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U.S. Citizenship
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Egypt COI Presentation

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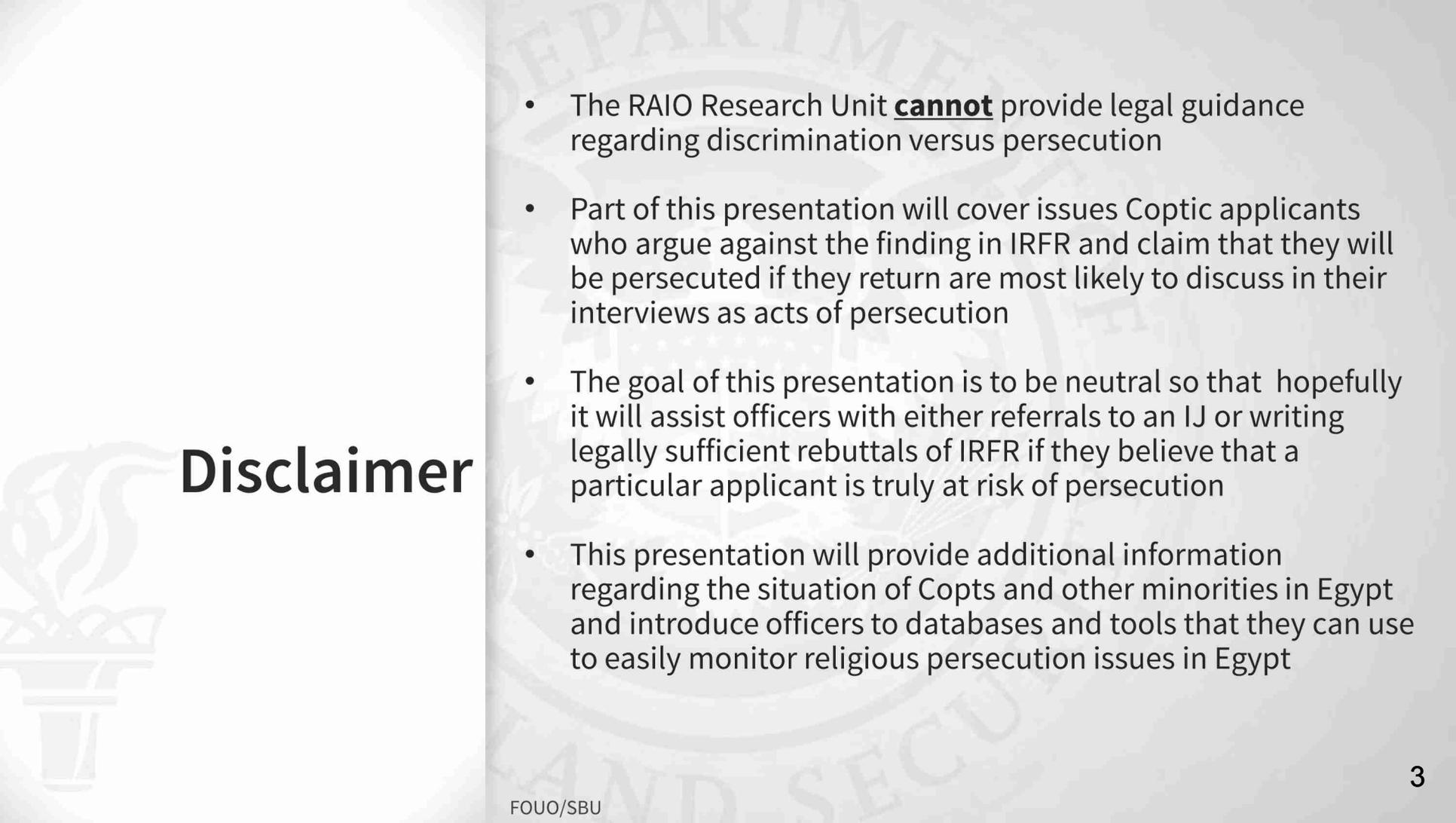


RAIO

Research Unit

Sept 10 2019





Disclaimer

- The RAIO Research Unit **cannot** provide legal guidance regarding discrimination versus persecution
- Part of this presentation will cover issues Coptic applicants who argue against the finding in IRFR and claim that they will be persecuted if they return are most likely to discuss in their interviews as acts of persecution
- The goal of this presentation is to be neutral so that hopefully it will assist officers with either referrals to an IJ or writing legally sufficient rebuttals of IRFR if they believe that a particular applicant is truly at risk of persecution
- This presentation will provide additional information regarding the situation of Copts and other minorities in Egypt and introduce officers to databases and tools that they can use to easily monitor religious persecution issues in Egypt

Egypt and Neighboring Countries



Religion in Egypt: Demography

Religious Demography:

- 85–90% Muslim (predominantly Sunni)
- 10–15% Christian (majority Coptic Orthodox, other Christians include Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, Maronite, Orthodox, and Anglican) *2015 estimate
- The number of Shi'a in Egypt is unknown, estimates range from 50,000 to 1 million
- The number of Baha'i are estimated between 500 and 2,000
- The number of Jehovah's Witnesses is estimated between 1,000 to 1,500
- The number of Ahmadis range up to 50,000
- There are an estimated 18 Egyptian Jews left in Egypt

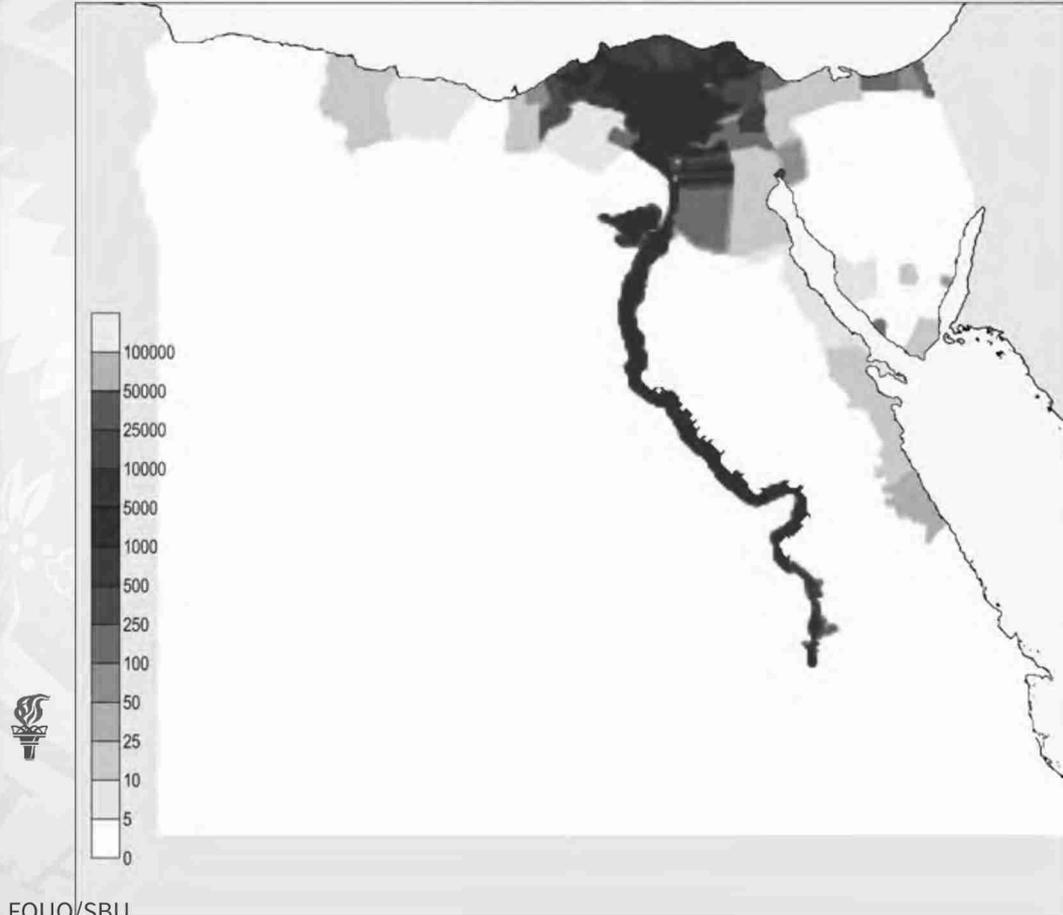
Al-Azhar University



Al-Azhar University is one of Egypt's leading universities and a highly influential source of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence. Founded in 970 CE, it is considered one of the world's oldest degree-granting universities.

Data from the 2010 Egyptian Census

Egypt: Population Density



Brief Overview of Egypt's Political Situation

Leaders of Egypt

14 November 1954 - 28 September 1970

Gamal Abdel Nasser

15 October 1970 - 6 October 1981

Anwar Sadat

14 October 1981 – 11 February 2011

Hosni Mubarak

11 February 2011 – 30 June 2012

Supreme Council of the Armed Forces

30 June 2012- 3 July 2013

Mohammed Morsi

8 June 2014 – Present

Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

The Leadership of the Coptic Church in Egypt

Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria See of Saint Mark

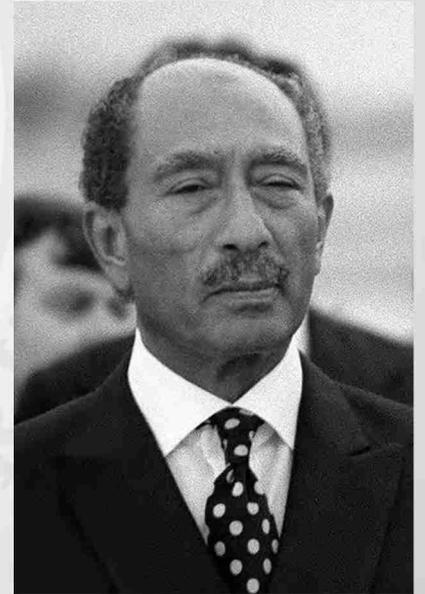
- Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria (18 November 2012 – Present)
- Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria (14 November 1971 - 17 March 2012)
- Pope Cyril VI of Alexandria (10 May 1959 - 9 March 1971)
- Pope Joseph II of Alexandria (1946 - 14 November 1956)

Egypt's State of Emergency

Egypt has been under a state of emergency for a total of 53 years between 1956 and 2017.

Assassination of Sadat

Anwar Sadat was killed on 6 October 1981, shortly afterwards a state of emergency was declared and Egypt's Emergency Law went into effect for the longest continuous period





Egypt's State of Emergency

The Effects of the Emergency Law

- The Interior Ministry can detain and interrogate persons without arrest warrants and issue detention orders that allow detainees to be held for up to six months without a hearing or arraignment.
- The emergency law allow for trials of civilians before military tribunals and special state security courts
- One of the main rallying cry of the Jan 2011 Revolution was the lifting of the Emergency Law



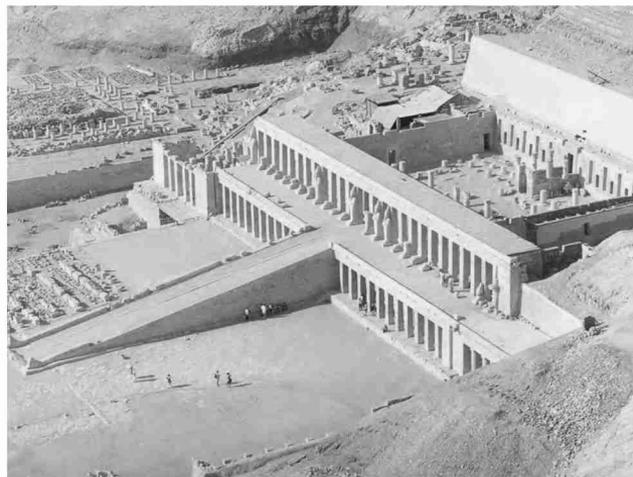
Egypt's 2015 Counterterrorism Law

In 2015 Egypt published a new counterterrorism law

Egypt's 2015 counterterrorism law. The law criminalizes a wide range of acts, including publishing or promoting news about terrorism if it contradicts official statements

In October 2017

Emergency State Security Courts, a parallel judicial system began operating, under the state of emergency that the government claims is being used only against terrorists and drug traffickers. These courts do not guarantee a fair trial and their decisions are not subject to appeal.



El Gama'a El Islamiyya

Gama'a el-Islamiyya (Islamic Group - IG)

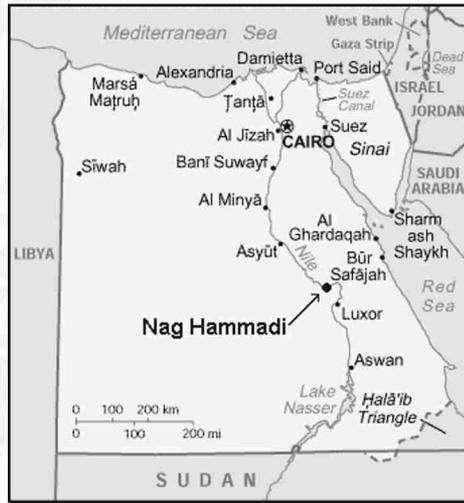
This group is a **Tier I** Terrorist organization from 10/8/1997 – Today

*Please note there is a second Indonesian terrorist group on the FTO list called Jemaah Islamiya that was designated on 10/23/2002 – these two groups are not related

1972-1997

- Muslim-Christian clashes erupting in 1972, following the burning of a church in Khanka
- Increasing conflict culminated in 1981 in communal violence, which included many Gama'a el-Islamiyya members) in the outlying Cairo district of al-Zawiyya al-Hamra, which resulted in at least 10 dead and 60 wounded. Sadat's response included the arrests of numerous Islamist leaders and the banishment of the Coptic Patriarch, Shenouda III from 1981-1985.
- In 1997 Gama'a el-Islamiyya declared that it renounced violence and stopped attacking Egyptian Christians

The Status of Coptic Christians under the Mubarak Period



Common Criticisms of the Mubarak Regime regarding the treatment of Coptic Christians

Hosni Mubarak ruled Egypt from 1981-2011

- During this time:
- The majority of those who attacked Coptic Christians or their places of worship were tried in closed military court
- A single individual, Hammam Al-Kamuni, was tried in open court for attacks against Copts in the Nag' Hammadi church attack on 16 Jan. 2011
- Mubarak issued 3 decrees (1998, 1999 & 2005) on church reconstruction and repair that decentralized petitions by Copts and made the 26 individual governors responsible for authorizing church repairs and construction



The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood

The RAI0 TRIG Branch Timeline

Before 1980: Contact TRIG POC

1980 - 5 December 2012: Tier N/A

5 December 2012 – Present: Tier III per RAI0 TRIG Branch

Muslim Brotherhood Activities post 12/5/2012

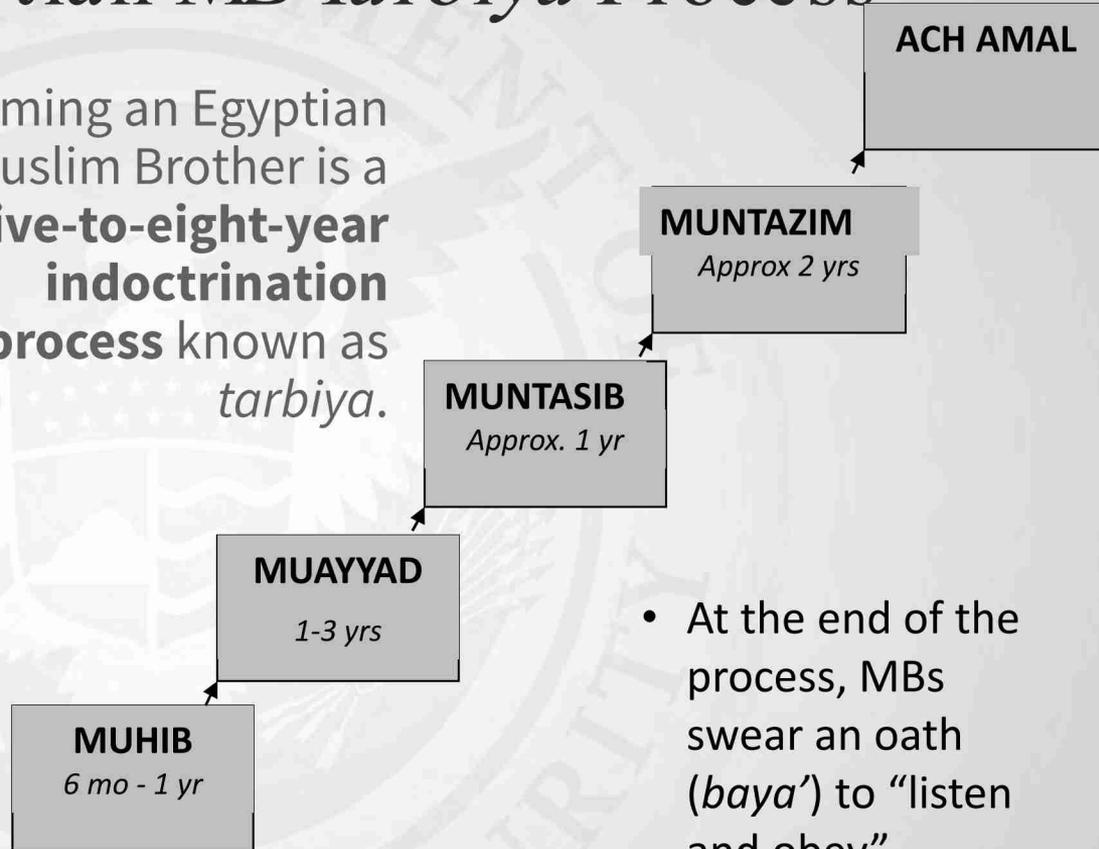
- Human Rights Watch reported in August 2013: Brotherhood leaders have lashed out at Christians for both Morsi's ouster and the current violence, with the result that pro-Brotherhood mobs in several towns and cities have attacked Christians and burned their churches.
- Through inflammatory speeches, flyers and online postings, Muslim Brotherhood supporters alleged that Copts had agitated for Morsi's removal and participated actively in the subsequent crackdown.

The RAI0 TRIG Branch Report recommends that the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) is categorized as a Subgroup of the Muslim Brotherhood

Egyptian MB *Tarbiya* Process

The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood

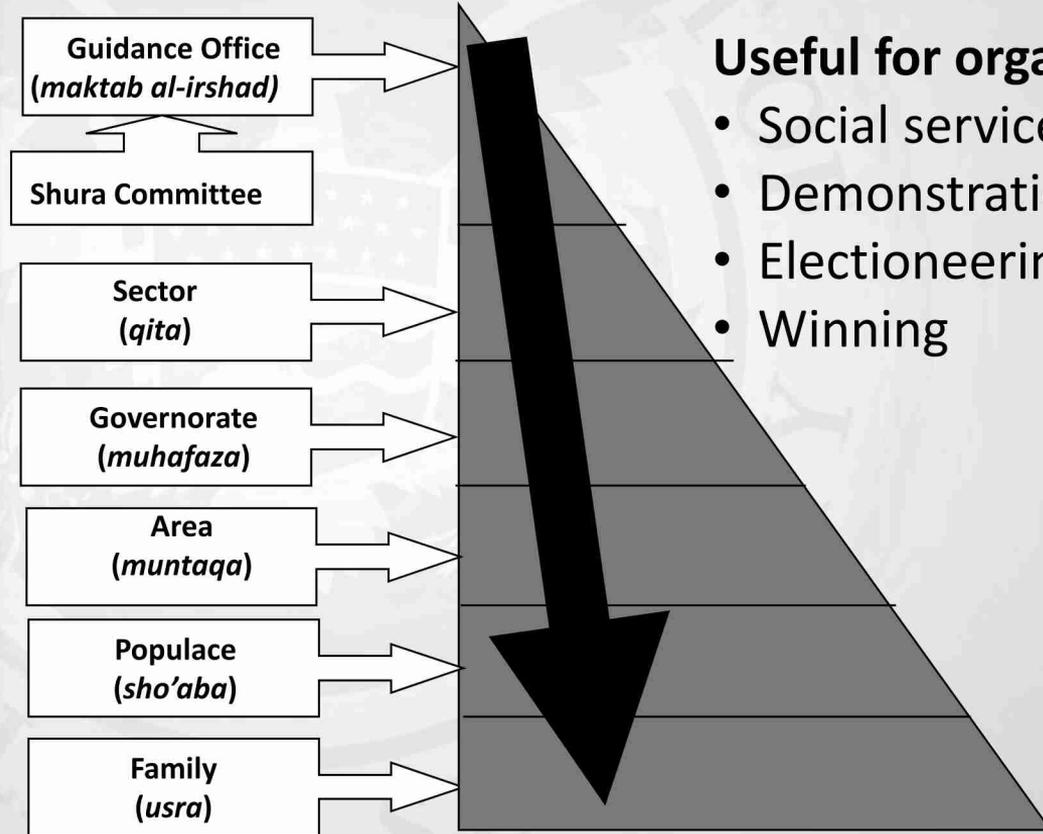
Becoming an Egyptian Muslim Brother is a **five-to-eight-year indoctrination process** known as *tarbiya*.



- At the end of the process, MBs swear an oath (*baya'*) to “listen and obey” commands from MB leaders.

The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood

Egyptian MB's Structure



Useful for organizing:

- Social services
- Demonstrations
- Electioneering
- Winning

Statelessness in Egypt

Law 26 of 1975

This law established citizenship rights for Egyptians and prevented Egyptian women from passing citizenship to their children

Decree No 12025 of 2004

Amended Law 25 of 1975 enables Egyptian women to pass citizenship to their children



Statelessness in Egypt

Terrorism and Law 26 of 1975

- On September 21, 2017, the Council of Ministers of Egypt (the Cabinet) approved an amendment to Law No. 26 of 1975 on Citizenship. The Council has referred the new amendment to the Council of Representatives (Egypt's unicameral parliament) for a vote. The new amendment allows the Prime Minister to strip the Egyptian citizenship of individuals who are seeking to undermine the public order of the state or who have been convicted of crimes related to endangering state security.
- The new amendment will be added to article 15 of Law No. 26 of 1975 and will read as follows: Nationality can be withdrawn, if [a person] joins any group, association, body, organization, gang, or any entity of any nature with the aim of harming the public order of the state or undermining the social and economic order by force or by any unlawful means.

Confessional laws and personal status

Marriage and Divorce laws are determined by Sect

- Currently Copts are limited to fault based divorce and adultery is the only 'fault' that the church recognizes
- Domestic violence/gender based violence is not legal a ground for divorce in Egypt for Christians currently
- However, Egyptians who convert from Christianity to Islam can file for divorce based on 'conflicting religious denominations' as this is grounds for divorce under Shari 'a law as it is interpreted in Egypt
- Muslim couples do not face so many obstacles because state law on civil matters such as marriage and divorce is already based on their religion's laws. Therefore they only have one layer to go through, just the state, whereas Christians have both the state and their church.

Coptic Christians and The Egyptian Constitution

The Egyptian Constitution of 1971

For the first time in 1971, the Egyptian Constitution made reference to Islam as the basis of law

The Egyptian Constitution of 2014

Article 2 of both the 1971 and 2014 Constitution State:

“Islam is the religion of the state and Arabic is its official language. The principles of Islamic Sharia are the principle source of legislation.”

Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

A list of attacks

- **Abu Qarqaas May 2016**
- **Assam Village 2016**
- **Bombing of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church at St. Mark's Cathedral, December 2016**
- **Islamist militants target Coptic Christians in North Sinai, 2017**
- **Palm Sunday Church Bombings, 2017**
- **Minya Bus Attack, 2017**
- **Mar Mina Church Attack, December 2017**
- **Mina Bus attack, 2018**



Abu Qarqaas May 2016

- The romantic relationship between a Christian male youth and a Muslim woman incited a Muslim mob to attack Christians in the village of Abu Qarqaas in Minya Governorate. A mob of 300 Muslim men attacked Christian homes on 20 May 2016 after rumors of the relationship between Ashraf Abu 'Atiya, a Copt, and a young Muslim woman were spread around the town.
- The mob beat Christians and vandalized and robber their homes. The Egyptian government later acknowledged the assault on the elderly Christian woman and President Sisi personally telephoned her to assure her that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.
- The woman was the mother of the man accused of having an affair. A group of Christians retaliated by burning down a Muslim owned store house. Egyptian police had reportedly arrested 25 people involved in the attack.

**Recent notable
Attacks against
Coptic
Christians**

Assam Village 2016

The Coptic Bishop Makarios issued a statement saying that sectarian violence in the village of Assam in the Minya Governorate left two Christians in critical condition on 12 September 2016. According to a report in Ahram Online, a traffic dispute between a Muslim and a Christian sparked clashes resulting in the torching of several Christian-owned properties. Egyptian security forces arrested 20 Muslims and 17 Christians in relation to the violence. According to the Bishop's statement this same village witnessed similar sectarian violence in July 2016, but there were no arrests involved in the event.



**Recent notable
Attacks against
Coptic
Christians**



Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

Bombing of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church at St. Mark's Cathedral, December 2016

- December 2016, a bomb was detonated in the chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul's church at St. Mark's Cathedral killing 25 people and injuring 49 more. The attack occurred as worshippers were gathering for Mass. Shortly after the attack there were conflicting reports on the nature of the attack.
- The GoE blamed the Muslim Brotherhood in the attack immediately afterwards, but two days after the attack ISIS took responsibility for the attack



Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

Islamist militants target Coptic Christians in North Sinai, 2017

- In late February 2017, hundreds of Coptic Christians fled the Sinai Peninsula to Ismailia city after the release of a threatening ISIS video and a series of attacks on Christians in North Sinai Governorate
- In al-Arish, the capital of North Sinai, at least seven Christians were killed in separate attacks between 30 January and 24 February 2017
- ISIS's Egyptian affiliate, which is based in northern Sinai, released a video on 20 February 2017 vowing to step up attacks against Christians, whom it described as "infidels" that should be killed
- According to church officials roughly 100 families, out of around 160 in North Sinai, had fled the area



Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

Palm Sunday Church Bombings, 2017

On 9 April 2017, Palm Sunday, suicide bombers attacked two Coptic Christian churches, one in Tanta and the other in Alexandria, killing 44 people and injuring another 126. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks. The first attack targeted St. George Church in Tanta where a bomb exploded in the church killing 27 and wounding another 78. The second attack occurred a few hours later at St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, the historic seat of the Coptic Orthodox church in Egypt, and killed at least 17 people and wounding another 48

Minya Bus Attack, 2017

- On 26 May 2017, militants associated with ISIS attacked a bus filled with Coptic Christians on a desert road in Minya Governorate killing 30 people and wounding 26 more
- ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack via the social media platform Telegram on 27 May and claimed that it killed 31 Christians in the attack
- Then the militants, wearing military uniforms and masks, entered the bus and ordered all the men off the bus before confiscating the women's jewelry. The men were then given the option to live if they converted to Islam before they were executed

**Recent notable
Attacks against
Coptic
Christians**



Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

Mar Mina Church Attack, December 2017

- On 29 December 2017, two gunmen opened fire on the Mar Mina Church in Helwan
- At least nine people were killed in the attack
- Among the dead were three police officers, who had reportedly been patrolling the church
- In a statement issued shortly after the attack, ISIS claimed responsibility for the Mar Mina Church shooting, saying that one of its "security detachments" had carried it out
- An hour after the Mar Mina attack, a Coptic-owned shop in Helwan was also attacked, leaving two dead

Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

11 August 2018

Omar Mostafa attempted an unsuccessful attack on the Church of the Virgin Mary in Qaliubiya Cairo

Attack was scheduled around the feast of the Assumption of Mary

- The attacker has been identified as Omar Mostafa
- He supposedly belonged to a small terrorist cell inspired by Sayyid Qutb of the Muslim Brotherhood
- Bomber was wearing an explosive vest and killed only himself with approached by Egyptian security



Recent notable Attacks against Coptic Christians

2 November 2018

Seven Coptic Christians were killed and 20 injured in an attack on two buses after leaving a Monastery in Fayoum

- The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack
- The attack occurred while the pilgrims were on the way to the Monastery of St Samuel the Confessor in Fayoum
- That same monastery was the site of a deadly attack in May 2017, when armed militants attacked a bus traveling on the road leading to it, killing 28 Coptic Christians, most of whom were children, and injuring 26 others.
- The Egyptian Government claimed that they had killed 19 militants in response on 4 November

Documenting discrimination and persecution of religious and ethnic minorities in Egypt

<https://eshhad.org/>

Eshhad is the Arabic imperative for "witness" or "testify". Eshhad documents sectarianism against religious, cultural, and ethnic minorities in the Middle East. Since January 2011, Eshhad has coded over 700 incidents in Egypt, Iraq, and Syria.

Map and Database



Documenting discrimination and persecution of religious and ethnic minorities in Egypt

<https://eshhad.org/>

Eshhad was a research program that was incubated at TIMEP. Eshhad broke off as a separate organization. On the Eshhad website nothing is mentioned about asylum consultancy. But the following is from the press release about Eshhad on the TIMEP website

TIMEP: Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy

“Eshhad will continue to feature its database and a map that geo-references the recorded incidents that are collected from publicly available information. In addition to the database and map, Eshhad will continue to provide a variety of resources, including minority profile briefs, issue briefs, special briefings, and various reports highlighting trends and statistical information. Eshhad will also begin to provide legal services to support asylum cases, provide legal analysis for ongoing litigation, and litigate cases in the United Nations.”

Tattoos in the Coptic Christian Community

Tattoos

- “Christians often have small crosses tattooed on the inside of their wrists or between their thumb and forefinger as a mark of their identity. Such tattoos are often obtained after Christians have visited monasteries or holy sites. It is unclear what percentage of the Christian community has such tattoos, or if the practice is increasing or decreasing”
- “According to the Washington Times, in their article, Libyan Gunmen Kidnap at least 20 Christians, the kidnappers sought to identify the Christians by tattoos of crosses on their rights wrists, ‘a common mark worn by many Egyptian Christians”





Liwa al-Thawra

لواء الثورة

Revolution Brigade

Liwa al-Thawra

- Location: Qalyubia and Monofeya governorates
- Liwa al-Thawra main stated aim is the removal of the Sisi regime and the completion of the revolution
- Liwa al-Thawra is linked to HASM
- Liwa al-Thawra has overtly denied that they have any links to the Muslim Brotherhood, but has been linked to the deceased Muslim Brotherhood member Muhammad Kamal
- Unlike traditional Islamist groups, Liwa al-Thawra condemns attacks against Christians and targets Egypt's security forces
- The US Department of Treasury Designated Liwa al-Thawra as a specially designated global terrorist on 1/31/2018



HASM

حركة سواعد مصر

**Harikat Souaid
Misr**

HASM

- Active in Beheira, Beni Suef, Cairo, Damietta, Fayoum, Giza, and Qalyubia provinces
- Attacks have been directed at targets symbolic of the regime or security forces
- Hasm grew out of the Muslim Brotherhood and maintains semi-formal ties with the organization
- Analysts believe that Hasm was part of the Muslim Brotherhood's 'Special Operating Committees' that were organized by Guidance Bureau member Muhammad Kamal in 2013
- They also maintain ties with Liwaa Al-Tharwa
- The US Department of Treasury Designated HASM as a specially designated global terrorist on 1/31/2018

لا إله إلا الله



ISIL Sinai Province

ولاية سيناء

(formerly Ansar
Bayt al-Maqdis)

Tier I Terrorist Organization

Designated on 4/10/2014 as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis

Sinai Province

- Location: The majority of the group's operations have taken place in North Sinai, but it has also claimed attacks in greater Cairo, Daqhalia, South Sinai, Matruh, Qalyubia, New Valley, and Ismailia
- Some intelligence assessments have estimated its size at around 1,000 members
- Regardless of exact numbers, the group is undeniably the most coordinated and operationally effective group in Egypt
- Since its formation, judged to be at some point in 2011, the group appears to have breathed life into Egyptian jihadi cells by bringing them under one umbrella.

AL-MURABITUN

المرابطون

The Guardians

Al-Murabitun

Is a militant organization in Egypt affiliated with Al-Qaeda
Hisham Ali Ashmawi (Captured 8-2018)

- Is the leader of Al-Murabitun, which broke away from Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis when they decided to pledge allegiance to ISIS
- Ashmawi is former Egyptian special Forces from the Sai'ika or Thunderbolt unit and served from 1996/7-2007
- Al-Murabitun "consists mainly of former military officers discharged for reasons connected with their ideological orientation."
- Tariq Taha Abul-Azm, a former Egyptian infantry officer, and Imad al-Din Ahmad Mahmud Abdul Hamid, a former member of Egypt's armed forces,



Military Service in Egypt

Military Conscription

- According to Article 3 of Law No. 127 (1980), men aged 18-30 were subject to conscript military service but that voluntary enlistment [was] possible from age 16. ‘ the government also required all males to register for the draft when they reached age sixteen
- National service, which lasts from 18 to 36 months
- The service obligation is 18-36 months, followed by a 9- year reserve obligation
- After 30, men are no longer obligated to enter the military
- Women were not subject to conscription
- Conscripts with degrees from institutions of higher education had to serve only eighteen months



Military Service in Egypt

Exemptions and Deferrals

Exemptions are permitted for:

- Certain medical conditions
- Men employed in permanent government positions, sons whose brothers had died in service, men employed in essential industries, and family breadwinners were all eligible for exemptions
- An only son whose father is deceased or permanently incapable of earning a living
- For the oldest son after immigration of his brothers or obtaining du[a]l citizenship
- Deferral for education purposes are granted for university students up to the age of 28, at which time they are expected to enter the military (unless they are granted a further deferral)



Persecutor Bar Red Flags

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**Military Service
in Egypt**

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Jewish Ancestry in Egypt

Applicants with Jewish Ancestry

Although there are very few Jewish people in Egypt today, there are many that have ancestors (mainly grandparents and great-grandparents) who were Jewish

Discrimination and Potential Persecution

- Egypt has Universal Male Conscription
- However, ‘the Jewish population of Egypt is exempted from military service’
- Men who have hidden their Jewish heritage are prevented from entering the military at age 18 and can be stigmatized, discriminated against and could be at risk for persecution
- Both men and women with Jewish heritage can be prevented from government employment/service

Egypt's Apostasy Laws

- While Egypt **does not** have a statutory ban on apostasy, article 98(f) of Egypt's Penal Code, as amended by Law 147/2006, states that “whoever makes use of religion in propagating, either by words, in writing, or in any other means, extreme ideas for the purpose of inciting strife, ridiculing or insulting a heavenly religion or a sect following it, or damaging national unity” is punishable with six months to five years' imprisonment, and/or a fine of five hundred to one thousand Egyptian pounds (approximately US\$71 to \$142)

Atheism in Egypt

Atheism in Egypt

- On December 24, 2017, the Committee on Religion of Egypt's Council of Representatives discussed a bill that would make atheism a crime punishable under the Egyptian Penal Code
- the Committee head and a sponsor of the bill, calls the “phenomenon” of atheism in Egyptian society, which he says must be “criminalized and categorized as contempt of religion because atheists have no doctrine and try to insult the Abrahamic religions.”
- The concept of “contempt for religions” (*izdira' al-adyan*) is contained in article 98(f) of the Penal Code. This article provides for “imprisonment for a period of not less than six months and not exceeding five years, or paying a fine of at least 500 Egyptian pounds [about US\$28]” on “whoever makes use of religion in propagating, either by words, in writing, or by any other means, extreme ideas for the purpose of inciting strife, ridiculing or insulting a divine religion or a related sect, or damaging national unity.”



Conversion and Re-Conversion

Conversion to Islam

Is legally very easy and can be done without hindrance from the state

Conversion from Islam to any other religion

Is very difficult and conversion is not generally recognized by the state and ID cards cannot easily be changed

“Law 143/1994 on civil status stipulates that it is incumbent on those wishing to change any information on their identity card to present themselves to the civil registry (article 53) and the civil status department with a ‘Demonstration of proof from appropriate authorities’ (article 47) in order to modify the religion written on their ID card, national registration form, and birth certificate”

In 2004, several hundred Copts who were incorrectly registered as Muslim were able to have their ID cards changed



Egyptian Coptic Christian Baptism Certificates

The Coptic Church is heavily influenced by Judaism here, so baptisms have traditionally followed the formula of 40 days for baby boys and 80 days for baby girls. However a couple of factors might change that formula: 1. Families might delay baptisms awaiting a relative being able to join, given the extended nature of Coptic families and Coptic emigration worldwide, that wait may be for a year. 2. Some families have a special attachment to a particular monastery and may wish to baptize their children at that monastery, so again some delay may be a factor here. 3. Some priests are more progressive and may ignore the 40/80 formula and baptize boys and girls at the same time. 4. In poorer and less educated areas in the south, families may not baptize right away due to ignorance of traditions and hence there are cases where someone is a Christian and somehow gets communion, but he was never officially baptized. So we have some cases of adult baptism, but only when the priest is 100% certain that the person was never baptized, as the Coptic Church believes in only one baptism. 46

Liberal interpretation of Islam

Matter of S.A. makes reference to ‘liberal Muslim beliefs’ in the context of Morocco

While Egypt is not Morocco, there are possibilities for similarities

The Egyptian Context liberals include...

- Anyone who vocally opposes a set tenant of Islam (i.e. something in the Qur’an or well established Hadith) would be seen a liberal or very liberal and could be punished for blasphemy

Limited Examples

- Christian men marrying Muslim women without converting to Islam
- Viewing it as permissible for Muslims to convert to other religions
- Being accepting of atheism
- Being accepting of LGBT Marriage

Ahmadi's in Egypt

Ahmadi

- The Ahmadiyya Movement was founded in British India by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1836-1906), an Islamic reformist and mystic who in 1891 claimed that he was a prophet, revivalist (*mujaddid*), and the messiah (*mahdi*) anticipated by Muslims.
- Ahmadis are not formally recognized by the Government of Egypt as a religion
- In 1962 Al-Azhar released a fatwa declaring that Ahmadis had deviated from Islam
- In 2010 there were numerous reports of persecution of Ahmadis in Egypt

Banned Religions in Egypt

The Baha'i and Jehovah's Witness faiths have been banned since 1960 by presidential decrees.

Jehovah's Witnesses

- In Oct 2017, there were an estimated 1,000-1,500 Jehovah's Witnesses living in Egypt
- Despite being a form of Christianity, the faith is not officially recognized
- Congregations were formally established in the country from the 1930s and were able to practice with relative freedom until the 1950s. However, in Cairo in 1951 and then in Alexandria in 1956, the Jehovah's Witnesses suffered an increasing wave of hostile rumors accusing them of being covert Zionists and a threat to national security.
- In 1959 they were obliged to halt their activities and in 1960 they were banned
- The Coptic Church has said that Jehovah's Witnesses have "no relation with Christian denominations"



Banned Religions in Egypt

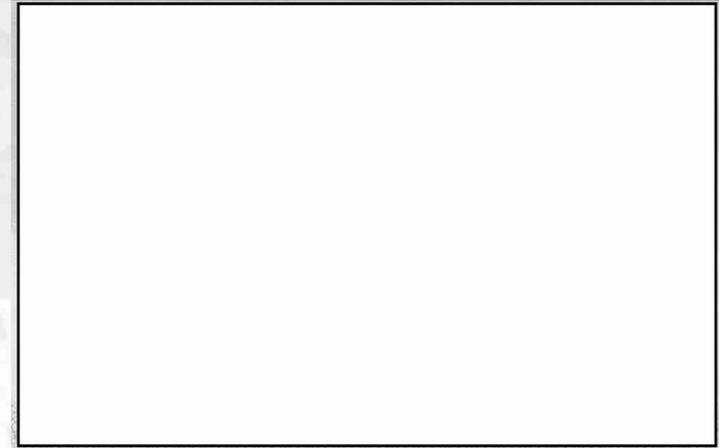
Baha'i

- In 1960, the Egyptian government passed Law No. 263 which recognized only Islam, Christianity, and Judaism excluding Baha'i for protected legal rights of worship
- This law also bans Baha'i from obtaining government documents such as birth and marriage certificates.
- The law also enables the Egyptian government to confiscate or close any Baha'i property.
- In Egypt, Baha'i adherents face several types of societal discrimination. The discrimination makes it difficult for them to open bank accounts, starting businesses, receiving inheritance, and registering marriages
- According to Harvard University's Religious Literacy Project, the Egyptian government fails to adequately prosecute harassment and attacks against the Baha'i in Egypt

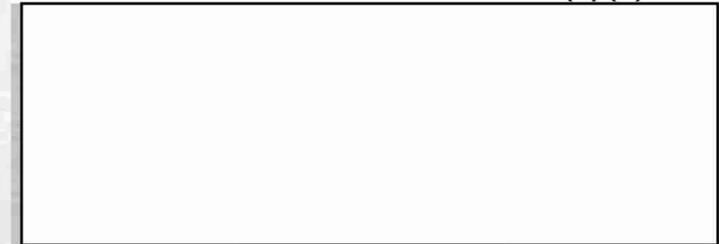
Banned Religions in Egypt

Baha'i Identity Cards/Documents

- In 1996 Egypt began to move from hand written identity documents to printed identity documents
- Until 2008, there was no way in the computer system to enter any religion other than Muslim, Christian, Jewish



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Female Genital Mutilation

FGM was banned in Egypt in 2008 and criminalized in 2016

Despite these laws it is still occurring. It is not associated with religion and happens to members of all faiths in Egypt

The Practice is starting to be performed more by Medical professionals since the ban/criminalization

- A 2016 survey by the U.N. Children's Fund showed that 87 percent of women and girls aged 15-49 in Egypt have undergone the procedure.
- Traditionally performed by a *Daya*
- Egyptian doctors increasingly carry out the cut in secret in the early morning or late at night -- charging the parents large amounts for the procedure

**On 22 September 2017 Mashrou' Leila
played a concert in Cairo**

The photo below was taken at the concert



**LGBT Issues in
Egypt**

Sexual Harassment in Egypt

Sexual Harassment

- According to a 2013 study by the United Nations, more than 99 percent of all Egyptian women have been the victim of harassment -- which is to say, basically all of them.
- According to the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Cairo is the most dangerous megacity in the world for women
- Mob rapes are often more brutal and dangerous than assaults by individuals, and experts say that opportunistic crowds often participate in these assaults
- According to Article 306 (amended in 2014) of the penal code, sexual harassment is punishable by up to 50,000 Egyptian pounds (about 2,400 euros) and a prison sentence ranging from six months to five years

Treatment of Human Rights Activists in Egypt

Case 173 of 2011 - known as the “foreign funding” case

- Case No 173 is commonly referred to as the “case on foreign funding of civil society.” In July 2011, the cabinet ordered the Minister of Justice to set up a fact-finding committee to look into foreign funding received by civil society groups and to determine which of those groups are registered under Law 84. The report was completed in September 2011 and was included as part of the evidence brought by prosecutors against the international NGOs in the 2012-13 prosecution which is why it is now publicly available. The document includes a report from the National Security Agency and another from the Egyptian General Intelligence Agency that lists almost every independent human rights organization in Egypt as well as the international NGOs who were subsequently prosecuted and sentenced.

Labor Unions

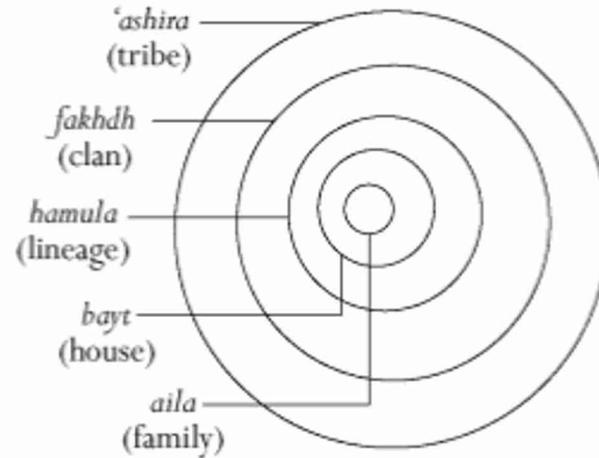
The Status of Labor Unions

- Egypt's 1976 Trade Union Law does not recognize any trade unions except the official government-controlled unions affiliated with the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF). Independent trade unions proliferated after the 2011 uprising, but the government has not officially recognized them, even though the 2014 constitution guarantees freedom of association.
- According to activists, once Manpower Minister Gamal Sorour took office in September 2015, no new independent unions have been able to register. Activists also expressed fears that members of independent unions might face prosecution after an official newspaper on April 17, 2016, said that an investigation is being conducted that could lead to charges against leaders and members of these unions.

Name structure

Basic Arabic Naming Conventions

Figure 1.1: An *'ashira* is made of a number of *fakhdh*s, in turn divided into many *hamulas*, comprising a number of *bayts*, then *ailas*.



Basic Arabic Naming Conventions

Example Basic

What makes up an Iraqi Arabic Name?

The Given First Name (*Ism*) *Ibrahim*

The Father's First Name (*Ism Ab*) *Awad*

The Grandfather's First Name (*Ism Jed*) *Ibrahim*

The Great Grandfather's First Name *Ali*

Example Tribal

The Clan/Subtribe Name (*Foukdth*) *Al-Badri*

The Tribe Name (*Ashira*) *Al-SAMARRAEI*

Full name: Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim Ali Al-Badri Al-SAMARRAEI

Helpful Resources for future use

Resources (Non-Exhaustive)

- [RAIO Research Unit ECN & Egypt page](#)
- [Harvard Religious Literacy Project](#)
- <https://eshhad.org/>
- [Al Ahram English](#)
- [Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights](#)
- [Law Library of Congress Egypt Page](#)

Helpful Resources for future use

Speaker Series Videos

- The RAIO RU as a response to officers who have been asking for additional Egypt COI material have hosted two guest speakers during the past year. And the videos are available here:
<https://ecn.uscis.dhs.gov/team/raio/Research/SitePages/RU%20Speaker%20Series%20Videos.aspx>
- **Samuel Tadros (1/22/2019) – Discussing Coptic Christianity in Modern Egypt**
- **Dr. Eric Trager (4/12/2019) – Discussing the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood**



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