

Violence, Persecution Put Iraqi Christianity on 'Verge of Extinction'

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An Iraqi archbishop warned during a speech last week that Christianity in his war-torn country is "on the very edge of extinction."

The Most Rev. Bashar Warda, the Archbishop of Erbil, told hundreds of religious leaders gathered for the G20 Religion Forum in Bali, Indonesia, he's fearful for the state of believers in his nation.

Warda decried the violence within Iraq's borders and warned of dire consequences if it isn't reined in. This included a purported threat of the end of the beleaguered Christian minority in Iraq, The Christian Post reported.

"The brutal logic of this is that there does eventually reach an end point where there are no minorities left to kill, and no minorities left to persecute," Warda said. "Such is the bleak future of religious pluralism in Iraq today."

He continued, "I pray that you will find in our story a clear warning to you all."

Warda said the violence crisis in Iraq must be addressed, as it threatens not only Iraqi Christians and other minority groups but also the entirety of the Middle East and other nearby regions.

"If this crisis is not acknowledged, addressed and fixed, then there can be no future for Christians or any other form of religious pluralism in the Middle East," he said.

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