



The Coalition against Extremism, Fanaticism, and Hatred condemns the terrorist attack on buses transporting Copts to the monastery of Anba Samuel in Minya Governorate

In a new escalation targeting Coptic Christians in the Arab Republic of Egypt, on May 26, 2017, a terrorist group opened fire on two buses transporting Copts to the monastery of Anba Samuel, west of the city of Adwa in Maghagha in Minya Governorate, 220 km south of the Egyptian capital. The estimations speculate that 28 people have been killed, including a large number of children who were traveling by bus.

It has become clear that there is an organized plan by extremist groups in Egypt to target and kill civilians on the basis of religion and belief. In fact, this crime previously took place in the bloody assault and targeting of St. George's Church in Tanta and the Church of St. Mark in Alexandria during the Palm Sunday Mass on April 9, 2017, which claimed the lives of dozens of civilians. As well as, on December 11, 2017, a bombing was carried out during the prayer hall of the Patriarchal Church adjacent to the Cathedral of St. Mark in the Abbasid district of Cairo, killing about 25 people.

The Coalition to combat extremism, intolerance, and hatred in the Arab region, denounces the terrorist crime that took the lives of innocents who were the victims of extremism, hatred, and intolerance and racist speech. The Coalition believes that the rise of intolerance, hatred, and rejection of the other and difference, is considered one of the most severe issues that threaten our Arab region. Therefore, it requires the attention and rapid actions of civil society organizations to combat the rhetoric of hatred and extremism and to work to address the intellectual and cultural groups of terrorist acts in the region and the world.

The responsibility to combat the rhetoric of extremism and hatred is not just the responsibility of States and their official institutions, but a social responsibility that must be borne by all of them.

Dealing with the threat of terrorism, extremism, and hostility is a humanitarian and civilized matter, which requires the concerted effort of all, blaming these actions and supporting the official efforts in fighting and eradicating them.



The Coalition against extremism, intolerance, and hatred, reaffirming its condemnation of the terrorist attack on Copts in Egypt, calls for:

- Arab states to criminalize all acts of terrorism and all forms of intolerance, racial discrimination, and incitement to hatred.
- Arab countries adopt an awareness and educational strategy to combat the discourse of extremism, racism, and hatred, and promote the values of tolerance and acceptance of imbalance and pluralism in beliefs and doctrines.
- The Arab League to encourage joint Arab action in the field of crystallizing and adopting a unified Arab strategy to combat extremism, intolerance, and incitement to hatred.
- To strengthen civil society for its interest in working to address the discourse of hatred, extremism, and racism, and to adopt and launch civil society organizations for awareness campaigns and education against radical discourse.
- Joining all agencies, institutions, and associations concerned with combating the discourse of hatred, fanaticism, and extremism of a coalition led by the Emirates Human Rights Association.
- Inviting the media to spread and promote values of tolerance and acceptance of the other; reject extremism and fanaticism, and promote democratic dialogue. Additionally, foster liberal thought to formulate an alternative speech to those calling for violence, hatred, and intolerance and building a positive discourse based on respect for democracy and human rights.

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