



Volume (2) Issue 7 (Oct. Nov. Dec. 2008)



Where is the law?! Where is the conscience?! it is really Farce!!



Attack by radicalised Muslim mobs on newly built of St Mary and Anba Abraam church in Cairo



- **Thousands of protest Muslims Vandalize Coptic Church .**
- **Police detained eight men and dozens were hurt .**
- **Pope Shenouda III Bans Worship Service After Sectarian Clashes .**

United Copts of Great Britain learned that an attack by more than 3000 Muslim extremists' mob took place on Sunday 23/11/08. The attack has led to extensive damages to St Mary and Anba Abraam church, Ain Shams, Cairo. The building of the church, which was consecrated the same day in the morning seems to have triggered massive hostility.

The radicalised mob could not stand the sight of the building which they called "infidels worship house in Islamic Land" shouting "No god but Allah" and "Allah Akbar" "we will demolish the church" Events escalated from bad to worse when the number of Muslim demonstrators swelled up reaching more than 3,000 people who gathered in front of the Virgin Mary and Anba Ibraam church.

Security forces tried to disperse the protesters but they could not meet the hostile crowd which came in large numbers from different areas. The crowd attacked the church, hurled stones and burned several cars owned by Christians, and causing the injury of more than 5 people. Worshipers and several priests were trapped inside the church unable to return home because of the hostile crowd outside.



The Egyptian police did not seem to be too bothered about arresting the perpetrator of violence at the start of the riot. The police had a flimsy existence from the beginning of the attack about 5pm local time.

At 12 midnight, Cairo time the police arrested Imad Abdullah,

Joseph Fuad Ramses and Yusuf Nasim all Christians. Also arrested 38 Muslim youth but soon released 30 of them "under the pretext of being minors".

United Copts of Great Britain learned that the Assistant Investigation Police Department deputy Inspector Wael Tahoon had a hand in planning and executing the attack on the church.

The history as given to us goes back to a year and a half ago, when a Christian man bought a factory and built a church on the site following obtaining the necessary permits. As soon as the permit to build the church was ob-

Continuation on Page 2

From Page 1

tained, and before the building began it was a surprise to find a mosque is being built opposite the planned church site.

The mosque builders continued to harass the church builders throughout the period of building the church to extreme degree including urinating on the walls of the new building and threatening contractor and workers by death.

During the Morning Prayer of consecration, worshipers were surprised that Al-Nour mosque opposite the church started to broadcast Koran at 10 o'clock in the morning with loud speakers on full volume. Witnesses said that the imam of the mosque said that the Eid prayers are to start today and will continue until the day of the Feast (which is many days earlier the usual schedule). The speakers transmitted loud talk and noise in an attempt to Provoke Copts inside the church. The police were present but few in numbers.

Fanatic Muslims started to gather about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the influx of a large number of citizens from different parts of Ein Shams, Ezbet El-Nakhl, Madinet El-Salaam, and Mataria made the numbers well over 3000. The crowd started shouting and denouncing the



building of a new church.

Slogans such as "We will demolish the church" "Islam is the solution "," Allah is greatest "," No church will be built here "... etc continued till 4:00 AM on the 24th.

The security began to arrive about 7 pm, later joined with fire trucks to disperse the demonstrators with water hoses but in vein.

A group of lawyers, including Copts Nabil Gabriel, Saeed Abdel Meseeh, Said Fayez, Ashraf Edward, and Joseph Ibrahim, director of the Egyptian Centre for Human Rights and Development were present, the centre will issue a statement about the event in late November.

**** Written by United Copts of Great Britain
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Thousands of Muslims Attack Coptic Church in Cairo



*** Islamic demonstrators have attacked the building, forcing about 800 faithful to barricade themselves inside the church.**

Several thousand Muslims have attacked the Coptic church of the Virgin Mary in West Ain Shams, in the suburbs of Cairo. 800 faithful attending the first liturgy remained barricaded inside the church.

The demonstrators attacked the building on the day of its inauguration, November 23. The strife began in the early hours of the morning when a group of Muslims took possession of the first floor of a building in front of the church, turning it into a place of prayer.

At about five o'clock in the afternoon, other demonstrators blocked the road on both sides, and began the attack. The building was originally a factory, but has been modified as a place of worship for the Orthodox Coptic community, after a bureaucratic process that lasted five years. It is the latest of many acts of violence against Christians. The Copts are the main religious minority living in Egypt, and represent 15% of the population, out of a total of 80 million inhabitants. Over the last 30 years, it is estimated that about 4,000 Christians have been killed or injured in attacks. In 2008, there have been dozens of events similar to the one that happened to the community in the suburb of Cairo.

According to Voice of the Copts, A Coptic Christian association based in Italy and the United States, about 10,000 demonstrators attacked the church. Other local sources say that there were 20,000, and report that, when the police came, the crowd moved on to the businesses and property owned by Christians in the neighbourhood, waving clubs and chanting incitements to jihad. Two cars were burned, and five people were injured, in addition to the damage to the newly consecrated church.

There were also women and children among the demonstrators. Video taken at the moment of the attack on the church has been published on the website of the agency Assyrian International.



Pope Shenouda banned prayers after the confrontations

Coptic Pope Shenouda III has banned Egyptian Christians from praying

in a church-owned building in Cairo after sectarian clashes there with Muslims, state news agency MENA reported on Tuesday.

Pope Shenouda III "has ordered a cessation to prayers in the building belonging to the Church of Virgin Mary... after confrontations between the worshippers and some of the neighbourhood's residents in front of the building," the agency quoted him as saying.

Police arrested at least eight men after Muslims on Sunday night clashed with Copts in the Cairo neighbourhood of Ein Shams in protest at the building's use as a Christian prayer hall, throwing stones and burning two cars.

The building was a disused factory that

the church had bought.

Copts complain of an antiquated law, inherited from when Egypt was under Ottoman rule, that obliges them to secure presidential permission before building a church or expanding an existing church.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has delegated such decisions to provincial governors, but human rights groups say that sectarian problems will persist until the state passes a single law for both Muslim and Christian places of worship.

Egypt's Copts -- the largest Christian community in the Middle East -- account for 12 Million at least.

The Coptic Church has also faced difficulties in other Egyptian cities, including in Alexandria where authorities reportedly destroyed an unfinished but recently furnished Coptic orphanage owned by Abu-Seifein Church and worth 6 million Egyptian pounds.

Christians have found obtaining church building permits from Egyptian authorities rife with obstacles, with many applications never granted. "The National Assembly cannot make a decision for 15 years about building projects for churches," said lawyer Naguib Gobrail. "Every time they say, 'This session we can discuss this project,' but the session ends and we see nothing. Everything is only a promise." In a recent editorial, Youssef Sidhom, editor-in-chief of Egyptian weekly Watani, addressed the inequality of regulations that govern the building of places of worship.

"It now appears obvious that the government has no intention whatsoever of placing the long-awaited bill for a unified law for building places of worship on its agenda," he wrote. "For four consecutive rounds [of Parliament], the bill has remained shelved despite the need for it to ward off so called sectarian problems that erupt every so often."

Letter From Iraqi Muslim Group Orders All Christians Out of the Country

(AINA) -- A Christian bishop received a threatening letter written by Ansar al-Islam, a Kurdish Muslim group affiliated with al-Qaeda in Iraq. The letter ordered the Christians to leave Iraq en masse and stated it is sending a final warning to Christians in Baghdad and other Iraqi governorates to leave Iraq permanently. The letter was published in Arabic on Al-Ittihad's website, a daily newspaper that covers Iraqi politics.

The General Secretariat of the Adherent of Islam Brigade has decided to address the final warning to you and to all your adherents and flocks, the infidel Christian Crusaders, in Baghdad and the other governorates and order you to leave immediately, in masses and permanently from the Muslim countries (Iraq) and to join Pope Benedict the sixteenth and his followers who crossed over the greatest symbols of humanity and Islam.

There is no place for you infidel Christians among the Muslim be-

lievers in Iraq from now on. Otherwise, our swords will be legalized over your neck and the necks of you followers and flocks similar to what happened to the Christians living in Mosul. God is our witness. He who warns is excused

النص العربي للخطاب :

“قررت الامانة العامة لكتائب انصار الاسلام توجيه الانذار النهائي اليكم والى كافة اتباعكم ورعاياكم من النصارى الكفار الصليبيين في بغداد والمحافظات الاخرى، بوجوب ترك بلاد المسلمين (العراق) فوراً والارتحال الجماعي



خارج القطر والى غير رجعة والالتحاق بالبابا بندوتيكس السادس عشر واتباعه المتمادين على اعظم رموز الانسانية والاسلام. ولا مكان لكم ايها الكفار النصارى بين صفوف المسلمين المؤمنين في العراق بعد الان، ويعكسه سوف تكون سيوفنا مشرعة على رقابكم ورقاب رعاياكم واتباعكم واسوة بالنصارى المقيمين في الموصل. والله على ما نقول شهيد. وقد اعذر من ان انذر.

Broken justice for Copts in Egypt

Source: Voice of the Copts:

Two innocent Copts who are falsely accused of having murdered one of the Arab Muslim attackers on the 'Abu Fana' Monastery last May and who were imprisoned and tortured, have now been sent to a detention camp unjustly. Although the two men have been bailed last week pending their court case, they were never released from prison.

Their defense lawyer Mr. Zakary Kamal is sending out an URGENT SOS to all human rights organizations to save those innocent men, as he fears for their lives in their 'New Valley' Detention Camp on the borders of Sudan. The families of the two men are now staging a sit-in at the Coptic Diocese in Mallawi, Upper Egypt.

The defense lawyer said that the security police had already subjected the two men to electric shocks for 8-hours daily over a period of three days, in order to extract from them a false testimony against the monks of the 'Abu Fana' Monastery that they were in possession of weapons which they used during the attacks in May. In spite of the continuous torture, the two men had refused to testify falsely against the innocent monks.

The accused Copts, Mr. Refaat and his brother Mr. Ibrahim, who work as local building contractors, have been unjustly and falsely accused of premeditated murder of an Arab Muslim who attacked the 'Abu Fana' Monastery, together with a group of approximately 60 attackers.

The report of the criminal lab, confirmed that the shot which killed the victim came from the back of the left shoulder and exited from his left nipple, while the con-

tractor at the time was driving a tractor and coming from far in the opposite direction, making him an impossible suspect.

The other brother was miles away. In addition, the gun which shot the deadly bullet came from a gun that was found in the hand of Mr. Abdullah, the son of Sheikh Samir Abu Louly, the main suspect in instigating the attacks on the Monastery.

All of the involved Arabs attackers were facing multiple criminal charges including the abduction and torture of three monks and one fourth person, attacking the Monastery and causing damage to the Church and other property, were released without any charges whatsoever.

However, although the Arabs all know that the killer is not the Coptic contractor or his brother; they had been trying to extort Egyptian £5,000,000 from the Coptic Orthodox Church in exchange for testifying in favor of the two Copts. These demands were made during unofficial 'Arab Reconciliation' meetings which were also attended by some members of the Egyptian Parliament, who also demanded fees for intervening! However, those meetings failed as the Church was in no position to succumb to this blackmail.

'Voice of the Copts' and defense Lawyer Kamal are appealing to all human rights organizations, governments and political people who believe in human right and the respect of the human being to urgently intervene to save those two innocent men not only from their anticipated torture at the detention camp but also because we fear of possible attempts on their lives.

Egyptian Convert to Christianity Tortured, Raped in Egypt

Martha Samuel, an Egyptian Muslim who converted to Christianity 5 years ago, was arrested at Cairo airport on Wednesday as she and her husband and two sons (4 and 2) were leaving for Russia. Her name was on the observation list of people prevented from leaving the country.

The Egypt for Christ Ministry is reporting that Martha Samuel has been subjected to sexual assault by Egyptian police officers at El-Nozha police station as well as at the National Security office in Heliopolis. She has also been beaten and tortured in an attempt to force her to return to Islam. The police have promised to release her if she returns to Islam.

Martha Samuel and her children, who are also under arrest, is to be transferred from the National Security office in Heliopolis to Al-Qanater

prison after seeing the "renewal judge." The children are not being provided with food deliberately to pressure their mother to return to Islam. Fadl Thabet, Martha's husband, has been taken to the National Security office in Alexandria (Somaha District). Martha Samuel, whose for-

mer name is Zainab Said Abdel-Aziz, and her family were trying to travel to Russia using a passport of her Christian name, in order to escape from the continuous persecution by the Egyptian police and her own family, who have been trying to kill her for 5 years as a result of her conversion.

Egyptians bus crash kills 57

Egypt road crash An Egyptian security official reported that at least 57 Egyptians were killed and 15 injured when a coach ran off the road south of Cairo on Sunday 14 December 2008.

At least 60 people were travelling in the coach when overturned as it was travelling from the capital Cairo to the city of Minya.

"Seventy-five bodies were retrieved from the coach and 15 people were injured, and rescue workers are still working," the official told AFP, adding that the death toll was likely to rise.

Poor road conditions and lax traffic regulations in Egypt cause thousands of accidents every year.

The Declaration of Establishment of The European Union of Coptic Organisations



The 8th of November 2008 was a historic day for the Copts who live in Europe as it was the day of the declaration of the establishment of the European Union of Coptic Organisations. The members of that union came from France - Netherlands - Switzerland - Austria - Greece - Ireland - Hungary - Germany - Sweden - United Kingdom. Below is the declaration of Paris to declare the first step of that union:

Members (organisations) attending in the European Union countries are:

France - Netherlands - Switzerland - Austria - Greece - Ireland - Hungary - Germany - Sweden - United Kingdom.

Based on the desire of the Coptic organisations in the ten countries mentioned and delegates who met in Paris, it had been agreed on the establishment of the European Union of Coptic organisations.

The Union aims - inter alia - to:

- 1 - Support and propagate the principles of universal human rights as established in all international conventions.
- 2 - Work to help countries and regional organizations, member of the European Union in the implementation of international conventions to its citizens and the application of international stan-

dards of human rights.

- 3 - Call to implement the provisions of international treaties before national courts.
- 4 - Call upon the Egyptian government to sign the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to allow individuals to submit complaints for the implementation of international treaties.
- 5 - Call upon the Egyptian government to withdraw the general reservation on ratification of international treaties to remove the proviso "not to contradict Islamic Sharia principles" and on the implementation of the provisions of International Treaties on Civil and Political Rights
- 6 - To receive complaints and provide legal assistance to victims of human rights violations, whether individuals or groups or organiza-

tions

- 7 - To promote the four requirements for the protection of the Copts:
 - A - Protection of the physical existence of Copts, as stated in the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide, the prevention of the Copts forced population transfers, the prevention of cultural annihilation of Copts, and the abandonment of the culture of genocide.
 - B - Call upon the Egyptian government to adopt non exclusion policies of Copts from public life particularly in the fields of politics and high government offices.
 - C - To work towards the integration of the Copts in the community with preservation of the Coptic identity and the abolition of forced assimilation caused by the dominance of Article II of Egyptian Constitution and the unfair application of the principles of subjugation of the Egyptian civil law to the Islamic sharia law.
 - D - Renunciation of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief in all areas of life, especially the judicial discrimination resulting in issuing unfair judgments against the Copts.

Union decided the following:

- (1) The establishment of administrative and legal basis and the registration of the European Union of Coptic organisations HR (General Assembly - Executive Committee - the Secretariat - Finance - The Union's objectives and how to achieve objectives - and how to accept the member organization and the individual and the withdrawal of membership and obligations of the member - and other matters)
 - Union headquarters city of Geneva, Switzerland
 - The headquarters of the Secretariat (secretariat) Netherlands
 - Finance (Sweden)
 - Election of Dr. Awad, chairman

Continuation of P 3

of the Federation Shafiq
 - Election of Dr. Ibrahim Habib, Vice-Chairman (England)
 - Election of Mr. Medhat Kelada Chairman of the Executive Committee (Switzerland)
 (2) Union decided on the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the following:
 1-2 - To provide legal assistance to Mrs. Camilla Lutfi on the forced Islamisation of her children, Andrew and Mario which was enforced by judicial court ruling in Egypt.
 2-2 - Seeks to bring the real perpetrators of violence, armed attacks and torture carried out against the monks of Abu Fana monastery, Egypt where the monks were tortured in an attempt to renounce their Christian faith by forcing them un-

der torture to pronounce Islamic Faith Creed.
 3-2 - demanding the rapid and immediate release of Fr. Mtawos Wehba the priest jailed for conducting a marriage ceremony for a Christian couple one of them was Muslim converted to Christianity.
 The meeting was concluded at 5 pm the evening of Saturday, November 8, 2008

Annexes

- 1 - Protocol to the closing meeting of the Union.
- 2 - The statute of the association (currently preparing the final form of the text for adoption by the General Assembly of the Federation)
- 3 - Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee of the Federation (currently being prepared and finalized)

The Language of the Shoes

The Iraqi journalist Muntazar Al-Zaidi grabbed the world spotlight when he threw his shoes at George Bush during a press conference and called him a dog during a farewell visit to Iraq by the US president who ordered the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Hundreds of jokes circulating on mobile phone messages, on the internet and in political cartoons in the Arabic press, such as Adidas is seriously considering expanding its business in the Middle East; Cuba has declared Dec. 14 the International Shoes for Human Rights Day; and the Egyptian Presidency has declared that from now on all press conferences will be held at Al-Azhar mosque (where everyone must remove their shoes). Indeed within less than 48 hours of the incident hundreds of Facebook groups were created in solidarity with the "Iraqi hero."

Sadam Hussien was the only one who knew very well how to rule those people, because he knew that the shoes is the only way they can understand but not democracy.

أما... يا عرب... أما... ؟؟؟



Thousands of ignorant Arabs all over the Arab World and Islamic Countries expressed their joy as if they win the war in Khaybar or Ohod.

Sham on some journalist like this idiot Muntazar Al-Zaidi, who will face at least 10—15 years in jail by the Iraqi court

كلمة الأقباط المتحدون ببريطانيا لمنظمة الاتحاد القبطي الاوروبي:

* الأقباط دفعوا وحدهم ثمن السلام الإجتماعي

في مصر من أموالهم ودماءهم ومن كرامتهم أيضاً.

* حقوق الإنسان ليست إختراع جديد وهي مبادئ عمرها مئات السنين.

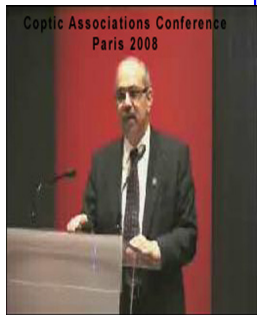
* بعد أكثر من ٣ عقود نفذ صبر

الأقباط وعلينا توثيق الإنتهكات لحملها للمحاكم الدولية.

* Only Copts paid the price of social peace in Egypt of their money their blood and their dignity.

* Human rights are not a new invention, but principles hundreds of years old.

* After more than 3 decades of persecution, Copts are at the end of their tether. We are going to collaborate evidence to take case of persecution to courts locally and internationally.



To Join and support UCGB



To Join the United Copts of Great Britain Write to :

E-mail: info@unitedcopts.org

Or log on [http://](http://www.unitedcopts.org)

www.unitedcopts.org

And fill the form Or speak to

Tel: +44 7976710729

To Support United Copts of Great Britain:

You can fill in the Standing Order attached or log on

<http://www.unitedcopts.org/images/stories/pdf/ucgb%20standing%20order.pdf>

Statement of European Union of Coptic Organisations For Human Rights Regarding: The Barbaric attacks on the Church of Virgin St. Mary and a Anba Ibraam, Ain Shams, Cairo

The European Union of Coptic Organisations for Human Rights (EUCHOR) condemns in the strongest terms the barbaric attacks on the Church of Virgin Mary and Anba Abraam, Ain Shams, Cairo.

Events that took place on Sunday, November 23, 2008 followed the call through the loud speakers from the Imam of El-Nour mosque opposite the church to invite the people of the area men young, old and women, to attack the new church and to carry out acts of violence against the Christians. The Imam warned that the prayers for the Eid al-Adha starting from today and would continue until the Day feast day, on December 8, 2008.

As a result of this invitation to the Muslims, thousands of Muslim fanatics surrounded the church and hurled stones and Molotov cocktails, denouncing Christians worship and refusing the existence of a church in the area. They chanted slogans expressing their hatred of the Church and Christians and chanted that "Islam is the solution", "Khyber Khyber o Jews, Islam shall return" and other slogans inciting hatred against Christians and Jews. This violence was directed by people who are government employees and two Muslim Brothers MPs. The security forces prevented the Christian worshipers from praying as this was considered provocative to Muslims and asked Christians to leave the church as "there was no presidential permit for its conversion/ construction".

The "Union" **reminds** the Egyptian government and all state departments to act in good faith to meet its international obligations and the "Declaration of Principles on Tolerance" UNSCO on 16 November 1995 and the «Declaration of the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief Intolerance" United Nations on 25 November 1981.

The "Union" **declares** its rejection of Authoritarian Dogmatism and calls for the application of the international standards set forth in human rights treaties to be taken seriously and its desire to see positive steps in recognizing the rights of Christian Egyptian citizens to enjoy their rights to practice their religious rites and the building of churches without security restrictions.

The "Union" **rejects** the closure of the church by the security services to appease the feelings of Muslim protesters on the pretext of maintaining social peace and not to ignite sedition

The "Union" **strongly condemns** all public officials government agents and unofficial individuals who exercised maximum degree of religious discrimination and intolerance towards Christianity, which constitutes a crime of cultural, moral and material genocide against the Copts. The "Union" **calls upon** the Egyptian government to guarantee justice to all Egyptians, Muslims, Jews and

Christians and to avoid discrimination in administrative and security procedure to build places of worship also to show justice when arresting individuals, and **call upon** the government to show justice and courage by stopping the atrocious practice of balancing arresting the perpetrators of violence by arresting innocent people from the other side or religion to appease Islamists or to show its self as conducting a balanced act as by law an innocent person must not be criminalized for political reasons. The "Union" **calls upon** the government also to stop avoiding arresting the real criminals because of their power or connections.

The "Union" **demand**s the release of the three innocent Christians who were falsely accused of riot while the church was attacked by thousands.

The "Union" **reminds** the Egyptian government that they will have a day of international accountability "Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review", in early 2010.

The Union **decided** that individuals, member organizations and other organizations involved, within the context of human rights agenda, to document all barbaric attacks on the property, churches and services buildings and other violations of the rights of Egyptian Coptic Christians citizens.

The Union is **providing** material assistance and moral and legal counsel for victims and families of the victims of the attack.

**President of the European Union
of Coptic organizations for Human Rights
(EUCHOR)
Dr. Awad Chafik**

The European Union of Coptic organizations members:

- 1 - Coptic Foundation for Human Rights (Switzerland)
- 2 - United Copts of Great Britain (England)
- 3 - The Dutch Coptic Association
- 4 - The Coptic European French Association.
- 5 - Friends of the Copts (France)
- 6 - French Coptic Youth Association
- 7 - The Austrian Coptic Association, Graz.
- 8 - Coptic integration in Austrian Society
- 9 - Coptic Cultural Centre (Greece)
- 10 - The Coptic Association (Sweden)
- 11 - The German Coptic Association
- 12 - The Coptic Irish Association
- 13 - The Hungarian Coptic Association.

Association Co-operating with the « EUCHOR »

- 1 - Coptic Foundation for Legal Assistance (America).
- 2 - The Middle East Christian Association (Canada) to provide all records and proceedings of the attack.
- 3 - The Free Copts

Contact info@unitedcopts.org

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?!!! (1)

Sally Army told to stop rattling collecting tins because it might 'offend other religions'

Mail on line – 15 December

For 130 years they have been part of Christmas, filling the air in towns across the land with music and carols. But one thing is missing from the repertoire of Salvation Army bands this year - the percussion of rattling tins. Members have been forbidden to shake their charity tins - even if it's done in time to the music - in case it harasses or intimidates people. One said she had been told it might also offend other religions.



Guidelines for branches organising public collections say tinholders should simply keep the tin still.

It means that when the brass bands start up they can rock and roll all they want - but if they shake and rattle, it could put them in conflict with the law. Councils and police can enforce the no-rattle rule and have powers to prosecute or ban offenders. The restriction was branded 'bonkers' yesterday both by donors and long-serving Salvation Army volunteers.

One collector told the Daily Mail: 'I've been doing this for more than 40 years and I fail to see how rattling a tin could cause offence. If I was shaking a tambourine I could do it all day - if I shake my tin, I could end up in court.'

The 'Silent Night' rattle ban manifested itself at the weekend in Uxbridge, West London, when musicians from two local branches performed outside a shopping mall.

(They were outside because traders complained last year they were too loud to play inside).

Tony Keywood, shopping with his wife Sheila, was among a crowd enjoying the carols and stepped forward to

make a donation.

'I jokingly told them off for not shaking their tins,' said Mr Keywood, 78, a retired telecoms executive. 'They said they weren't allowed to do that in case it caused offence to other religions. They said they'd been told rattling a tin was considered to be intimidating.'

'I don't know who makes up these rules but I suspect it will have something to do with human rights. I do feel Britain has lost its way on things like this.'

Laws on public collections are long-established, but until the recent proliferation of so-called 'charity muggers' were not widely utilised.

Fundraisers have to be licensed, usually by the local authority, police or landowner. Councils and police can decide whom to license and how the rules are enforced.



The Salvation Army relies heavily on public generosity and believes street collections help to foster good relations.

Guidance now, however, is that members should not shake their tins. A Salvation Army source said: 'We don't have a formal policy of "You Shall Not Rattle" but we always act within the law. 'Some authorities specifically ask us not to shake our tins. It is seen as harassment, or making people feel uncomfortable. I don't think it's to do with other religions. But it can make people feel we're putting them under pressure to give.'

A spokesman added: 'We want people to donate from the best of motives, so we advise collectors to avoid rattling their tins or asking people directly for money when stood on the high street.'

Egyptian Imam Calls on President Elect Obama to Convert to Islam or Else...



Egyptian Cleric Hassan Abu Al-Ashbal Calls on President-Elect Obama to Convert to Islam, Threatens: We Have People Who Are Eager For Death. For the details, go to:

<http://www.unitedcopts.org> or www.freecopts.net

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?!!! (2)

Mother told to take down her Christmas lights... in case they offend her non-Christian neighbours

Daily Mail – 18 December 2008

A woman has spoken of how she was told to remove her Christmas lights by a housing association worker - in case they offended her non-Christian neighbours.

Dorothy Glenn decorates her home in South Shields with hundreds of festive lights every year, including a giant tree and a 4ft Santa Claus.

Mrs Glenn outside her South Shields home with her neighbours. She was told to remove the decorations by a council worker in case they offended non-Christians. But she was left stunned this year when a South Tyneside Homes worker called at her house to inform her that the decorations she was displaying might be offending her neighbours. The association last night apologised to Mrs Glenn and insisted that removing Christmas lights was not part of their policy.

The 41-year-old mother-of-three said: 'I put the lights up in the first week of November and then recently a uniformed housing worker was outside, and it looked like he was counting my decorations.'

'When I went outside he said that the lights were "offensive to the community". If I was offending anyone I could understand why he was telling me, but nobody has complained. 'My neighbours are Bengali and Chinese and I know that they love the lights - the children will always point them out when they walk past.'

Mrs Glenn, who has lived at the property for four years with

son Owen, 19, and daughters Samira, 21, and Chelsea, 15, said she had a close relationship with her neighbours and enjoyed living in a community with people from different backgrounds.

She said: 'I told him that I am far from a racist and that I wouldn't be taking the lights down. I'm shocked, annoyed and upset. At the end of the day, it's the festive season and they're staying.'

Independent councillor Ahmed Khan, who represents Mrs Glenn's ward, condemned the over-zealous employee's actions.

He said: 'Every year this woman puts her Christmas lights up and I know how popular they are. It's great when people make an effort to decorate their houses.'

'It's this kind of nonsense that sets race relations back 20 years. That woman did nothing more than decorate her house to celebrate Christmas.'

A spokesman for South Tyneside Council said: 'We would like to make it clear that South Tyneside Homes is happy for residents to put up Christmas lights to decorate their homes. 'Christmas lights bring a bit of festive cheer to everybody and we are delighted to see examples of tenants and leaseholders across the borough taking so much pride in the appearance of their homes.'

'We have received no complaint about this alleged incident, but are investigating the matter and apologise for any upset this may have caused'

Prison bans chapel crucifix to avoid offending Muslims

Daily mail 15 December 2008

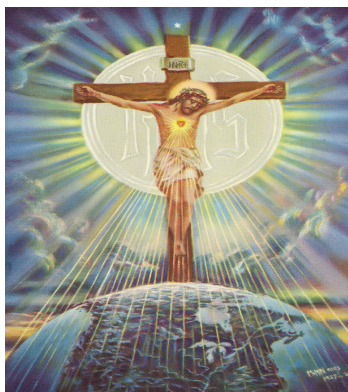
A prison's new chapel will not contain a crucifix to avoid offending Muslim inmates, it emerged today.

Bosses at HMP Lewes have been told the traditional Christian symbol, featuring Jesus nailed to a cross, must not be used in the Grade-II listed Victorian jail's 'multi-faith space'. The room - part of a £1 million new block - has been split in two, with one half featuring heated foot baths so Muslim worshippers can wash their feet before prayer.

But the other side, dedicated to Christian prayer, contains just a simple wooden cross and portable altar - both of which can be removed if necessary. According the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), the traditional Christian crucifix was erased from the chapel's blueprints after discussion with a Muslim imam.

'Offensive': A traditional crucifix featuring Jesus Christ nailed to a cross.

Amanda Hamblin, chairman of the IMB, said: 'We see this as a vastly improved facility and very much welcome the fact that the prison has an imam.'



'It is key that everyone will have access to a decent place of worship whether they are Muslims, Christians or any other faith.'

'The significant thing about this is that the facilities were very poor before.'

'Now they have been set up with a lot of consultation and thought given to how to make it fit for purpose, fit for access and fit for the religious needs of our prisoners, whatever those may be.'

A source at Lewes Prison, which houses 668 convicts, said he was not surprised by the decision to 'drop Jesus' from show.

He added: 'This is typical. On one side of the room there are heated foot baths for the Muslim inmates, but on the other side there is this silly little movable altar that can be hidden away at a moment's notice.'

'And there is just a wooden cross, not a crucifix showing the suffering Jesus went through, because those in power thought it might offend the Muslims.'

He continued: 'I don't think the Muslim prisoners would give a monkeys to be honest, it's just the normal PC brigade poking its nose in when it isn't needed.'

A Window on History

From The Book of Maqrizi

written by: a Muslim scholar in the thirteen century



Then turned to the Jewish religion by applying the same word to those Jews who disobeyed the conditions imposed on them such as wearing the yellow turbine and adhering to the "Ohda Omaria" (the punitive conditions imposed by Caliph Omar Ibn Elkhatab on conquered Christian areas) and he wrote these instructions which were copied to different Districts. Someone called Maghraby started to knockdown churches but the Judge of Judges named Taqui Eldeen Mohamed Ibn Daququ Eleid, prevented him from that and wrote that it is not permitted to knockdown churches except those which were built anew. Several churches were made to closedown in Cairo and in all Egypt for several days. Some Christian notables appealed to him to open a church and he agreed. This caused a great disturbance among the commoners who protested vigorously to

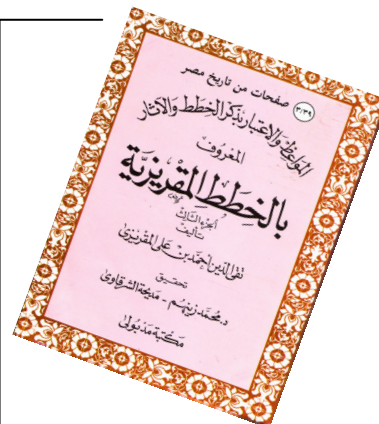
the Representative and the Princes claiming that the Christians have opened churches without permission. Moreover, they complained that some of them are too proud to wear blue turbines, and asked for Princes' protection. As a result, Criers were sent round in Cairo and in all Egypt to say that all Christians must wear blue turbines and all Jews must wear yellow turbines and those who disobey will have their wealth blundered and their blood "allowed". Also they will all be prevented from working in the Sultan's and Princes' Offices until they become Muslims.

This gave the riffraff authority to follow whoever they find not wearing the imposed uniform and beating him senseless with their shoes and slapping him on the neck until he became almost dead. Moreover, whoever passed by them riding and did not

"bend his leg", would be push off his mount and beaten senseless. Because of this many did not show up and the necessity forced a number of their notables to appear as Muslims rather than having to wear blue and to ride donkeys. The poets of the period mentioned many times the forced change in the uniform of the "people of the Dhimma". Alaa Eldeen Ali Ibn Mothfar El Wadaei said that the "Kuffar" have been forced to wear the veil of humiliation which increases the curse of Allah and I said to them they have not dressed you turbines but forced you to wear dirty old shoes (or beat you with dirty old shoes).

The response of the British government to United Copts GB petition

The UK Government share your concern about religious freedoms in Egypt. With at least 8 million Coptic Christians in Egypt, creating tolerance between Coptic and Muslim communities is essential. While the Egyptian Government has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote tolerance and interfaith harmony, sectarian tensions and discrimination do still occur at a grass roots level. We continue to urge the Government of Egypt to ensure effective implementation of their initiatives at all levels. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for North Africa, Dr Kim Howells raised the issue of religious freedom directly with the Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament during his visit to the UK on 21 January 2008, and we have regular discussions with the Egyptian Government through our Embassy in Cairo. We welcome the steps the Egyptian Government have taken to engage with us on these issues and welcome the willingness they have demonstrated to hold further dialogue. Promoting the protection of human rights in all aspects, including freedom of religion, and democracy are central components of the European Union's on-going dialogue with Egypt. We will continue to discuss these issues at future EU-Egypt political sub-committees.



وتتبعوهم لمن رأوه بغير الزي الذي رسم به ضربوه بالنعال وصفعوا عنقه حتى يكاد يهلك ومن مر بهم وقد ركب ولا يثني رجله القوه عن دابته وواجعوه ضربا فاخترقى كثير منهم والجأت الضرورة عدة من اعيانهم الى اظهار الاسلام انفة من لبس الازرق وركوب الحمير وقد اكثر شعراء العصر في ذكر تغيير زي اهل الذمة فقال علاء الدين علي بن مظفر الوداعي: لقد الزم الكفار شاشات ذلة تزيدهم من لعنة الله تشويشا فقلت لهم ما اليسوكم عمائما ولكنهم قد الزموكم براطيشا.

نافذة على التاريخ

... ثم اتبعه ديان اليهود بأن اوقع الكلمة على من خالف من اليهود ما شرط عليه من لبس العمائم الصفرة والزام العهد العمري وكتب بذلك عدة نسخ سيرت الى الاعمال فقام المغربي في هدم الكنائس فلم يمكنه قاضي القضاة تقي الدين محمد بن دقيق العيد من ذلك وكتب خطه بانه لا يجوز ان يهدم من الكنائس الا ما استجد بناؤه فغلقت عدة كنائس بالقاهرة ومصر مدة ايام فسعى بعض اعيان النصارى في فتح كنيسة حتى فتحها قثارت العامة ووقفوا للنائب والامراء واستغاثوا بأن النصارى قد فتحوا الكنائس بغير اذن وفيهم جماعة تكبروا عن لبس العمائم الزرق واحتمى كثير منهم بالامراء فنودي في القاهرة ومصر ان يلبس النصارى باجمعهم العمائم الزرق ويلبس اليهود باسره العمائم الصفرة ومن لم يفعل ذلك نهب ماله وحل دمه ومنعوا جميعا من الخدمة في ديوان السلطان ودواوين الامراء حتى يسلموا فتسلط الغوغاء عليهم