethnic and religious minority groups like the Yazidi and Assyrian Christians were driven from their ancestral homelands across the Nineveh Plain when the Islamic State attempted to establish their caliphate. [...] ‘It’s a catastrophe,’ one Assyrian from Bashiqa named Laith told FoxNews.com. [...] ‘Everything is damaged,’ Jalal, an Assyrian from the village of Karamles, told FoxNews.com.”

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/12/09/no-home-for-holidays-assyrian-christians-unable-to-return-to-villages-destroyed-by-isis.html>

**Edinburgh University Press: *Reforging a Forgotten History: Iraq and the Assyrians in the Twentieth Century***

(2015)

*“The Claims of the Assyrians as Presented to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which defined the Assyrian people as including Nestorians, Chaldeans, Jacobites, a Maronite element, Persian Assyrians, Assyrians in Russia, and a Muslim Assyrian group...The Assyro-Chaldean delegation to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 provided the following figures including a total worldwide population of 1,015,000.”*

Sargon Donabed, *Reforging a Forgotten History: Iraq and the Assyrians in the Twentieth Century* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2015).

**Los Angeles Times: “San Diego-area Chaldean priest ordered back to Iraq: “He’ll be killed”**  
(2015)

“The church sent to him to parishes in Chicago and Arizona and in 2002, to St. Paul Assyrian Chaldean Catholic Church in North Hollywood. In 2011, he was assigned to El Cajon, where two Chaldean churches, St. Peter and St. Michael, minister to about 3,000 families.”

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-chaldean-church-20150206-story.html>

**Huffington Post: “Never Forget, and Never Again”**  
(2015)

“Since the genocide of Armenians, Pontic Greeks and Assyrians (also called Chaldeans and Syriacs) in the Ottoman Empire in 1915, these communities have been subject to a diaspora with new settlements in countries far from their ancestral lands.”

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-benjamin/never-forget-and-never-again\\_b\\_6043452.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-benjamin/never-forget-and-never-again_b_6043452.html)

**Los Angeles Times: Pope Francis’ visit to Turkey puts spotlight on region’s Christians**  
(November 2014)

“An Assyrian Christian turned Roman Catholic, Diril moved to Istanbul with his family 22 years ago, a time when violence between the Turkish military and Kurdish rebels made life difficult in their village in eastern Turkey. Nationalist Turks antagonistic to the Kurds were also hostile to Assyrians, Diril said.”

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-pope-turkey-20141129-story.html>

**The Telegraph: “Inside the refugee camps of northern Iraq”**  
(November 2014)

“Christians—mostly ethnic Assyrians—had lived in Qaraqosh almost as long as Christianity itself.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11260461/Exclusive-Inside-the-refugee-camps-of-northern-iraq.html>

**Catholic Herald: “The Iraqis determined to seize control of their future after fleeing ISIS”**  
(October 2014)

“When ISIS was pushing its way into Qaraqosh, a Christian town in Iraq’s north-western Nineveh Plain, late in June, Hayfaa Messo was at the town’s hospital visiting her eldest daughter. A mother of four, Messo had to run away with her daughter’s medication, along with tens of thousands of her fellow Assyrians, further north to the safety of semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

“The shelling was over our houses,” Messo, a member of Syriac Catholic Church, said in a recent interview at with her one-room rented flat in the Assyrian Quarter in Sad al-Busherieh, Beirut.”

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/10/31/the-iraqis-determined-to-seize-control-of-their-future-after-fleeing-isis/>

**The Algemeiner: “Who are the Assyrians and What Are the Nineveh Plains?”**  
(September 2014)

“Today’s Assyrian-Chaldean people make up a majority in the Assyrian heartland, the “Nineveh Plains.” Undisputedly, this region is historically, biblically, and geographically Assyrian.”

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2014/09/19/who-are-the-assyrians-and-what-are-the-nineveh-plains/>

**Middle East Monitor: “Assyrians need protection from Islamisation and Kurdification”**  
(September 2014)

“Today, Assyrians are distinct in their identity which still survives and is practiced in cultural forms of language and traditions. Their language is “Modern Assyrian” sometimes called “Syriac” liturgically. They were the first nation to embrace Christianity in Iraq...and belong to several churches which, in chronological order, are as follows: the Assyrian Church of the East, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Chaldean Church, the Syrian Catholic Church, Evangelical and Protestant churches, and the Ancient Church of the East.”

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20140909-assyrians-need-protection-from-islamisation-and-kurdification/>

**The Kingston Whig-Standard: “Who will save Iraq’s Christians?”**  
(September 2014)

“Many ethnic Assyrians prefer to identify themselves by their religious denomination, Chaldean Catholic. According to CNEWA-Canada, a Catholic nongovernmental organization, approximately 66% of Assyrian Christians belong to the Chaldean Catholic Church. The rest of the Assyrian community belong to other denominations.”

<http://www.thewhig.com/2014/09/18/who-will-save-iraqs-christians>

**Huffington Post: “Assyrian Boots on the Ground, Not American”**  
(2014)

“Islamic State and the Levant (ISIL) also known as ISIS is a threat. Thousands of Assyrians/Chaldeans/Syriacs and other ethnic minorities have been killed, hundreds of thousands have been displaced and millions around the world have been threatened at the hands of ISIL.”

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-benjamin/assyrian-boots-on-the-gro\\_b\\_6272118.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-benjamin/assyrian-boots-on-the-gro_b_6272118.html)

**National Geographic: Iraqi Christians Weigh Taking Up Arms Against the Islamic State**  
(August 2014)

“Of all the many ancient peoples who once lived in the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates, Iraq’s Assyrian Christians pride themselves on having persisted in their traditional homeland for millennia, even as other civilizations thrived then disappeared, as languages and cultures died out, as ethnic groups melted into the ways and genetic pools of their conquerors.”

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/08/140827-iraq-dahuk-islamic-state-assyrian-christians-peshmerga-nineveh-kurdistan/>

**The Telegraph: “Iraq crisis: The streets of Erbil’s newly Christian suburb are now full of helpless people”**

(August 2014)

“Mr. Abdullah, a member of the local home guard, was on duty when the mortar hit on Wednesday morning. “There was blood and flesh on the ground,” he said, as he stood in the gardens of St Joseph’s Cathedral in Ainkawa, a church of the Chaldean Catholics, one of Iraq’s patchwork of sects. He himself, like most in Qaraqosh, is from the Assyrian Catholic church.

It is fair to report that there was no great time of peace in Qaraqosh’s long history. The presence of the Christians, mostly ethnic Assyrians, descended from the Plain of Nineveh’s earliest inhabitants, has often been challenged by its neighbours - newcomers, in their view - who were also, in Ottoman times, its overlords.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11022879/Iraq-crisis-The-streets-of-Erbils-newly-Christian-suburb-are-now-full-of-helpless-people.html>

**BBC: “Iraq: The minorities of Nineveh”**

(July 2014)

“Iraq’s Christians are of diverse ethnicities and denominations, but the majority are Chaldo-Assyrians who have lived in the region for thousands of years. Their numbers have fallen from around 1.5 million in 2003 to 350,000-450,000. In Nineveh, they live mainly in the villages of Nineveh Plain, which include the Christian-dominant districts of Al-Hamdaniya (with its famous town of Qaraqosh) and Tel Kef.”

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28351073>

**The Telegraph: “Iraq’s beleaguered Christians make final stand on the Mosul frontline”**

(June 2014)

“The town of Bartella, ten miles from Mosul, is largely Assyrian Orthodox, and its 16,000 citizens currently face a very vivid incarnation of an ever-present threat. They have been car-bombed at least twice in recent years, but this time their presumed adversaries have an army.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/10916613/Iraqs-beleaguered-Christians-make-final-stand-on-the-Mosul-frontline.html>

**The Christian Science Monitor: “As Iraq burns, tolerance and tensions in Kurdish Kirkuk”**  
(June 2014)

“Since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam, the trend has reversed: Kurds are now in the majority in Kirkuk; Arabs, Turkmen, and Assyrians – also known as Chaldean Christians – are minorities, though the exact makeup is unknown since the last full census was held in 1957.”

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2014/0625/As-Iraq-burns-tolerance-and-tensions-in-Kurdish-Kirkuk>

**Routledge: *Native Peoples of the World, Volumes 1-3***

“Assyrians, also referred to as Chaldeans or Syriacs, are an indigenous people of Iraq that trace their ancestry to ancient Mesopotamia and to the powerful Assyrian empire that flourished from the twenty-third to the seventh century B.C.E. A great majority of the Assyrian peoples are Christians, but they distinguish themselves by denomination.”

Steven L. Danver, *Native Peoples of the World, Volumes 1-3* (Routledge, 2013), 517.

**Al Arabiya News: “Will Middle East’s Aramaic language survive?”**  
(December 2013)

“The Assyrians are an ethnic group whose origins lie in ancient Mesopotamia, or modern-day Iraq.

Empowering Assyrians politically in Iraq is a way to guarantee the survival of the language, Haninke [a member of the Syriac Orthodox Church] said.

“In my opinion, the only way we can preserve and develop our language is through autonomy or something like that, where the Assyrians decide their future,” he said, referring to the Nineveh Plain in the northern Iraqi province of Mosul.”

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/life-style/art-and-culture/2013/12/25/Will-Middle-East-s-Aramaic-language-survive-.html>

**The Australian: “A Persecuted People Face Life in Exile”**

(December 2013)

“Divided into five different religious confessions that range from Catholic Chaldeans to Nestorians and Orthodox, Iraqi Christians are almost all ethnic Assyrians, a neo-Aramaic or Syriac-speaking population tracing its origins back to the ancient community that used to inhabit Mesopotamia more than 4000 years before Christ.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/a-persecuted-people-face-life-in-exile/news-story/2e7b1bec503a385e97ce1a3e1ed6fcee?sv=3aa5eb29e2f105220112c8ee0c7184e0>

**McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers: *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression***

(2012)

“Assyria’s national history became entangled with an internal struggle between the Nestorian church and the spiritual inroads brought about by Catholicism in the East. [...] Nestorian clergy traveled to Rome where a union was formed in 1552. This was the origin of the Chaldean Catholic Church, though it took another full century for the rites to conform to the Roman model. In 1683, the Chaldean church fully recognized papal authority. Known as the Patriarch of Babylon seated in Baghdad, the head of this new ecclesiastical denomination symbolized oriental Christian subservience to European papal leadership.”

Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression* (McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2012), 185.

**The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq: *Assyrians in Iraq’s Nineveh Plains: Grass-Root Organizations and Inter-Communal Conflict***

(2011)

“This article will analyze the emergence and struggle of Iraqi civil society using Assyrian organizations as a case in point. The term Assyrian will be used to refer to the Nestorian, Chaldean, and Jacobite Christians collectively. The focus will be on a region located in the northeastern portion of the Ninawa governorate called the Nineveh Plain. The area is comprised generally of ethno-religious minorities including Assyrians, Yezidis, and Shabaks.”

Alda Benjamen, *Assyrians in Iraq’s Nineveh Plains: Grass-Root Organizations and Inter-Communal Conflict* (The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq Newsletter, 2011), 13.

**ABC-CLIO: *Ethnic Groups of Africa and the Middle East, An Encyclopedia***  
(2011)

“Some of the confusion has been fed by the existence of several national churches among Assyrians. These include the Chaldean Catholic Church, the Syriac Orthodox Church (Miaphysite), the Assyrian Church of the East, the Ancient Church of the East, and the Syriac Catholic Church. [...] The existence of separate churches for a community that spoke dialects of the same language prevented a rise of a unified Assyrian identity until the modern period.”

John A. Shoup, *Ethnic Groups of Africa and the Middle East, An Encyclopedia* (California: ABC-CLIO, 2011), 31.

**The Guardian: “The desperate plight of Iraq’s Assyrians and other minorities”**  
(December 2011)

“The victims were Assyrians—an ethnically and linguistically discrete people also known as Chaldeans or Syriacs according to denomination—and Yazidis, members of two ancient communities who, like all the vulnerable elements of Iraqi society, have suffered disproportionately in the aftermath of the war.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/dec/24/iraq-minorities-assyrians>

**The Washington Times: “TIMMERMAN: Iraqi Christians to Congress: Please help”**  
(March 2011)

“Fais Abid Mikha, the mayor of Alqosh - home to a 7th-century Christian monastery and once the seat of the [Assyrian] Church of the East - had similar complaints of Kurdish exactions.”

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/mar/1/iraqi-christians-to-congress-please-help/>

**Human Rights Watch: “At a Crossroads: Human Rights in Iraq Eight Years After the US-Led Invasion”**

(February 2011)

The government has failed to stop targeted attacks against any of its minority groups, including Chaldo-Assyrians, Yazidis, Shabaks, and Turkmen. It has also failed to conduct thorough and impartial investigations when attacks occur, and to bring those responsible to justice, adding to a climate of impunity.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2011/02/21/crossroads/human-rights-iraq-eight-years-after-us-led-invasion>

**Jewish Herald-Voice: “Assyrians in Iraq face a stark choice: convert, die or leave”**

(December 2010)

“The church attack was the first time that most Western media had covered any news of the Assyro-Chaldean community in Iraq. In larger context, the Assyrians are targets of persecutions from Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis. Lacking the power or influence to defend themselves, they are in danger of disappearing as a community in Iraq.”

<http://jhvonline.com/assyrians-in-iraq-face-a-stark-choice-convert-die-or-leave-p10247-96.htm>

**San Diego Reader: “Breakfast in Baghdad at Sagmani’s Restaurant”**

(December 2010)

“‘Saint Charbel,’ says Mr. Sagmani. ‘He is a Maronite Catholic saint. He was a hermit in Lebanon. I am Chaldean. Assyrian Catholic.’”

<https://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2010/dec/01/tin-fork-breakfast-baghdad-sagmanis-restaurant/#>

**BBC: “Iraqi Christians’ long history”**

(November 2010)

“They embraced Christianity in the 1st Century AD, with their Church of the East believed to be the oldest in Iraq.

Assyrians also belong to the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Chaldean Church, and various Protestant denominations.”

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11669994>

**ABC News: “Christianity’s Modern-Day Martyrs: Victims of Radical Islam”**

(March 2010)

“It’s home to the Syriac Orthodox Assyrians...members of the oldest Christian groups in the world.”

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/christian-martyrs-victims-radical-islam/story?id=9976549>

**Hammurabi Human Rights Organization: “The Struggle to Exist”**

(February 2010)

“Assyrians constitute Iraq’s indigenous Christian population and now number between 600,000 and 800,000. In 2003 their population was estimated at 1.4 million, and they now constitute a third of Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries. Close to two-thirds of them belong to the Chaldean Catholic Church, and roughly one-fifth belong to the Assyrian Church of the East. The rest belong to the Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac Catholic Church, Ancient Church of the East, and various protestant denominations. They call themselves Suraye, which is descended from the ancient term denoting a citizen of the Assyrian Empire.”

<http://www.aina.org/reports/acetste.pdf>

**Human Rights Watch: “On Vulnerable Ground”**

(November 2009)

Extremist elements among the insurgents have viciously attacked the Chaldo-Assyrian, Yazidi, and Shabak communities, labeling them crusaders, devil-worshippers, and infidels, respectively. Simultaneous truck bombings in Nineveh in August 2007, presumably by armed Islamists, killed more than 300 Yazidis and wounded more than 700 in the single worst attack against civilians since the start of the war. In late 2008 a systematic and orchestrated campaign of targeted killings and violence by insurgents left 40 Chaldo-Assyrians dead and more than 12,000 displaced from their homes in Mosul.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2009/11/10/vulnerable-ground/violence-against-minority-communities-nineveh-provinces-disputed>

**Foreign Policy Magazine: “Does Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Have Jewish Roots?”**

(October 2009)

But this can also indicate an Armenian or even an Assyrian (Nestorian-Chaldean) background and, therefore, identify Muslims with a Christian family heritage — something other observers have picked up on. However, Jewish cloth weavers and dyers were more common during the past century in the region around the family’s hometown of Aradan than were Armenian and Assyrian weavers and dyers.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2009/10/06/does-mahmoud-ahmadinejad-have-jewish-roots/>

**PBS: “Christianity’s Lost History”**

(April 2009)

“Jenkins relates the tale of one of the most active priests in Mosul, Father Ragheed Ganni of the Chaldean Catholic Church, a body that, although in communion with Rome, actually traces its origins to the Nestorians of the [Assyrian] Church of the East.”

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2009/05/01/april-29-2009-christianitys-lost-history/2834/>

**Rogers Williams University: *Ethno-cultural and Religious Identity of Syrian Orthodox Christians***  
(2009)

“However, in the sense of being part of a greater ethnic community, it is apparent that those who consider themselves ‘Assyrian’ share this in common with others outside of their ecclesiastic sect whereas ‘Aramean’ is almost solely representative of Syrian Orthodox Christians.<sup>5</sup> ‘Assyrian’, in this sense, is both a foundation and an outlet for the creation of a cohesive identity by which secular members (and originally clergy) of the Syrian Orthodox Church identify with. (See Appendix C) Nonetheless, in the case of the Syrian Orthodox, it must be perfectly clear that the invention of its own ethnic group, such as in the case of the former Yugoslavia, is solely based along religious lines.”

Sargon G. Donabed and Shamiran Mako, *Ethno-Cultural and Religious Identity of Syrian Orthodox Christians* (Rogers Williams University, 2009), 75.

Accessible here: [https://docs.rwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=fcas\\_fp](https://docs.rwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=fcas_fp)

**CNN: “Iraq Christians face ‘bleak future’”**  
(December 2008)

“A recent commission report outlined chilling abuse that Christians suffer in Muslim-dominated Iraq. It sounded an alarm about the treatment of minorities such as Chaldo-Assyrian Christians, an ancient people who embraced the Christian faith in its early years and still speak a form of Aramaic, the language of Jesus.”

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/12/24/iraq.christians/index.html>

**Northern Illinois University Law Review: *The Urgent Reawakening of the Assyrian Question in an Emerging Iraqi Federalism: The Self-Determination of the Assyrian People***  
(2008)

“Since the fall of the ancient Assyrian Empire, Assyrians have remained in Iraq for the past two thousand five hundred years. It has been a continuous and rich, yet often burdensome and suffering heritage. Descending from the ancient Assyrian Empire, modern Assyrians possess a distinct ethnicity. As such, Assyrians constitute the Aramaic-speaking Christians who live in Iraq, the Middle East, and throughout the world. Worldwide, the Assyrian ethnic population has been estimated at nearly 4.25 million. Today within Iraq, Assyrians constitute

approximately three percent of the population, concentrating mainly in the Nineveh Plains in northern Iraq. Outside Iraq, a vast number of other Assyrians are dispersed throughout the world in numerous countries.”

Paul A. Isaacs, *The Urgent Reawakening of the Assyrian Question in an Emerging Iraqi Federalism: The Self-Determination of the Assyrian People* (Northern Illinois University Law Review, 2008)

**Catholic News Agency: Assyrian Bishop Explains His Journey into Communion with the Catholic Church**

(June 2008)

“Last month, Bishop Mar Bawai Soro and nearly 1,000 Assyrian Christian families were received into communion with the Chaldean Catholic Church in California. Bishop Bawai explained the process to CNA, and expressed his hope that other Assyrian churches will also consider uniting with the Catholic Church. [...] However, at the beginning in the sixteenth century, large numbers of Nestorian Assyrians came into union with Rome, creating the Chaldean Catholic Church which is now larger than the Assyrian Church.”

[https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/assyrian\\_bishop\\_explains\\_his\\_journey\\_into\\_communion\\_with\\_the\\_catholic\\_church](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/assyrian_bishop_explains_his_journey_into_communion_with_the_catholic_church)

**SAGE Publications: *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society***  
(2008)

“Although kinship ties have been paramount in the everyday lives of Assyrians, more inclusive ones manifest themselves as well. Since its inception in 1933, the Assyrian American National Federation (AANF) has served as an umbrella group for a myriad Assyrian, Chaldean, and Syriac organizations. A striking component of Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac life in the United States are the AANF’s annual national conventions held in Chicago, Turlock, Philadelphia, Detroit, San Diego, central Connecticut, and other locations. Up to thousands of Assyrians converge on these conventions, which serve political, educational, cultural, and social functions, reestablishing ties and revivifying community sentiments.”

Richard T. Schaefer, *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society* (SAGE Publications, 2008).

**New York Times: “Far from War, a Town with a Well-Used Welcome Mat”**

(June 2007)

“But Sodertalje has been a magnet for Christian refugees since the late 1960s, when Assyrian immigrants from Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey established a thriving community here. After the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and now, as extremists in Iraq step up their persecution of non-Muslims, more and more are trying to get here.

‘They come here to survive,’ said Jalal Hammo, the chairman of St. John’s, a Chaldean Catholic Church, who arrived from Iraq in 1994. “The terrorists do all they can to make all Christians leave Iraq.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/13/world/europe/13sweden.html?mtrref=www.google.com&gwh=62094FEB15A0B744BDCC9CAA0DDC22C2&gwt=pay>

**Iraq Sustainable Democracy Project: “ChaldoAssyrians: Resolving the Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac Identity Crisis”**

(July 2007)

This “identity crisis”, for lack of a better term, is at the root of a political tragedy unfolding in Iraq for this community. They are failing to realize their core interests on all major political issues – federalism, security, reconstruction – mainly due to those exploiting the Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac identity crisis. For Iraqi and American onlookers this can only be viewed with bemusement and/or pity. For the people, it is the reason why their political potential remains wholly unrealized and their people remain vulnerable to every form of persecution in Iraq today as a result.

[http://www.iraqdemocracyproject.org/issuefocus\\_chaldo.html](http://www.iraqdemocracyproject.org/issuefocus_chaldo.html)

**AINA: “Kurds Block Assyrians, Shabaks from Police Force in North Iraq”**

(June 2006)

“Earlier this year, at the request of the local Assyrian (also known as Chaldean and Syriac) and Shabak communities of the Nineveh Plain, and the local police force of the Hamdaniya and Telkaif districts, the Ministry of Interior gave the order to assign approximately 800 new policemen from the local communities in the two Nineveh Plain Districts.”

<http://www.aina.org/releases/20060624123753.htm>

**Iraq Sustainable Democracy Project: “Cultural Rights and Democracy: Iraqi Assyrians a Case Study for Government Intervention”**  
(November 2006)

“Assyrian is the term used here, but includes the Chaldeans and Syriacs, who all comprise one nation. In the Transitional Administrative Law, these people were identified as ChaldoAssyrian. The challenge faced by the author in using the term Assyrian throughout the paper is overcoming the problem of how it is necessary to be used today, but only in formats that indicate the ‘oneness’ of the Assyrian people and the fact that ‘ChaldoAssyrian’ represents a political identification.”

<http://www.iraqdemocracyproject.org/pdf/CulturalGenocideofAssyriansinIraq.pdf>

**AINA: 4 Assyrians Killed in Assassination Attempt on Former Iraq Assyrian Minister**  
(September 2005)

“Four Assyrian men were killed and another wounded yesterday when their vehicle was fired upon by unknown assailants. The men were bodyguards for Pascale Warda Esho, also an Assyrian and Iraq's former Minister of Immigration and Refugees, and were on their way to collect Mrs. Esho. The minister was not present at the time of the attack and is unharmed. The killed and wounded were members of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, the main Assyrian political party in Iraq.

Killed were brothers Daniel Nissan Philipos (27) and Ninos Nissan Philipos (30), from the town of Dehe, Mahir Muneb Hanna (27), from the town of Telkepe, Johnny Youkhanna David (30), from the town of Dawedeya; Nabeel Mati, the commanding officer from Bartilla, was injured but is expected to survive.”

<http://www.aina.org/news/20050923112027.htm>

**Simo Parpola, University of Helsinki: *Assyrian Identity in Ancient Times and Today***  
(2004)

“Today, the Assyrian nation largely lives in diaspora, split into rivaling churches and political factions. The fortunes of the people that constitute it have gone different ways over the millennia, and their identities have changed accordingly. The Syriacs in the west have absorbed many influences from the Greeks, while the Assyrians in the east have since ancient times been under Iranian cultural influence. Ironically, as members of the Chaldean

Catholic Church (established in 1553 but effectively only in 1830), many modern Assyrians originating from central Assyria now identify with "Chaldeans", a term associated with the Syriac language in the 16th century but ultimately derived from the name of the dynasty that destroyed Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire!

Disunited, dispersed in exile, and as dwindling minorities without full civil rights in their homelands, the Assyrians of today are in grave danger of total assimilation and extinction (Aprim 2003). In order to survive as a nation, they must now unite under the Assyrian identity of their ancestors. It is the only identity that can help them to transcend the differences between them, speak with one voice again, catch the attention of the world, and regain their place among the nations.”

Accessible here: [http://www.nineveh.com/parpola\\_eng.pdf](http://www.nineveh.com/parpola_eng.pdf)

**Routledge: *The Church of the East: A Concise History***  
(2003)

“Finally, another term is used, referring to the part of the ancient Church of the East which since the sixteenth century has been in communion with the Roman Catholic Church: the “Chaldean Catholic Church.” It is the Catholic counterpart of the “Church of the East” in the Near East and the Diaspora.”

Wilhem Baum and Dietmar W. Winkler, *The Church of the East: A Concise History* (Routledge, 2003), 5.

**AINA: President Bush Includes Assyrians in Iraqi Political Formula**  
(2002)

“In a historic and highly symbolic gesture, the U.S. President also specifically referred to Assyrians (including Chaldeans and Syriacs) in his address stating that with the liberation of Iraq “The oppression of Kurds, Assyrians, Turkomans, Shi’a, Sunnis and others will be lifted. The long captivity of Iraq will end, and an era of new hope will begin.”

<http://www.aina.org/releases/bushspeech.htm>

**The Vatican: Guidelines for Admission to the Eucharist Between the Chaldean Church and the Assyrian Church of the East**  
(2001)

It states, “Since the very early times of Christian missionary activity, a flourishing local Church developed in Mesopotamia or Persia. As this Church was situated outside the eastern borders of the Roman Empire, it became commonly called the “Church of the East”. In 1552, after a series of individual conversions of bishops or provisional unions, part of the “Church of the East” entered into full communion with the Apostolic See of Rome. Since then, the particular Church in full communion with Rome has usually been called the “Chaldean Church”, while the other particular Church took the name of “Assyrian Church of the East”. Both particular Churches, however, still share the same theological, liturgical and spiritual tradition; they both celebrate the Sacraments or Sacred Mysteries according to the East-Syriac tradition.”

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/documents/rc\\_pc\\_chrstuni\\_doc\\_20011025\\_chiesa-caldea-assira\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/documents/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20011025_chiesa-caldea-assira_en.html)

**United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services**  
(June 2000)

“Chaldean and Assyrian Christians have the same ethnic and linguistic background, though as Eastern Rite Catholics, Chaldeans recognize the primacy of the Roman Catholic Pope while Assyrian Christians, who are not Catholic, do not (Journalist 17 May 2000; Minority Rights Group International 1997, 346). The Assyrians and Chaldeans are non-Arab, though the Iraqi government defines them as Arab, purportedly to increase identification of Iraqi Christians with the largely Sunni-Arab regime in Baghdad. [...]

There is a movement within the Assyrian and Chaldean communities in Iraq to unite, at least for administrative purposes. The idea of including Assyrian and Chaldean Christians under the common name of Assyrian Christians was fuelled by the U.S. Census Bureau's decision of April 1999 to count both groups as such in the U.S. 2000 Census, and "will have a direct impact in northern Iraq" in regard to the electoral census soon to be held by the Kurdish government (AINA 13 June 1999; *RFE/RL Iraq Report* 25 June 1999). Assyrian patriarchs, the Assyrian American National Federation, and the Chaldean Federation of America have endorsed the idea and have stated that Assyrians and Chaldeans are indeed one people (AINA 13 June 1999; *RFE/RL Iraq Report* 25 June 1999).”

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/3dee0b564.html>

**The Assyrian Australian Academic Society: “Who are the Assyrians?”**  
(July 2000)

“The Assyrian nation, apart from undergoing an ongoing genocide, has also suffered a cultural genocide that has attacked the Assyrian identity and questioned its origins and unity as a people. Assyrians have come to be called Nestorians, Chaldeans, Jacobites, Syriacs, Syrians, Maronites and Melkites through religious influences and by the governments that now rule over portions of what is their ancestral homeland. As esteemed social anthropologist Dr. Arian Ishaya of UCLA in her paper Intellectual Domination and the Assyrians states, there are different ways of dominating a people, those most direct being to take hold of their land and resources, deny them statehood, and force their manpower to do the labour work or fight the battles of the conqueror. But she also mentions that domination may also come in a more indirect, abstract form which is intellectual, this form being the most dangerous as it penetrates the victim’s inner feelings and thoughts. Thus, she determines, the victim remains unaware and willingly subjugates itself to intellectual domination.”

Accessible here: [http://www.nestorian.org/who\\_are\\_the\\_assyrians.html](http://www.nestorian.org/who_are_the_assyrians.html)

**Chaldeans Online: “Contemporary Chaldeans and Assyrians: One Primordial Nation, One Original Church” by Chaldean Bishop Sarhad Jammo**  
(2000)

“Therefore, if we pose again the question: who are the actual Christians of Iraq, i.e. the Chaldeans, the Assyrians as well as the Syrians, from the civil point of view? The answer should be: They are the descendants of the ancient inhabitants of Mesopotamia. To the question: What is their ethnic and cultural background? Then, I would answer: study the history of ancient Iraq; because that same history is their history; that same culture is their culture; that same Aramaic language is their language.”

<http://www.chaldeansonline.org/chald.html>

**Chaldeans Online: “Who are the Chaldeans?”**  
(1999)

“Today, there are still thousands among the Assyrians who are Christians but not Roman Catholics. Those who are Catholics belong to what is commonly known as the "Chaldean" Church. [...] The Chaldeans and Assyrians of the old were ethnically, culturally, and linguistically the same people divided along political and religious allegiances. [...]The two

names, "Chaldean" and "Assyrian", are still widely used to indicate same nation and people. In the area of religion, "Chaldean" still applies to all Chaldean Catholics of Iraq who use the Syriac language and follow the teachings of Rome. The term "Assyrian" is used to identify the followers of the Church of the East, and has been employed as a name for the Church since 1986."

<http://www.chaldeansonline.org/chald.html>

**University Press of America: *The Political Dictionary of the Modern Middle East***  
(1995)

"Remnants of the people of ancient Mesopotamia, succeeding the Sumero-Akkadians and the Babylonians as one continuous civilization. They are among the first nations who accepted Christianity. They belong to one of the four churches: the Chaldean Uniate, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Syrian Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. Due to the ethnic-political conflict in the Middle East, they are better known by these ecclesiastical designations.

Agnes G. Korbani, *The Political Dictionary of the Modern Middle East* (University Press of America, 1995).

**Catholic Encyclopedia (Volume 3): "Chaldean Christians"**  
(1913)

"Strictly, the name of *Chaldeans* is no longer correct; in Chaldea proper, apart from Baghdad, there are now very few adherents of this rite, most of the Chaldean population being found in the cities of Kerkuk, Arbil, and Mosul, in the heart of the Tigris valley, in the valley of the Zab, in the mountains of Kurdistan. It is in the former ecclesiastical province of Ator (Assyria) that are now found the most flourishing of the Catholic Chaldean communities. The native population accepts the name of Atoraya-Kaldaya (Assyro-Chaldeans) while in the neo-Syriac vernacular Christians generally are known as Syrians."

Accessible here: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03559a.htm>