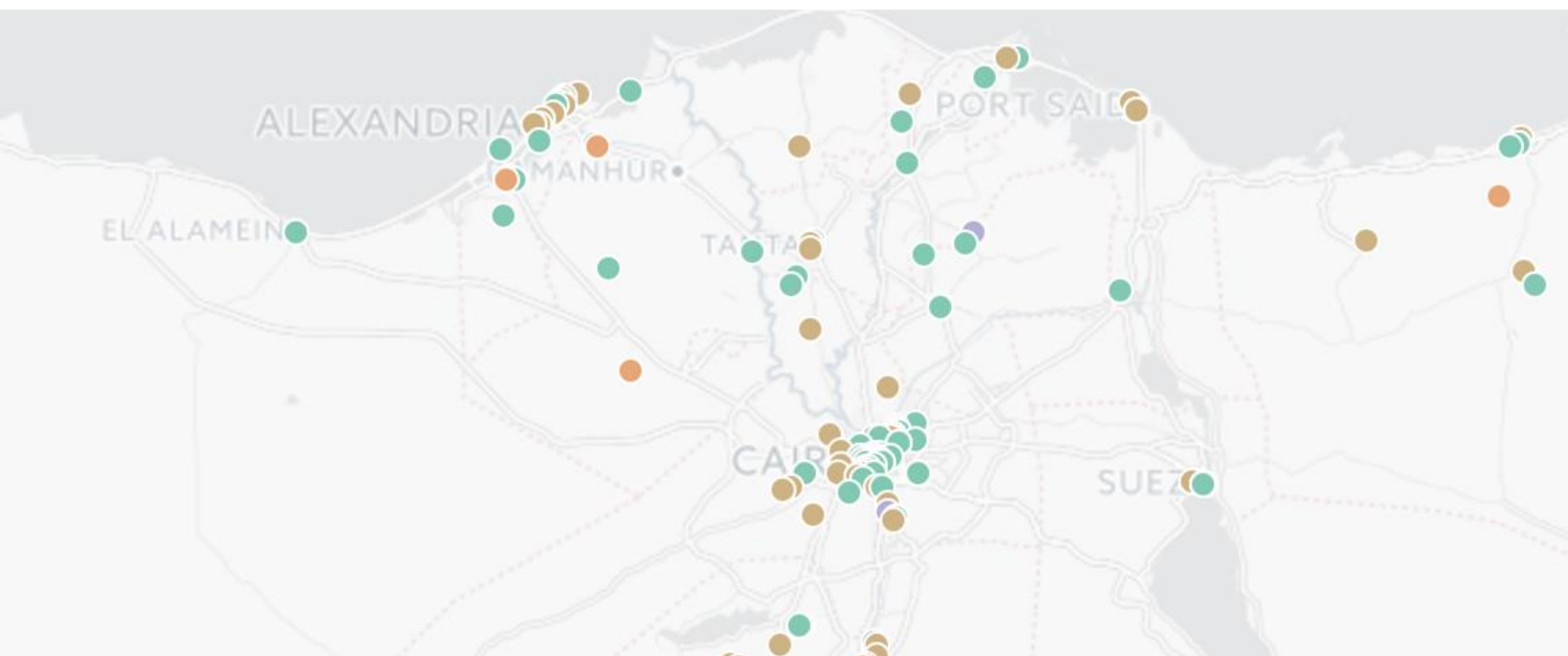

ESHHAD QUARTERLY TREND REPORT

January–March 2017

Eshhad: Center for the Protection of Minorities



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Eshhad documented 27 incidents in the first quarter of 2017. Of the **27 incidents** documented, **25 incidents** were against Christians, **one incident** targeted Sufi Muslims, and **one incident** targeted an Ahmadi.¹

Although the province of Minya continues to experience the highest number of reported sectarian incidents in Egypt overall, this quarter North Sinai witnessed the greatest number of incidents. In the first quarter of 2017, **eight incidents** of the documented **27 incidents** occurred in North Sinai, and **five incidents** occurred in Minya. North Sinai rose to sixth in the ranking of provinces with the highest numbers of sectarian incidents.

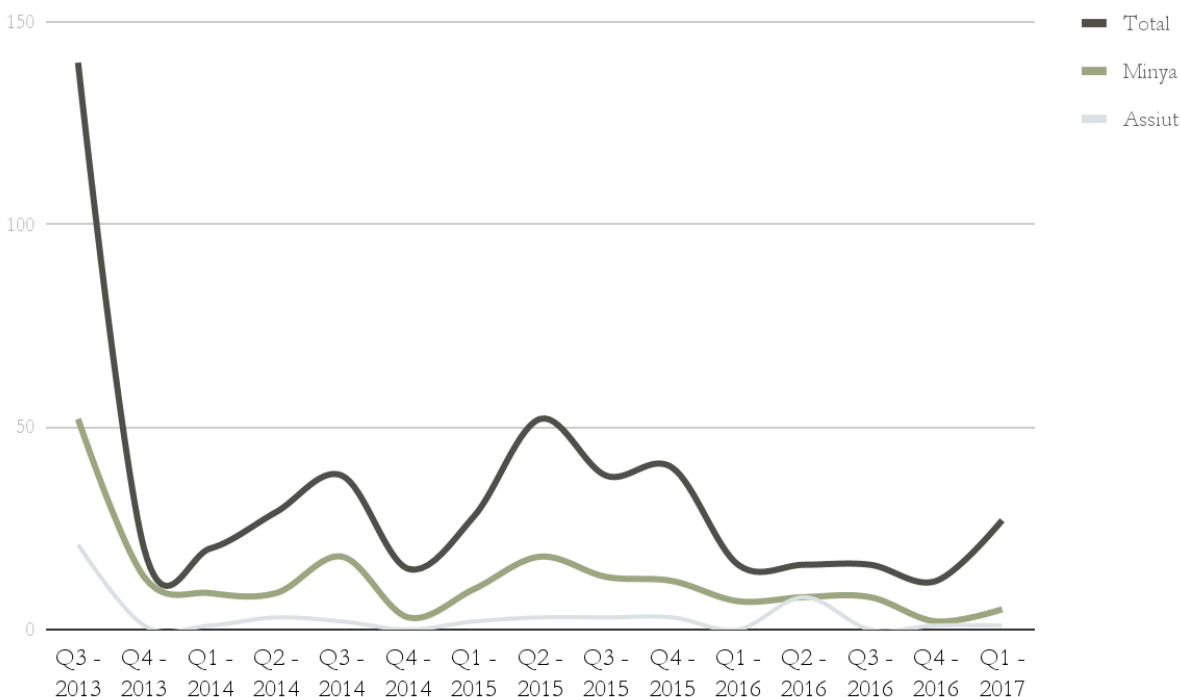


Figure 1: Total Incidents Since August 2013

Overall, Minya and Assiut still rank as the two provinces to witness the most sectarian incidents since Eshhad started documenting in August 2013 (Figure 1). When this quarter's incidents were included, Sohag replaced Giza as fifth in a ranking of provinces with the most sectarian incidents in the country.

¹ For more information on Christians and other non-majority religious groups in Egypt, refer to Eshhad's minority profile briefs located on our website at <http://eshhad.org/minority-profiles>.

Figure 2: Provinces with the Most Sectarian Incidents (Total Since August 2013)

Ranking	Incident Location (Province)	Total Incidents Through Q1 2017
1	Minya	187
2	Assiut	43
3	Cairo	38
4	Beni Suef	26
5	Sohag	24

This quarter, there have also been some changes in the top five districts to experience sectarian incidents (Figure 3). Cairo, Egypt's capital, rose to third highest; previously it was not among the top five. Alexandria, also not previously ranked, rose to fifth highest. Assiut City and Deir Mawas in Minya are no longer ranked.

Figure 3: Districts with the Most Sectarian Incidents (Total Since August 2013)

Ranking	Incident Location (District)	Total Incidents Through Q1 2017
1	Minya, Minya	59
2	Samalout, Minya	49
3	Cairo	38
4	Malawi, Minya	23
5	Alexandria	19

This quarter, **shootings** were recorded the most number of times (**six times**) followed by **four beheadings**, accounting for the increased number of killings in North Sinai and other areas of Egypt. **Two** of this quarter's incidents were **abductions or disappearances**, bringing the total to 94 since August 2013—still the most frequent incident type to be recorded overall. As Figure 4 shows, looting/destruction of property and arson/burning are the second and third most frequent incident types overall. Notably, the majority of incidents in those categories occurred in August 2013 and dropped off significantly after that wave of attacks slowed down. Additionally, this quarter, assault increased to the fifth most frequent type of incident overall, pushing attempted attacks to sixth most frequent.

Figure 4: Most Frequent Incident Types since August 2013

Ranking	Incident Type	Total Through Q1 2017	Q1 2017
1	Abductions/Disappearances	94	2
2	Looting/Destruction of Property	70	1
3	Arson/Burning	70	1
4	Shooting	38	6
5	Assault	27	0
6	Attempted Attack	23	1

Figure 5 presents whether perpetrators of incidents are state or non-state actors. Non-state actors carry out a vast majority of sectarian incidents: of the **510 total incidents** recorded since August 2013, state actors directly carried out **72 of the incidents (14 percent)**, a slight increase from percentages during previous reporting periods. This quarter shows a higher percentage of state actors (**29 percent**) than the overall trend.

Figure 5: Number of Incidents Committed by State and Non-State Actors

	Total Through Q1 2017	Q1 2017
Non-State Actors	438 (86%)	21 (71%)
State Actors	72 (14%)	6 (29%)
Total	510	27

Note: The fact that victims of sectarianism in Egypt are predominantly Christian is a consistent and unsurprising trend. Christian denominations make up the majority of religious minorities in Egypt, and many smaller minority groups are not always vocal or public when incidents do occur, which leads to significant under-reporting and lack of data. Although it is known that Egypt's minorities are all discriminated against or persecuted in a variety of ways, incidents against Christians dominate the statistics: Between August 2013 and the first quarter of 2017, *of the recorded incidents*, **94 percent** of the victims targeted self-identify as Christians.