

Patriarch Theophilos III Highlights Christian Presence and Peace in Meeting With President Dodik



His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, the Patriarch Jerusalem, met with H.E. Mr. Milorad Dodik, former President of Republika Srpska, at the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. President Dodik was accompanied by Ambassador Duško Kovačević and a delegation.

His Beatitude welcomed the visit as a renewal of the historic relationship between the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem and the Serbian Orthodox Church. He spoke warmly of the Serbian faithful who continue to visit the Holy Places.

H.B. Patriarch Theophilos III said Christian hope draws its strength from the Resurrection of Christ, placing upon the Church a lasting responsibility to work for peace and protect the Christian heritage of the Holy Land. Christians have lived and worshipped in the land of Christ's birth for nearly 2,000 years. War has disrupted pilgrimages and placed a heavy economic burden on families who depend on pilgrimage for their livelihood.

Dodik spoke of his commitment to peace and his concern over the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the suffering it has caused.

The Patriarchate gave Dodik documents and studies describing the challenges facing the Orthodox Church in the Holy Land. It thanked him for his pledge to financially support its ministry and the Christian presence in the region.





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