



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

ATTACKS ON COPTIC CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

Mr Donnelly moved, according to notice:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) Coptic Christians comprise 10 per cent of Egypt 's population of 93 million,
 - (b) as a minority religious group in the country, Coptic Christians have over many years been subject to intimidation, persecution and murder,
 - (c) in December 2016, an attack on Coptic Cathedral left 29 dead, with ISIS claiming responsibility for the attack and naming Christians in Egypt as their 'favourite prey', and
 - (d) ISIS also claimed responsibility for the attacks on Coptic Christians on 9 April 2017 in which two suicide bombings of worshippers in Tanta and Alexandria, while they were celebrating Palm Sunday, killed 75 people and left scores wounded.

2. That this House notes that:
 - (a) on 26 May 2017, masked gunmen, dressed in military uniform, opened fire on a bus carrying Coptic Christians who were travelling on an unpaved desert road en route to Saint Samuel, the Confessor Monastery in Minya province, around 220 kilometres south of Cairo,
 - (b) the death toll from the attack has reached 29 but is expected to rise further,
 - (c) those killed in the attack on worshippers and workers visiting the holy site included children aged two and four years of age, and
 - (d) ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack saying in an online statement that it was carried out by one of its affiliates.

3. That this House condemns in the strongest possible terms the brutal killing of Coptic Christians last week in the Minya province and calls on the Egyptian Government to do more to protect the religious minority in that country.
4. That this House offers its sympathy and support to the Coptic community in New South Wales at this time of great sadness.

Signed S. G. [Signature]

Dated 31/09/2017