

# مع استمرار التحذيرات المصرية.. «احتياج رفع» سيناريو ما قبل الكارثة

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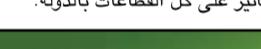
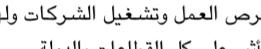
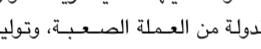
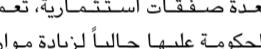
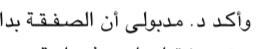
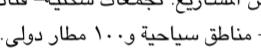
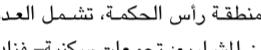
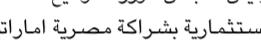
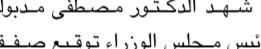
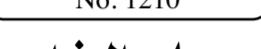
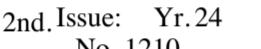
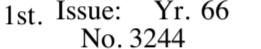
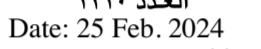
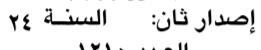
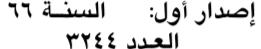
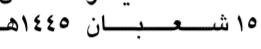
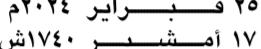
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## فك واب .٠٠٠ باب أنسنة: صبحي شكري إشراف: إخلاص عط الله

# معرض القاهرة الدولي للكتاب يحتفي برموذل الأدب العربي والعالمي

الإبداع وعوالمه جزء لا يتجزأ من الفكر الإنساني في كل مكان وعلى مر العصور، وكلما اقترب الفن -على تعدد التراث الإنساني العالمي- وهذا مانعنه دائمًا تجاه أعمال إبداعية عالمية بعيتها حفظت في الوجود العالمي للبشرية .. من هنا لا يذكر ثالثة نجيب محفوظ، الأطلال رائعة ناجي والسباطي وأم كلثوم، وبواسطه الفرنسي فكتور هوجو، وأنا كارنيينا للروسي تولستوي، أو لا يذكر أيضًا سيميونيات الامانى بيتهوفن وتمثال الرحمة والموانئ للكاتب الإيطالي مايكيل أنجلو وليوناردو دافينتشي ... إن هذه جميعها رموز عاشت ورحلت عن العالم بالجسد فقط.

وقد حملت النسخة الـ ٥٥ من معرض القاهرة الدولي للكتاب هذا العام إيحازاً في رموز الفكر والفن في مصر وخارجها.. وهانحن على هذه الصفحة نقدم قبساً من حيوانات - الذي أنهى أعماله مؤخرًا - هذه الرموز وما قدمت من أعمال خلدت في العقل والوجود.

إخلاص عط الله

## يحيى حقي.. صاحب الوجه المتعددة

وكتب سرى عبد الله أن يحيى حقى اجاد اختيار عنوان كتاب الوجود الشعبي

للصراف، فهو أحد العبرين الحقيقيين من الروح المصرية، وكل رواية له بعد أنها مغامرة أدبية مختلفة عن الأخرى.

من جانبها قال الدكتور خيري دومة: كما تختلف في عام ٢٠٠٥ بموروثه على ميدان النقد، فحيى حقى وكان الكاتب الكبير بجزئه الشليل هو من اختار عنوان

النحو «وجهه يحيى حقى»، موضحًا أن هذا العنوان للنحو كان اختيارًاً موفقًاً جدًا لأن

يحيى حقى محبوم وجهه كثيرة متداخلة

تمسّكها في أعماله.

مضيقًا أن يحيى حقى ظل يبحث عن الهوية

المصرية ومدح بها الدارجة المصرية، وهذا يعكس اهتمامه الشديد بفهمها.

نجد كتاباته تظهر فيها روح العافية المصرية

وأوضح دومة، أن جهود أعمال يحيى حقى

مساهمة دامت لكتبه تصيّرها إلى أسلوب

فكامي بعده جدًا من الهوية المصرية.

أعمال يحيى حقى في ظاهرها سليمة، لكنه

عام بالتركيبة وهذا يظهر بشكل كبير في

كتاب «أشدودة للسلامة».

وقال الكاتب منتصر الفقاش: قصص وروايات

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## Editorial

Problems on hold

Two years on Russia-Ukraine war

**A reading  
in Putin's interview**

Youssef Sidhom

Yesterday, 24 February 2024, marked two years on the start of the Russia-Ukraine War, the chapters of which are yet being evolving. The balance, however, appears to tip in favour of Russia. The reason the war still rages on owes to the senselessness of the western powers led by the US and its European allies who insist on inundating Ukraine with money, arms and military expertise, with the aim of hindering any Russian military victory on the battlefield. Even though some might believe the West to be actually empathetic with the Ukrainian people, the frightful truth lies in the diabolic contest between the western camp with its military arsenal on one side, and the eastern camp and its military arsenal on the other, whoever may triumph in the end. Sadly, a hind look at the events of that war reveals that, during the first and second years of the conflict, the two sides were on the verge of agreeing through international mediators to end the battles and sit to the negotiation table. Yet, pressured by US-European arrogance, belligerence, and a determination to defeat Russia, Ukraine withdrew from every negotiation possible. Even so, as I already mentioned, the balance of power is tipping in favour of Russia. To say nothing of evidence of a decline in the outpour of aid flowing from the West to Ukraine, with a number of European countries complaining of the extended war, and saying they are exhausted by the growing demands of Ukraine.

Today, I reopen the Russia-Ukraine War file, for more than one reason. First, interest in the war in Ukraine has waned since the Israel Hamas War in Gaza, which started last October and is still raging on; the eyes of our region and the entire world have turned to the events unfolding in Gaza rather than those taking place in Ukraine. Second, two years have passed on the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, so it is fitting to shed light on its latest developments. In this context, I recall that in March 2022 I wrote under the title "What Putin says on the Russia-Ukraine crisis", about the reasons behind this war. One year later, in March 2023, I wrote "One year on the Russia-Ukraine war: A reading in Putin's speech". Today, two years on the outbreak on the war in February 2022, I present a reading in an interview recently conducted by American journalist Tucker Carlson with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. During the interview, President Putin explained the ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine War, and gave his assessment of the war and an outlook for possible scenarios to end it.

I believe that Carlson's interview with President Putin represents the most important testimony on the history of the Russia-Ukraine War as seen by the Russian side.

The interview started with Mr Putin giving a detailed review of the historical background of Russia and its formation ever since the ninth century, and the truth behind the historic relation between Ukraine and Russia until the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 when its leader Vladimir Lenin offered the lands of the Donbas region to Ukraine, which resulted in the start of dialogue and friendship between Russia and Ukraine.

Mr Putin reminded of what took place between him and former US President Bill Clinton in 2000, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the beginning of the era of détente between Russia and the West. President Clinton appreciated the idea of welcoming Russia into NATO, but made a turnaround and renounced to it after consulting with his aides. The same scenario was repeated with President George W. Bush in 2008, Mr Putin said.

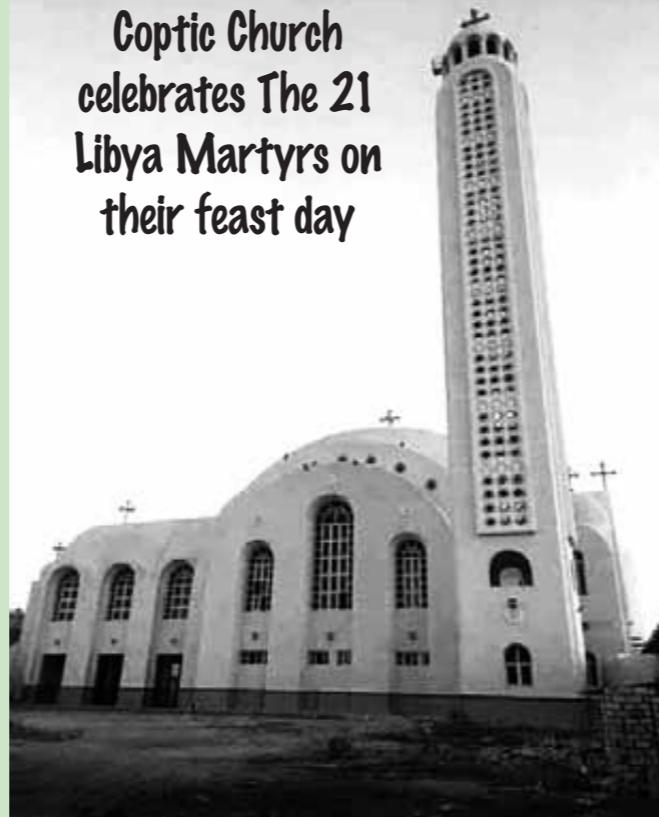
Mr Putin talked of the anti-missile defence plan that the West has been threatening Russia with. He said that he offered Russia's participation with the West in establishing a joint missile defence project, which George W. Bush agreed to then turned back and rejected. This prompted Russia to move forward with establishing its own missile defense project separate from the West; this being the hypersonic defence missiles it now owns; to date the West owns nothing like it, President Putin said.

Mr Putin talked about NATO's expansion into the territories of countries that had broken away from the Soviet Union, despite explicit promises to the contrary by NATO. This expansionism persisted from 1994 until 2008 in five waves that ended with the announcement of the acceptance of both Ukraine and Georgia into NATO. This was soon followed by the establishment of NATO military bases close to Russian borders, which compelled Putin, in late 2021, to warn against its consequences.

President Putin reviewed the rabid western efforts to interfere in Ukrainian elections from 2004 to 2014, which resulted in orchestrating a military coup that overthrew the legitimately elected president Viktor Yanukovych, and set off battles to liberate southeast Ukraine by armed force.

Mr Putin then said that Russia does not refuse to sit to the negotiation table with Ukraine, which both countries had agreed on in Istanbul under Turkish sponsorship. But Ukraine, he pointed out, withdrew upon instructions from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson upon directives by the US.

During the interview with Mr Carlson, President Putin said that defeating Russia in Ukraine is "impossible, by definition". He said that Russia is the largest country in the world and does not need land from others; its 150 million people own wealth and resources counted among the world's largest. Russia, he said, has every right to take all measures to ensure its sovereignty and protect itself against the infiltration of hostile forces close to its borders, threatening its national security. This, he said, is something Russia repeatedly warned against. In that light, Mr Putin said, all the measures Russia has taken in its war against Ukraine were aimed at securing its borders against threatening western encroachment.

**Coptic Church  
celebrates The 21  
Libya Martyrs on  
their feast day****We live and remember**

"May you live and remember" is the clause commonly used by Egyptians to address those commemorating loved ones who passed away. The words carry the solace of stressing the immortal memory of the deceased, and the comfort this memory gives to those on earth. It resonates with the Bible verse of Sirach 44:14 "Their bodies are buried in peace, but their names live on and on".

If this applies to men and women meeting a more or less ordinary death, how much more then if they were martyrs?

The Libya Martyrs were 21 men, 20 Copts and one Ghanaian, who were martyred in Libya. They became known as "The 21", the term used as the title of the book *The 21: A Journey into the Land of Coptic Martyrs* by Martin Mosebach. The book was translated from the original German into English by Alta L. Price, and published by Plough on 15 February 2019.

**Martyrs of faith**

Egyptians, especially Copts whose traditions borrow heavily on those of ancient Egypt, are renowned for giving their martyrs and saints really memorable commemorations. And this has been the case with The 21, who were migrant labourers in Libya, also known as Islamic State (IS) or ISIS, in 2014/2015. On 15 February 2015, a horrific video aired by Daesh showed the brutal beheading of The 21 as they knelt in orange jumpsuits on a beach in Sirte, Libya. The last words they all uttered was a soft prayer: "My Lord Jesus Christ".

The bodies of the 21 were found by the Libyan authorities in a mass grave in Sirte in October 2017, together with their orange jumpsuits. They were identified by DNA testing, and the 20 Copts were in 2018 returned to Egypt, to the village of al-Our, Minya, some 250km south of Cairo. Al-Our is the home village of 13 of the 20 Coptic martyrs; the other seven came from villages in the same region. They were all buried in a special shrine in a church at al-Our built in their honour in 2018 by the Egyptian State and the Coptic Church.

Given that no one had claimed the body of the Ghanaian martyr, the Coptic Church, in response to wide demand by the Coptic congregation, asked the Libyan government for the body to be brought to Egypt to be buried next to his fellow martyrs. The Church pledged to hand the body over to any authentic claimant through official channels. The body was shipped to Egypt in 2020, and is buried in the shrine together with the 20 Coptic martyrs.

Nader Shukry

**Feast of Modern Day Martyrs**

The Coptic Church designated 15 February, the date in 2015 when the video of the beheading was aired, as an annual feast to celebrate the Libya Martyrs, and all modern-day martyrs of faith as well.

On 15 February every year, Masses are held in churches all over Egypt to honour the martyrs.

The great commemoration, however, is reserved to the church of the Martyrs of Faith and the Nation in al-Our where the shrine of The 21 is located.

The feast day is normally preceded by a week-long spiritual programme which the Copts term "spiritual

reawakening". The programme involves daily Mass every morning, and Vespers in the evening followed by hymns, praises, and Bible study or sermons given by some of the Coptic Churches' senior figures. A procession of white-robed deacons in their red sashes, carrying the photographs of the martyrs, tours the church to chants of praises especially written for the 21 martyrs.

This year, the spiritual reawakening started on 9 February and concluded with Mass at al-Our church on 16 February 2024. Presiding over that Mass was Anba Paphnutius, Bishop of Samalout; al-Our lies in the parish of Samalout.

The bishops participating in the Vespers services were: Anba Paphnutius; Anba Raphael, Bishop-General of Downtown Cairo; Anba Stephanos, Bishop of Biba and al-Fashn; Anba Thomas, Bishop-General and Abbot of the monastery of the Holy Virgin and Archangel in Bahnsa; Anba Julius, Bishop-General of Old Cairo and BLESS; Anba Diocoros, Abbot of the monastery of St John the Short; and Anba Angaelos, Bishop of London.

**Christ's open arms**

Five years following their gruesome beheading in Libya in 2015, the Libya Martyrs were given a museum to their name, and a memorial depicting them under the open, all-embracing arms of Christ the Lord in Whose name they laid down their lives.

Anba Paphnutius unveiled the memorial and opened the museum on 15 February 2020, in an event that witnessed a procession led by the martyrs' children, the boys in white robes and red sashes, the girls in white and crowned with white daisies. They placed wreaths of white flowers on the martyrs depicted in the memorial.

The five metre-high, five metre-wide memorial was sculpted by Girgis al-Gawly, professor of Sculpture at Minya University. It occupies the place of honour before the church entrance. Made of concrete, it depicts the 21 martyrs—the Ghanaian Ayariga is at the forefront—kneeling as in the video of their beheading. Jesus Christ stands behind, embracing them with His open arms.

The Libya Martyrs' Museum showcases a 'panorama' of their martyrdom documented in photographs and texts in the Arabic, English, and French languages. The English and French versions were taken from texts published by *Watani*. The panorama includes everything about the martyrs' kidnapping and beheading; their bodies arriving at Cairo Airport then home to al-Our. It showcases the coffins in which their bodies were flown to Cairo, their passports, the orange jumpsuits they wore when they were beheaded, the ropes that were knotted around their hands, and a few belongings found in their pockets.

**"The 21" venerated in the Vatican too**

The relics of the 21 Coptic martyrs killed by Daesh, in Libya in 2014/2015 were venerated in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on their feast day of 15 February.

The veneration was held at an ecumenical prayer service marking their first official feast day in the Catholic Church.

The evening vespers at the Vatican commemorated the 9th anniversary of the martyrdom of the 20 Coptic Orthodox men and one Ghanaian. Cardinal Kurt Koch, the prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity presided over the ecumenical prayer in the Choir Chapel of St Peter's Basilica. A Coptic choir provided the music for the liturgy.

Following the prayer service, the documentary "The 21: The Power of Faith," was screened by the Vatican Film Library. The 50-minute film was produced by the Coptic Orthodox Church.

**Baptism of blood**

Pope Francis had added The 21 to the Roman Martyrology, the Church's official list of saints, in May 2023 when he met Pope Tawadros II, Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, who was then on an official visit to the Vatican. The event marked ten years on the first visit of Pope Tawadros to the Vatican, and 50 years on the first visit of a Coptic patriarch, Pope Shenouda III, to the Catholic Church since the great schism at the Council of Chalcedon AD451.

During his 2023 visit to the Vatican, Pope Tawadros had given Pope Francis relics of

Mariam Farouq

the martyrs: parts of the orange jumpsuits that had been soaked in the blood of the martyrs.

"Today we hand over part of their relics, dipped in their blood shed in the name of Christ for the Church, so that they may be remembered in the martyrology of all the churches of the world, and know 'we too' are 'surrounded by such a multitude of witnesses,'" Tawadros said.

"Precisely because the saints are one of the main pillars of our churches, beginning with the apostles Peter, Paul, and Mark," he said, "we now write in the martyrology of the Churches the new martyrs who have guarded the faith and bore witness to Christ, who did not lose heart in the face of torture and passed on to us a living example in martyrdom."

Pope Francis remarked: "These martyrs were baptised not only in the water and Spirit, but also in blood, a blood that is the seed of unity for all of Christ's followers."

The Coptic Church had designated 15 February, the date in 2015 when a horrific video of the beheading of The 21 was aired by Daesh, as an annual feast to celebrate them and all modern-day martyrs of the faith. Pope Francis decided that the Catholic Church, too, would commemorate the martyrs on that date. So now, the feast of the martyrs, referred to as The 21 Coptic Martyrs of Libya, is celebrated on 15 February in both the Coptic Church and the Catholic Church.

