



PC.DEL/936/11
13 October 2011

ENGLISH only

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 882nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 OCTOBER 2011

**RE: RECENT VIOLENCE IN EGYPT,
INCLUDING AGAINST COPTIC CHRISTIANS**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to call the attention of the Permanent Council to the Appeal issued by Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of his weekly General Audience that was held yesterday:

“I am profoundly saddened by the episodes of violence that were committed in Cairo last Sunday. I unite myself to the suffering of the families of the victims and to that of the entire Egyptian people, torn as it is by attempts to undermine the peaceful coexistence of its communities – a coexistence that instead is necessary to safeguard, especially in this moment of transition. I encourage the faithful to pray so that Egypt might enjoy a true peace, founded upon justice and upon respect for the freedom and dignity of every citizen. Moreover, I support the efforts of the Egyptian authorities, civil and religious, who promote a society in which the human rights of all are respected, and in particular of religious minorities, to the benefit of national unity.”

Thank you, Mister Chairman.