



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

The President

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*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:*

*“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 8:35-39*

Your Holiness Pope Tawadros II,

Salaam and grace to you from Jerusalem in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am writing to express my strong support and heartfelt condolences to you and to your church, upon learning of the execution of twenty-one Coptic Christians at the hands of extremist terrorists. This act of horror is an attack on humanity, and all who are followers of Jesus Christ, and indeed against people of every religion who stand for peace, justice, and freedom. As this church is known as the church of *martyria*, we are very sorry that another twenty-one have been added to their number, for no other reason than that they are baptized members of the Body of Christ. We stand with you in opposition to all such acts of violence, extremism, and terror, wherever they occur in the world, and whoever is the perpetrator.

Please know that you, our brothers and sisters of the Coptic Church, have the prayers of the 144 churches of the Lutheran World Federation. Your struggle is our struggle; your grief is our grief.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Bishop Dr. Munib Younan  
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land  
President of the Lutheran World Federation

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