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Holy Synod of Bishops condemned ban on Patriarch Porfirije from entering Kosovo



The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church unequivocally condemned the recent actions of the Pristina government, denouncing the “ban” imposed on Patriarch Porfirije from entering Kosovo and urging an end to the violation of human rights endured by the Serbian people.

In a statement, they decried the “complete lawlessness” exhibited by the Pristina government, which obstructed the freedom of movement of Patriarch Porfirije and Serbian bishops. This interference prevented them from convening the regular annual session of the Holy Synod of Bishops at the Peć Patriarchate Monastery, a tradition dating back to the 14th century. The Synod emphasised that such actions perpetuate existential insecurity for the Serbian people and their Orthodox Church in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Synod underscored the significance of these events on the international stage, urging responsible international actors to uphold universally recognised provisions

of human rights. They called upon the Orthodox and Christian communities worldwide to advocate for the protection of religious rights through prayer and other means.

Importantly, the Synod reaffirmed the non-political nature of the Serbian Orthodox Church, emphasising its role as the spiritual guardian of Orthodox Serbs globally. They condemned attempts by Pristina authorities to undermine the Church's authority and instill fear among Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija.

In conclusion, the Holy Council of Bishops, led by Patriarch Porfirije, appealed to international authorities in Kosovo and Metohija to intervene and halt the blatant violation of human rights and basic freedoms of the Serbian people. They reiterated their unwavering commitment to stand alongside their people in Kosovo and Metohija in the face of adversity.

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