

Summary of the Roundtable Discussion

***Sam Fanous (Canadian Coptic Association):**

- The situation of the Copts in Egypt is similar to the First Nations in Canada.
- There are problems with both the government and Muslim fundamentalists (MFs). In terms of Muslim fundamentalists, they aspire to topple the government. However, the Muslim government is inherently anti-Coptic and are suppressing the Copts.
- The government is not actively against the MFs; they are well entrenched in the country. The government only acts against them if there is an attack of senior government officials and/or the government infrastructure or if western tourists are attacked.
- There is tremendous employment inequity. For the most part no Christian mayors, Christian governors etc. As a token gesture, there are only six Christian ministers appointed by the Egyptian president.
- With respect to education, all schools teach history and omit seven centuries of Coptic history. Children grow up with the idea that Christians are aliens, which only further exacerbates hatred within the country. Although the number of Coptics has decreased, there are still ten million today that need to be supported.
- Canada has a unique position in that the world looks to Canada for leadership on human rights matters. Two recommendations: calls for aid to be tied with guarantees for human rights; and for Canada to acknowledge that Coptics are under persecution everywhere in Egypt.

***Shadab Khokhar (International Christian AWAZ):**

- State laws have created an atmosphere of fear among Christians. Persecution and terrorism is state-sponsored.
- For five years our organization has met with different government officials to try to act against such persecution. Christians in Pakistan need help and we need to formally come together to help them.

Mubarak Nazir (Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam):

- Ahmadiyya Muslims are a community that was founded on justice and peace and are hated because of our non-violent past.
- Mosques built by Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan have been destroyed. People who commit these acts have misrepresented Islam: Islam preaches tolerance.