



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES

13 October 2011

The Honourable John Baird
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
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The Honourable Minister Baird :

We wish to share with you our deep concerns following the violent confrontation by Egyptian law enforcement agents against Coptic Christians that took place in Cairo on October 9, 2011. We have seen the accounts by witnesses, testimonies from hospitals, and video recordings of peaceful demonstrators being shot by soldiers or run over by armoured military personnel carriers driving at speed.

We request that the Government of Canada undertake the following measures to promote religious freedom and advocate that Egyptians too are able to practice freedom of religion without fear.

1. Task the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to undertake a review of Canadian International Policy regarding Canada's role in protecting human rights and the practice of religious freedom in countries such as Egypt.
2. Communicate to the Ambassador of Egypt in Canada deep concern for the people of Egypt and their desire to live in peace, practice their faith, and respect the dignity of every human person.
3. Support the diplomatic efforts of religious leaders in both Canada and Egypt who are working to contribute to peace and harmony.

To this end, we would like to request a meeting with you or your delegate to discuss the current situation and join in efforts to work for a just peace.

Thank you for your leadership in taking concrete steps to establish the Office of Religious Freedom.

With continued prayers for wisdom for you and the Government of Canada,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amr Saleh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Bruce Adema
President

Cc: His Excellency the Ambassador of Egypt
Mr. Wael Ahmed Kamal Aboul Magd
Embassy of Egypt in Canada