

# **THE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM CONDEMNS ISRAELI EXTREMIST ATTACK AGAINST THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Jerusalem 5-2-2021**

His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem, condemned the attack committed by an Israeli extremist against the Romanian Orthodox Church, which his Beatitude described as a “sister church”, in Jerusalem yesterday.

A statement issued today by the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem expressed the condemnation. The statement also indicated that Israeli extremists’ attacks against churches and mosques in Jerusalem are alarmingly on the rise, and the failure of official authorities to deal with it and their tolerance towards such terrorist acts will definitely lead to more fueling of the conflict in the Holy City, and will keep it further away from achieving peace and stability.

His Beatitude, The Patriarch of Jerusalem, called upon the international community to intervene by opening a dialogue with the Israeli government aiming at putting a stop to these terrorist attacks, and ending the continuous attempts of extremist Israeli groups to change the mosaic character of the city of Jerusalem by force through intimidating Christian and Muslim worshipers, attacking clerics, writing hate graffiti on walls and doors of churches and mosques, and also their hideous attempts to control Church properties as evident by

the attempts of Israeli radical groups to take over Orthodox Church properties in Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate, specifically the Imperial Hotel, Petra Hotel and other real estate, using twisted methods and through corrupt deals filled with bribery, extortion and illegitimate pressure.

His Beatitude, Patriarch Theophilos III, stressed that the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and the Orthodox Church congregation in the Holy Land on both banks of the Jordan River, stand by the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate, and His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel and fully support them in facing this terrorist act that reflects the extent of the Israeli extremists' hatred for the Christian religion in general, and the Orthodox Church in particular.