DECLARATION REGARDING THE WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE IN IRAQ AND
THE KILLING OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

Declaration approved at the General Assembly of the Conference of Spanish University
Rectors (CRUE) held on November 14, 2006.

Iraq suffers from a terrible situation of indiscriminate and widespread violence which grows
daily and affects each and every sector of society. Together with the collapse of the basic
necessities to sustain the population, this extremely grave spiral of terror is fomenting a
process of internal decomposition that places Iraqi society on the brink of definitive
collapse. Iraq, a country rooted in its millennia-long history of enriching the livelihoods of
the communities that comprised it, today faces actual disappearance in an explosion of
sectarian violence. Of particular consequence to the future of the country are the systematic
assassinations of university professors.

The Director General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, condemned in April of this year the
killings of Iraqi professors since the beginning of the occupation of the country in April
2003 (Press Release, n. 2006-31). In October 2005, the Iraqi Minister of Higher Education
acknowledged the killing of 146 university professors during this time. In actuality, the
number of Iraqi professors killed is more than 210, according to a variety of reliable
sources, among them, the Association of University Professors of Iraq. At least 13
professors have been killed since the beginning of the new academic year, among them, on
October 30, 2006, Isam al-Rawi, professor of Geology at the University of Baghdad and
president of the Association of University Professors of Iraq.

A review of the available list of assassinated professors allows the magnitude of the
problem to be understood: professors from all the country's universities, belonging to all
academic specialties are being killed, with the majority of those killed being highly
qualified figures in their field, heads of departments, and members of new, democratically-
elected university bodies.

In addition to this systematic campaign of the killing of professors, for the first time two
car-bombs exploded on April 24 at Mustansiriya University in Baghdad, causing the
death of five students.

Taking into consideration these facts, the Conference of Spanish University Rectors
RESOLVES:

1. To express its extreme dismay and forceful denunciation of the terrible and widespread
violence that Iraqi society suffers from, and in particular that which affects Iraqi professors,
a very grave attack on the future cultural and scientific development of the country, and is
set to cause the mass exit of professors out of the country and the collapse of the university
system.

2. To promote in appropriate international forums the reporting of these facts and the
adoption of concrete means for the collective protection of Iraqi professors, in particular,
UNESCO, International Federation of Universities and the Association of Arab Universities
within the framework of the Arab League.
3. To direct the Spanish government to urge the Iraqi authorities and those countries with military forces deployed in Iraq to fulfill their obligations relating to the protection of Iraq citizens, in this case in particular the collective safety of professors, and to investigate the campaign of assassinations against professors.