

National Black Church Initiative

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National Black Church Initiative Calls for a Halt to Violence against Innocents In Syria and Egypt

Violence is the act of vanity in this case

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans dedicated to the eradication of racial disparities around the world, is urging all religious communities to join together in the promotion of peace in Syria and Egypt. Our Black leadership partners - 66,000 churches nationwide – are called upon to use the full force of our combined 100,000 churches to support an end to the violence tearing apart communities in Syria and Egypt.

Syria and Egypt, two of the most critically important states in the Middle East, are in the midst of turmoil that is spiraling out of control and killing many innocent men, women and children in the process. Both countries have long been dictatorships—Syria as an ally of Iran and Egypt as an ally of the United States—that have suppressed the will of the people through brutality for decades. We are now witnessing the venomous fruit of democracy denied as attempts by the population to assert the will of the people are met with violence and hostility by long entrenched dictators who stand to lose their privileged positions in a democratic order. At the same time, foreign actors such as the United States, Israel and Iran are all vying to influence the outcome so as to gain geopolitical advantage in the aftermath of the conflict. The long suffering people of Syria and Egypt are caught in the middle of this monumental struggle.

As the Reverend Anthony Evans, President of the NBCI notes: “NBCI calls the violence in Syria and Egypt appalling. We as religious leaders cannot stand by and see these appalling acts of violence unfold before our eyes against innocents who simply want the opportunities of freedom and to control their own destiny without the interference of government. Violence is immoral and always wrong under every circumstance. Civil discussion, negotiation and prayer can solve every human conflict. We signal the great humanity that we have for each other by engaging in these non-violent acts. Violence won’t solve problems. Iraq is a perfect example of this.”

Both Egypt and Syria are in the midst of epochal changes that will reshape the Middle East. In Egypt, polls indicate that Islamic fundamentalist parties such as the Muslim Brotherhood and other more conservative groups will win 65% of the vote in that election. The era of an Egyptian military dictatorship that ignored the Palestinians and cooperated unceasingly with the Israelis is over. The outcome in Syria is far less predictable as we do not know yet if any organized group will be in a position to replace the current regime or even if that regime will step aside.

What is certain is that with this crisis has come a unique opportunity for peace that NBCI will be supporting as part of our mandate to defend the innocent wherever they may be. We call upon all proponents of peace and human dignity, as well as our 34,000 church strong member church coalition, to join NBCI in condemning these acts of violent repression against the innocent families of Syria and Egypt and supporting a peaceful resolution to these conflicts.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.