



From 2014

'N', or ن pronounced 'noon' in Arabic, is the symbol used by the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) to identify who is a Nazarene – who is a Christian. It has been drawn on doorways and in front of houses in captured Iraqi cities, allowing militants to quickly assert where the loyalties of the inhabitants lie.

**ISIS** = Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. **ISIL** = Islamic State of Iraq and Levant.

**Levant** includes Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and everyone else they can conquer.

**Their stated goal: A Caliphate to be called PERSIA.**

**Caliphate** = A religious country ruled by a Caliph or Muslim religious ruler, like a king, whose power and authority is absolute.



**Like the Nazis before them, ISIS is targeting Christians.**

In June, members of the extremist Sunni Muslim faction drove Christians out of the historic city of Mosul, where members of the faith have lived for the past 2,000 years. They were told to either flee the city, convert to Islam, or pay a tax for the right to be a Christian. Those who refused now risk death "by the sword".



"For the first time in the history of Iraq, Mosul is now empty of Christians," Patriarch Louis Sako said (pictured at right). He is the current Chaldean Catholic **Patriarch of Babylon** and the Head of the Chaldean Catholic Church since his election on 1 February 2013.

"The heinous crime of the Islamic State was carried out not just against Christians, but against humanity," he added in a sermon in Baghdad on

Sunday, which was attended by local Christians and around 200 Muslims - many of whom wore t-shirts branded with the words "We are N", "I am Iraqi, I am Christian".

"This has never happened in Christian or Islamic history," Bishop Sako warned.

People all over the world are now joining in with the condemnation of ISIS, which is attempting to found an Islamic state across a stretch of northern Iraq and Syria.



**The LONDON Times** yesterday published a letter by former bishop, Dr Geoffrey Rowell, in which he denounced the "savage attacks" on "ancient Christian communities" in the Middle East, labelling them "deeply troubling" and "chilling".

Referring to the storming of a fourth-century Syrian monastery by the Islamic State on Sunday, in an attack which forced the resident monks to flee, Rowell wrote: "The desecration of churches and tombs, the seizure of the ancient monastery and pilgrimage place of Mar Behnam, the human tragedies of refugee families dispossessed of their homes, are an unfolding tragedy in

the latest martyrdom suffered by Christians".

As ISIS continues to gain momentum and followers, fears are mounting that it will soon capture Iraq's capital Baghdad. Militants have claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in the city last night, which killed 3

3 civilians and injured dozens more.

### **Lebanese TV station**

According to Lebanon's Daily Star, the campaign began this week with anchor Dima Sadeq appearing on television wearing a shirt with the Arabic N on it and giving a monologue explaining the network's support for Iraqi Christians. **BCI** has added the Arabic letter "N" to its name in solidarity with Iraqi Christians, who are being persecuted for their faith by the jihadist terror group Islamic State or ISIS. Supporters of Christians on social media adopted the Arabic "N" as a symbol after Islamic State terrorists used it to mark the homes of Christians in Mosul.

A 5-year-old boy, who is the son of a founding member of St. George's Anglican Church in Baghdad, was slaughtered by Islamic State terrorists, better known as ISIS, who cut the boy in half during an attack on the Christian town of Qaraqosh.

Anglican **Canon Andrew White** of St. George's Church (pictured at right) told the Anglican Communion News Service Friday reported, "I'm almost in tears because I've just had somebody in my room whose little child was cut in half. I baptized his child in my church in Baghdad. This little boy, they named him after me — he was called Andrew."



Christian refugees who fled to Qaraqosh seeking shelter in the Christian town were forced to flee again by the tens of thousands last Thursday as Islamic State forces began invading.

The deceased boy's parents and brother, George, who's named after the Anglican church in Baghdad, have reportedly fled with other Christians to the city of Arbil where the U.S. consulate is located, which President Barack Obama said would be protected by the U.S. military through targeted airstrikes against Islamic State convoys.

Kirdish fighters, according to Reuters, controlled wide stretches of territory outside the autonomous zone, which served as a sanctuary for fleeing Christians and other religious minorities before Islamic State terrorists arrived in the region last month.

Shamil Abu Madian, a 45-year-old Christian, told Reuters that he fled the city of Mosul when it fell in June. He then sought refuge in a town protected by the Kurdish forces, "but was forced to flee again in panic in the middle of the night when the Kurdish troops suddenly vanished."

"We were not able to take anything with us except some clothes in a nylon bag," Abu Madian said. "People are living on sidewalks, in public gardens, anywhere."

**Canon Andrew White, also known as the Vicar of Baghdad**, said that with the financial contributions of supporters overseas, the Anglican church in Iraq has been able to provide food, water and supplies to Christians and other targeted religious groups who've fled Mosul and Nineveh for regions further north to escape Islamic State terrorists. We need two things: **prayer and money**," White said. "With those two we can do something. Without those we can do nothing." Note: Andrew has MS.

He continued, "I have three 'P's that I always mention which is for **protection, provision and perseverance**. We need protection, we need to provide for those people and we need to keep going.



**ISIS crucifying believers. This is one of many disturbing images on the Internet.**

"Three hundred thousand Christians have had to flee from Nineveh, where Jonah the prophet preached, and from Mosul to Kurdistan in the north. They are living on parking lots. In schools. In churches. All they have has been taken. No food. No clothing. No place to go. There has been nothing like this since the Holocaust. Then the Jews were targeted with a Star of David on their clothes and businesses. Now here the Christians are marked with a big 'N' for Nazarene. Then the Nazis came for the Jews. Now the ISIS radicals are coming for the Christians. Our church is

being persecuted. St. George's church in Bagdad, Iraq is relatively safe for now, but it's only because of the Iraqi soldiers. If ISIS comes, they will flee."

Andrew will stay in Bagdad, ministering, praying, helping. His foundation is the only one on the ground able to deliver food and clothing to the desperate refugees in the north. He will not leave.



Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we bring before you today the people of Syria and Iraq, asking you to be their defender and help in their time of need. Walk with them in their suffering and loss, and give them strength to face the days ahead. We pray for release of the captives and freedom for those held hostage. We pray for your intervention against the violence and evil against your people. We pray for your provision for the hungry, the homeless, and the bereaved. We pray for you to help your people who are called by your Name, Jesus' Name, and it is in His Name we ask these things. Amen. [from ACNA website]

**We must not be silent:** <http://www.anglicanchurch.net/?/main/page/866>

### **PSALM 83** excerpts

O God, do not keep silence;  
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!  
For behold, your enemies make an uproar;  
those who hate you have raised their heads.  
They lay crafty plans against your people;  
they consult together against your treasured ones.  
For they conspire with one accord;  
against you they make a covenant—  
O my God, make them like whirling dust,  
like chaff before the wind.

As fire consumes the forest,  
as the flame sets the mountains ablaze,  
so may you pursue them with your tempest  
and terrify them with your hurricane!

Fill their faces with shame,  
that they may seek your name, O LORD.

Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever;  
let them perish in disgrace,

that they may know that you alone,  
whose name is the LORD,  
are the Most High over all the earth.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach salvation to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, especially in Syria and Iraq; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.