



December 10, 2018

Coptic Solidarity Congratulates the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (TLHRC) on this occasion of their 10th Anniversary Celebration and applauds the tireless efforts of its founders, co-chairs, and staff to promote and improve human rights worldwide.

Former and current Co-Chairs have been known as fervent and leading human rights advocates on Capitol Hill. Coptic Solidarity thanks everyone we have had the privilege to work with who have been committed to Coptic equality and religious freedom including Rep. Jim McGovern, Rep. Frank Wolf, Rep. Joe Pitts, and Rep. Randy Hultgren.

The strong bi-partisanship of the TLHRC provides an important model and precedent for promoting human rights in the US Congress. Their research, meeting with victims and advocates, holding hearings, providing accountability to governments and individuals who commit human rights violations, and mobilizing Members of Congress to take action in support of victims of human rights violations has made an immense impact on numerous lives around the world.

Coptic Solidarity is particularly grateful for the pertinent hearings hosted by the TLHRC on a number of occasions, the most recent in December 2017 titled *Egypt: Human Rights Seven Years After the Revolution*. This hearing shone light on a variety of escalating human rights violations in Egypt, including systematic discrimination and persecution of Coptic Christians perpetrated by the Egyptian government and society. The immediate denunciation of the witnesses and event by the Egyptian media demonstrated just how important and necessary this hearing was. Such hearings on human rights abuses worldwide are a critical contribution by the TLHRC to the defense of human rights.

Coptic Solidarity wishes the TLHRC continued success in advocating for the defenseless and the least amongst us.