18/02/2020

Georgian Church decides not to take part in pan-Orthodox meeting in Jordan



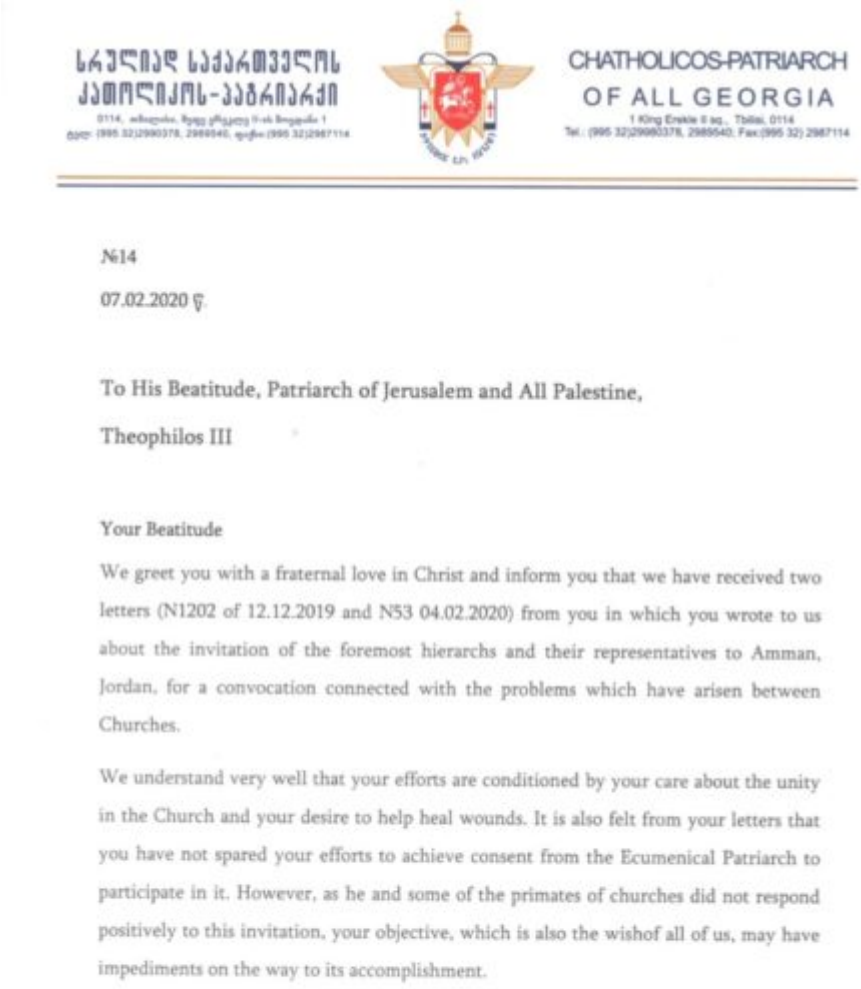
Tbilisi, February 17, Interfax – Georgian Orthodox Church said it has decided not to take part in a meeting between the primates of local Orthodox Churches in Jordan on February 26, proposed by Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem to discuss problems faced by the Orthodox world.

The reason the Georgian Church decided not to attend the meeting is that Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and representatives of some other Churches will not be taking part in it, the patriarchate said.

Archpriest Andria Jagmaidze, the head of the Georgian Patriarchate's public relations service, published the patriarchate's letter to Theophilos III explaining the reasons behind its decision not to attend the meeting in Amman on social media on

Monday.

The Georgian Patriarchate said that, while it fully agreed with the objectives Theophilos III was pursuing in arranging the meeting, particularly the preservation of unity and resolution of problems existing in the Orthodox world, it believed such an event should be attended by all Orthodox Churches.



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CHATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH
OF ALL GEORGIA

№14

07.02.2020 წ.

To His Beatitude, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine,

Theophilos III

Your Beatitude

We greet you with a fraternal love in Christ and inform you that we have received two letters (N1202 of 12.12.2019 and N53 04.02.2020) from you in which you wrote to us about the invitation of the foremost hierarchs and their representatives to Amman, Jordan, for a convocation connected with the problems which have arisen between Churches.

We understand very well that your efforts are conditioned by your care about the unity in the Church and your desire to help heal wounds. It is also felt from your letters that you have not spared your efforts to achieve consent from the Ecumenical Patriarch to participate in it. However, as he and some of the primates of churches did not respond positively to this invitation, your objective, which is also the wishof all of us, may have impediments on the way to its accomplishment.

:riarchate prefers not to travel

We share your position and according to the seriousness of the present circumstances and in connection with the problematic issues, we consider that the convocation and mutual discussion is very necessary. However,if we seek the attainment of the desired result, it should take place with the participation of every Church; but if this consentcannot be attained, we will refrain from coming for the gathering.

Here we should also note that we would be gladly participating in any of the events organized within the framework of religious celebrations or international conferences as we have always done.

We hope that with God's blessing, the synaxis of the primates of the Orthodox Churches will be attained, and the issues, which do harm to our unity, will be evaluated according to the canonical norms of the Church.Also, we should add here that it will be the best outcome for all of us if the goal is achieved before long.

We are praying for you, for the peace in the Church and unity in Christ.

May God grant you peace and continuedsuccess in your high ministry.



Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia

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