

## **Church of Crete hierarch sharply condemns MP's comments over 'sadist, brutal' potion of 'barbeque' next to migrant/refugee shelters**



The Metropolitan of Kissamos, His Eminence Amphilochios, on Wednesday unveiled a letter decrying what he called the dire state for Christians around the world, especially the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, which he called a “genocide”.

Moreover, the Church of Crete hierarch referred directly to a migration crisis faced by Greece as well as to controversial statements a day earlier in Parliament by an opposition MP from the SYRIZA party.

The deputy, Christos Yiannoulis, referred to “...sadism and brutality” on the part of people that want to hold barbeques with pork meat and alcohol outside an asylum

seekers shelter in the Thessaloniki area of northern Greece. Such shelters in Greece host third country nationals that illegally entered the country from neighboring Turkey, with the vast majority of asylum seekers reported as Muslims.

Amphilochios first cited a report by the US news network Fox, which points to more than 90,000 Christians killed around the world in 2018 due to their expressions of faith and religious affiliation.

Turning to the deputy's controversial statements, the Church hierarch condemned Yiannoulis' query over whether such an act, namely, eating pork and consuming alcohol near migrant/refugee shelters, is a criminal offence.

He said "... whether a barbeque occurs by chance or is a deliberate act is an issue ... and, of course, if it's deliberate then it reveals an intent that is not acceptable. Yet here, other issues arise, ones which deal with sensitivities that affect not only the protection of the rights of minorities, but the majority of the Greek people. For instance, when an association of atheists in Greece provocatively and shamefully announces every Easter Holy Week the holding of an 'open dinner', with meat-eating, on Good Friday, thereby defiling the sanctity of an entire people... then we do not see reactions and sensitivity of all those who demand the head on a platter of those who roast pork and consume alcohol near migrant shelters," Amphilochios said.