

STATEMENT BY THE PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM ON THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE

PDF file: Statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of
Jerusalem on the Recent Wave of Violence



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM

Statement by the Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches of Jerusalem on the Recent Outbreak of Violence

April 2, 2022

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May thy prayers unto him save. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." (Psalm 125: 6-7)

Over the past few weeks, indiscriminate acts of violence have taken place in various parts of our Holy Land. These have in turn led to violent confrontations throughout the region. More than a dozen people have lost their lives as a result of these attacks and ensuing conflicts. Others have suffered serious injury.

We, the Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches of Jerusalem, condemn and denounce these and all acts of violence against every human person, and we offer our prayers and sympathy on behalf of the families and friends who grieve over the loss of their loved ones because of them. We also pray for the recovery of those who have been wounded as a result.

With the rabid increase in terrorism, we share the widespread concern that tensions will continue to increase during the next confluence of major religious festivals among the three Abrahamic faiths: Ramadan, Passah, and Holy Week/Easter. We therefore call upon the faithful within each of these three traditions to show both the mutual respect and care for one's neighbor that is central to the teachings of each.

We likewise call upon the governing governmental authorities to exercise policies of religious tolerance, restraint of force, and de-escalation of conflict – and we commend them to the extent that they have already done so.

In these trying weeks that are sacred to our respective religious traditions, we encourage all people of good faith to walk in the pathway of peace that is so central to the traditions of Jerusalem, "The City of Peace." In this way, we can be true witnesses to the world of the common vision of Peace/shalom/Salwan that is anchored within the heart of our respective but intertwined religious beliefs.

— **The Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem**

A STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRESPASSING OF 'LITTLE PETRA HOTEL' BY A RADICAL GROUP

The seizure of the Little Petra Hotel by the radical extremist group Ateret Cohanim 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, violence, and lawless action to drive Christians and Muslims from the city that we share.

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem engaged in good faith negotiations with the Israeli government to settle the status of these Christian heritage properties that sit on the Christian pilgrim route, and through the committee headed by Minister Elazer Stern. We were assured that there would be no changes to the facts on the ground in the Christian Quarter while these negotiations are ongoing. The actions of Ateret Cohanim this week violate that assurance.

In occupying the Greek Orthodox Church's property, the Little Petra Hotel, Ateret Cohanim has committed criminal acts of break-in and trespass. 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 is our heritage, and speaks of our very existence in this

place.

Israeli radical extremist groups like Ateret Cohanim 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 time when all are trying to de-escalate and build trust, to build towards justice and peace. Acts of coercion and violence cannot lead to peace.

We demand that this criminal group immediately cease their trespass and get out of our heritage property. We demand that they halt their criminal activities on the Christian pilgrim route and in our beloved Old City.







CONDOLENCES

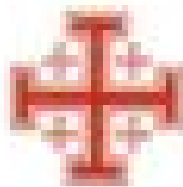
On the forty days after the memorable Professor Constantine Manafis slept in the Lord, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem expresses its sincere condolences to his wife, daughter and close academic associates and denotes that the departed was a distinguished Byzantine Scholar in the department of Byzantine studies at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens. He also worked as a teacher of Hagiotaphite student Fathers and a

close associate of the Library of the Patriarchate, and also exchanged the "Yearbook of Byzantine Studies" with the Journal "New Sion".

The Patriarchate prays at the Horrendous Golgotha for the repose of his soul in the land of the living.

From Secretariat-General

STATEMENT OF THE PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM CONCERNING THE RECENT VIOLENCE IN JERUSALEM



بطاركة و رؤساء الكنائس في القدس

بيان البطاركة و رؤساء الكنائس القدس بشأن أعمال العنف الأخيرة

9 أيار 2021

نحن البطاركة و رؤساء الكنائس القدس، نشعر بعميقة الحزن وقلق عميقين تجاه أحداث العنف الأخيرة في القدس الشرقية. هذه التطورات، المصنفة بوقوعها في المسجد الأقصى أو في التلويح بجوار القبلة، حرمية المسلمين و الكنائس المسيحية القسطنطينية، تدعونا أن نؤكد أن الأصل الذي تنبع من سلامة المسلمين وقرائنا القسطنطينيين الذين يتبعون الأئمة، من متزايدة هي أعمال غير مقبولة.

المطروح للكنائس القدس، المسيحية القسطنطينية في ظل الوضع الراهن، يعتبر جميع الأطراف، على لائحة على الوضع المستمر في المدينة. كما أن التوتر المتزايد، والمسجون بشكل رئيسي من قبل المصادقات البيئية المتطرفة، يعرض التراثي الهائل في القدس وهدمها المتطرد.

كما ندين المجتمع الدولي وجميع أصحاب القويما المختصة الكفيل الوقت. هذه الأعمال الاستفزازية وبتواصلها المتتالية من أجل سلام القدس.

بطاركة و رؤساء الكنائس في القدس

Statement of the patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem concerning the recent violence in Jerusalem

May 9, 2021

We the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem, are profoundly distressed and concerned about the recent violent events in East Jerusalem. These concerning developments, whether at the Al Aqsa Mosque or in Jewish Temple, violate the sanctity of the people of Jerusalem and of Jerusalem as the City of Peace. The actions undermining the safety of worshippers and the dignity of the Palestinians who are subject to evictions are unacceptable.

The special character of Jerusalem, the Holy City, with the existing Status Quo, compels all parties to preserve the already sensitive situation in the Holy City of Jerusalem. The growing tension, backed mainly by right-wing radical groups, endangers the already fragile reality in and around Jerusalem.

We call upon the International Community and all people of good will to intervene in order to put an end to these provocative actions, as well as to continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem

TIMETABLE OF SERVICES FOR THE HOLY WEEK AT THE MONASTIC CHURCH OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN

From April 12/25 to April 20/May 3, 2021

Palm Sunday;

Matins and Divine Liturgy of St Chrysostom at 5.00

Vespers at 15:30

Service of the Bridegroom at 18:15

Holy and Great Monday;

The Hours and the Pre-sanctified Liturgy at 06.30

Great Compline at 15:30

Service of the Bridegroom at 18:15

Holy and Great Tuesday;

The Hours and the Pre-sanctified Liturgy at 06.30

Great Compline at 15:30

Service of the Bridegroom at 18:15

Holy and Great Wednesday;

The Hours and the Pre-sanctified Liturgy at 06.30

Small Compline – Holy Unction at 17:00

Holy and Great Thursday;

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 04:30

Service of the Passion at 18:15

Holy and Great Friday;

Royal Hours at 08.00

Service of the Epitaph at 18:30

Holy and Great Saturday;

The Hours and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at
08:00

Holy Pascha;

Matins & D. Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at 0:40 am – after
midnight

Monday, after the Day of Pascha;

Divine Liturgy at 08:00

The Typikon Keeper of the Monastic Church

Archimandrite Alexios

TIMETABLE OF SERVICES AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE ON THE HOLY WEEK

From April 12/25 to April 20/May 3, 2021

Lazarus Saturday

Patriarchal Vespers: 15:00

Palm Sunday

Patriarchal Divine Liturgy: 08:00

Service of the Bridegroom: 18:15

Holy and Great Monday

Pre-sanctified Liturgy at the Horrendous Golgotha: 08:45

Service of the Bridegroom: 18:15

Holy and Great Tuesday

Pre-sanctified Liturgy at the Horrendous Golgotha: 09:00

Service of the Bridegroom: 18:15

Holy and Great Wednesday

Pre-sanctified Liturgy at the Horrendous Golgotha: 09:00

Holy and Great Thursday

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at St. James Cathedral:
06:30

The Service of the Sacred Washing of the Disciples' feet at
the Holy Courtyard: 09:00

The Service of the Passion 18.15

Holy and Great Friday

The Royal Hours at the Horrendous Golgotha: 10:00 am

Patriarchal Vespers: 15:00

The Epitaph Service: 21:00

Holy and Great Saturday

The Service of the Holy Light: 13:00

The Service of the Resurrection: 12:00 midnight

Easter Sunday

The Service of the second Resurrection: 13:00

The Master of Ceremonies of the Patriarchate

Archimandrite Bartholomew

ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE FEAST OF SAINT THEODOSIOS THE CENOBIARCH

The Website of Jerusalem Patriarchate announces that due to covid-19 restrictions the Holy Monastery of Saint Theodosios the Cenobiarch will not receive any visitors on the day of the

commemoration of the Saint, Sunday 11/24 January 2021.

From Secretariat-General

SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY

Within the framework of the scholarship scheme for the Christians of the Middle East, by the Government of Hungary, it is being announced that the Scholarships for the Academic year 2021-2022 will be managed through the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The prospective candidates should submit their application forms solely to the Patriarchate, following the instructions listed at the website shown in the announcement, by the set deadline, which is 31st January 2021.

The announcement can be read below:

To HE Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina

Your Eminence,

I have already approached you with a scholarship opportunity for Palestinian students in general in the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme.

Hungary has continuously provided scholarships to talented Palestinian students since the 1970's among them many Christians, who are playing important roles in the Palestinian society. **For the last few years, Hungary has been providing a special scholarship scheme for talented Christian students as well.** Why is it different from the Stipendium Hungaricum

scholarship:

- The scholarship is available for the Christian communities and churches in the Middle East.
- The students apply with the approval of their church leaders.
- The scholarship does not engage the local governments and authorities, the application process is happening between the students and the Government of Hungary directly.

I am pleased to inform you that the online application process for the **Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People for the 2021/2022** academic year started with the **deadline of 31 January 2021**. The online application system for the Scholarship Programme can be accessed at <https://apply.scyp.hu>. The Annexes of the Call for Applications along with other documents and detailed information necessary for applying can be found on the Programme's website: <http://hungaryhelps.gov.hu/scyp/>

We are at your disposal to answer any questions you may have. May you have talented students insight, I request your kind assistance in helping them in the application process.

Thank you in advance for all your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Dr Csaba Rada

Head of Mission

Representative Office of Hungary

Al Watania Towers Building, Al-Bireh, Ramallah

Tel: 00 972 2 240 7676

Fax: 00 972 2 240 7678

From Secretariat-General

PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM EXPRESS COMPASSION AND SOLIDARITY WITH LEBANESE PEOPLE

*Statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of
Jerusalem on Beirut August 6th, 2020*

We, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem, stand aghast at the sight of the devastating and shockingly perplexing explosion that took place at the Beirut port on August 4th. The loss of life, injuries, and destruction cause our hearts to deeply ache as we mourn for this tragedy.

We stand with the people of Beirut and Lebanon as they mourn, lament and respond to this catastrophe. We join them in prayer and solidarity and call upon the nations of the world and their governments to stand with Lebanon at this difficult time of crisis on top of crisis, responding with love and care for our neighbour.

We hear the cry of the church and people of Lebanon, and call upon all people of good will to pray and support the people who are affected by this tragedy.

From Jerusalem, the Mother City of our faith and the City of the Empty Tomb, we express our deep compassion and solidarity

with the people of Lebanon. May the Lord restore the fortunes of Beirut and the people of Lebanon.

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem

+Patriarch Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate

+Patriarch Nourhan Manougian, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Patriarchate

+Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator, Latin Patriarchate

+Fr. Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land

+Archbishop Anba Antonious, Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem

+Vicar General Father Gabriel Daho, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate

+Archbishop Aba Embakob, Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate

+Archbishop Yaser AL-Ayash, Greek-Melkite-Catholic Patriarchate

+Archbishop Mosa El-Hage, Maronite Patriarchal Exarchate

+Archbishop Suheil Dawani, Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

+Bishop Ibrahim Sani Azar, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

+Father Ephram Samaan, Syrian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate

+Rt Rev. Joseph Nersès Zabarjan, Armenian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate

STATEMENT OF HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH THEOPHILOS III ON THE STATUS OF HAGIA SOPHIA SHRINE

On Wednesday, June 25/ July 24, 2020, H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos stated the following regarding the keeping of the Status of the Church of Hagia Spophia:

It is with utmost seriousness that We express Our concern over recent calls from members of the Turkish government to alter the current status of the Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque.

This magnificent Byzantine Church structure, which captivates the world until today, has a history stretching even farther back into Christendom than the 6th century. Over the course of generations, the region and its people have passed through challenging times that have left painful memories. However, it has been to Turkey's credit that for nearly 100 years it has administered the Hagia Sophia as a museum in order to maintain an extent of neutrality over the site. Subsequently, people from all over the world and from every background are able to enjoy its spiritual, architectural, and historical splendor.

Furthermore, museum status, i.e. indiscriminate accessibility, to Hagia Sophia has born fruit where there otherwise could have been further contention. Hagia Sophia today remains a symbol of tolerance. Some may find spiritual refreshment

within its boundaries, others may be inspired by its testament to human accomplishment, and others may view it through individual prisms of meaning. However, this array of outcomes does the best possible justice to the site, which without question was always intended to inspire awe and to glorify Almighty God.

As stewards of sacred heritage in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, for nearly 2,000 uninterrupted years, in a land over which three Abrahamic faiths lay equal claim, We strongly attest to the fact that accessibility promotes peace and mutual respect, whereas attitudes of exclusivity promote conflict and bitterness. We hope and pray, for the benefit of all people of good will, and for Turkey as a nation with the potential to influence our entire region down a path of growth and mutual co-existence, that the present status of the Hagia Sophia is respected and preserved.

THEOPHILOS III

PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

From Secretariat-General