

Albanian Orthodox Church activates all charity structures, opens cathedrals for homeless in wake of Tuesday's devastating quake



A 6 on the Richter scale earthquake shook much of southern Greece on Wednesday morning, a day after a particularly destructive 6.4 on the Richter scale quake was recorded in coastal central Albania. Many residents in the greater Athens area felt the tremor, which was pinpointed between the large island of Crete and the island of Kythira.

In Albania, a national day of mourning was declared, as emergency crews frantically worked around the clock to search for survivors in the rubble. Tuesday's earthquake in central Albania has so far resulted in at least 30 deaths, the injury of more than 700 people and widespread devastation.

From the very first moment, the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania and the Archbishop of Tirana and All Albania, His Beatitude Anastasios, have been at the side of those affected by the natural disaster . Cathedrals have been opened to host people whose homes were destroyed and damaged, while all of the Church's charity structures have been activated to provide any and all possible relief.

Messages of solidarity have already reached the country from the Patriarchates of Romania and Bulgaria.

His Beatitude Anastasios on Tuesday received Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias at the Archdiocese in Tirana, as the latter traveled to Albania immediately after the quake in order to coordinate how Athens could aid in efforts to support the quake stricken.

Anastasios thanked the minister on behalf of the Church for the support provided by the Greek state.



