



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Egypt

Egypt – EGY38074 – Coptic Christian – Monasteries – Exit Procedures – Police

28 January 2011

1. Please provide information relating to Coptic Christian monasteries located in and around Aswan, as well as monasteries located to the west of Cairo, in the region between Cairo and the border with Libya.

Information was found on Coptic Christian monasteries near Aswan, west of Cairo in the region between Cairo and the border with Libya, and near Cairo.

Monasteries west of Cairo and near Cairo

There are four active monasteries near Cairo at Wadi Al Natrun which is located just west of Cairo. These include St. Boshoi's (Anba Beshoy) Monastery, Monastery of the Syrians (Deir al-Surian), and Monastery of St. Macarius (Deir Abu Magar, Abu Maker). The best known of these monasteries is the Monastery of St. Macarius – Egypt's most important monastery. Many Coptic Christian popes have been selected from here. The Monastery of the Romans (Deir Al Baramus) is also located at Wadi Al Natrun.¹

There are three uninhabited ancient monasteries at Wadi Al Natrun. These are: Monastery of St. John the Little; Armenian Monastery; Monastery of Moses the Black (Deir Anba Mussa al-Aswad, possibly the old Baramus monastery); and Christian Nitria (the Life of their Ancient Monks).²

There are also monasteries near Fayoum Oasis (Al Fayyum) which is located southwest of Cairo³: Monastery of the Arch Angel Gabriel (7th century, El Malak Ghobrial Monastery); Monastery of St. Samuel (Dier Anba Samwail); Monastery of the Virgin Mary (Deir al-Hammam); and Monastery of St. George (Deir Mari Girigis Monastery).⁴

Monasteries in or near Cairo include: the Convent of St. Merkorius (Abu-Sefein); the Convent of St. Mary (Old Cairo); the Monastery of Saint Simon the Tanner (Modern Monastery); the Convent of St. Theodorus (El-Amir Tadrus, Haret el-Room); the Convent of St. Mary (Haret

¹ Dunn, J. 2011, 'The Christian Monasteries of Egypt', Tour Egypt website, 28 January <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 1

² Dunn, J. 2011, 'The Christian Monasteries of Egypt', Tour Egypt website, 28 January <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 1

³ 'Egypt Map' (undated), Google Maps website, http://maps.google.com.au/maps?rls=EGLC.EGLC:2010-17.EGLC:en&q=egypt+map&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Egypt&gl=au&ei=S0w-TaLTOI-gvQOQyemnAw&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=image&resnum=1&ved=0CBsQ8gEwAA - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 2

⁴ Dunn, J. 2011, 'The Christian Monasteries of Egypt', Tour Egypt website, 28 January <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 1

Zuela); the Convent of St. George (Haret Zuela); St. Barsoum El-Erian Monastery (Helwan); and the Monastery of Saint Menas (Deir Abu Mina) (Old Cairo).⁵

Monasteries near Aswan

Monasteries near Aswan include St. Simeon Coptic Monastery (Deir Anba Simaan or Deir Anba Hadra), St. George (Deir Mari Girgis), Monastery of St. Laurentius and Monastery of the Savior.⁶ St. Simeon is said to be an ancient, abandoned fortress monastery mostly built during the 7th century.⁷

The below map marks some of the locations where monasteries are found in Egypt.



2. Please provide updated information on the treatment of Coptic Christians within Egypt generally, including by the police as well as by the Muslim population generally.

Sources indicate that Coptic Christians in Egypt have been targeted for mistreatment and discrimination by the Muslim population generally and the police.

⁵ Dunn, J. 2011, 'The Christian Monasteries of Egypt', Tour Egypt website, 28 January

<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 1

⁶ Dunn, J. 2010, 'The Monastery at Qubbat Al-Hawa: The Other Monastery at Aswan', Tour Egypt website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 3

⁷ Dunn, J. 2010, 'The Monastery at Qubbat Al-Hawa: The Other Monastery at Aswan', Tour Egypt website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 3

⁸ Dunn, J. 2011, 'The Christian Monasteries of Egypt', Tour Egypt website, 28 January

<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 1

Treatment of Coptic Christians by Muslim Population

Human rights commentators have reported that Coptic Christians in Egypt are subject to mistreatment and discrimination. US State Department argues that Coptic Christians face societal discrimination.⁹ In 2010, Human Rights Watch noted that discrimination against Egyptian Christians continued¹⁰ while USCIRF stated:

Although Egyptian government officials claim that there is no law or policy that prevents Christians from holding senior positions, the Coptic Orthodox Christian community faces *de facto* discrimination in appointments to high-level government and military posts. There are only a handful of Christians in the upper ranks of the security services and armed forces. There is one Christian governor out of 28, one elected Member of Parliament out of 454 seats, no known university presidents or deans, and very few legislators or judges.¹¹

Both the 2009 Amnesty International Annual Report and 2010 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Annual Report said that there had been a significant increase in violence against Coptic Christians in 2009.¹² More recent reports from January 2011 paint a similar picture. A 7 January 2011 Al Jazeera report states that among Christians “a perception of growing intolerance is leading some to shun their Muslim compatriots”. The growing tensions are blamed on a “gradual Islamisation of education promoting a single, Islamic version of Egypt’s identity that belies a diverse cultural history”.¹³

In 2010, the US DOS International Religious Freedom Report reported a number of cases of attacks on Christians including in Baghoura, Farshout, and Marsa Matruh.¹⁴ The most widely reported attack occurred on 1 January 2011 when a suicide bomber targeted a church in Alexandria killing 25 people and injuring over 200.¹⁵ While no one claimed responsibility for the bombing, the attack came two months after an Islamic group known as the Islamic State of Iraq issued a threat stating that, “All Christian centers, organizations and institutions, leaders and followers are legitimate targets for the muhajedeen [Muslim fighters] wherever they can reach them”.¹⁶ Middle East Report Online (MERIP) stated that on 6 January 2011 – the eve of Coptic Christmas – a number of youths found a box which seemed to contain explosives outside Church of St. Antonious in Minya.¹⁷

Attacks are predicted to continue according to MERIP. This is assessed as partly due to a denial by both officials and intellectuals of what MERIP believes is the true cause behind the

⁹ US State Department 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, 26 October – Attachment 4; US State Department 2010, 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Egypt, 11 March – Attachment 5

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch 2010, *HRW Annual Report – Country Summary: Egypt*, January http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/egypt_0.pdf – Accessed 1 February 2010 – [Attachment 6](#)

¹¹ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2010, *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom*, May, p 232 – Attachment 7

¹² United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2010, *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom*, May, p 227 – Attachment 7; Amnesty International 2009, *2009 Annual Report for Egypt*, Amnesty International Website <http://www.amnestyusa.org/annualreport.php?id=ar&yr=2009&c=EGY> – Accessed 17 February 2010 – [Attachment 8](#)

¹³ ‘Security fears for Egypt’s Copts’ 2011, *Aljazeera TV*, 7 January – Attachment 9

¹⁴ US State Department 2010, *International Religious Freedom Report 2010 – Egypt*, 17 November – Attachment 10

¹⁵ Tadros, M. 2011, ‘A State of Sectarian Denial’, *Middle East Report Online*, 11 January – Attachment 11

¹⁶ ‘Blast Kills 21 outside Church in Alexandria, Egypt’ 2011, *Compass Direct*, 3 January – Attachment 12

¹⁷ Tadros, M. 2011, ‘A State of Sectarian Denial’, *Middle East Report Online*, 11 January – Attachment 11

violence – sectarianism. By repeatedly blaming attacks on foreigners and merely reaffirming the equal citizenship of all Egyptians, Egypt's underlying sectarian problems are ignored.¹⁸

It is worth noting, however, that following the New Year's Day 2011 attacks, there was a national outpouring of solidarity with Egypt's Christians. Muslim leaders including the Muslim Brotherhood, the sheikh of al-Azhar and other prominent members of the state-sponsored and independent Muslim clergy were quick to express their anger and grief as did politicians including President Husni Mubarak. There were also numerous reports of Muslims attending church and joining in protests in solidarity with their Christian compatriots.¹⁹ The eight people charged with assaulting police and disturbing public safety following protests over the New Year's Day attacks were all Muslims who had attempted to show their solidarity with Christians.²⁰

Treatment by Police

Christians suffer discrimination at the hands of the police in Egypt.²¹ According to the USCIRF and the US DOS, this ranges from occasional reports of police targeting converts from Islam to Christianity to providing inadequate protection from attacks and abuse. In July 2009 police in Mansoura arrested a Coptic Christian woman for possessing false documents. The police contended that her father's conversion to Islam years earlier resulted in her involuntary conversion to Islam. She was released after questioning and not charged. In June 2009 a woman who was born Christian, converted to Islam to marry a Muslim man, and later reasserted her Christian identity, was charged with forgery for allegedly trying to obtain an identification document indicating one of her children was Christian. A government prosecutor interviewed the woman, declined to press charges, and ordered her release.²²

The 2010 US DOS International Religious Freedom Report stated that police failed to prosecute perpetrators of violence against Coptic Christians in a number of cases including in Baghoura, Farshout, and Marsa Matruh.²³ USCIRF noted that only in very few cases have perpetrators of violence against Copts been arrested and convicted for these offences:

The Egyptian government has not taken sufficient steps to halt the repression of and discrimination against Christians and other religious believers, or, in many cases, to punish those responsible for violence or other severe violations of religious freedom. ...[T]he failure to prosecute those responsible [...] fosters a growing climate of impunity.²⁴

US DOS also stated, however, that while the Government continued to sponsor "reconciliation sessions" following sectarian attacks instead of prosecuting perpetrators of crimes against Copts, there had been some positive steps taken. This included the arrest and trial of the accused perpetrators of a sectarian attack in Deyrout, the prosecution of four

¹⁸ Tadros, M. 2011, 'A State of Sectarian Denial', *Middle East Report Online*, 11 January – Attachment 11

¹⁹ Tadros, M. 2011, 'A State of Sectarian Denial', *Middle East Report Online*, 11 January – Attachment 11

²⁰ 'Egypt charges pro-Coptic activists' 2011, *Aljazeera TV*, 5 January – Attachment 13

²¹ US State Department 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, 26 October – Attachment 13; US State Department 2010, 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Egypt, 11 March – Attachment 8.

²² US State Department 2010, *International Religious Freedom Report 2010 – Egypt*, 17 November – Attachment 10

²³ US State Department 2010, *International Religious Freedom Report 2010 – Egypt*, 17 November – Attachment 10

²⁴ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2010, *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom*, May, p 227 – Attachment 7

alleged perpetrators for a sectarian attack in Naga Hamadi, and the sentencing of five men to life in prison for murdering two Christians in 2009.^{25 26 27}

More recently, the aforementioned 6 January 2011 suspected bomb incident reveals a lack of trust in the security forces by Coptic Christians. Upon finding the suspicious looking box, the youths proceeded to move it onto the street. They are said to have done this out of fear that security forces would not respond to, or register the incident if it was at a church.²⁸

Al Jazeera, however, reported that following the New Year's Day attacks and in the run up to Coptic Christmas, there was a heavy police presence protecting churches. It states "many streets were blocked, with canine units, bomb detectors, and dozens of police officials personally supervising security".²⁹

3. Please provide general information on Coptic Christianity, including its main tenets, practices and beliefs.

Beliefs and Tenets

The following Coptic Christian beliefs and tenets were extracted from the Saint Mary and Saint Antonios Coptic Orthodox Church website, the *BBC* website, and an Egypt tourism website:

- The Church believes in Jesus Christ, the Son of Man (Mk. 8:31, 38), Son of God (Mt. 3:17), and God (Jn. 14: 8-11), who was born through the Spirit of God to St. Mary 2,000 years ago (Mt. 1:18-23). He came to our earth to give salvation to mankind through his crucifixion on the cross (Mt. 27:27-44). After his death, Jesus was buried for three days in a tomb (Mt. 27:57-61), and on the third day his resurrection took place (Mt. 27:62-63). He appeared to his disciples, (Mt. 28:16-20) relatives, and others. After 50 days, Jesus ascended to Heaven (Mk. 16:19).³⁰
- [Coptic Christians believe] that Jesus Christ has only one nature; that his divine nature and his human nature are composite and totally united – the nature of the incarnated Word, as opposed to two natures united in one person.
- The Bible is, as you would expect, the basic scripture of the Coptic Church. The first translation of the Bible into Coptic script is thought have been around the 2nd century, although few early manuscripts survive.

The other sources are the sayings of the saints, the authenticated creeds of the holy councils, and what was recorded in the Church books, especially the ritual books.

All these are in accord with the Holy Bible and are called as a whole 'Church Tradition'.

²⁵ US State Department 2010, *International Religious Freedom Report 2010 – Egypt*, 17 November, Section 2 – Attachment 10

²⁶ US State Department 2010, *2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Egypt*, 11 March, Section 2c – Attachment 8

²⁷ RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response EGY35308*, 18 August – Attachment 14

²⁸ Tadros, M. 2011, 'A State of Sectarian Denial', *Middle East Report Online*, 11 January – Attachment 11

²⁹ 'Security fears for Egypt's Copts' 2011, *Aljazeera TV*, 7 January – Attachment 9

³⁰ 'The Coptic Orthodox Church' 2008, Saint Mary and Saint Antonios Coptic Orthodox Church website, 19 June <http://www.copticchurch.org/node/94> - Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 4

Copts don't believe that God actually wrote the Bible, but that God and the Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote down the words.³¹

Practices

The following Coptic Christian practices were extracted from the *BBC* website and an Egypt tourism website:

- There are three main liturgies: The liturgies of St. Basil, used throughout the year; St. Gregory, used at Christmas, Epiphany and Easter; and St. Cyril (or St. Mark).³²
- Copts observe seven canonical sacraments: Baptism, Christmation (Confirmation), Eucharist, Confession (Penance), Orders, Matrimony, and Unction of the sick...Of all seven sacraments, only Matrimony cannot be performed during a fasting season...The Coptic Orthodox Church does not have and does not mind any civil law of the land as long as it does not interfere with the Church's sacraments.
- The main Coptic Services, like those of most other Christian churches, are held on Sundays. The service usually starts at 6.00 am or 6.30 am and lasts from four to six hours depending on each church and its priests.

The service is composed of four parts. The first is the preparation prayer, called in Arabic the early morning prayer. This lasts only 30 minutes...the alter boys go around with incenses while chanting in the Coptic language.

The second part is for offering, at which point a prayer is said over the holy bread. This lasts for 20 to 30 minutes.

The third part consists of the preaching mass. Here, the priests read sections of the Old and New Testament, as well giving a sermon.

The fourth part is the reconciliation prayer. This only lasts for 10 minutes when the priests give the people Christ's forgiveness and the people do so to each other.

The fifth part is the Believer's mass and it lasts for the rest of the service. This is when the congregation has communion, and is supposed to be only attended by those who have been baptized and who have confessed. This strict rule is now more found in small villages in Upper Egypt, but in Cairo, one must only hear the Bible reading to be able to have communion, meaning that one cannot enter very late to the service.

- The worship of Saints is expressly forbidden by the Church; however, asking for their intercessions (e.g. Marian Praise) is central in any Coptic service. Any Coptic Church is named after a Patron Saint. Among all Saints, the Virgin Saint Mary (Theotokos) occupies a special place in the heart of all Copts.³³

Background on Coptic Orthodox Church Organisation in Egypt

³¹ 'Coptic Orthodox Church' 2009, *BBC: Religions*, 25 June
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/coptic_1.shtml – Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 15

³² 'Coptic Orthodox Church' 2009, *BBC: Religions*, 25 June
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/coptic_1.shtml – Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 15

³³ Iskander, L. and Dunn, J. 2003, 'An Overview of the Coptic Christians of Egypt', Tour Egypt website
<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/copticchristians.htm> – Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 16

The Coptic Orthodox Church was formed in Alexandria between 55 and 68 A.D. by St Mark, an apostle, who is regarded as the first Pope of Alexandria, the head of the Coptic Church's clergy. The current Pope is Shenouda III, the 117th Pope of Alexandria, who's Cathedral is located in Cairo. Copts do not regard the Pope as infallible. The Holy Synod constitutes "the highest ecclesiastical body in the church and is responsible for the church's spiritual, ecclesiastical, structural, organizational and economic affairs". The Holy Synod is divided into seven subcommittees which manage "pastoral affairs, liturgical affairs, ecumenical relations, monastic affairs, faith and ethics, and diocesan affairs". There also exists a Coptic Lay Council which serves as a liaison between the Government of Egypt and the Coptic Church, and through which ordinary Coptic Christians can be involved in Church affairs.^{34 35}

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4. Please provide information on whether a person released on bail for crimes relating to kidnapping, religious conversion and insulting Islam, would have difficulty departing the country.

While no information was found explicitly outlining the legality of departing the country for someone who was released on bail for committing crimes relating to kidnapping, religious conversion and insulting Islam, it is likely to be illegal. DFAT advice from 2008 suggests that a person charged with serious crimes in relation to security or political matters may be denied a passport. DFAT was, however, unable to confirm this information with Egyptian government authorities "due to the sensitive nature of the matter".³⁷

It would be difficult for such a person to leave the country without authorities knowing. This is due to the strict exit procedures in place as described in a 2008 DFAT report:

The Egyptian government maintains strict controls on the exit of all people out of Egypt. All Egyptians citizens exiting Egypt must have a valid Egyptian passport and a valid entry visa for the country to which they intend travelling. State authorities are responsible for checking that passport requirements are met. Airport staff are generally responsible for checking that visa requirements are met.

New machine-readable passports are currently being phased-in. This process commenced in 2008. We assume this is the "seven year project to use sophisticated computer technology to limit passport fraud" referred to in DFAT Country Information Report No. 418/99 of 1999.

Interlocutors agreed that Egyptian citizens would be prevented from exiting Egypt if their name appeared on the official "alert list" (DFAT Country Information Report No.116/02 of 2002 refers). We are unable to clarify with the Egyptian government the exact details of how this alert process operates due to the sensitive nature of the matter. Interlocutors noted that whether or not a person appeared on the list would likely depend on the seriousness of the alleged crime. Any person that may be wanted by the authorities in relation to security matters would likely appear on the list.

³⁴ Iskander, L. and Dunn, J. 2003, 'An Overview of the Coptic Christians of Egypt', Tour Egypt website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/copticchristians.htm> – Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 16

³⁵ 'Coptic Orthodox Church' 2009, *BBC: Religions*, 25 June http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/coptic_1.shtml – Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 17

³⁶ 'The Coptic Orthodox Church' 2008, Saint Mary and Saint Antonios Coptic Orthodox Church website, 19 June <http://www.copticchurch.org/node/94> - Accessed 15 March 2010 – Attachment 18

³⁷ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2008, *DFAT Report No. 802 – Egypt: RRT Information Request: EGY33006*, 3 April – Attachment 19

A 2008 research response by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada adds that “During entry and exit procedures, all travellers entering and leaving Egypt must submit an entry/exit card, which lists basic biometric data information, destination, means of transportation and local address”.³⁸

A person with the aforementioned profile may also have difficulty in exiting Egypt due to his Christianity and allegations of converting a Muslim. Several reports speak of the difficulties in leaving the country faced by Christian Boulos Farid Rezek-Allah Awad whose wife had converted to Christianity from Islam.³⁹ Authorities allegedly advised Rezek-Allah that he was “permanently blacklisted from leaving Egypt”.⁴⁰ The Christian website Compass Direct claimed that a source in Egypt had said “Rezek-Allah’s only hope to leave Egypt and be reunited with his wife is through direct intervention by President Hosni Mubarak or Interior Minister Habib al-Adli”. On one occasion in November 2003, Rezek-Allah was stopped and detained by authorities at the Egyptian-Libyan border for 12 hours. Once his identity was confirmed he was refused permission to exit and released.⁴¹ In September 2003 Rezek-Allah was pulled off an international flight in Cairo and held by Egyptian secret police. He had previously been granted an immigrant visa to Canada, had boarded the plane to leave Egypt when he was arrested.⁴²

In May 2004, however, he was finally allowed to leave Egypt and immigrate to Canada where he and his wife had been granted refugee status. Furthermore, his wife was reported as having escaped the country in the weeks prior. She had “managed to slip out of Egypt without being identified and arrested”.⁴³

Attachments

1. Dunn, J. 2011, ‘The Christian Monasteries of Egypt’, Tour Egypt website, 28 January <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011.
2. ‘Egypt Map’ (undated), Google Maps website, http://maps.google.com.au/maps?rls=EGLC,EGLC:2010-17,EGLC:en&q=egypt+map&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Egypt&gl=au&ei=S0w-TaLTOI-gvOOQyemnAw&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=image&resnum=1&ved=0CBsQ8gEwAA - Accessed 27 January 2011.

³⁸ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2008, EGY102804.E – *Egypt: Exit and entry procedures at airports and land borders; incidence of bribery of Egyptian border officials to facilitate departure by individuals with fraudulent travel documents or outstanding financial, military, or legal obligations or who are sought by the government for political reasons; the punishment for border officers caught taking such bribes (2006 – May 2008)*, Refworld website, 5 May <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,IRBC,,EGY,,49b92b4cb,0.html> – Accessed 27 January 2011 – Attachment 20

³⁹ Baker, Barbara G. 2003, ‘Egyptian Christian Captured at Libyan Border’, *Compass Direct*, 4 December Attachment 21

⁴⁰ Baker, Barbara G. 2004, ‘Christian Couple Escape from Egypt’, *Compass Direct*, 18 May – Attachment 22

⁴¹ Baker, Barbara G. 2003, ‘Egyptian Christian Captured at Libyan Border’, *Compass Direct*, 4 December Attachment 21

⁴² ‘Christian held by Egyptian police’ 2003, Worthy News website, 26 September – <http://www.worthynews.com/christian-persecution/escape-from-egypt.html> – Accessed 2 December 2005 – Attachment 23

⁴³ Baker, Barbara G. 2004, ‘Christian Couple Escape from Egypt’, *Compass Direct*, 18 May – Attachment 22

3. Dunn, J. 2010, 'The Monastery at Qubbat Al-Hawa: The Other Monastery at Aswan', Tour Egypt website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> - Accessed 27 January 2011.
4. US State Department 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, 26 October.
5. US State Department 2010, *2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Egypt*, 11 March.
6. Human Rights Watch 2010, *HRW Annual Report – Country Summary: Egypt*, January http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/egypt_0.pdf – Accessed 1 February 2010.
7. United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2010, *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom*, May.
8. Amnesty International 2009, *2009 Annual Report for Egypt*, Amnesty International Website <http://www.amnestyusa.org/annualreport.php?id=ar&yr=2009&c=EGY> – Accessed 17 February 2010.
9. 'Security fears for Egypt's Copts' 2011, *Aljazeera TV*, 7 January. (CISNET – Egypt: CX255998)
10. US State Department 2010, *International Religious Freedom Report 2010 – Egypt*, 17 November.
11. Tadros, M. 2011, 'A State of Sectarian Denial', *Middle East Report Online*, 11 January. (CISNET – Egypt: CX256301)
12. 'Blast Kills 21 outside Church in Alexandria, Egypt' 2011, *Compass Direct*, 3 January. (CISNET – Egypt: CX255775)
13. US State Department 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, 26 October.
14. RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response EGY35308*, 18 August.
15. 'Coptic Orthodox Church' 2009, *BBC: Religions*, 25 June http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/coptic_1.shtml – Accessed 15 March 2010.
16. Iskander, L. and Dunn, J. 2003, 'An Overview of the Coptic Christians of Egypt', Tour Egypt website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/copticchristians.htm> – Accessed 15 March 2010.
17. 'Coptic Orthodox Church' 2009, *BBC: Religions*, 25 June http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/coptic_1.shtml – Accessed 15 March 2010.
18. 'The Coptic Orthodox Church' 2008, Saint Mary and Saint Antonios Coptic Orthodox Church website, 19 June <http://www.copticchurch.org/node/94> - Accessed 15 March 2010.

19. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2008, *DFAT Report No. 802 – Egypt: RRT Information Request: EGY33006*, 3 April.
20. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2008, *EGY102804.E – Egypt: Exit and entry procedures at airports and land borders; incidence of bribery of Egyptian border officials to facilitate departure by individuals with fraudulent travel documents or outstanding financial, military, or legal obligations or who are sought by the government for political reasons; the punishment for border officers caught taking such bribes (2006 – May 2008)*, Refworld website, 5 May
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,IRBC,,EGY,,49b92b4cb,0.html> – Accessed 27 January 2011.
21. Baker, Barbara G. 2003, ‘Egyptian Christian Captured at Libyan Border’, *Compass Direct*, 4 December. (CISNET – Egypt: CX87007)
22. Baker, Barbara G. 2004, ‘Christian Couple Escape from Egypt’, *Compass Direct*, 18 May. (CISNET – Egypt: CX95220)
23. ‘Christian held by Egyptian police’ 2003, Worthy News website, 26 September –
<http://www.worthynews.com/christian-persecution/escape-from-egypt.html> – Accessed 2 December 2005.