



ORGANIZATION OF EMERGING AFRICAN STATES
37 Royal Pointe Dr
Hilton Head SC 29926 USA
www.oeas.info
secretariat@oeas.info
Fax 1-202-318-2406

August 21, 2013

Urgent Communication on the Coptic People

United Nations
Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief
Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt
c/o OHCHR-UNOG
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
GENEVA 10 SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr Bielefeldt:

The OEAS is a NGO registered as a nonprofit organization in the United States. Our 11 member states represent the emerging nations of Africa.

It is with the utmost concern the OEAS writes to you express its concern about the current situation in Egypt involving the persecution of the Coptic people. Dozens of churches and religious sites have been destroyed by organized action of the Muslim Brotherhood and the misfeasance of the Egyptian government. The well documented conditions in Egypt regarding the Copts is tantamount to a Crime against Humanity under Article 7(h) of the Rome Statute:

For the purpose of this Statute, "crime against humanity" means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

(h) Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender as defined in paragraph 3, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court..

Egypt however has not ratified the Rome Statute thus the International Criminal Court Prosecutor does not have jurisdiction to launch an investigation.

Therefore, we are requesting that your office intercede on its own initiative in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Levy". To the right of the signature is a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains a scale of justice in the center and the text "JONATHAN LEVY, ESQ." around the top edge and "BUREAU PENAL" around the bottom edge.

Dr. Jonathan Levy, Esq.
Chief Administrative & Legal Officer OEAS

Ebenezer Akwanga
Secretary General OEAS