

MEDIA RELEASE – 15 November 2010

For Immediate Release

from the National Council of Churches in Australia

Churches call for Support for Iraqi Christians

The National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) shares the grief of Iraqi Christians following deadly attacks whilst people attended church in Baghdad. “With broken hearts we mourn the tragic and violent deaths of our brothers and sisters at Mass on 31 October” said the Reverend Tara Curlewis, NCCA General Secretary.

In recent weeks the situation has become dire with reports that Al Qaeda have issued a fatwah, giving authority to kill Christians in their homes, at work and on the streets. The homes of Christians in the last few weeks in particular have been invaded with the killing of 6 and 36 injured.

This week, Australian cities have seen public rallies calling for an end to the persecution of Christians in Iraq. Prayer services for peace have also been held in churches around the country.

Ms Curlewis said “The National Council of Churches in Australia is requesting the Australian Government to do all that it can to support the safety and well being of Christians in Iraq.”

“We assure the churches in Iraq of our prayers and support at this time” said Ms Curlewis.

The NCCA continues to support partners working for peace in Iraq.

Rev Tara Curlewis is available for Interview

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