

Copts attacked in Egypt, CSW reports

From the Church Times, the independent Anglican weekly newspaper.

THE site of a new church and homes of Christians in Upper Egypt were attacked before Christmas, in another outbreak of sectarian violence in the region, Christian Solidarity Worldwide ([CSW](#)) has reported.

The site of a new church, in Al-Azeeb, Minya Province, was attacked by “extremist members of the Muslim community” from the area on 18 December, the charity said.

The village is home to about 3000 Copts. The government had granted permission for the church to be built, and foundations of the building were being laid, when a group attacked the workers and fired Molotov cocktails, which set fire to homes.

The founder president of CSW, Mervyn Thomas, said: “The torching of Coptic homes and properties highlights once again the urgent need for the Egyptian authorities to enact the law regulating the construction and renovation of houses of worship in a manner that guarantees the right of Christians to worship in community with others.