

# THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF CYPRUS VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Thursday, May 25/June 7, 2008, His Excellency the Minister of Defense of Cyprus Mr. Savvas Aggelidis visited the Patriarchate, escorted by his associates and the Ambassador of the Democracy of Cyprus in Israel Mrs. Thessalia Siambou.

The Minister was warmly received by our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In this meeting there was an interesting conversation on the status of the Christians in the Holy Land, who despite being persecuted, give a witness of their faith through their manner of living and often through their blood.

His Beatitude informed the Minister on the Status Quo of the Holy Land and the need of its preservation within the frame of the peaceful co-habitation among Christians, Muslims and Hebrews and of the fact that the Royal Family of Jordan keeps the right of the protection of the Muslim and Christian Shrines in Jerusalem.

The Minister offered His Beatitude a silver plated icon of the Theotokos named "Guardian of the nation", while His Beatitude offered him an icon of the Theotokos of Jerusalem and the volume of the History of Jerusalem written by Chrysostom Papadopoulos, as well as the writing of Mr. Firogenis on the arson of the Edicule of the Holy Sepulchre in 1808; He also offered the members of the Minister's entourage blessings from Jerusalem.

**From Secretariat-General**

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