

Our Objectives

Contributed by Administrator
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COPTS DEMAND EQUALITY JUSTICE & FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

Copts (Christians of Egypt) are not asking for special treatment to compensate for centuries of discrimination and persecution. They are only asking for equality. They don't want anything more, and they will not settle for anything less. It is hard to believe that , at the turn of the 21st century, equality to Copts remains a luxury they still dream of. This at a time when the rest of the civilized world considers equality a birth right to be taken for granted.

- 1- Copts want the antiquated 19th Century Hamayouni decree be abolished. It is inconceivable to require that the president of Egypt must approve permits to build a church. Mosques in Egypt are being built with no restrictions.
- 2- Copts ask for the unified law for the building of houses of worship to see the light of day. The bill has been in drawers of the Egyptian Parliament for the last fifteen years.
- 3- Copts demand the removal of the second Article in the Constitution stipulating "That Islam Is The National Religion" and "Islamic Sharia is the main source of legislation". These articles do not render justice or respect to 12-15 Million Copts. Egypt will prosper under a secular system that separates Religion from the State. Right now Egypt is more of a religious state than civic.
- 4- Copts demand immediate removal of the Coptic File from the State Security and State Intelligence Authority reporting directly to the President Office. Coptic File should be handled directly by government agencies and not by State Security and State Intelligence.
- 5- Copts want equal air time on the government controlled TV and Radio stations to broadcast there belief to their people. The 12-15 million Copts living in Egypt pay for the TV and Radio from their tax money and they should have time allocated for broadcasting.
- 6- Copts want an end to forced conversion of Christian girls, who are kidnapped and raped by Muslim extremists. There are reports of police protection given to the abductors.
- 7- Copts want all Egyptian citizens to have the freedom of belief, including the freedom to change one's religion. Christians are welcomed to convert to Islam, so Muslims should be free to convert to Christianity, if they so chose. Those converts are usually subjected to imprisonment and torture.
- 8- Copts want religious affiliation be removed from national ID cards, job applications,.etc;so Christians could not be identified and discriminated against.
- 9- Copts want educational curriculums to be revised to guarantee that they do not contain any denigrating references to Christians and Christianity, but to encourage students to accept and respect each other. Mandatory courses in human rights in all public schools is strongly recommended.
- 10- Copts want the Government controlled media to refrain from conducting a campaign of hate against Christians, labeling them as infidels, thus creating a climate of intolerance, in which attacks against the Copts can be easily propagated. The media should also allow Coptic programs to be aired.
- 11- Copts want an end to discrimination in job appointments and promotions. Very few Christians are appointed to key jobs such as ministers, or other government officials. At the present time there are no Christian governors, mayors, chief of police, president of City council or college deans in Egypt.
- 12-Copts want an end to discrimination in government controlled school admission against Christian students. Very few Christians are admitted to the police academy, military schools. Very few Christians are appointed to teaching assistance positions in all medical collages, pharmaceutical collages, engineering collages and all top education collages.
- 13- Copts demand justice to be served against murderers, robbers, kidnappers, rapists and terrorists. Egypt is obliged to respect and apply all Human Rights covenant signed since 1981. Egypt refused until now to sign the optional Protocol to the International covenant on civil and political Rights..
- 14-Copts want certain mechanism to be established to create an adequate representation for them in the Egyptian parliament. One suggestion is to have certain areas be closed to Coptic candidates only. Political exclusion of Copts

must stop. The governing national party does not include any Copts in their list of candidates to the parliament.

15-Copts want to be treated with honor and dignity inside Police Departments and in the Sermons of Muslim Sheiks in Mosques…etc. There is no justification for humiliating somebody just because he is different in religion.

16-Copts want to see an end to the religious discrimination that prevails at all levels of the Egyptian educational system, especially in hiring of teachers and professors, and unfair grading practices aimed at Christian students.

17-Copts want their history, language, and culture be taught in schools and colleges in Egypt where their sons and daughters attend.

18-Copts want to feel that the president of Egypt is a president for both Muslims and Copts. They want him to care for them and address their concerns. They want him to meet with their religious leadership, and perhaps pay visits to their churches, something other presidents used to do, but he has never done. This , no doubt, will break down walls of mistrust, and build bridges of tolerance and harmony between Muslims and Christians.

19-Copts want to be allowed to enroll in all schools, which are publicly funded, such as Al-Azhar University, police and military academies, without any restrictions. At present time there is a 2-3% maximum place on Coptic enrollment to police and military academies, and this percentage is not even met by actual enrollment.

These are just a few examples of the discriminatory practices imposed on Copts. They represent a starting point, and taking care of them will show good faith. The most important thing is that there must be a will to correct the wrongs being done to the Copts. When the will is there, everything else will fall in place. Then, Muslims and Christians will live together, in harmony, as brothers and sisters on the land of our beloved Egypt. This is our hope, and this is our prayer.