



Christian Freedom[®] International

**WARNING: GRAPHIC
IMAGES INSIDE**



WOMEN CRY DURING THE
FUNERAL FOR THOSE KILLED
IN A PALM SUNDAY CHURCH
ATTACK IN ALEXANDRIA EGYPT,
AT THE MAR AMINA CHURCH. //
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUNE 2017

PALM SUNDAY BOMBING IN EGYPT: AN EYEWITNESS REPORT

"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3



CHRISTIANS ATTACKED IN EGYPT:

EXCLUSIVE EYEWITNESS REPORT

Please pray for the Persecuted Church in Egypt.

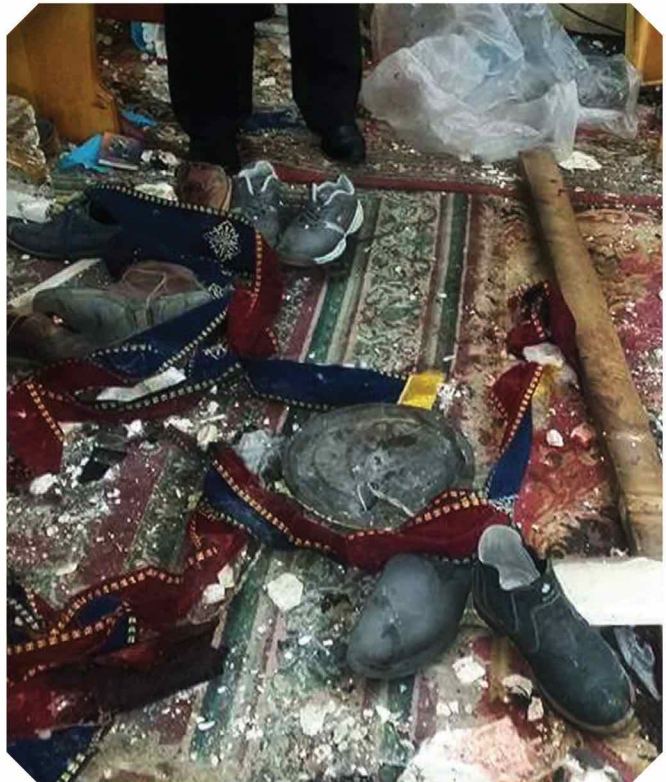
CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

suffered two deadly suicide bombings on Palm Sunday, killing 46 people and injuring more than 100 others. ISIS said it sent suicide bombers to the two churches, one in Alexandria and one in Tanta.

Egypt's Christian minority makes up about 10 percent of the country's population, according to a recent estimate by the CIA. Roughly 9 million people

have endured the recent attacks in that region, aggression that dates back centuries, usually at the hands of Muslim extremists.

Many of Egypt's Christians are Coptic, a centuries-old sect influenced by the apostle and evangelist Mark, who is believed by many to have brought the teachings of Christ to that country in the first century A.D.



➤ IMAGE AFTER THE EXPLOSION INSIDE
ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Christian Freedom International's co-worker in Egypt, who lost friends in the attack, sent the following exclusive eyewitness report:

FIRST BOMB:



➤ PICTURED IS SOME OF THE AFTERMATH OF THE EXPLOSION OUTSIDE OF ST. GEORGES'S CATHEDRAL IN TANTA

"The metal detector on the main door of the Cathedral

wasn't working and the security forces who were guarding the church allowed all people to enter the church without searching them. I myself entered the church and none of the police men who were on the church's door searched me or asked me to show him my ID card to know if I'm a Christian or not," Emad Samuel, a Christian eyewitness, told CFI.

"The suicide bomber managed to enter the church because of this security defect and he then rushed up to the deacon choir in front of the sanctuary where he blew himself up. Many of the victims were thus deacons and altar boys," Emad Samuel said to CFI.

"The explosion occurred at the middle of the mass about

9:00 a.m. It was a very huge explosion. The whole church became dark. White dust filled the church, and there were screams everywhere. The church was filled with the bodies of dead, body parts and the injured. Blood was splatted all over the place. Palm fronds stained with blood. Many icons were destroyed and the church pews were broken and destroyed," Emad Samuel recalls.

This past month security forces had dismantled a bomb outside the same church in Tanta.

The St. George Cathedral's blast in Tanta resulted in the death of 35 Coptic Christians and the injury of more than 70 others.

'HARSH TRIAL'

➤ Moussa Wasef, a priest at St. George's Cathedral in Tanta, told CFI, "For the families of the martyrs, I want to say to them that we are sympathetic with all of you and we feel your pains and feel you strong faith. God is the only one who can comfort you. We ask God from our deeply hearts to comfort you and support you in this harsh trial." On Sunday evening, at 10:00 p.m., a service was held for the victims at St. George's Cathedral in Tanta. They were buried in a mass grave that was prepared for them at the same church.

SECOND BOMB:



➤ PICTURED IS SOME OF THE AFTERMATH OF THE EXPLOSION OUTSIDE OF ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL IN ALEXANDRIA

The second suicide bombing occurred in front of St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria.

This suicide bombing took place after Palm Sunday Mass. Pope Tawadros II, head of the Egyptian Orthodox Church, had been presiding over Mass at this cathedral.

The suicide bomber attempted to enter the cathedral from its main door as worshipers were leaving but one of the cathedral's Christian guards,

Naseem Fahmi, stopped him, and prevented him from entering the cathedral. Naseem asked him to pass through a metal detector first. The man entered the electronic gate, and when the detector whistled, he took a step back and detonated himself.

"Pope Tawadros II, head of the Egyptian Orthodox Church, was targeted to be killed in this attack, but Divine care saved him. If this suicide bomber had been able to enter the Cathedral the number of the victims would have been more because there were many worshiper in the church yard and were going to leave the church in this moment," reported CFI's coworker in Egypt.

The death toll from the attack on St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, reached 17 (four policemen, two Muslims who were walking next to the Cathedral during the blast, and 11 Christians) with 41 injured, according to a health ministry official in the Alexandria governorate.

“ WHITE DUST FILLED THE CHURCH, AND THERE WERE SCREAMS EVERYWHERE. THE CHURCH WAS FILLED WITH BODIES OF THE DEAD...”



➤ PICTURED IN THE MIDDLE IS SULAIMAN SALIM SULAIMAN (22 YRS. OLD) WHO WAS MARTYRED IN THE SECOND EXPLOSION.

HELP KEEP OTHERS INFORMED ABOUT the PERSECUTED CHURCH PLEASE

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER
ALONG WHEN YOU ARE
FINISHED READING IT.

ENTSAR BASTA, THE WIDOW OF THE MARTYR SAMY PHAM GIRGIS TALKS TO CFI:

"On Saturday evening, April 8, Samy ironed his clothes and polished his shoes to be ready to attend the Palm Sunday mass at Mar Girgis church (he used to pray at this church), I planned to attend the mass at another church (the Virgin Mary church) with my sister as I promised her to go with her. On Sunday, April 9. At 7:00 a.m. Samy went out and headed to Mar Girgis church. and I went to the Virgin Mary church at 7:30 a.m. with my sister. When I was at the church at about 9:10 a.m., I noticed some girls were sitting beside me were talking on mobile and saying to each other

that Mar Girgis church was bombed. I was shocked when I heard that and I felt that Samy died. I left the church immediately and took a taxi and rushed to Mar Girgis church, on my way to Mar Girgis church I called my two sons Peter and Paula and told them that Mar Girgis church was bombed and asked them to rush to the church to search for their father. When I arrived at the church I found a great deal of people, 6 ambulances, police and security forces in front of the church. I tried to look for my husband inside the ambulances but I couldn't see anything because of the crowd."

SAMY PHAM GIRGIS WITH HIS GRANDCHILD



PETER SAMY PHAM GIRGIS, A SON OF SAMY PHAM GIRGIS TALKS TO CFI:

"I'm married and live close to the home of my parents. On Palm Sunday, at about 9:15 a.m. while I was ready to go out to The Virgin Mary church to attend the Palm Sunday mass, I received a call from my mother telling me that Mar Girgis church was bombed and my father was at this church. I immediately rushed to Mar Girgis church. And When I entered the church I saw an unspeakable sight, the

situation was terrible, there were many bodies of the dead, many body parts and many injured. I searched for my father among the dead and injured but I didn't find my father."

"I then got out the church and asked the ambulances which were in front of the church. They told me that they transferred many dead and injured to Tanta University Hospital. I then asked my mother

and brother Paula to go to home, and I rushed to the hospital. The situation was very bad there. The hospital was very filled with a great deal of people.

"I searched for my father among the injured who were at the hospital, but I didn't find him. Someone there asked me to search for him in the hospital morgue. When I entered at the morgue I shocked when I found my father was laying on the first

bed of the morgue."

"I'm very comforted because my father is in Heaven now. God chose my father to be one of the martyrs in Heaven."

"I feel unspeakable emotion that my father above in Heaven. Despite the parting of my father is very hard for me but I'm very happy for me because I'm sure that he is in a very good place now and that is the only thing which comfort me."

CFI WORKS IN EGYPT & ASSISTS PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WITH HUMANITARIAN AID & SPONSORS CHRISTIAN CHILDREN. CFI IS ALSO COLLECTING EMERGENCY FUNDS TO GIVE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE WOUNDED AND MARTYRED TO HELP PAY FOR MEDICAL COSTS, METAL DETECTORS AND OTHER SECURITY DEVICES TO HELP SAFEGUARD CHURCHES OF FUTURE ATTACKS.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Sign the petition online at www.christianfreedom.org/action-center/. Christian Freedom International calls on President Trump to keep our persecuted brothers & sisters in Christ in Egypt in the spotlight, as they have been receiving little media attention since the Palm Sunday bombings.
2. Pray for the Persecuted Church in Egypt.
3. Write a message of hope or share a Bible verse to a Christian in Egypt on the enclosed response device.

CONTACT US!

P.O. BOX 535
FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630
1.800.323.CARE
INFO@CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG

f CFI-FREEDOM

@CFI_FREEDOM

CHRISTIANFREEDOMINTL

@CFI_FREEDOM

CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG

