



1. Please provide detailed information on Al Minya, including its location, its history and its religious background. Please focus on the Christian population of Al Minya and provide information on what Christian denominations are in Al Minya, including the Anglican Church and the United Coptic Church; the main places of Christian worship in Al Minya; and any conflict in Al Minya between Christians and the authorities.



Al Minya (also known as El Minya or El Menya) is known as the ‘Bride of Upper Egypt’ due to its location on at the border of Upper and Lower Egypt. It is the capital city of the Minya governorate in the Nile River valley of Upper Egypt and is located about 225km south of Cairo to which it is linked by rail. The city has a television station and a university and is a centre for the manufacture of soap, perfume and sugar processing. There is also an ancient town named Menat Khufu in the area which was the ancestral home of the pharaohs of the 4th dynasty.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ‘Cities in Egypt’ (undated), travelguide2egypt.com website [http://www.travelguide2egypt.com/c1\\_cities.php](http://www.travelguide2egypt.com/c1_cities.php) – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 1.

<sup>2</sup> ‘Travel & Geography: Al-Minya’ 2010, *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica Online, 2 August <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/384682/al-Minya> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 2; ‘El Minya’ (undated), touregypt.net website <http://www.touregypt.net/elminyatop.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 –

According to several websites, the Minya governorate is one of the most highly populated governorates of Upper Egypt. It contains nine cities, 3,375 villages, and 10,875 hamlets within the following nine boroughs, from north to south: Abu Qirgas, El Idwa, Minya, Beni Mazar, Deir Mawas, Maghagha, Mallawi, Matai, Samalut. According to sources, the governorate has a large number of Christians, particularly in the city of Mallawi. In 2006, the population of the city of Al Minya was 236,043 to which half the population was Coptic Christian.<sup>3</sup>

No references to an Anglican Church or 'United Coptic Church' being located in the Minya governorate were found and, in particular, no reference was found on the Anglican Diocese in Egypt website. Media reports did, however, provide details of other churches in the Minya governorate:

- St Mary (specific location unknown)
- The Apostolic Church in Abowan
- Church of St. Abaskharion Kellini in Izbat Basilius (Beni Mazar district)
- Abu Sieveen Church in El Tayeba village, Church of Maghagha, Mar-Girgis (St George-Coptic Orthodox) in the village of Nazlet al-Badraman
- Balimuth Brethren Church in the Samalut district (Evangelical)
- Nahdat al-Qadasa Church in Abu Qirgas district (Evangelical)
- Archangel Michael Church in the Abu Qurqas district.<sup>4</sup>

Monasteries in the area include Dair al-Adhra (The Church of the Holy Virgin) at Gabal al-Tayr (Mountain of the Birds near Samalut) and the Abu Fana monastery (Monastery of the Cross) near Mallawi.<sup>5</sup>

Since the 1970s there have been incidents of sectarian violence against the Christian community in the Minya governorate. In the 1980s and 1990s the situation escalated as a result of the violent activities by the Islamic terrorist group, *El-Gama'a Al-Islamia*, which was reportedly responsible for the murder of a number of Christians in the area. During

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Attachment 3; 'Minya Governorate' 2010, Wikipedia website, 18 July (last updated)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minya\\_Governorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minya_Governorate) – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 4.

<sup>3</sup> 'Travel & Geography: Al-Minya' 2010, *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica Online, 2 August <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/384682/al-Minya> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 2; 'El Minya' (undated), touregypt.net website <http://www.touregypt.net/elminyatop.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 3; 'Minya Governorate' 2010, Wikipedia website, 18 July (last updated)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minya\\_Governorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minya_Governorate) – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 4.

<sup>4</sup> US Department of State 2005, *International Religious Freedom Report for 2005-Egypt*, November, Section II [www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51598.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51598.htm) – Accessed 9 November 2005 – Attachment 5; Nafea, S. 2010, 'Minya cathedral crisis escalates' US Copts Association website, 27 July

<http://www.copts.com/english/?p=4676#more-4676> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 6; Shukry, T. 2009, 'An attack against a church in Minya is promptly controlled by the local authorities As it should be' US Copts Association website, 1 November <http://www.copts.com/english/?p=3643> – Accessed 28 July 2010 –

Attachment 7; 'Stabbing, bombing attacks strike near two churches' 2009, *Compass Direct News*, 22 May –

Attachment 8; Fadly, E. 2008, '30 held in investigation of Minya sectarian clashes' *Daily News Egypt*, 6 October – Attachment 9; Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights 2009, *Freedom of Religion and Belief in Egypt Quarterly Report July – September 2009*, October, p. 25 – Attachment 10; Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights 2009, *Freedom of Religion and Belief in Egypt Quarterly Report January – March 2009*, April, p. 13 – Attachment 11.

<sup>5</sup> Dunn, J. (undated), 'Dair al-Adhra, The Church of the Holy Virgin at Gabal al-Tayr near Minya' touregypt.net website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/altayr.htm> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 12; Dunn, J. (undated), 'The Monastery of Apa Bane (Deir Abu Fana, or the Monastery of the Cross)' touregypt.net website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/apabane.htm> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 13.

this time, Christians were also reportedly being forced to pay protection money to Islamic groups.<sup>6</sup>

The beginning of the twenty-first century saw a decrease in violence against Christians in the Minya governorate, which was likely a result of the mass arrest of members of *EI-Gama'a Al-Islamia* and the renunciation of violence by the group in 2003.<sup>7</sup> In the last three years, however, there has been a renewed spike in sectarian incidents between local Muslims and Christians, typically over local disputes that escalate into violence between the communities. A 2006 article by *Daily News Egypt* claims that:

... tension between Muslims and Christians still reigns in Upper Egypt. Minya residents wear their religion on their sleeves; verses from the Quran are painted on many of the Muslim villagers' front doors while it's rare to find a Christian house without icons or pictures of saints. Most of the poor farmers don't possess actual overt animosity toward members of the other faith, yet they consistently keep their distance and avoid mingling with one other. Nevertheless, the richer and more educated maintain a larger distance and the majority don't have favorable opinions of either the other faith or its followers.<sup>8</sup>

In a 2010 article by the Egyptian newspaper, *Al Masry Al Youm*, a young Christian man from Minya told the paper how:

“[A] rumor of a Muslim woman getting into a relationship with a Christian man is enough to cause fights on the streets and rifts in relations. People watch religious channels here all the time, Muslims and Christians. So much is boiling beneath the surface. And each side is glad to point out the mistakes of the other.”<sup>9</sup>

A recent report by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights claimed that between 2008 and 2009, the Minya governorate had the highest percentage of sectarian incidents with “with one case every 35 days in 17 villages”.<sup>10</sup> The majority of recent violent incidents in the Minya governorate relate to disputes over the building of churches.<sup>11</sup> The most widely

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<sup>6</sup> ‘Violence resulting in murders Committed against Copts since 1972- Now’ 2010, United Copts of Great Britain website, 31 July (last updated)

[http://www.unitedcopts.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=33](http://www.unitedcopts.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=33) – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 14; Amer, P. 2010, ‘Chronology: Egypt’s sectarian violence’ *Al Masry Al Youm*, 12 January <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/news/chronology-egypts-sectarian-violence> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 15; Engel, R.(undated), ‘Fundamentalists demand Mafia-style protection money from Copts’ *Middle East Times* – Attachment 16; Amnesty International 1997, ‘Amnesty International appalled by the latest deliberate killings of civilians’ 14 February – Attachment 17.

<sup>7</sup> ‘al-Gama’a al-Islamiyya’ 2010, Wikipedia website, 28 May [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Gama'a\\_al-Islamiyya#1990s\\_terrorism\\_campaign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Gama'a_al-Islamiyya#1990s_terrorism_campaign) – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 18.

<sup>8</sup> Fahim, J. 2006, ‘The other Egypt’ *Daily News Egypt*, 25 October <http://www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=3606> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 19

<sup>9</sup> Amer, P. 2010, ‘Unresolved: Stolen rights, insecurity in Coptic Abu Fana’ *Al Masry al Youm*, 8 February <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/news/unresolved-stolen-rights-insecurity-coptic-abu-fana> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 20.

<sup>10</sup> Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights 2010, *Two years of sectarian violence: What happened? Where do we begin? An analytical study of January 2008-January 2010*, April, p.5 <http://eiipr.org/en/report/2010/04/11/776/779> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 21.

<sup>11</sup> ‘Violence resulting in murders Committed against Copts since 1972- Now’ 2010, United Copts of Great Britain website, 31 July (last updated) [http://www.unitedcopts.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=33](http://www.unitedcopts.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=33) – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 14; Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2008, ‘Briefing: Egypt Attack on Abu-Fana Monastery, El Minya’ United Copts of Great Britain website, September <http://www.unitedcopts.org/images/stories/pdf/CSW%20AbuFana.pdf> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 22; ‘Police Collusion Suspected in Attack on Church in Minya, Egypt’ 2009, *Compass Direct News*, 17 July <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/egypt/4400/> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 23;

reported incident was in 2008 when several people were shot and three monks kidnapped from the Abu Fana Monastery and allegedly tortured by local Bedouins as a result of construction work being undertaken around the monastery.<sup>12</sup> Other recent incidents include the stabbing of a Coptic Christian man by the local Muslims whilst leaving a Church service.<sup>13</sup>

No reports were found of mistreatment of Christians by local authorities in the Minya governorate; however, one was located of a current dispute between a local orthodox Coptic Church and the Governor in regards to building a new Cathedral.<sup>14</sup> Nonetheless, Christian reporting suggests that the local authorities in the Minya governorate are slow to respond to sectarian incidents or do not respond at all. For example, reports claim that it took several hours for the local police to attend to the Abu Fana Monastery after receiving a call about the 2008 attack.<sup>15</sup> One Coptic human rights lawyer recently claimed that “The governorate of Minya has the highest level of radicalization and intolerance,” and “[t]he governor has totally failed in tackling this issue from all different aspects – education, media, culture and security.”<sup>16</sup> Other sources allege that the governor of Minya ‘plays down’ incidents between Christians and Muslims denying that they are of a sectarian nature. For example, it is alleged that the Governor has claimed that the attack on the Abu Fana monastery was merely a dispute between neighbours.<sup>17</sup> Instead of investigating incidents of violence against Christians, the Egyptian government often sponsors “reconciliation sessions” which the US Department of State claims “obviated the prosecution of perpetrators of crimes against Copts and precluded their recourse to the judicial system for restitution. This practice contributed to a climate of impunity that

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‘Violence Again Erupts over Quest for Worship Site’ 2009, *Compass Direct News*, 31 July <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/egypt/4386/> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 24; Shukry, T. 2009, ‘An attack against a church in Minya is promptly controlled by the local authorities As it should be’ US Copts Association website, 1 November <http://www.copts.com/english/?p=3643> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 7; Kamal, T. 2009, ‘Upheaval in Minya after church renovations’ *Al Masry Al Youm*, 29 October <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/news/upheaval-minya-after-church-renovations> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 25; Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights 2010, *Two years of sectarian violence: What happened? Where do we begin? An analytical study of January 2008-January 2010*, April, p.13 <http://eipr.org/en/report/2010/04/11/776/779> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 21.

<sup>12</sup> Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2008, ‘Briefing: Egypt Attack on Abu-Fana Monastery, El Minya’ United Copts of Great Britain website, September <http://www.unitedcopts.org/images/stories/pdf/CSW%20AbuFana.pdf> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 22.

<sup>13</sup> ‘Egypt: Stabbing, Bombing Attacks Near Two Churches’ 2009, *opendoors.org.au* website, 23 May <http://www.opendoors.org.au/article/47/egypt-stabbing-bombing-attacks-near-two-churches> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 26.

<sup>14</sup> Nafea, S. 2010, ‘Minya cathedral crisis escalates’ US Copts Association website, 27 July <http://www.copts.com/english/?p=4676#more-4676> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 6.

<sup>15</sup> ‘Egypt sectarian clashes up, Gov’t action weak- study’ 2010, *Reuters*, 11 April – Attachment 27 – Accessed 28 July 2010; Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2008, ‘Briefing: Egypt Attack on Abu-Fana Monastery, El Minya’ United Copts of Great Britain website, September

<http://www.unitedcopts.org/images/stories/pdf/CSW%20AbuFana.pdf> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 22; ‘Egypt: Stabbing, Bombing Attacks Near Two Churches’ 2009, *opendoors.org.au* website, 23 May <http://www.opendoors.org.au/article/47/egypt-stabbing-bombing-attacks-near-two-churches> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 26; ‘Police Collusion Suspected in Attack on Church in Minya, Egypt’ 2009, *Compass Direct News*, 17 July <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/egypt/4400/> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 23.

<sup>16</sup> ‘Violence resulting in murders Committed against Copts since 1972- Now’ 2010, United Copts of Great Britain website, 31 July (last updated) [http://www.unitedcopts.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=33](http://www.unitedcopts.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=33) – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 14.

<sup>17</sup> Samaan, M. 2008, ‘Committee formed to look into monastery clashes’ *Daily News Egypt*, 3 June <http://www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=14175> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 28.

encouraged further assaults.”<sup>18</sup> For example, on 5 October 2008, the Minya Criminal Court sentenced a Muslim who stabbed a Copt to death to a one-year suspended sentence following a reconciliation session at which the family of the killer promised to pay indemnity to the victim’s family.<sup>19</sup> Similarly, the 2009 US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report stated that Government had not prosecuted any of the Bedouin villagers who assaulted the Abu Fana monastery in May 2008.<sup>20</sup>

## **2. Please provide information on whether the Muslim Brotherhood has a stronghold in Al Minya.**

A 2005 article from an Islamic website refers to the Minya governorate as being a stronghold of the Muslim Brotherhood (Brotherhood). In the 2005 parliamentary elections, the Brotherhood won six seats (out of twenty-two seats) in the Minya governorate whilst the ruling party only won five seats.<sup>21</sup> No other sources, however, were found to corroborate the claim that the area is a stronghold of the Brotherhood.

Even if accepted, whether the Minya governorate remains a stronghold of the Brotherhood is unclear as the Brotherhood boycotted municipal elections in 2008 due a widespread crackdown on the group prior to elections.<sup>22</sup> The Brotherhood also boycotted elections to Egypt’s upper house of parliament (Shura Council) in 2010 and is reportedly considering boycotting the next round of parliamentary elections to the lower house (People’s Assembly) in November 2010.<sup>23</sup>

It is also of note that, in the last three years, the Brotherhood claims that a number of its members in the Minya governorate have been arrested.<sup>24</sup> This is consistent with a widespread crackdown on Brotherhood members across the country since making significant gains in the 2005 parliamentary elections.

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<sup>18</sup> US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, September, Introduction – Attachment 29.

<sup>19</sup> US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, September, Section III – Attachment 29.

<sup>20</sup> US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 – Egypt*, September, Section III – Attachment 29.

<sup>21</sup> ‘Muslim Brotherhood Stuns NDP in Egypt’s Runoffs’ 2005, IslamOnline.net, 16 November <http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2005-11/16/article01.shtml> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 30; ‘Egypt’s Brotherhood gains in runoff’ 2005, *Al Jazeera*, 16 November <http://english.aljazeera.net/archive/2005/11/200841012755951815.html> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 31.

<sup>22</sup> ‘Egypt’ 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition*, CQ Press Electronic Library [http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2010\\_Egypt&type=toc&num=56](http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2010_Egypt&type=toc&num=56) – Accessed 29 July 2010 – Attachment 32; ‘Democracy – Egyptian Style’ 2008, ikhwanweb.com, source: *The Media Line*, 14 April <http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?ID=16692&SectionID=109> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 33.

<sup>23</sup> ‘Egypt opposition groups discuss boycotting parliamentary elections’ 2010, *Trend News*, 8 July <http://en.trend.az/regions/met/arabicr/1717681.html> – Accessed 29 July 2010- Attachment 34; ‘Egypt’ 2010, electionguide.org website, 9 June (last updated) <http://www.electionguide.org/country.php?ID=65> – Accessed 29 July 2010 – Attachment 35.

<sup>24</sup> Alsayed, A. 2009, ‘Five Minya MB Members Arrested’ Ikhwanweb.com, 23 March <http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?ID=19666&SectionID=125> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 36; ‘New terrible Sweep of Arrests against MBs today’ 2008, Ikhwanweb.com, 20 February <http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?id=16062> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 37; ‘10 MB Members Arrested Including Son of MB MP’ 2009, Ikhwanweb.com, 18 February <http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?ID=19332&SectionID=152> – Accessed 28 July 2010 – Attachment 38.

**3. Please provide general information on the types of Christian denominations in Egypt, including the Anglican Church and the Coptic United Church, and some details as to the doctrine and practices of these denominations.**

According to the website GlobalSecurity.org, estimates of the percentage of Christians in Egypt range from 8 to 12 percent (6 to 10 million), the majority of who belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church. Other Christian communities include Catholic (Armenian, Chaldean, Greek, Melkite, Roman, and Syrian Catholic), Maronite, and Orthodox (Greek and Syrian) churches. Approximately 85 percent of all Catholics in Egypt belong to the Coptic Catholic Church.<sup>25</sup> It is of note that the word “Copt” or “Coptic” derives from the Greek word for Egyptian “*Aigyptioi*” but now refers to native Egyptian Christians.<sup>26</sup>

No information was found on the “Coptic United Church”. The Egyptian Protestant (known in Arabic as “*ingili*” or evangelical) community, established in the middle of the 19th century, includes the Episcopal (Anglican) Church and a number of other denominations:

- Armenian Apostolic Church
- The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East
- The Coptic Evangelical Church
- Presbyterian
- Baptist
- Brethren
- Open Brethren
- Revival of Holiness (Nahdat al-Qadaasa)
- Faith (Al-Eyman)
- Church of God
- Christian Model Church (Al-Mithaal Al-Masihi)
- Apostolic
- Grace (An-Ni’ma)
- Pentecostal
- Apostolic Grace
- Church of Christ
- Gospel Missionary (Al-Kiraaza bil Ingil)
- Message Church of Holland (Ar-Risaala).<sup>27</sup>

There are also followers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was granted legal status in the 1960s. There are 800 to 1,200 Jehovah’s Witnesses and small numbers of Mormons, but the Government does not recognise either group.<sup>28</sup> Christians are dispersed throughout the country, although the percentage of Christians is higher in Upper Egypt (the southern part of the country) and some sections of Cairo and Alexandria.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> ‘Egypt – Religion’ (undated), Globalsecurity.org

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/egypt/religion.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 39.

<sup>26</sup> ‘Copt’ 2010, Wikipedia website, 1 August <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copt> – Accessed 2 August 2010- Attachment 40; ‘Coptic alphabet’ (undated), omniglot.com

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/coptic.htm> – Accessed 2 August 2010 – Attachment 41.

<sup>27</sup> ‘Egypt – Religion’ (undated), Globalsecurity.org

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/egypt/religion.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 39.

<sup>28</sup> ‘Egypt – Religion’ (undated), Globalsecurity.org

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/egypt/religion.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 39.

<sup>29</sup> ‘Egypt – Religion’ (undated), Globalsecurity.org

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/egypt/religion.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 39.

## The Anglican Church

There is no single “Anglican Church” with universal juridical authority as each national or regional church has full autonomy.<sup>30</sup> The Anglican Church in Egypt is part of the province of the “Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East” which covers Jerusalem, Iran, Egypt, Cyprus, and the Gulf.<sup>31</sup> The Diocese of Egypt includes North Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.<sup>32</sup> The Egyptian government suspended the Anglican Church in 1958 after the Anglo-French occupation of the Suez Canal but permitted it to resume functioning in 1974.<sup>33</sup>

According to the website for the Diocese in Egypt, the Diocesan seat is All Saints’ Cathedral, Zamalek, Cairo and the current Bishop for the Diocese is Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis. Approximately 80% of the congregation of this Diocese are refugees, owing to the civil war in the Sudan.<sup>34</sup> Other Churches in Egypt belonging to the Diocese include:

- St Marks Pro-Cathedral in Alexandria
- St. John the Baptist Church in Maadi (Cairo)(English-speaking congregation serving the expatriate community)
- Jesus Light of the World Church in Old Cairo
- Church of the Epiphany in Port Said
- All Saints Anglican Church in Stanley Bay (Alexandria)
- Ras el Soda Congregation in Alexandria
- St. Mark’s Church in Menouf (in the Nile Delta north west of Cairo)
- The Church of the Good Shepherd in Giza
- St Michael and All Angels’ in Heliopolis (Cairo)
- St Saviour’s Church in Suez

Other congregations are located in Sadat City, Hurghada (Red Sea), Ezbit en Nakhl (Cairo), Heyayek, Helwan (South of Cairo) and Hawandeya (South of Giza).<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> ‘Anglican Communion’ 2010, Wikipedia website, 21 July [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican\\_Communion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican_Communion) – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 42.

<sup>31</sup> ‘Provincial Directory: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East’ (undated), Anglicancommunion.org website <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/tour/province.cfm?ID=J2> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 43.

<sup>32</sup> ‘Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East’ 2010, Wikipedia website, 24 July (last updated) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal\\_Church\\_in\\_Jerusalem\\_and\\_the\\_Middle\\_East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Church_in_Jerusalem_and_the_Middle_East) – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 44.

<sup>33</sup> ‘Egypt – Religion’ (undated), Globalsecurity.org <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/egypt/religion.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010-Attachment 39.

<sup>34</sup> ‘The Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/dioceseofegypt> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 45.

<sup>35</sup> ‘St. Mark’s Pro-Cathedral, Alexandria’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/node/69> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 46; ‘St. John the Baptist Church, Maadi’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/churches/egypt/st.johns> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 47; ‘St. Mark’s Church, Menouf’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/node/74> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 48; ‘Ras el Soda Church’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/node/75> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 49; ‘All Saints’ Church, Stanley Bay’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/node/73> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 50; ‘Church of the Epiphany, Port Said’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/node/71> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 51; ‘Jesus Light of the World Church, Old Cairo’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/node/65> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 52; ‘The Churches in Egypt: The Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa’ (undated), The

The Diocese of Egypt website claims that the Anglican/Episcopal denomination in their region is “committed to ecumenism, seeking to build positive relationships with all denominations and so learning to appreciate their traditions while cherishing all that is good in our own”. According to its website, its goals include starting new places of ministry wherever possible and other evangelistic activities. The Diocese has also established the Alexandria School of Theology and aims to establish new social centres in most of the new cities within Egypt.<sup>36</sup> The Anglican Church in Egypt undertakes a number of services and projects including work among displaced persons/refugees; social work in various centres; a deaf school; library; bookshop; and health clinics.<sup>37</sup>

There is no reference to an Anglican Church or congregation in the Minya governorate on the Diocese website. The response by the Anglican Church to a recent media report suggests that the current list of churches on its website is accurate and casts doubt on any suggestion that there is an Anglican Church in Al Minya. On 24 March 2010, the *Assyrian International News Agency* (AINA) reported that an “Anglican” pastor and his wife in Luxor had been assaulted by state security in order to remove them from their church which was about to be demolished.<sup>38</sup> The Anglican Church in Egypt issued a statement in response claiming that the report was untrue as they do not have a church in Luxor and that the pastor named is not Anglican.<sup>39</sup> The story currently on the AINA website now refers to the Pastor as being ‘Evangelical’.<sup>40</sup>

The Anglican Church in Egypt proclaims “the faith of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, which is founded on the teaching of the Scriptures, and is expressed by the Anglican Tradition (Book of Common Prayer, 39 Articles, Ordinal) and the Creeds (Nicene, Athanasius, Apostles)”.<sup>41</sup> Sources on the Anglican Church, in general, claim that Anglicans have typically appealed to the Book of Common Prayer as a guide to Anglican theology and practice.<sup>42</sup> Anglicans celebrate the traditional sacraments, with special emphasis being given to the Holy Eucharist, also called Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper or the Mass. Other important rites include confirmation, holy orders, reconciliation, marriage and anointing of the sick.<sup>43</sup> Whilst many Anglicans celebrate the Eucharist in similar ways to the predominant western Catholic tradition, a considerable degree of liturgical freedom is permitted, and worship styles range from the simple to

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Egypt Diocesan Association website <http://www.eda-egypt.org.uk/pages/egypt.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 53.

<sup>36</sup> ‘Dreams as a Diocese’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website

<http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/dioceseofegypt/dreams> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 54.

<sup>37</sup> ‘The Churches in Egypt: The Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa’ (undated), The Egypt Diocesan Association website <http://www.eda-egypt.org.uk/pages/egypt.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 53.

<sup>38</sup> Abdelmassih, M. 2010, ‘Egyptian State Security Demolishes Anglican Christian Church, Assaults Pastor’ [helleniccomserve.com](http://www.helleniccomserve.com), source: *Assyrian International News Agency* <http://www.helleniccomserve.com/egyptdemolisheschurch03-24-10.html> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 55.

<sup>39</sup> ‘Communication from the Anglican Church of Egypt’ 2010, [anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org) website, 25 March <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/digest/index.cfm/2010/3/25/Communication-from-the-Anglican-Church-of-Egypt> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 56.

<sup>40</sup> Abdelmassih, M. 2010, ‘Egyptian State Security Demolishes Evangelical Church, Assaults Pastor’ *Assyrian International News Agency*, 24 March <http://www.aina.org/news/20100323193843.htm> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 57.

<sup>41</sup> ‘The Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa’ (undated), dioceseofegypt.org website <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/dioceseofegypt> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 45.

<sup>42</sup> ‘Anglican Communion’ 2010, Wikipedia website, 21 July [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican\\_Communion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican_Communion) – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 42.

<sup>43</sup> ‘What it means to be an Anglican’ (undated), The Church of England website <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/faith/anglican/> – Accessed 2 August 2010 – Attachment 58.



elaborate.<sup>44</sup> Many Anglicans consider their Church to be an amalgam of Evangelical and Catholic traditions.<sup>45</sup>

In general, source claims that an Anglican service (whether or not a Eucharist) will include readings from the Bible that are generally taken from a standardised lectionary, which provides for the entire Bible (and some passages from the Apocrypha) to be read out loud in the church over a three year cycle. The sermon (or homily) is typically about 10 to 20 minutes in length, though it may be much longer in Evangelical churches. Only baptised persons are eligible to receive communion, although in many churches communion is restricted to those who have not only been baptised but also confirmed.<sup>46</sup>

#### **4. Please provide information on any Coptic churches or monasteries or retreats in El Tahreer (about 250 km from North Cairo).**

No information could be found on an area north of Cairo named 'El Tahreer'.

There are four active Coptic monasteries in an area called Wadi Natrun which is 100km north of Cairo: Monastery of the Romans (Deir Al Baramus), St. Boshoi's (Anba Beshoy) Monastery, Monastery of the Syrians (Deir al-Surian) and Monastery of St. Macarius (Deir Abu Magar, Abu Maker).<sup>47</sup>

There is also the relatively young Monastery of St. Mina (Deir Mar Mina in Arabic) in Mariut which is located in the Western desert of Egypt, just South West of Alexandria, off the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria.<sup>48</sup> The distance between Cairo and Alexandria is approximately 220km.<sup>49</sup>

A Christian conference centre named 'Beit el Salam' (House of Peace), established by the Evangelical Church of Egypt is located in Agami which is 20km west of Alexandria.<sup>50</sup>

The approximate positions of these locations of interest are indicated on the map on Page 3.

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<sup>44</sup> 'Anglicanism' 2010, Wikipedia website, 3 August (last updated) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 59.

<sup>45</sup> 'Anglicanism' 2010, Wikipedia website, 3 August (last updated) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 59.

<sup>46</sup> 'Anglicanism' 2010, Wikipedia website, 3 August (last updated) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 59.

<sup>47</sup> Dunn, J. (undated), 'The Christian Monasteries of Egypt' touregypt.net website <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/monasteries.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 60.

<sup>48</sup> 'Welcome to St. Mina Monastery in Mariut on the Web!' (undated), stmina-monaastery.org website <http://www.stmina-monastery.org/> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 61.

<sup>49</sup> 'Egyptian Cities: Distances from Cairo in Km' (undated), a-1hotels.com website [http://www.a-1hotels.com/eg/allaboutegypt/Cities\\_Distance\\_from\\_Cairo/cities\\_distance\\_from\\_cairo.htm](http://www.a-1hotels.com/eg/allaboutegypt/Cities_Distance_from_Cairo/cities_distance_from_cairo.htm) – Accessed 2 August 2010 – Attachment 62.

<sup>50</sup> 'Beit El-Salam Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt 'Meeting Christ By The Seashore'' (undated), General Assembly Mission Council website <http://gamic.pcusa.org/donate/E052800/> – Accessed 2 August 2010 - Attachment 63; 'House of Peace Agami' (undated), beitelislam.org website (Google translation) <http://translate.google.com/translate?sourceid=navclient&hl=en&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2ebeitelislam%2eorg%2f> – Accessed 2 August 2010 – Attachment 64; 'Agami' 2010, Wikipedia website, 8 June (last updated) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agami> – Accessed 2 August 2010 – Attachment 65.

## 5. Please provide information on demonstrations held in Sydney between 2008 and 2010 in support of Egyptian Coptic Christians.

### 5 July 2008

On 5 July 2008, the Sydney Coptic community organised a rally to protest against mistreatment against Copts in Egypt and particularly as a result of the attack on Abu Fana Monastery (referred to above in response to Question 1.) in May 2008. The rally began at Hyde Park at 11am and proceeded to the Egyptian Consulate. A delegation was allowed in to the Egyptian Consulate to present a petition.<sup>51</sup>

### 19 January 2010

On 19 January 2010, the Coptic Orthodox Youth of Sydney led a rally protesting the persecution of Copts in Egypt and specifically the recent shooting of seven Copts on 7 January 2010 (Coptic Christmas) in Nag Hammadi (Southern Egypt). According to reports, approximately 7,000 – 8,000 Copts gathered at 12pm at Hyde Park and marched to Martin Place where speeches by rally organisers, members of the clergy, members of parliament and national religious dignitaries were delivered.<sup>52</sup> During this period similar rallies were conducted amongst expatriate Coptic communities worldwide.<sup>53</sup>

### 19 March 2010

On 19 March 2010, a candlelight vigil was organised by the Sydney Coptic community and held at Martin Place at 7pm to raise awareness about the persecution of Coptic Christians. It was reportedly attended by several other non-Coptic denominations including, Ethiopian Orthodox, Melkite, Catholic, Anglican, Evangelical and Assyrian Churches. A number of banners were held up with slogans such as ‘Stop the persecution of Copts in Egypt’ and ‘Equal rights for Copts’, hymns were sung and speeches were made by the Reverend Tara Curlewis, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches Australia, Mr. Amir Chahine, General Secretary of the Assyrian Universal Alliance, the youth of the Australian Coptic Movement, Father Shenouda Mansour, Dr. David Clarke and the Reverend Fred Nile. A 15 minute video presentation of the persecution of Copts in Egypt was also shown.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> ‘Copts in Sydney march to the Egyptian consulate’ 2008, Canadian Egyptian Organization for Human Rights website, source: *Pajama Media*, 5 July <http://www.ceohr.org/SydneyMarch.html> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 66; ‘Voice of the Martyrs’ 2008, upcoming.yahoo.com website, 1 July (added) <http://upcoming.yahoo.com/event/859861/NSW/Sydney/-Voice-of-the-Martyrs-Hyde-Park/?invitation=a0167f8291> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 67; ‘The Coptic March in Sydney, Australia July 5th 2008’ 2008, YouTube website, 10 July

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-i20U09HZuM&translated=1> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 102.

<sup>52</sup> The Coptic Orthodox Youth of Sydney 2010, ‘Thousands attend the demonstration against killing Copts in Sydney’ coptsunited.com website, 20 January <http://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=90&A=737> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 68; The Australian Coptic Orthodox Youth of Sydney 2010, ‘Copts Rally in Sydney- Tuesday January, 19<sup>th</sup>’ US Copts Association website, 15 January <http://www.copts.com/english/?p=3825> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 69.

<sup>53</sup> Leichman, A.J. 2010, ‘Missions: Rallies for Copts taking place worldwide’ *Christians Today Australia*, 18 January <http://au.christiantoday.com/article/rallies-for-copts-taking-place-worldwide/7493.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 70.

<sup>54</sup> Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions 2010, ‘A Candlelight Vigil for Human Rights at Martin Place’ US Copts Association website, 17 March <http://www.copts.com/english/?p=4092> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 71; ‘Missions: Candlelight Memorial Vigil at Martin Place for Coptic martyrs in Egypt’ 2010, *Christians Today Australia*, 20 March <http://au.christiantoday.com/article/candlelight-memorial-vigil-at-martin-place-for-coptic-martyrs-in-egypt/7844.htm> – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 72; ‘Sydney Candlelight Vigil for Human Rights 19/03/10’ 2010, YouTube website, 19 March (posted)

## 6. Please provide a background and update on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

Formed in 1928 the Brotherhood operates under the slogan “Islam Is the Solution” as it aims to establish an Islamic state governed by religious law in Egypt. The Brotherhood engaged in assassinations and bombings in the past but in the 1970s, the Egyptian Brotherhood renounced violence. It has focused instead on building an Islamic society through proselytising, social work and political activism. It dominates many Egyptian professional associations and provides a wide range of charitable services. Though it is outlawed by the Egyptian state, the Brotherhood operates openly and runs its political candidates as independents. They were allowed to contest 145 seats in parliamentary elections in November and December 2005 where they won 20% of the seats creating a formidable opposition to the ruling party.<sup>55</sup>

In 2007, Egypt responded to the Brotherhood’s poll success by enacting constitutional amendments banning any political parties based on religion and launching a wave of arrests and military trials against the group. When local council elections, initially due for 2006, were finally held in 2008, the state disqualified most Brotherhood candidates and arrested up to 900 Brotherhood members. As a result the group boycotted the elections.<sup>56</sup> In January 2010, the movement named ‘conservative’, Mohammed Badie, as its new leader.<sup>57</sup> In February 2010, another 13 senior members, including the deputy leader, were arrested in the lead up to parliamentary elections.<sup>58</sup> In the 2010 Shura Council (Upper house of Parliament) elections, the group did not win one seat alleging vote-rigging by the government. The Brotherhood is reportedly in discussion to boycott the next round of parliamentary elections to the lower house (People’s Assembly) in November 2010.<sup>59</sup> Recent analysts speculate that the new leadership team and a campaign of arrests by police are likely to encourage a shift away from public life for the Brotherhood.<sup>60</sup>

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[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_jjqdwmQW8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_jjqdwmQW8) – Accessed 26 July 2010 – Attachment 103.

<sup>55</sup> Trofimov, Y. 2009, ‘Muslim Brotherhood Falters as Egypt Outflanks Islamists’ *Wall Street Journal*, 15 May <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124225195098016929.html> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 73; Isseroff, A. 2008, ‘Encyclopedia of the Middle East: Muslim Brotherhood’ [mideastweb.org](http://www.mideastweb.org), 17 December (last updated) [http://www.mideastweb.org/Middle-East-Encyclopedia/muslim\\_brotherhood.htm](http://www.mideastweb.org/Middle-East-Encyclopedia/muslim_brotherhood.htm) – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 74; ‘Egypt detains Muslim Brotherhood leaders’ 2010, *BBC News*, 8 February – Attachment 75; Atta; ‘Egypt’ 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition*, CQ Press Electronic Library [http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2010\\_Egypt&type=toc&num=56](http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2010_Egypt&type=toc&num=56) – Accessed 29 July 2010 – Attachment 32.

<sup>56</sup> Trofimov, Y. 2009, ‘Muslim Brotherhood Falters as Egypt Outflanks Islamists’ *Wall Street Journal*, 15 May <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124225195098016929.html> – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 73; Isseroff, A. 2008, ‘Encyclopedia of the Middle East: Muslim Brotherhood’ [mideastweb.org](http://www.mideastweb.org), 17 December (last updated) [http://www.mideastweb.org/Middle-East-Encyclopedia/muslim\\_brotherhood.htm](http://www.mideastweb.org/Middle-East-Encyclopedia/muslim_brotherhood.htm) – Accessed 30 July 2010 – Attachment 74; ‘Egypt detains Muslim Brotherhood leaders’ 2010, *BBC News*, 8 February – Attachment 75; ‘Egypt’ 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition*, CQ Press Electronic Library [http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2010\\_Egypt&type=toc&num=56](http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2010_Egypt&type=toc&num=56) – Accessed 29 July 2010 – Attachment 32.

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<sup>59</sup> ‘Egypt opposition groups discuss boycotting parliamentary elections’ 2010, *Trend News*, 8 July <http://en.trend.az/regions/met/arabicr/1717681.html> – Accessed 29 July 2010 – Attachment 34; ‘Egypt’ 2010, [electionguide.org](http://www.electionguide.org) website, 9 June (last updated) <http://www.electionguide.org/country.php?ID=65> – Accessed 29 July 2010 – Attachment 35; ‘Egypt’s Brotherhood loses vote bid’ 2010, *BBC News*, 2 June – Attachment 76.

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## Attitude towards Coptic Christians

The Brotherhood has offered ambiguous statements in regards to its view on Coptic Christians as part of its vision of an Islamic state, but has recently sought open dialogue with the Coptic community. There were no recent reports of mistreatment of Coptic Christians by members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Coptic sources claim the Brotherhood's vision of an Islamic state excludes "infidels" such as Christians and Jews.<sup>61</sup> A number of sources, however, state that the Muslim Brotherhood has been unclear in its public position on Copts. Leaders of the Brotherhood have made ambiguous and often conflicting statements such as whether a Copt should become President and hold senior posts in the state and army and whether or not Copts should pay the traditional poll tax levied on non-Muslims living under Muslim rule.<sup>62</sup> At the same time the group has offered conciliatory statements such as "[t]hey (Christians) have the same rights as we do and the same duties as we do" and it has shown an interest in engaging the Coptic community in open dialogue.<sup>63</sup> It has also made public denouncements following recent incidents of Muslim attacks on Coptic Christians.<sup>64</sup> Therefore, the Muslim Brotherhood's attitude towards the Coptic Christian community remains unclear.

## 7. Deleted.

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<sup>61</sup> Khalil, M. 2006, 'The Muslim Brotherhood and the Copts' Threats Watch website, 20 April <http://commentary.threatswatch.org/2006/04/the-muslim-brotherhood-and-the/> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 79; Azarva, J. & Tadros, S. 2007, 'The Problem of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood' American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research website, November <http://www.aei.org/outlook/27174> – Accessed 19 February 2010 – Attachment 80.

<sup>62</sup> Khalil, M. 2006, 'The Muslim Brotherhood and the Copts' Threats Watch website, 20 April <http://commentary.threatswatch.org/2006/04/the-muslim-brotherhood-and-the/> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 79; Shahine, G. 2005, 'What Copts fear' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue No.772, 8-14 December <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2005/772/eg13.htm> – Accessed 23 February 2010 – Attachment 81; Ammar, M. 2007, 'Brotherhood Says No Women, No Copts To Be Egyptian President' *Ikhwanweb.com*, source: *All Headline News*, 8 November <http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?id=14561> – Accessed 23 February 2010 – Attachment 82; International Crisis Group 2008, *Egypt's Muslim Brothers: Confrontation or Integration?*, 18 June – Attachment 83.

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