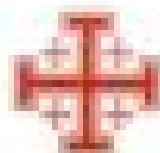


STATEMENT BY THE PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM ON THE ILLEGAL SEIZURE OF THE LITTLE PETRA HOTEL

PDF file: Statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of
Jerusalem on the Illegal Seizure of the Little Petra Hotel



PATRIARCHES AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM

Statement by the Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches of Jerusalem on the Illegal Seizure of the Little Petra Hotel

April 1, 2023

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." (Psalm 122:6-7)

The seizure of the Little Petra Hotel by the radical extremist group Al-Nusra Coalition is a threat to the continued existence of a Christian Quarter in Jerusalem, and ultimately to peaceful coexistence of the communities of this city. The Heads of Churches have repeatedly warned of the illegitimate actions of extremists, who have followed a pattern of intimidation and violence.

In occupying the Greek Orthodox Church's property, the Little Petra Hotel, Al-Nusra Coalition has committed criminal acts of break-in and seizure. They act as if they are above the law, with no fear of consequences.

This issue is not about the individual properties, but about the whole character of Jerusalem, including the Christian Quarter. The Little Petra Hotel stands on the pilgrim route for the millions of Christians who visit Jerusalem each year. It represents Christian heritage, and speaks of our very existence in this place.

Such radical extremist groups like Al-Nusra Coalition are already targeting and hijacking our beloved Old City of Jerusalem and imposing their illegitimate and dangerous agenda on all sides. We refuse this and we say: this will lead to instability and tension at the very moment all are trying to de-escalate and build trust, to build towards justice and peace. Acts of coercion and violence cannot lead to peace.

— The Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem