



ELCIC

*In Mission  
for Others*

# Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

July 30, 2014

## **Re: Expulsion of Christians in Mosul**

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I am writing to express my deep concern for the people of Mosul, who are living with intimidation and violence. In particular, I hear of Christians being targeted with threats and expelled from their homes and communities.

I am also concerned about reports that the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) is destroying holy sites. This represents an atrocious and long-term violation of religious freedom.

Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako, the Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of Baghdad, and Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, have called on Christians around the world to express their solidarity with those who are suffering.<sup>1</sup> A report by Amnesty International indicates that violations of international humanitarian law are being carried out by all sides, including ISIS and Iraqi Government forces.<sup>2</sup>

The world seems to be in danger of ignoring this tragic situation.

I urge the Government of Canada to take every opportunity to express its concern for the people of Mosul, and to call for an end to violence, intimidation and expulsion. And I encourage the Government of Canada to provide humanitarian aid to those forced to flee as refugees.

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<sup>1</sup> World Council of Churches media release; <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-expresses-concern-over-exodus-of-christian-community-in-mosul-iraq>.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Iraq: Civilians in the Line of Fire; Amnesty International; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE14/007/2014/en/8f5c6eb0-27e4-45d2-ac08-63fc5840d9a5/mde140072014en.pdf>.

My prayers are with all who suffer the effects of war, violence and expulsion. And my prayers are with you and the Government of Canada as you seek to promote peace, human rights and religious freedom around the world.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan C. Johnson", preceded by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson  
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

c.c. The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, The Leader of the Official Opposition  
Justin Trudeau, MP, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada  
Daniel Paillé, MP, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Elizabeth May, MP, Leader of the Green Party of Canada