



SUOMEN EKUMEENINEN NEUVOSTO
EKUMENISKA RÅDET I FINLAND
FINNISH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Helsinki, January 7th, 2011

To His Beatitude Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria
and Patriarch of all Africa on the Holy See of St. Mark the Apostle Shenouda III

Your Beatitude!


The Christian Churches in Finland, through the Finnish Ecumenical Council, would like to express their sorrow and dismay regarding the recent terror attacks in Egypt, and in particular the most murderous one committed in Alexandria on 1st January 2011. These attacks have been aimed against the Christians of Egypt, but also Muslim Egyptians have perished in them, and they have consequences on the entire population.

Both Christianity and Islam belong to the land of Egypt. Both the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Islamic community of Egypt with their spiritual and theological treasures enjoy an important position for the Christians and Muslims of the World, respectively. In welcoming the growing presence of Islam in our country, we wish to draw from the good experiences of Christians and Muslims living together in Your country.

The Finnish Ecumenical Council is an organization gathering all the nation-wide 15 Christian Churches and denominations of our country, including the majority Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, as well as the Evangelical Free Churches.

On this day when the Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the Nativity of our Lord, our prayers and blessings are with our brothers and sisters in Egypt. May the newborn Christ, who came to bring reconciliation from God and who needed to find refuge from violent men in the land of Egypt, continue to bless that land with His presence and teach all of us to join in the angels' praise:

Glory to God in the highest, peace on Earth to all people of good will.


+ Teemu Sippo
Moderator
The Finnish Ecumenical Council
Monsignore SCJ
Bishop of Helsinki


Heikki Huttunen
General Secretary
The Finnish Ecumenical Council
Father