



Reportage on “Bells of Salvation Event”

At the dawn of the new year and with renewed hope for Iraq full of peace and security, Iraqi Al-Amal Association held a cultural – artist event on 31st Dec, 2010 in remembrance of the martyrs of “Lady of Salvation”, and as consolation for their families.

The event was attended by the martyrs’ families and a large number of people, exceeded 400. It was a gathering where all religious differences vanished, which the terrorists try to foster within the Iraqi society. Tears and feelings of sorrow and anger were mixed with a sense of patriotism and solidarity amongst different sectors of



our people to confront terror and violence.

At the hall of the Lady of Salvation Church, candles were lit. The event started with a minute silence in remembrance of the martyrs.

A group of children march in emotionally charged unison and carrying flowers in memory of the innocent souls taken away for no other reason but their faith and prayers.



The programme varied, commencing with a speech by the Archbishop of the Syrian Catholics delivered by Father Aiser Kesko.

He referred to the fact that differences between people should not be a problem. Neither should be the differences in religion, sect, culture, race and language a cause for violence and murder. Pluralism is the source of richness for society. He continued to say that the Iraqi people were tired. They were patient and needed to breathe fresh air, and this is the responsibility of all for collaborative efforts to respect the rights of all people, to build a civilised and humane society and to provide the Iraqi pearson a bright and prosperous picture in the third millennium.



In hear contribution, Ms. Hanaa Edwar, Al-Amal Secretary General, focusing on the need for promoting the concept of citizenship, civil state and respect for the Constitution in order to reduce the concentration on other secondary identities. She continued with the demand that the government should protect the people and apply the principles of equal opportunities, to look at them as Iraqi citizens, equal in

their rights and duties. She called for keeping evidence of the massacre in the church to be a shrine visited by all the Iraqis as a reminder of the heinous crime and a means for the unity of the people against the madness of prejudice and terror.

Ehaa Association for Culture and Arts presented a play entitled "Bells of Salvation". The well-known Iraqi actress, Shatha Salim with her colleagues, outstandingly depicted the families' feelings of pain, fear and expectation for their beloved deceased people.



Non-violence Group also presented a wonderful scene entitled "I'll complete my prayer" which embodied live testimonies for tragedy of Lady of Salvation Church.



The Disabled Community Group in Iraq participated with a folk song, accompanied by the lute played by Nazar Kadhum. This was followed by the poet, Kareem Shgedil who recited his poem "on the sound of an old bell".

During the event, a number of artists drew a mural, a present to the church. Many paintings and art works were distributed throughout the place.



Messages of hope for 2011 from the participant poured on the wall screen.



Messages of comfort from various parts of the world were read during the event, expressing feeling of love, solidarity and brotherhood with the Iraqi Christians, and wishing the whole of the Iraqi people peace and prosperity.



The fingertips of talented children from The Orchestra of Kareem Wasfi Centre for Art and Creation played some classical pieces and ending the event with the National Anthem, "Mawtini".

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