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Security breakdown in Syria: Syriac Catholic archpriest attacked



Father Rony Salim, chancellor of the Syriac Catholic Archdiocese of Mosul, shared with ACI MENA, CNA's Arabic-language news partner, that the bishop has called Qaraqosh the "City of Hosanna" due to its uniquely spirited celebration marked by hymns, prayers, and massive crowds of worshippers. | Credit: Ismael Adnan/ACI MENA

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By **Madalaine Elhabbal**

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Here is a roundup of Catholic world news from the past week that you might have missed:

Syriac Catholic archpriest attacked in Syria

Tensions in Syria deepened this week after a brutal assault on Archpriest Michel Naaman of the Syriac Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Homs. Returning home one evening, Naaman was ambushed by two masked men who beat him, threatened him at gunpoint, and stripped him of his gold cross and cash, ACI MENA, CNA's Arabic-language news partner, **reported Thursday**.

The attack is part of a troubling pattern of insecurity hitting Christian communities across Syria. In recent months, robberies, kidnappings, and even attacks on churches have become increasingly common in Homs, Aleppo, and beyond. For many, the assault on Naaman is another chilling reminder of the dangers Christians still face in a country fractured by war and lawlessness.

European Commission to examine EU abortion funding initiative

The European Commission has said it will examine the European Citizens' Initiative's call for EU funding for "safe and accessible" abortion after an initiative reached over 1 million signatures across 19 member states, according to a **European News Room report**.

A Slovenian nonprofit organization, Institute 8th March, led the initiative, alongside several other EU nongovernmental organizations. "We want the European Union to establish a financial mechanism that would allow countries to provide abortion services to those individuals who do not have access to abortion in their own countries," Institute 8th March Director Nika Kovač said. The commission said it will provide a response by March 2026.