

«HERE
WE PRAY
TOGETHER IN
SOUTH SINAI»

Saint Catherine Peace Conference

Peace prayer from Egypt

18 -19 October 2018



General Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai: «We want a world without terrorism»

Dr.Rev.Andrea Zaki, President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt: “Egypt has always been a holy land; Sinai is the land of the prophets.We all live in a world that is hungry for peace”

Dr. Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa, Minister of Endowments: “We believe in the interfaith coexistence, here in the land of peace, Saint Catherine, the symbol of peace and religion”

Dr. Osama Al-Abd, Chairman of the religious committee in the parliament: “St. Catherine is a symbol of religious tolerance and Egypt is an incubator of prophets”

«We want a world without terrorism and Egypt will remain a country of peace; terrorism has no religion and no homeland. Egypt will stand by its army and police in the face of terrorism and evil power,» said General Khaled Fouda, governor of South Sinai.

This came during his remarks at the World Peace Forum in St. Catherine in South Sinai, “Here We Pray Together”, under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi and the supervision of South Sinai Governorate in cooperation with the Ministries of Endowments, Culture, Tourism, Investment, International Cooperation, Environment, Youth and Sports, Antiquities and Migration as well as the Parliament religious committee.

In the same context, Dr. Rev.Andrea Zaki, President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt and CEOSS President said, “Sinai is the land of the prophets, where God spoke to His prophet Moses, and the feet of the Holy Family have laid down; Egypt has always been a holy land.” He pointed out that, “we live in a world that is hungry for peace.When we look around the world, there are struggles at various levels.” Zaki clarified,“ Peace in its broad sense does not only mean the end of conflicts, but it can also require the emphasis on achieving a wide range of vocabulary, values and customs based on full respect for the principles of sovereignty and freedoms, respect for the principles of dialogue and cooperation, and rejection of violence.”

Zaki added, “Living in peace generates values of tolerance and respect among people; and spreads appreciation and acceptance of the world’s diverse cultures, different ways of expression, and human differences in general. Peace is thus promoted through interest in knowledge, openness to others, and the belief that tolerance is the basis for the solution of conflicts. Thus, peace is not limited to morality, but is also a political and legal demand. Peace begins from the person himself to find innovative ways of promoting concepts of friendship, understanding, cooperation and contemplation of the meanings of peace quietly and seriously.”

Dr. Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa, Minister of Endowments, said that the sponsorship of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi for the forum is a message of peace to the world. Egypt is the cradle of the divine religions and the convergence of religions; clarifying that Islam never differentiated between religions. He Stressed that St. Catherine is a symbol of tolerance of religions, where the mosque and the monastery have been standing together over the centuries in human tolerance.

During the forum, Dr. Osama Al-Abd, Chairman of the religious committee in the parliament, said that peace is coexistence and love, while war is a division; peace makes nations while war destroys people. He explained that peace was the prophets’ call that all peoples have the right to live without fear and that the origin of cooperation between human beings is brotherhood and humanity.

Al-Abed stressed that St. Catherine is a symbol of religious tolerance and that Egypt is an incubator of prophets, where God spoke to His prophet Moses and blessed this land. He pointed out that the holy Quran promoted peace and rejected violence and terrorism; all prophets and messengers called for peace and fighting extremism and violence.

It is worth mentioning that last week St. Catherine witnessed the launch of the World Peace Forum under the slogan «Here We Pray Together for World Peace,» where a number of ministers and ambassadors attended that event. The forum was held for the fourth year in a row. The Governor of South Sinai, the Minister of Endowments and the head of the religious committee in the parliament gave the opening speeches. The following day, the Minister of Endowments gave a Friday sermon at the Holy Valley Mosque; after Friday prayers, he visited the monastery and met with the Bishop. In the afternoon, the governor held a press conference, where he announced the ‘Charter of St. Catherine for World Peace’, to confirm that St. Catherine is the convergence of heavenly religions.

