



Displacement of Copts of Al- Arish

With the increasing rate of terrorist attacks in the governorate of northern Sinai and especially the city of Al-Arish, Many of the Coptic Christian families in the city were subject to intimidation and assaults to their families and possessions.

The following Copts were martyred:

- Wael Youssef (Jan 30th)
- Adel Shawky (Feb 11th)
- Dr. Bahgat William (Feb 12th)
- Gamal Tawfick Guirguis (Feb 16th)
- Said Hakeem Hanna (Feb 21st)
- Medhat Saad Hakeem (Feb 12th)
- Kamel Raouf Kamel (Feb 23rd)
- Youstina Kamel Raouf (Feb 23rd)

Some of whom were killed with extreme brutality.

Coptic families (more than 1000 persons) began see to seek refuge from Al- Arish because of these frequent attacks, to Ismailia, Portsaid, and other cities leaving behind all their belongings and possessions looking for their safety from this great tribulation.

His Holiness receives a call from the Prime Minister

On Saturday February 25th, 2017, the Prime Minister Sherif Ismail called H.H. Pope Tawadros II in regards to the displacement of the copts of Al-Arish and informed him about the concern of the government and President, Mr. Abd-El-Fattah Al Sisi towards the situation of the Egyptian Christians of Northern Sinai. He also mentioned that Dr. Ghada Wali the minister of Social Solidarity has been assigned to follow up with the families that have been displaced to Ismailia and supporting all their needs.

Dr. Ghada Wali also met with General Yaseen Taher the governor of Ismailia and His Grace Bishop Saraphim to assess all the needs of the Egyptian Coptic families that have been displaced from Northern Sinai.

The Diocese of Ismailia heeds the needs of the displaced

The Diocese had issued a notice concerning the displaced Coptic families from Northern Sinai stating that they have received all the families that came and that they will continue their efforts to coordinate with the government agencies.

On Saturday, February 25th 2017, Dr. Ghada Wali the minister of Social Solidarity met with General Yaseen Taher the governor of Ismailia and H.G. Anba Saraphim the bishop of Ismailia to assess the immediate needs of the displaced Coptic families and individuals.

The Diocese of Ismailia has also intensified their efforts to follow up with the Coptic families to support their needs and overcome any difficulties facing them.

Thus far, the number of displaced families has reached 143 families totaling 546 persons. The Diocese of Ismailia has become fully responsible for both living arrangements and spiritual condition for 54 of those families (146 persons). The diocese has also been taking care for the social and spiritual needs of another 89 families (400 persons) those which the government has been providing shelter for. That is in addition to the other families who have been displaced to the governorate of Assuit and others.

Port Said welcomed 21 Coptic families from Al-Arish, North Sinai

Port Said city welcomed twenty-one Coptic families that fled from Al-Arish. The 21 families consisted of 69 individuals who met and prayed the Holy Liturgy with His Eminence Bishop Tadros of Port Said. H.E. vowed to assist them and help them with all of their physical and spiritual needs. The diocese has taken the displaced families to accommodations

provided by the governor of Port Said. The Governor Adel El – Ghatban has visited these families on two separate occasions. They have been placed as follows:

- 14 families & 1 individual have been placed in the international Boy Scouts camp
- 6 families (22 individuals) have been placed in a shelter of Hay el Zohoor
- 1 family has been placed in the church of St George of Boor Foad.

In an immediate reaction, the Governor of Port Said has created several advisory councils to assist the families & their children in registering for public schools, in having a medical checkup & medical file created for each individual, in taking reports from each person, they have also provided all of the families with meal supplies, and lastly they are helping to find employment for anyone who does not already have a government job.

Parliamentary leaders representing the above-mentioned areas have also come and visited the families that have been placed in their local districts. In an effort to ensure that there are no obstacles left standing in the families' way in order to provide them with the honorable standard of living

Bishop Tadros has personally visited the families on two occasions & met with them at the Auditorium building within the camp. His Grace has assigned four priests to take care of the spiritual life of these families. His Grace also personally delivered a message from His Holiness Pope Tawadros II reassuring them His Holiness inquires daily on their living conditions. HH is praying for their quick and safe return to their homes.

There are additional families that are contacting His Grace Bishop Tadros and asking for his help in fleeing from their homes. His Grace is arranging with Bishop Siraphim of Ismailia and the Egyptian government in assisting these additional families by finding temporary housing for them.

Governor of Eldaqahlia offers condolences in one of the martyrs of Al Arish

On Sunday February 26th, 2017, Bishop Saleeb, Bishop of Meet Ghamr and Dakadoos, received Dr. Ahmad El Shaarawy the governor of Eldaqahlia, accompanied by a delegation of the governorate leaders, at the church of St. George in Meet Ghamr. The delegation offered condolences to the family of the martyr Kamel Raouf Kamel, who was shot at his home in El -Arish and his funeral and burial were held in Meet Ghamr, his hometown.

H.H. The Pope delegates His Grace Bishop Yolyous to visit the families of Al- Arish

On Monday February 27th, 2017, His Grace Bishop Yolyous, General Bishop of Old Cairo Churches and Diocese of Services, accompanied with Father Amonious Adel, Secretary of H.H. The Pope, visited the Coptic families that were displaced from Al Arish and have been relocated in Al Ismailia, to check on their living, psychological, and spiritual conditions. This was upon a delegation from H.H. The Pope who recommended meeting each of Al Arish families separately to closely identify their living, psychological and spiritual conditions. to identify any needs where they have sought shelter, to ensure continuity of that their children's academic year, to discuss the working conditions for the those who have found jobs, and to help overcome all the obstacles facing them.

A Delegation of The Fathers, The Bishops, visit Al Arish Families

On Monday February 27th 2017, a delegation of the fathers, the bishops, visited Al Arish families that were displaced to the governorate of Al Esmaaylia. This delegation included their Grace: Bishop Moussa the youth bishop, Bishop Rafael the general bishop of the churches of Downtown Cairo and secretary of the Holy Synod, Bishop Beman bishop of Naqada and Quos and the bishop responsible for crisis management in the Holy Synod, and Bishop Zoseema bishop of Atfeeh. This visit was in the presence of H.G. Bishop Serapheem bishop of Al Esmaaylia, and H.G. Bishop Kosman bishop of North Saini.

Visit of His Grace Bishop Bimen & Bishop Kozman

His Grace Bishop Bimen is the bishop of the providence of Nakada & Kouss, H.G. heads the Holy Synod's committee on emergency response. On March 6, 2017 His Grace Bishop Bimen visited the families that have been displaced in Ismailia to assure them of the Church and Governments' support. His Grace Bishop Bimen was personally delivering a message from His Holiness Pope Tawadros, conveying His Holiness' promise that he is personally checking on them regularly. His Holiness sent a letter to the Prime Minister Engineer Sheriff Ismail that H.H. has appointed Bishop Bimen of the Coptic Church to follow up on all of the families that have been displaced.