

**Baroness Cox** - To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the treatment of Coptic Christians in Egypt; and whether they will make representations to the government of Egypt about recent attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt as described in the United Kingdom Coptic Association's letter to the Prime Minister on 23 January.

[HL1553]

**Baroness Kinnoek** - The United Kingdom Government condemns all instances of discrimination and persecution against individuals and groups because of their religion or belief. The protection of human rights, including freedom of religion, is a central component of Egypt's on-going dialogue with the European Union. We raised the shooting in Naga Hammadi with the Egyptian government at a senior level and received assurances of Egypt's commitment to protecting its Christian population. We welcome the Egyptian government's pursuit and arrest of the perpetrators of the crime.

