

Massacre of Christians: and Europe keeps silent

by **Ida Magli**

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A massacre of Christians who were coming out of one of the most important churches of Alexandria (in Egypt) during New Year's Eve, is pushing us towards a consideration which is going beyond this single episode, although it was extremely sorrowful. This is a consideration we all have in our hearts: should we accept with submission the fact that Christianity will disappear? We cannot shut our eyes in front of reality, even if it is true that the Christians were killed by extremist groups of different nationalities and social status. But in the Christian world it's been several years that the religious and political leaders are deluding themselves - and are pushing the believers to do the same - saying that those men are 'just few fanatics'. This gave way to a general perception and feeling of the 'weakness' of Christianity.

If we really want to be honest, we should call with its real name the behavior of the Christians and what Muslims are thinking about it: this is a cultural tradition more than a real religious faith. Thousands of tourists in Saint Peter's Square cannot give the measure of the Christian faith; Christmas celebrations with the churches full of people cannot demonstrate the religiousness of Europe. What counts is everyday's life, which is very far away from the Gospel - at least as far as laws and the behavior of the leading classes are concerned. Who is defending Christianity? By dint of 'dialogue' we do not know what is that Jesus said; and without Jesus - Muslims know it all too well - it will be sufficient to give a little push here and there, and very soon Christianity will be cornered. A very nice and good mannered corner, where everybody loves each other, but still a corner.

This "let us all love each other" is what the leaders pursuing globalization are thinking and wanting: the homogenization of customs will follow, and also that of religion and peoples. But Believers do not think so, because they do not want to give up the feeling of being 'men' with their own brightness, history, faith and will. Do we really have to keep silent while we see that other innocent Christians are being killed treacherously when they are coming out of a church? The Egyptian government says that the killers were foreign extremists. It may be true, but are there

any controls at the borders of Egypt? And anyway, what are they going to do to protect the safety of the Christians?

This problem exists in each country where the Muslim majority does not tolerate the presence of Christians: in Africa as in the East... The cradle of Christianity is Europe. Christians are present in all Continents, but it is in Europe that we must study a strategy and a way to allow the Christians live their faith without being afraid of physical intimidations, and also enjoying the intellectual and moral certainty coming from the beauty of their faith. But how? Politicians - if they only wanted to - could find the most adequate solutions for the different situations, from a diplomatic or military point of view, and we cannot give them any suggestions. But there is one thing, perhaps the most important one, where Public Opinion still counts. And Public Opinion must be helped to talk freely, without the draw-backs, without the censorship of politically correctness, since Christians were commanded: "your word be yes, yes, no, no". We must discuss about Jesus of Nazareth, about what he did and said - and not about the Old Testament, Father Pius or the Popes - to know if we really want to defend the Cristian religion in its essence and actuality.

Only if the european and the worldwide Public Opinion will take a strong stand in favor of Christianity it will be possible to enact the political measures to defend Christians from danger. But we know that Europe is against this strategy - few days ago we commented about the european Diary with no Christmas feast. This attitude thrived because 'submission' to the truth of other peoples was preached all too much. It is so much easier to say that the others are right.

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