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October 17, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

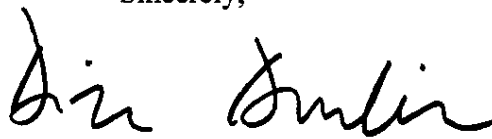
Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to express my concern about the safety and well-being of Iraq's Christian and other non-Muslim religious minorities.

Recent reports of an organized campaign against Assyrian, Chaldean, and Syriac Christians living in Mosul are extremely troubling. These communities have suffered dearly throughout the conflict in Iraq. To this day, they face difficulties in ensuring that they are represented in Iraqi governmental institutions. They also constitute a disproportionately high percentage of the Iraq refugee population.

I would greatly appreciate a briefing on the situation facing Christian minority communities in Iraq, and what steps the State Department has taken to impress upon the Iraqi government the need to protect these communities. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin