

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (21.10.2013)

The European Parliament Working Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief strongly condemns the most recent Coptic Church attack in Cairo

The European Parliament Working Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief (EPWG on FoRB), co-chaired by Dennis de Jong (SP) and Peter van Dalen (ChristenUnie), strongly condemns the most recent Coptic church attack in Cairo on Sunday, October 20, killing four and injuring nine people. The EPWG on FoRB expresses its sincere condolences to the families of all victims.

The EPWG on FoRB welcomes the statements made by the Egyptian authorities denouncing the attack and welcomes the efforts to take immediate steps in conducting the investigation and bringing to justice those responsible for the violent action.

EPWG on FoRB urges the Egyptian government to ensure the safety of Egypt's largest and the oldest minority and adequate protection of their institutions (places of worship, churches), to stop discrimination against Coptic Christians.

The EPWG on FoRB calls on the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton to condemn this attack on the Christian community in Egypt and to follow up with the Egyptian authorities regarding a thorough and transparent investigation, identification of the perpetrators of the attack and holding all those responsible to account.

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