



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II
Saint Marcos Cathedral
Abbasseya
Cairo

Oslo, 14 December 2016

Your Holiness

I would like to extend my most profound condolences to Your Holiness and to all members of the Coptic Church in Egypt and across the world following the barbaric attack on the chapel adjacent to St Mark's Cathedral. This terrible act of violence was clearly intended to create divisions within Egyptian society, as was the brutal murder of six policemen in Giza on Friday. I greatly admire the courage and composure shown by Egyptians in the face of such appalling hatred and extremism.

My thoughts are with the victims and the families and loved ones of all those who have been killed or wounded.

A great many Norwegians are thinking of Copts in Egypt and the wider Middle East at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Børge Brende', written in a cursive style.

Børge Brende