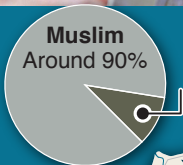


Pope Francis visits Egypt in wake of attacks

The pontiff's visit, intended to build on inter-faith dialogue with Muslim leaders, comes at a time of acute fear and uncertainty for Egypt's Christian community following a spate of terrorist attacks



Apr 28-29: Pope Francis meets President **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**, **Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb**, Grand Imam of al-Azhar – world's most influential centre of Sunni Islamic theology – and **Pope Tawadros II**, head of Coptic Orthodox Church

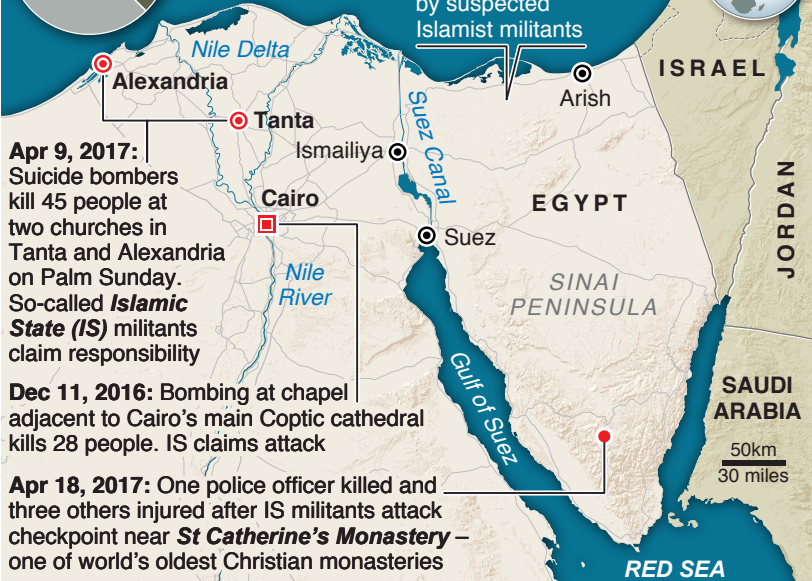


Population
81 million

Christian
Around 10%

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Feb 2017: Dozens of Coptic Christian families flee northern Sinai after number of killings by suspected Islamist militants



Apr 9, 2017: Suicide bombers kill 45 people at two churches in Tanta and Alexandria on Palm Sunday. So-called **Islamic State (IS)** militants claim responsibility

Dec 11, 2016: Bombing at chapel adjacent to Cairo's main Coptic cathedral kills 28 people. IS claims attack

Apr 18, 2017: One police officer killed and three others injured after IS militants attack checkpoint near **St Catherine's Monastery** – one of world's oldest Christian monasteries