



# World Council of Churches

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## General Secretariat

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Geneva, April 11, 2017

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II  
Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the  
See of St. Mark  
St Mark's Cathedral  
Cairo  
EGYPT

Your Holiness,

Once again violence targets the Coptic Church in Egypt, shedding blood on the altar of faith and enthroning human souls with martyrdom. Women, men and children presented their bodies to Christ, on Palm Sunday, as he entered Jerusalem. May they rest in his eternal peace and be accepted into his kingdom.

The World Council of Churches and its member churches express our profound sorrow, as well as condolences for Your Holiness, for the families of the victims, for the wounded and for the people of Egypt. We pray that our Lord grants them comfort and healing.

We call on all Egyptians to stand firm through the many trials and tribulations that continue to threaten the national unity of their country. In the face of this brutality, the human family, all people of faith and of good will, must stand together and recommit to respecting and caring for one another, to protecting one another, and to preventing such violence.

We also appeal to President Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt, to religious leaders and to governments across the region to act swiftly and boldly to safeguard the fundamental religious rights of worshippers of all faiths, to ensure security in the face of violence and to guarantee justice for all people.

Your Holiness, your church has paid and continues to pay a heavy price for witnessing to Christianity in the Middle East. Continuing the mission of St. Mark the apostle, the Coptic Church, under your leadership, strengthens the roots of faith, hope and love in a region tormented by violence and intolerance. Be assured that churches all over the world are in solidarity with you and with your people.

I look forward to our upcoming visit to our member churches in Egypt, as an expression of our one ecumenical family.

Your Holiness, I pray with you during this Holy Week, that our Lord brings peace and serenity to the people of Egypt and of the Middle East.

Yours prayfully,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary