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# Mr. Mubarak: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE!

## Discrimination Against the Copts is Mostly the Result of Your Government Policies...

Mr. President:

You know, Mr. President, that the Coptic Christian minority in Egypt badly needs equality, justice and peace. **Discrimination against the Copts is broad, systemic and systematic. It is the result of your policies, not "external enemies" nor "foreign imperialism."**

Aspects of the "Coptic problem" have been exhaustively analyzed. **The solutions are fairly well known, and a good part of them is in your own hands -- provided that you have the political will to act..**

When they have the political will, national leaders can do a lot – in their own different ways:

- ✧ In 1962, a Black man named James Meredith tried to enroll at Ole Miss (the University of Mississippi), but he was prevented from doing so by White students. President Kennedy responded by sending some 400 Federal Marshals and 3,000 troops to ensure that Meredith could enroll in his first class. This attitude culminated in the election of America's first Black president in 2008.
- ✧ In April 2009, President Mubarak ordered the massive killing of hundreds thousands pigs in Egypt "as a precaution against the (N1H1) Swine Flu." Disregarding criticism by senior UN experts. The unnecessary decision was immediately followed through, resulting in depriving poor Copts of their basic livelihood.
- ✧ In June 2009, the Egyptian People's Assembly rushed to approve a new law (demanded by President Mubarak) guaranteeing a minimum of 64 seats of the Assembly to women. The same logic of "affirmative action" is perfectly applicable to the Copts who comprise about 15% of Egypt population but are currently represented by less than ¼ % (1 out of 444 seats) of Egypt's elected parliamentary representatives. Mr. Mubarak has no political will to rectify the shameful imbalance. Nor does he have the will to issue an equitable law for building and repairing churches. A proposed law has been talked about for over 25 years without action.

The Copts only demand **internationally established human-rights guarantees** to live in their homeland **as full-fledged citizens**. But instead of taking concrete steps to address their legitimate demands, Egypt's government spends a lot of energy trying stubbornly to deny or distort the facts. It does not refrain from **resorting to petty tactics to coerce the Church leadership and to muzzle the Copts' mouths -- even in the U.S.A.**

**President Mubarak: You personally have a legal, political and historical responsibility to act. You can correct this injustice, against the Coptic minority, if you want to.**

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