

**Prevent the Ethno-Religious Extermination of Iraq’s Indigenous, Christian Assyrians:
The “Nineveh Plain Province Solution” – A Legislative Proposal**

Christian Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs) in Iraq are facing ethno-religious extermination. A crime against humanity has been ongoing for at least 6 years now and requires urgent intervention by the U.S. Government. Since 2005, the indigenous Assyrians have constituted upwards of 20% of Iraqi refugees, four times their proportion of the population. Christian Assyrians are suffering an ongoing ‘slow genocide’. Islamist extremists intend to destroy the Assyrian population in Iraq. This slow genocide began with the end of World War One, when the British withdrawal of forces from Iraq left Assyrians exposed to systematic persecution. In 1933, Iraqi leaders initiated this ongoing slow genocide by killing over 3,000 Assyrians in Simele, Iraq.

We are asking your support for the “Nineveh Plain Province Solution” (NPPS). The NPPS is a legislative proposal designed to empower Christian Assyrians and other vulnerable Iraqi minorities to pursue those policies that give them a chance to *survive* and *thrive* in Iraq.

Of the 1.4 million Assyrians in Iraq in 2003, at least 400,000 to 500,000 are now refugees. Thousands upon thousands of Christian Assyrians have become internally displaced persons with the overwhelming majority voting with their feet and arriving in the Nineveh Plain. Declaring your support for the formation of the Nineveh Plain Province is politically and symbolically important. Your declaration of support along with committing the necessary fiscal support for this policy can save one of America’s significant allies in Iraq.

For the first time since the liberation of Iraq, there is parity in the number of IDP families arriving in the Nineveh Plain with families fleeing the Nineveh Plain as refugees. ‘Tipping Point’ is the only way to view the situation in light of the figures set forth in Table 1.

Table 1: Nineveh Plain – IDP Families¹ Inflow and Refugee Outflow (By Targeted Wave)²

Waves 1-5 Category	Jan 2005 to Aug. 2006 (20 months)	Sept. 2006 to Sept 2008 (25 months)	Oct 2008 to Dec 2009 (15 months)	Jan 2010 to Sept 2010 (9 months)	Oct 2010 to Present (6 months)
New IDP Arrivals to NP	2971	7016	2138	559	410
Refugee flight from NP	420	1325	1106	468	383
Avg # of IDP in p/m	148	280	142	62	68
Avg # of IDP out p/m	21	53	74	52	64
Ratio: NP IDP inflow vs Refugee outflow	7 : 1	5.3 : 1	2 : 1	1.2 : 1	1 : 1

¹ The average family consists of 5 persons – information compiled from Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq and Nineveh Center for Research and Development databases following five discernable waves of violence targeting Assyrians.

² These are figures tracked for Christian Assyrians and do not include Shabaks, Yezidis and Turkmens.

2010 will be defined for all of Iraq's ethno-religious minorities by the October 31st extermination of 58³ Iraqi Christian Assyrians at the evening mass for All Saints Day. Yezidis, Shabaks, Turkmens and all minorities collectively rallied alongside Christian Assyrians to confront the undeniable fact that their future in Iraq *is* in peril. 2011 and 2012 will be seen as the tipping point if the U.S. Government does not define an ethno-religious minorities policy. *The Nineveh Plain Province Solution provides the most effective and feasible basis of such a policy.*

A Nineveh Plain Province tied directly to the central government in Iraq's burgeoning system of federalism is a stated political objective of all major Assyrian political groups and institutions. The first phase of the plan requires \$128 million and the medium expenditure framework calls for just over \$300 million. This political and fiscal commitment represents the most humanitarian but also fiscally prudent solution to this crisis. If extermination of the Assyrians continues it will result in a minority refugee exodus. The **\$128 million** can be contrasted with the roughly **\$8 billion** it would cost to relocate the minorities of the Nineveh Plain.

The "Nineveh Plain Province Solution" requests that the U.S. Government assist in funding Assyrians, Shabaks, Yezidis and other vulnerable minorities in the community dialogue around forming the province – a political demand they have already collectively articulated. It also asks the U.S. Government to commit funding to the basic infrastructure of the Nineveh Plain and to support the construction of a university and provincial-level hospital in the Nineveh Plain. Finally, the plan asks decision-makers to commit to expanding recruitment, training and resourcing for the Nineveh Plain Police Force.

The full details of the Nineveh Plain Province Solution are elaborated in the Iraq Sustainable Democracy Project (ISDP) report, [At the Tipping Point: A Nineveh Plain Province and Related Solutions to Iraq's Indigenous Minority Crisis](#). We are asking you to join with your colleagues in the United States Congress to give resounding support for the Nineveh Plain Province Solution. Please contact ISDP's Project Director Michael Youash at the following email address for the detail of the NPPS: michael.youash@iraqdemocracyproject.org.

In 1999 the Clinton Administration began declaring the killings of Kosovar Albanians genocide after a single day attack that left 44 dead. The October 31st extermination of 58 Christian Assyrians in the context of systematic genocidal attacks since at least 2005 and within the broader history of Iraq merits even greater American concern, given the U.S. presence in Iraq. The Department of State is requesting \$1 billion dollars for its Iraq programs for 2012. The Department of State has not actively engaged Iraq's minority crisis unless explicitly directed by Congress. Christian Assyrians also have the fundamental right to exist. Assyrians in Iraq and in America deserve your support for the Nineveh Plain Province Solution. The policy represents just **10 percent** of DoS' FY 2012 budget request. The indigenous Christian Assyrians have the right to live; they deserve the 10 percent to make the policy a reality.

³ This figure includes two unborn persons who died in their mothers' wombs.