

November 16, 2018

His Excellency Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As leaders of the Christian faith, we have the particular honor of writing to bring your caring attention to the genocide and forced migration of millions in the Middle East on the grounds of their religious and/or ethnic identities. We are appalled by the discrimination and brutality faced by these minorities.

Thousands of Christians and people of other religions in the Middle East face persecution daily. Christians and other minorities have been and continue to face torture and rape, kidnappings, enslavement, and death. Churches are being desecrated and destroyed. Radical ideology has led to crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansings.

The continuing persecution has resulted in the sharp decline of Christian presence from *twenty percent* in the 20th century to a mere *four percent* today. In Lebanon, Syria, The West Bank and Gaza, Iraq, Egypt, the Nineveh region, and other more remote places in the Middle East, Christian communities flourished with strong historical and religious roots. Mr. President, if we do not take action now, the entire population of Christians and other minorities may soon cease to exist. We must understand that the problem calls not for a battle against Islam but rather an upholding of religious freedom and the preservation of pluralism and diversity in the region. We join together to convey our support for all people to remain and flourish in their homelands in which they have lived for not only centuries but millennia!

We are sure, Mr. President, that you are willing to address the root causes ó namely violence and extremism ó resulting in the plight of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East. We call for increased assistance and aid to the region and to refugees fleeing persecution. We are fully with you as you advance international diplomatic approaches to conflict resolution in the region.

We pray for lasting, sustainable peace in the Middle East that will promote pluralism, diversity, and religious freedom for all. And we pray for you and your thoughtful consideration of our deep concerns and painful insights.

Prayerfully yours,



Archbishop DEMETRIOS
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



Mor DIONYSIUS JOHN KAWAK
Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese for the Eastern United States



Father DANIEL FINDIKYAN
Armenian Church Eastern Diocese of America



Cardinal TIMOTHY M. DOLAN
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York