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## **The Status of the Christian Communities in Iraqi Kurdistan: Challenges & Opportunities**

**A conference for policy makers, researchers, and all those interested in  
the Middle East and religious freedom**

**Topics include:**

- history of Christianity in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR)
- mapping Christian communities in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region today
- analysis of challenges for religious minorities in IKR and the Middle East
- legal analysis of the Nineveh Plain questions
- reflections of American Christian leaders on their recent trip to the region
- accounts of Christians in the region themselves, including  
His Excellency Bashar Warda, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

**registration 8-8.30am, conference 8.30am – 4:30pm**  
**Carl Hadyn Room, U.S. Government Printing Office**  
**732 North Capitol Street, NW · Washington, D.C. 20401**

**For more information, please contact Constantia Dedoulis at [institutes@law.edu](mailto:institutes@law.edu)**  
**To register, please visit <http://www.law.edu/pathtopeace> by November 28**



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**The Iraqi Kurdistan Religious Freedom Program**

**THE STATUS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN IRAQI KURDISTAN:  
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

Wednesday, December 5, 2012  
*Carl Hadyn Room, U.S. Government Printing Office*  
*732 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20401*

8:00-8:30 AM	<b>Coffee and Registration</b>
8:30-9:00 AM	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>  <b>John H. Garvey, J.D.</b> President, The Catholic University of America Washington, D.C.  <b>Hon. Barbara A. Leaf</b> Deputy Assistant Secretary (Iraq) U.S. Department of State
<b>Session One</b>	<b>History of Christian Communities in Iraqi Kurdistan through the 1991 Gulf War</b>
9:00-10:15 AM	<b>Professor Dietmar W. Winkler, Ph.D.</b> University Professor, Patristic Studies & Ecclesiastical History; Director of the Mayr-Melnhof Institute for Eastern Christian Studies, University of Salzburg, Austria  <b>Christian Communities in Iraqi Kurdistan Since 1991</b>  <b>Prof. Dr. Herman Teule, Ph.D.</b> Director, Institute of Eastern Christian Studies Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands; Professor of Theology, The Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.  <b>Commentator: Professor, Dr. Sidney H. Griffith, S.T., Ph.D.</b> Department of Semitic Languages & Literature, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

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10:15-10:30 AM	Break
<b>Session Two</b>	<b>Christians in Iraqi Kurdistan Today: In Their Own Words</b>
10:30-12:00 PM	A discussion with prominent religious leaders in light of their recent travels to Iraqi Kurdistan.  <b>Moderator: Carole O'Leary, Ph.D.</b> Visiting Scholar, Columbus School of Law The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC  <b>The Most Reverend Vicken Aykazian</b> Legate of the Eastern Diocese, Armenian Church of America  <b>Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski</b> Dean, The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York  <b>A. Larry Ross, President</b> A. Larry Ross Communications, Dallas, Texas  <b>Archbishop Francis Chullikatt</b> Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the United Nations; Former Apostolic Nuncio (Ambassador) of the Holy See in Baghdad and Amman
12:00-12:50 PM	Lunch
<b>Session Three:</b>	<b>The Legal Status of the Nineveh Plain</b>
12:50-1:35 PM	<b>Professor Brendan O'Leary, Ph.D</b> Lauder Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
1:35-2:20 PM	<b>Documenting Christian Communities in Iraqi Kurdistan: Preliminary Report</b>  <b>Wijnand D. Langeraar</b> Michael-Moran Associates  <b>Richard C. Michael</b> Michael-Moran Associates

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<b>Session Four:</b>	<b>Regional Challenges for Religious Minorities in the Middle East</b>
2:20-3:05 PM	<b>Thomas F. Farr, Ph.D.</b> Director, Religious Freedom Project, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs; Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and International Affairs, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.  <b>Tamara Cofman Wittes, Ph.D.</b> Director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs (2009-2012), U.S. Department of State  <b>Dwight Bashir, Ph.D.</b> Deputy Director for Policy and Research, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; Member of the U.S. Holocaust Museum's Committee on State-Sponsored Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial
3:05-3:20 PM	Break
3:20-4:00 PM	<b>Legal Background of Challenges for Religious Minorities in KRG</b> TBA
4:00-4:25 PM	<b>My Hope for the Christian Communities in Iraqi Kurdistan</b> <b>His Excellency Bashar Matti Warda</b> Chaldean Archbishop of Erbil
4:25-4:30 PM	<b>Concluding Remarks and Adjourn</b>

*Please R.S.V.P. by November 28, 2012*

*For more information, please contact Constantia Dedoulis, [institutes@law.edu](mailto:institutes@law.edu)  
In order to enter the premises, valid photo identification must be left with security*