

WCC condemns alleged atrocities by the “Islamic State” in Syria

25 February 2015

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has strongly condemned the latest attacks and atrocities reported to have been committed by the so-called “Islamic State” against Assyrian Christians in Syria.

A statement issued on 25 February from the WCC headquarters in Geneva has expressed grave concern over the recent reports of attacks on Christian settlements, killings of civilians, abduction of some 100 people and provocation towards a mass exodus of communities.

“The World Council of Churches denounces these and all other attacks against this diverse social fabric, on which rest the prospects for an inclusive society and sustainable peace,” said Georges Lemopoulos, acting general secretary of the WCC.

“The WCC condemns all violent attacks against civilians as war crimes and crimes against humanity, whoever may commit them,” he said.

“We call for effective measures by the international community to protect civilians and the targeted communities from further attacks, and to ensure the perpetrators’ accountability for their crimes,” added Lemopoulos.

[Read full text of the WCC acting general secretary’s statement](#)

[WCC member churches in Syria](#)

The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, by the end of 2013 the WCC had 345 member churches representing more than 500 million Christians from Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other traditions in over 140 countries. The WCC works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church. The WCC general secretary is the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, from the [Lutheran] Church of Norway.

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