

Egyptian President Mursi Meets with Christian Leaders, Makes Reassurances



President Muhammad Mursi meets with Christian leaders at Presidential Palace on June 27

CAIRO, Egypt (*Arab West Report*, 2 July 2012) – Egyptian President Muhammad Mursi has met with the leaders of several Christian denominations, assuring them he intends to "ensure the rights of citizenship of all Christians in Egypt."

The meeting last week at the Presidential Palace came at the request of President Mursi, who was sworn in Saturday as the first Islamist president in the history of Egypt.

Mursi said Christians are "equal citizens in Egypt" and that it is his "duty to make sure that every citizen receives his or her rights," according to a statement by Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Annis, the Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

"I assured the president of our prayers for him and also asked him to make the topic of national unity a priority. By 'national unity' I mean, of course, equality between Christians and Muslims and applying the rule of law on all citizens ... He promised to do his best to ensure the rights of Christians, especially in regard to building churches," said Bishop Mouneer.

Bishop Mouneer's account of the meeting

Thursday 28 June 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Yesterday I received a phone call from the Presidential Palace asking me to meet with the new President of Egypt, Dr. Mohammed Mursi. The President also invited the heads of other the Christian denominations for the meeting.

We were received with a warm welcome from the President. Each one of us gave congratulations to the President and he assured us that Christians are equal citizens in Egypt and it is his duty to make sure that every citizen receives his or her rights. The President also told us stories from the history of Islam of how Muslim leaders were very keen to ensure the right of citizenship of all Christians in Egypt.

I assured the President of our prayers for him and also asked him to make the topic of “National Unity” a priority. By “National Unity” I mean, of course, equality between Christians and Muslims and applying the rule of law on all citizens. He immediately responded that there were attempts to disrupt this National Unity in the past and create a strained relation between Christians and Muslims. He promised to do his best to ensure the rights of Christians, especially in regard to building churches.

I also asked the President to consider attending one of the meetings of “Beit el Aila” the House of the Family, which is an initiative of the Grand Imam to bring Christian and Muslims leaders together to discuss ways to enhance the religious harmony. He immediately agreed to host one of these meetings. I shared this news with the Grand Imam who was happy to hear that the President will give a serious attention to “Beit el Aila.”

I came out of the thirty–five minute meeting very encouraged. I must say that this initiative of the President carries in itself the desire to assure Christians that he will be the President of all Egyptians.

We will continue to pray for him and for our beloved country Egypt.

May the Lord bless you!

Yours in Christ,
+ Mouneer Egypt