

Peter Magdy

Journalist

I am Peter Magdy, an Egyptian journalist who monitors and follows up human rights issues in general and minority issues in particular.

Gentlemen, I would like to point out that the situation of minorities in Egypt is not as serious as in other neighboring countries, but this does not rule out the existence of a number of problems that minorities face from time to time individually, But if they are not confronted and addressed, they may eventually turn into organized group action, though these problems are more than 40 years old and caused by the wrong policies of previous governments, the current government has the burden of solving these problems.

I would also like to mention two problems that pose a threat to minorities, The first is the problem of forcible displacement of Egyptian Christian citizens the (Copts), which always occur after incidents of sectarian violence, and after a customary sessions under the auspices of the local security authorities, and lack of bringing the perpetrators and the aggressors ,regardless of their religious affiliation, to fair trials, which considered to be a violation of article 2, paragraph 3a, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

I will mention, for example, the incident of the village of Dahshour south of Giza in August 2012, which I followed myself and wrote reports in the daily newspaper of "Liberation" in Egypt.

In addition to what the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)- a credible human rights organization-, pointed to "the displacement of about 100 Coptic families against the backdrop of events and the failure of the security services to deal with the events before they occur, in its report on 7 August 2012."

More information through these links: <http://www.masress.com/tahrirnews/249527>
<http://www.masress.com/elwatan/33471>

<http://eipr.org/pressrelease/2012/08/07/1461>

The second problem is the subjection of the Egyptian Christian citizens since 2011 until now to Kidnapping in the cities of rural Egypt (south), especially the cities of "Minya" "Assiut" and "Naga' Hammadi" and there are many incidents that occurred, with the inability of security in these cities to recover the kidnapped or prevent abductions.

The investigation which is published on the website of Daily Newspaper of "Al-Shorouk " on September 2, 2014, monitors the great deal of 'Copts' suffering with kidnappings and looting by criminals, and is documented in some pictures and videos of the kidnappings.

<http://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=02092014&id=f3029cfl-82a5-4c62-bc0f-d6396834b077>

All of this with the continuation of incitement and hatred speeches by radical sheikhs without taking concrete measures to curb the spread of such speeches, which is a clear violation of Article 20 paragraph 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Therefore, I support and welcome item 46 of the recommendations to States dealing with confronting the ongoing violence and provides that:

"States should establish effective police and security mechanisms capable of stopping violence against minorities as soon as they occur. It should also establish and maintain strong and efficient communication channels between local communities and law enforcement agencies, To enable attacked local communities to quickly contact state authorities and call for security responses. "

I also recommended that the Egyptian government expedite the establishment of the High Commission for Combating Discrimination, which was stipulated in the 2014 Constitution, which was adopted on 14 and 15 January this year, And to have all the powers to do what is appropriate to combat discrimination and all forms of hate speech and incitement.

Thanks once again.