



April 10, 2017
04/013

His Holiness Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa
Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria
Amba Rueiss Building
222 Ramses Street
Abbasseyya
P.O. Box 9035
Nasr City, Cairo
EGYPT

Your Holiness,

Beloved Brother in Christ:

During these days when we walk with our Lord Jesus Christ on the way to His voluntary Passion, we are filled with great sorrow at learning of the tragic news of yet another atrocity perpetrated against the innocent and peaceful Orthodox Christians of Egypt.

The constant violence which targets our brothers and sisters in the Middle East is always unbearable, but the pain is even more acute when it happens at the sacred time that we celebrate the Entrance of the King of Peace into Jerusalem. On the very day when the children welcome our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with shouts of praise and joy, we find ourselves mourning the loss of life of innocent children, women and men.

The bishops, monastics and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America mourn with Your Holiness and the clergy and faithful of your land. We also offer our most sincere and heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives, and our prayers for comfort and recovery of those injured. We are at a loss to add anything more than the words of the Apostle Paul read on the Feast: "The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let

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your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:5-7)

May these words of peace be a reminder of the promise of the eternal Paradise into which we shall all enter through the destruction of Hades and death through the Cross and Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With deepest love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name 'Tikhon' in a cursive script.

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada