

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East
The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa



Bishop: The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis
Email: bishopmouneer@gmail.com
Address: 5 Michel Lutfallah Street, PO Box 87, Zamalek, 11211, Cairo, EGYPT
Telephone: + 20 2 27380821/3/9 **Fax** +20 2 27358941 **Website:** www.dioceseofegypt.org

22 August 2012

Church leaders meet with the President of Egypt for the second time

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

President Mohammed Mursi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, invited the Heads of Denominations in Egypt in order to dialogue with us. The two-hour long meeting was attended by 13 bishops and pastors representing the Coptic Orthodox, the Catholic, the Greek Orthodox, the Anglican, and the Protestant Churches. I, and all my colleagues, appreciated the fact that the President called us twice in less than two months to talk and listen to us. This never happened in the last 30 years.

The President shared with us the reasons behind his recent decisions to dismiss the military chiefs and the cancelling of the constitutional declarations they made. By these decisions the President put an end to the military ruling of the country which started since 1952. He also shared his hopes that the new Constitution would represent the hopes and views of all Egyptian regardless of their religion, ethnic background and political views. This will guarantee the support of the vast majority of people to the new constitution.

President Mursi expressed his deep appreciation of our assurance that we pray for him in our churches. He also assured us that his Islamic faith commands him to be gracious and just with people of other faiths.

The President then gave the opportunity for each of one of us to speak frankly about current situation in Egypt and our hopes for the future. We shared the following points:

1. The need to alleviate the current sectarian congestion that leads to recurrent clashes. Ignorance and wrong teaching are behind such congestion. This requires the propagation of the sound and moderate religious teaching of Islam as taught by Al Azhar. There is also a need to improve the religious speech (sermons and teachings) in order to build up the thought of the people.
2. The need to care for the education of the new generations so that they become more tolerant and good citizens. We suggested that common values should be taught in schools.

3. The importance of applying the rule of law on everyone, especially when sectarian clashes happen.

4. The importance of working to relief the suffering of the people by improving the economy, health care and restoring order in the society.

We told the President that we are aware that he received a heavy responsibility at a very difficult time in Egypt's history and we all need to be patient and hard-working in order to see the desired fruits.

The President assured us that he is working to achieve the dream of Egypt: to be a democratic and modern country where the rights of citizenship and the constitution are held up high.

In the end, we came out of the meeting very encouraged and determined to do our best in order to see the Egypt that we dream of.

Please pray for our President, for all religious leaders, and for our beloved country Egypt.

May the Lord bless you!

Yours in Christ,

+ Mouneer Egypt

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis
Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
President Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican
Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East