

Primates of Christian Churches of the Mideast meet in Budapest; Putin reiterates support for beleaguered communities



The Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, His Beatitude John X, arrived in Hungary this week for an official visit, where he met in succession with Hungarian ministers and office-holders, as well as with the Primates of the major Christian denominations in the central European country.

The situation in the Middle East, and especially in war-ravaged Syria, where the Patriarchate is located, and the presence of Christianity in the region dominated discussions.

A meeting of the Primates of Churches of the East was held at the Hungarian foreign affairs ministry, where Minister Péter Szijjártó referred directly to the persecution faced by Christians in the Middle East, while adding that Budapest is making efforts to support the ancient Christian communities there.

Afterwards, His Beatitude John X met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is also on an official visit to the country, with the latter conveying the best wishes of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill.

The Russian president also reiterated that he will personally continue to back the Christians of the Middle East.

The Russian leader later praised Orban for organizing the meeting with representatives of Christian communities of the Middle East, adding: "...The Middle East is the cradle of Christianity, and Christians are in peril there, facing persecution, being killed, raped and robbed. Russia will do everything to protect Christians in the Middle East. We must help them restore and preserve their holy sites, preserve their congregations."



