

Archbishop of Albania on attack in Damascus: “No one has the right to use religion to fuel conflict”



البطريرك يوحنا العاشر مهنئاً رئيس أساقفة ألبانيا:

"تلقينا بفرح نبأ انتخابكم ونسأله تعالى أن يأخذ بيمينكم"

The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania strongly condemns the recent act of violence during the sacred hour of prayer, the Divine Eucharist, at the Church of Prophet Elia in Damascus, His Beatitude Archbishop Ioannis of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania stated in a heartfelt declaration.

Expressing deep sorrow over the terrorist attack that occurred during the Divine Liturgy, which resulted in the death and injury of dozens of innocent worshippers, the Archbishop emphasised the sanctity of the moment violated by such brutality.

"The Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania condemns this act of violence, especially during the holy time of prayer, during the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist," Archbishop Ioannis affirmed. He invoked the wise words of the late Archbishop Anastasios: "No one has the right to use the oil of religion to fan the flames of conflict. Religion is a divine gift, given to calm hearts, heal wounds, and bring people and nations closer together."

The Archbishop extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims, to His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch, and to the entire Orthodox community of Syria. He called for prayers for the repose of the souls of the innocent victims and

for the swift recovery of the injured.

Highlighting Albania's example as a country where peaceful coexistence among religions is not a dream or utopia but a living reality, Archbishop Ioannis urged all people to unite against violence. "Peaceful coexistence of peoples and religions is the only path to a better future," he declared.

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