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International Prayer Alert

13 June 2014

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Urgent Prayer for the Iraq Situation

Iraqi Christians have requested urgent prayer as the situation deteriorates virtually to the point of all-out civil war.

Sunni militants, many aligned with the radical Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), an al-Qaeda off-shoot group, began their violent take-over on Friday 6th June. ISIS has full control of the northern cities of Mosul and Tikrit and has this morning seized Saadiyah and Jalawla in the eastern province of Diyala. Meanwhile, Kurdish forces, who are seen as a bulwark against the Sunni Muslim insurgents, say they have taken control of Kirkuk.

A spokesman for the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, told Sky News that she is 'extremely concerned' by summary executions, extrajudicial killings and the displacement of more than 500,000 people. By Wednesday 11, half a million residents from the Mosul region had fled from the violence, many attempting to find refuge in the nearby Kurdish provinces of Northern Iraq. numbers of people have been displaced in other areas.

Pray: that Christians of Mosul, Kirkuk, Bagdad and surrounding areas will know the presence of Jesus, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of the Father. Pray: that humanitarian assistance would reach all who are in need, whether displaced or remaining in situ.

At the time of compiling this bulletin, Sunni insurgents have vowed to march on to Baghdad. The Iraqi Parliament has delayed voting on a request to grant the PM emergency powers due to it failing to reach the necessary quorum. Government forces have reportedly launched air strikes against positions held by militants in Tikrit and Mosul. The US says it is considering further assistance to Iraq, without giving details.

Pray: for the government and military to be united and strong in dealing with this invasion and not to be intimidated.

Pray: that they will be able to re-take the cities in the north and western parts of the country that have been overrun.

Hundreds of Christian families are among those fleeing the area, and at least one Assyrian church in Mosul has been burned down in the recent violence. Christians feel particularly vulnerable, especially in the light of the treatment of Christians in the Raqqah province of northern Syria. (In February, ISIS established its authority in Raqqah. Christian community leaders were forced to sign a contract agreeing pay a special tax (known as jizya). They were only allowed to have Christian meetings behind closed doors so as to be neither visible nor audible to Muslims, and Christians were to adhere to Islamic commercial, dress code and dietary regulations.)

Pray: that those who have chosen to remain in the cities would not be subjected to violent or unjust treatment.

Pray: that Christians will not be discouraged and will continue to unite in authoritative prayer for their nation.

Pray: that Christians throughout Iraq will know the peace and presence of Jesus each day, and will remain faithful to him and clear in their testimony.

Mosul and the surrounding Nineveh plain is the traditional heartland of Iraq's Christian communities. Many Christians fled to this region when forced to leave Baghdad and other areas in recent years. Christians are alarmed at the ISIS takeover bid for Iraq and fearful that this will further accelerate the decline of the Christian presence in Iraq.

Pray: that God will bring about His purposes for this nation and the surrounding areas.

Pray: that those who are perpetuating the conflict will know the Spirit's conviction of sin and come to understand the depth of Jesus' forgiveness.

A pastor from Iraq sent the following:

The terrorists have captured many towns, killing and destroying many buildings, burning anything they come across. The internet connection is very slow and sometimes disconnected. Huge numbers of families have already left their residences heading for nowhere. There is a huge need for food, blankets, shelters, medication, care for elders and children. There is a lack of everything. At least a couple of

million people are homeless in an extremely hot season topping 122 F. Many have fasted and prayed all day Wednesday for the intervention of the Lord to stop this unrest.'

Pray: for the millions of refugees that need shelter, food, and water; for a swift and well-co-ordinated response from the government, international community and humanitarian organisations.

Sources:

www.meconcern.org www.bbc.co.uk

This article was produced in association with www.prayer-alert.net

IPC Calendar

18- 22 June European Trumpet Call Prayer Conference Venko Nakov - vknakov@yahoo.co.uk

1-5th October - Hollywood Prayer Network - Prayer Summons Lisa Crump - lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org

28 June - 27 July - 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World www.waymakers.org/30-days

24-27 July - International Children Intercessors Conference Selvi Andrews - icic@royalkids.org

The IPC Website

The website consists of the following sections, and we would appreciate it if you could assist us in the following ways:

- 1. Home: Please send us news of *international prayer-related* interest such as upcoming initiatives and conferences. We will update our calendar regularly with such dates.
- Regions: Please send us strategic prayer requests and alerts for your nation or region.

Please send your suggestions to the IPC administrator Amazing Grace Cruz at office@ipcprayer.org

About International Prayer Connect (IPC)

OUR VISION:

"Compelled by God to seek Christ's glory worldwide for the blessing, healing, and transforming of the nations, International Prayer Connect

exists as a coalition of prayer networkers and mobilizers working together to motivate, develop and equip national movements and local churches to fill all nations with prayer for the fulfillment of the Great Commandment and the completion of the Great Commission."

HOW WE OPERATE:

The IPC is not an organization as such. We are a fellowship of people involved in mobilizing prayer throughout the world. We function as an international "network of networks", connecting international, regional, and national prayer ministries and networks. We also arrange or support special prayer initiatives that bring prayer leaders together from time to time to pray for matters of regional and global concern to the Body of Christ. Regional prayer summits have been arranged or supported by the IPC in most regions of the world as well as international prayer initiatives for the United Nations, Hollywood, and other issues.

The IPC is led by an international leadership team, now called the International Prayer Council, is composed of twenty leaders who coordinate regional prayer networks or international prayer initiatives of various kinds. We seek to be catalysts and connectors within the global prayer movement towards the fulfillment of Habakkuk 2:14 - that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

We do not have an official membership but connect with individuals and networks through *IPC Connections*, a periodical newsletter distributed via e-mail to give prayer information to interested people. Please share this newsletter with prayer coordinators, prayer network leaders, and others who have an interest in the global prayer movement so that they can be informed about different prayer initiatives, existing prayer networks, and how to participate in them.

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Contacting the IPC Office

Email: office@ipcprayer.org

Amazing Grace Cruz, IPC Administrator

IPC Website (News articles, Prayer Map, Free Resources and information for all ages):

www.ipcprayer.org

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