

European Union of Coptic Organisation for Human Rights

(Male, Arabic)

Thank you Mr President. My name is [...] and I am the president of the Coptic Christian Organisation in Europe. I thank you for choosing the title of this Forum, 'Minorities in the time of crisis'. Copts in Egypt are original inhabitants of Egypt, yet they suffer marginalisation. After the toppling down of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Copts were attacked. There are churches that were burned down; 1,970 houses were robbed; [16] farms, [3 schools and religious institutions] were vandalised or were robbed. The organisations of Copts in Europe have presented several solutions for the situation of Copts in Egypt. First of all, to apply the constitution without any kind of discrimination and to put the Coptic [file] under the control of the president and not police authorities, because they are not criminals; to abolish the discriminatory policy that is well-known and that is not written, such as, preventing Copts from certain public offices and sensitive positions in the state, such as Intelligence [department], governors, deans and etc. Mr President The Copts, after the end of the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood, are still paying the price. They are deprived from holding positions in the state; they are targeted by extremists in their own countries; [...] family was flogged in Mina only a few days ago because they refused to pray. Therefore we call on the international community to take immediate decisions to solve the issue of Copts who are persecuted in their own homeland. Thank you.