



Islamic State threat to Iraqi minorities

Religious minorities in Iraq are facing the threat of “cleansing” by IS militants advancing across Iraq. The UN has warned that thousands of refugees on Mount Sinjar are now facing genocide

IRAQ'S RELIGIOUS MINORITIES


Mt Sinjar: 40,000 Yazidis and Christians have fled IS

 **Yazidi**
Influenced by Islam, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Judaism. 650,000 mostly ethnic Kurds




 **Assyrian Christian**
Estimated 800,000 across Iraq – but up to 150,000 may have left since 2003 U.S. invasion


 Mosul

 Kirkuk

 **Shabak**
Pre-Islamic, pre-Christian faith
Up to 500,000

 
Baghdad

 Islamic State (IS) presence
 Kurdish regional government
 Shia majority region

 **Armenian Christian**
70,000 mainly in Baghdad, Mosul, Basra

 **Mandaean Mandaism**
70,000 before 2003 invasion

Sources: Wire agencies, Shabak News, CIA Factbook

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SAUDI ARABIA

Basra

200km
120 miles