



Office of the General Secretary

مَكْتَبُ الْأَمِينِ الْعَامِ

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**A Statement Issued by the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and
Lebanon**

**The Plight of the Christians in Areas controlled by ISIS
In Syria and Iraq**

The churches of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) are extremely disturbed by what is befalling the Christian communities in Areas controlled by what is called the Islamic state of Iraq and (Sham) Levant, in recent months.

For over two years a group of fighters calling themselves Daesh (ISIS) have controlled some Syrian parts in the North East of the borders, declaring some Islamic Emarats here and there. Islamic Laws (Shareaat) has been implemented on all, destroying churches, breaking crosses and Icons in churches, giving the Christian community choices, of converting to Islam, paying jezia, (kind of tax), get killed, leave homes behind, with all they have, as there will be no place for the Christians in the Islamic state. Many Christians who never lived anywhere else chose to leave running away as displace or refugees inside Syria or outside it when they were able.

In recent weeks Daesh has captured the city of Mosul, and Nineve and Karakosh, and other towns, in Iraq, where the Christians have lived for centuries and never lived anywhere else. Mass killing and dismissal of the Christians in all these areas. Women and children have even been sold on the streets.

Men are killed and tortured. The total Christian communities had to run away and become refugees in the mountains and forests. Children die of the lack of water and food. It is reported that churches were destroyed and defiled, or turned into an Islamic prayer center with black flags instead of the original crosses. Even Christian cemeteries have been destroyed so that no Christian signs appear in those areas.



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Yet the atrocities were not limited to the Christians but included all other minorities who have lived in those areas for ever. No doubt, many have seen on face books a line of women chained together, covered with black taken to be sold. Seen and news are beyond what one can believe. A total human tragedies befalling Christians and other minorities in the north of Iraq, just because they are of different faith, Alas!!!!!!

We as churches in the Synod of Syria and Lebanon CRY to God for help and mercy. We cry to all Christian churches around the world to move, raise their voices to the world powers to stop such inhuman acts against humanity.

We call upon the world to motivate every possibility to prevent inhalation of the Christians and other minorities on the hand of criminal groups such as Daesh in this part of the world where Christianity was born and from where Christian missionaries spread the love of God through Christ to the world.

Indeed we cry to God who is the Father of all humanity to give peace and bring this tragic situation to an end.

We urge all Christians around the world to raise voices and act so that the world would comprehend the tragedy and do whatever is possible to motivate every government to stop supporting, arming and encouraging such groups who are far from any concept of religion except being killers.

In God we trust and to God we cry .

God is able but God works though human hands and minds and hearts.

Rev. Fadi Dagher

General Secretary

