

Ongoing Threats to Coptic Churches in Egypt

The terrorist attack on the Al-Qiddissin church in Alexandria on January 1st 2011, which caused the deaths of over 21 people,¹ marked a peak in the inter-religion tension between Muslims and Christians.

The attack was preceded by many weeks of threats to carry out terrorist attacks against Christian targets around the world, particularly in Egypt. These threats by Salafi religious clerics permitting the shedding of Christian blood,² as well as by official entities of Global Jihad, received extensive coverage and garnered a lot of reaction after they were posted on the Jihadi forums. In October 2010, the "Islamic State of Iraq" organization went as far as explicitly threatening to carry out terrorist attacks against Coptic churches in Egypt.³ Several days later, on October 31st 2010, the organization carried out an attack on a church in Baghdad which resulted in the deaths of over 50 people.⁴

Since the ousting of President Mubarak on February 11th 2011, a further escalation has been seen which threatens the delicate balance in the relationship between Muslims and Coptic Christians in Egypt. On May 7th 2011, at least 12 people were killed in bloody conflicts between Muslims and Coptic Christians in

¹ For reference to the terrorist attack on the Jihadi forums and the Arab media, see: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_January_2011_No_1_New.pdf, pages 12-16; http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Arab_Media_Sources_January_2011_1.pdf, pages 8-9.

² For example, see: http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Fatwas_October_2010.pdf, pages 5-7; http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Fatwas_Nov-Dec_2010.pdf.

³ http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Periodical_Review_Nov_2010_No_1.pdf, pages 5-6.

⁴ http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Arab_Media_Sources_November_2010_1.pdf, pages 7-8.

the Embaba neighborhood in Al-Giza, after a Coptic Church in the neighborhood was set ablaze.⁵

The "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya" Jihadi forum, which has recently resumed operations after being inactive for several months, posted an explicit threat to attack Coptic churches on June 2nd 2011. "Asad Al-Islam", the supervisor of the audio and visual publications department, wrote "A message to the Coptic pigs from the people of the Oneness of God in Al-Kinana [Jihadists' name for Egypt]".⁶

In the statement posted by "Asad Al-Islam", he wrote: "Worshippers of the cross, this is a simple message from the people of 'Embaba' [the neighborhood where the Coptic church was set on fire in May 2011] in the Muslim 'Al-Kinana' and the children of Amr bin Al-'as⁷ – the day of retribution is coming soon... you will pay a heavy price for your crimes against us. The targets have already been selected... we are warning the Muslims in Egypt not to come near Christian places of worship on the holiday commemorating Jesus' ascendance to the sky [celebrated in Egypt on June 2nd 2011]".

⁵ <http://www.ahram.org.eg/Incidents/News/76908.aspx>

⁶ <http://www.majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=17185>

⁷ Amr bin Al-'as conquered Egypt from the Byzantine Empire in 629 AD.

#1
3 يونيو

تاريخ الانتساب: Jul 2010
الدولة: تحت ظلال السيوف
العمر: 28
المشاركات: 4,339

اسد الإسلام
قمة التمييز
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رسالة إلى التجارير القبطية من أهل التوحيد و الجهاد في أرض الكنانة

يا عباد الصنيب، وهذه رسالة بسيطة من أبناء إمبابة في أرض الكنانة المسلمة و أحفاد عمرو بن العاص
يوم الثأر قادم قريباً

يوم الدماء والدموع
وسوف

تدفع تمنا باهظاً لجرانكم ضدنا

وقد تم اختيار الأهداف
و سوفنا مستتلة
ونحن نتوق إلى الجنة
تحذير للمسلمين في مصر لتجنب أماكن العبادة المسيحية في يوم عيد الصعود
وأن تحسبن الذين قتلوا في سبيل الله أمواتاً بل أحياء عند ربهم يرزقون

The statement posted by "Asad Al-Islam"