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Talks between Montenegro govt, Orthodox Church over contenious law on religious institutions' property



Talks between the Montenegro government with the Montenegrin Metropolis of the Serbian Orthodox Church and other dioceses of the Serbian Church in Montenegro, regarding a recently-passed and utterly controversial law, called "On Freedom of Religion and Belief and the Legal Status of Religious Communities," took place today.

The law gives the Montenegro state the right and authority to seize Church properties if the Church cannot prove that it owned them prior to 1918, when the-then Kingdom of Montenegro joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes that preceded Yugoslavia.

The first working meeting of a so-called government “expert commission” and representatives of the Church took place in the capital of Podgorica.

> Legal experts of the Government of Montenegro and the Episcopal Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro have started talks about Law of Freedom of Religion. The Government is strongly committed to this dialog for the benefit of all the citizens of Montenegro. pic.twitter.com/CLSjNe0qkp
>
> — Govt. of Montenegro (@MeGovernment) March 11, 2020

> (2/2) Vlada je posvećena dijalogu sa Crkvom, na dobrobit svih građana Crne Gore. pic.twitter.com/RgWoLDe64W
>
> — Vlada Crne Gore (@VladaCG) March 11, 2020


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Finally, Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic also recently commented on the tense situation in the small Adriatic country, Tweeting last week his "Greetings and support for the fraternal people in Montenegro".

The Tweet by Djokovic, who publicly expresses his Orthodox faith and is well-known for his charitable work, is accompanied by a photograph of a recent rally against the controversial law, outside the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Podgorica.

