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Iraqi Christians returning to Mosul

March 05, 2009

BAGHDAD – Some 10,000 Christians who fled Iraq's northern city of Mosul in the face of violent persecution last fall are beginning to return to the city, RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq (RFI) reports.

The pastor of a Mosul Chaldean church, Father Samir Elias, told RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq that last year's violence was a "summer cloud that has now cleared and we hope it will not come back."

He said Muslims are helping Christians resettle in Mosul and says they protected Christians' property until they came back.

Ramsay Micha Paulis, a leading official of the Chaldean Democratic Union and a Nineveh provincial council member, told RFI that an estimated 80 percent of the Christians who left have returned.

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