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## **Patriarch John X Welcomes Koura Municipal Union: “Municipal Leadership Is a Public Service, Not a Title”**



His Beatitude John X, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, received a delegation from the Union of Koura Municipalities, led by Union President Malek Fares, at the Patriarchal Monastery of Our Lady of Balamand. Also attending was Archimandrite Georges Yaacoub, Abbot of the Monastery.

The delegation voiced its support for His Beatitude's recent statements, strongly condemning the massacre at Mar Elias Church in Dweilaa-Damascus. They also raised a series of pressing local concerns affecting the Koura region.

In turn, His Beatitude thanked the delegation for its visit, affirming Koura's vital role in the life and institutions of the Church of Antioch. He emphasized that holding municipal office is fundamentally a public service rather than a mere title, and he highlighted the importance of solidarity and cooperation among all sectors to improve the situation of the municipalities.

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