27/02/2020

Amman gathering of Orthodox Primates invited by Patriarch of Jerusalem concludes; joint statment touches on Ukraine, cites Ecumenical Patriarch



A meeting of Orthodox Church Primates concluded on Wednesday in Amman, Jordan, following an invitation by the initiative's host, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Most Godly Beatitude Theophilos III.

The meeting, which was not attended by several Primates of Orthodox Churches, and most conspicuously by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, was referred to by participants as "fraternal" or "familial", rather than as a Pan-Orthodox synaxis, or assembly.

A carefully worded joint statement by participating Church hierarchs expressed a hope, as they said, that the Ecumenical Patriarch, with his "…known seniority of

honor” will join this dialogue format along with his brother Primates.

Regarding the current ecclesiastical situation in the Ukraine, those Primates and hierarchs that attended merely stated that they recognize that a pan-Orthodox dialogue is necessary for healing and reconciliation.

Concerning the ecclesiastical matter in the newly renamed North Macedonia, the delegations stated that differences are to be “…solved through dialogue within the Serbian Orthodox Church and with pan-Orthodox support.”

Finally, regarding the ongoing crisis in Montenegro, the participating delegations urged relevant authorities in the small Adriatic country to respect and uphold the fundamental right of ownership of property, including that of the Church.

Besides the Patriarch of Jerusalem, other Primates of senior Orthodox Churches in attendance were the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, and the Patriarch of Serbia.
A day earlier, the Ecumenical Patriarchate made public a letter by His All Holiness to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, where among others Bartholomew noted that “…we are unable to comprehend the fact that His Beatitude misinterprets, or ignores, the extent of the negative repercussions emanating from this initiative.”

The initiative, in this case, is the very meeting convened in Jordan by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The Ecumenical Patriarch added that if the Patriarch of Jerusalem’s concern is genuine for the challenges faced by Orthodox society amid these crucial times, then Patriarch Theophilos should have sought recourse to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His All Holiness stressed “…Of course, we are concerned over the issue of Pan-Orthodox unity, but the Church is not an unstructured, or without institutions, body.”








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The Amman Fraternal familial Gathering of the Orthodox Primates and Delegates
Dialogue and Unity
25 - 27 Feb 2020
Amman - Jordan

