



THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES, CAMBRIDGE

Formally approved by the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly for Great Britain and Ireland

From the Principal, Professor David Frost

To: The Right Honourable David Cameron, Prime Minister and
The Right Honourable William Hague, Foreign Secretary

28 April 2013

Dear Mr Cameron and Mr Hague,

I write on behalf of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies here in Cambridge and at the instigation of Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East to seek your help in securing the release of our friend and fellow-lecturer Paul Yazigi, Orthodox Metropolitan Bishop of Aleppo, and his Syriac Orthodox counterpart, Bishop John Ibrahim, who were together abducted last Monday while returning to Aleppo from the Turkish border, whilst the deacon driving them was murdered.

Only those Western and Middle Eastern governments who are actively supporting the opposition to Bashar Assad's regime, whether with humanitarian aid or with military supplies, have the means to exert influence to control such outrages and reduce the likelihood of the present conflict turning into a bitter sectarian struggle.

The record of the two bishops is in organizing relief for all those suffering as a consequence of the conflict, without fear or favour. Their abduction is as pointless as the murder of their driver, and pressure exerted now to obtain their release can be a test of whether the opposition merits support or is at the mercy of brutal fanatics who will convulse the whole Middle East.

We beg you to use the power your support gives you and demand the Bishops' release as the condition for continued aid.

Yours sincerely,

Professor David Frost

Principal

and Staff and Members of the Institute

A full Member of the Cambridge Theological Federation

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