



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE DES EGLISES DE TOUTE L'AFRIQUE

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Pope Shenouda III, The Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria and the Patriarch of All Africa on the Holy Apostolic See of Saint Mark.

Your Holiness,

On behalf of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) an ecumenical fellowship of which the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church is a founding member, we wish to express our profound sorrow and condolences for the families and victims of the bombing in the Al-Qiddissin (Saints) Church in Alexandria on 1st of January 2011. We also assure you of prayers from the 120 million Christians constituting the family of the All Africa Conference of Churches throughout our continent for quick and full recovery of those who were wounded. This is because when one member of the body suffers, the other members suffer with it (1 Corinthians 12:26). As well, we assure your Holiness of our support and solidarity as you continue to provide leadership and pastoral oversight to Egyptian Christians at this challenging time.

We are deeply concerned about the recent developments in Egypt where Christians are the target of Muslim extremists. This trend is all the more troubling because it threatens to adversely affect the otherwise harmonious co-existence between Christians and Muslims in Egypt for centuries. We also offer assurances of the AACC's determination to work with you and other religious leaders to prevent the situation from escalating into a Muslim - Christian conflict.

We are fully aware of the fact that these senseless attacks took place even as Coptic Christians were preparing to celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace. On behalf of the AACC fellowship, we wish you Merry Christmas and the peace that Jesus Christ brings to human kind. This year's Christmas message takes a greater significance in the wake

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AACC is a fellowship of 173 member Churches and Christian Councils in 40 African countries
La CETA est une communauté de 173 églises et conseils chrétiens dans 40 pays d'Afrique

PRESIDENT: The most Rev. Archbishop Valentine Mokiwa • **GENERAL SECRETARY:** Rev. Dr. André Karamaga

of the violence that has been directed towards Christians in Egypt. The irony of this significance is that Egypt was the place of refuge for the Holy Family who had to escape the violence that threatened to kill baby Jesus (Mathew 2:13-15).

Our prayer and hope as you celebrate this Christmas is that the peace and the protection that Egypt offered to Jesus will once again prevail in your beloved country. It is our wish that the Government of Egypt will bring to justice those involved in the attacks and continue to safeguard the fundamental religious rights of worshipers of all faiths in Egypt. Peace and hope be with you and with all believers in God who is offended by perpetrators of violence.

Yours in His Service,



Rev. Dr. Andre Karamaga,
General Secretary

January 6th 2011

Nairobi

cc

- The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches
- AACC Members and Networks