



Geneva 25/11/2014

**Human Rights Council
Forum on Minorities seventh session
Systematic violence against Copts in Egypt**

Thank you, Mr. President

My name is Medhat Kelada, President of the European Union of Coptic Organizations for Human Rights and the Middle East Organization for Human Rights, Switzerland, I represent Minority Original People.

The population of the Copts about 18 million people in addition to the two million living abroad Europe, America, Canada and Australia.

Copts suffer from ethnic and religious discrimination and persecution for successive governments since the 1952 revolution and yet reached the peak of this persecution of last year, when the Muslim Brotherhood, burned 84 churches and looted and burnt 1970 homes, 16 pharmacies and burnt 3 ships in addition to schools and institutions belonging to Copts

No criminals have been taken to court and most of the perpetrators who have been arrested were released one way or another escaped punishment.

Attacks on Copts by terrorist groups are continuing.

For nearly thirty years kidnapping of minor girls is continuing, and since the revolution of January 2011, the kidnapping of men, children and young Coptic have become source of income for extremist groups

Statistic showed the kidnapped Copts so far reached 78, the ransom paid so far to the kidnapers exceeded 8 million pounds, mostly in southern Egypt in Nag Hammadi and Assiut in total absence of a security.

European Union of Coptic Organizations for Human Rights provided the Fact Finding Committee on Acts of Terrorism in Egypt which was established by Presidential Decree full details of the terrorist activity against Copts carried out by the terrorist group Muslim Brotherhood, also I visited Egypt twice, attended two session with the committee, presented a letter to the president comprising 16 paragraphs to address the problem of persecution of Copts, the most important for example are:

1. Application of the Constitution and the law without discrimination under any name and the abolition of Police sponsored Reconciliation Session which takes place outside the framework of the law."
2. Coptic files to belong to presidency or the Council of Ministers and not the security authorities.

3-A fair and transparent investigations of the police officers who were implicated or colluded in cases of kidnapping of Copts with the application of the appropriate sanction and punishment according to the Law.

4. Speedy court hearing and conclusion in cases of infringement on churches, churches properties and monasteries, charities and property of the Coptic Christians.

5. Speedy reconstruction of churches demolished or burned at the expense of the state to emphasis state responsibility and a commitment.

6. Review of the curriculum and the removal of all the expressions of hate and discrimination, keeping a watchful eye on teachers who spread hate.

7. Prohibition of discrimination against Copts appointment in sovereign ministries and centers with special sensitivity in the state including general intelligence, governors and deans and heads of departments, chief executive officers, for example.

8. Revision of all religious materials and erase all the hate, violence and religious discrimination with speedy legal action taken against whoever found guilty of those crimes.

9. Speedy up licensing for churches that already exist without license to reconcile their legal status... And the abolition of religion affiliation from national ID card and all the papers and rebuild churches destroyed or vandalized during the terrorist attack the Muslim Brotherhood.

10 – Abolition of the law of contempt of religion, which has become a sword on the necks of the Copts and the launch of an amnesty on all who were tried under this law, repatriate who ever forcibly displaced during the past three years to their homes.

11. Speed up issuance of regulation of building churches and the law of personal status for Christians., and the creation of the Office of anti-discrimination enshrined in the Egyptian constitution.

Ms. Chairperson, our country is at war with Egypt terrorism and his groups, and leaders inside and outside Egypt and we hope in the international community's cooperation with our country

We therefore recommend that the international community put the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas group and Ansar Beit Almaqdis and the Salafist jihadist of terrorist organisation lists and ban their activities and the confiscation of their money.

Thank you

Medhat necklace

**President of the European Union of Coptic Organizations for Human
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