



## Explosions hit Coptic churches in Tanta, Alexandria

«مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا مُعَاهِدًا لَمْ يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ»

“Whoever killed a Mu’ahid shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise”

At least 27 people have been killed in a blast inside the Coptic Church of Marjeres in the Egyptian city of Tanta. A second blast later at a church in Alexandria killed 11 more.

Islam orders the good treatment of *dhimmi* (non-Muslim citizens of an Islamic State) and prescribes severe punishment for those who harm them.

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said:

«إنه من كان على يهوديته أو نصرانيته فإنه لا يفتن عنها»

“Whoever is adamant upon Judaism or Christianity will not be tormented for it.” (Abu Ubayd, Kitab al-Amwal)

«مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا مُعَاهِدًا لَمْ يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ رِيحَهَا يُوجَدُ مِنْ مَسِيرَةِ أَرْبَعِينَ عَامًا»

“Whoever killed a *Mu’ahid* (people with whom the State has treaties) shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise though its fragrance can be smelt at a distance of forty years (of traveling).” (Sahih al-Bukhari 6914)

Some may question whether the Copts in Egypt today are still considered *dhimmi*. Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Khayr Haykal answers this question in his book ‘*Al-Jihad wa’l Qital fi as-Siyasa ash-Shar’iyya*’:

“Therefore, the non-Muslim citizens of the Islamic lands today are the sons of those who contracted the *Dhimma* with the *Imaam* of the Muslims or his deputy. As long as the contract of *Dhimma* is permanent then this dictates that those sons today in the age where the Islamic State is not present and the *Imaam* of the Muslims is absent, **still enjoy the status of the Ahlu-dh-Dhimma** and the *Ahkaam* (rulings) related to the *Ahlu-dh-Dhimma* are the same as what they were with their forefathers in the time when the Islamic State and the *Imaam* of the Muslims were present.”

If we look to the history of the Copts in Egypt when they lived under the *Khilafah* we can see these *Sharia* rules being implemented in practice. While there were times during the *Khilafah* when *dhimmi* did suffer some persecution at the hands of tyrant rulers we cannot generalise and paint the entire 1300-year history as one of persecuting non-Muslims. The fact that Coptic Christians and their places of worship exist today is proof enough that the *Khilafah* did not adopt a policy of religious cleansing like Europe did.

Thomas Arnold elaborates on this point:

“But of any organised attempt to force the acceptance of Islam on the non-Muslim population, or of any systematic persecution intended to stamp out the Christian religion, we hear nothing. Had the Caliphs chosen to adopt either course of action, they might have swept away Christianity as easily as Ferdinand and Isabella drove Islam out of Spain, or Louis XIV made Protestantism penal in France, or the Jews were kept out of England for 350 years.” [Thomas W. Arnold, ‘The Preaching of Islam,’ p. 72]

Peace will only return to the Middle East for all people Muslim and non-Muslim when the colonialist powers and their ideologies are expelled and replaced with a unified Islamic State implementing *sharia*.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Abdul-Kareem Newell