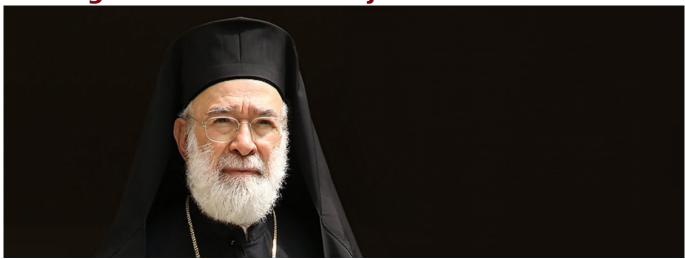
His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan Elias of Beirut: 'The Orthodox are excluded from serving their nation and rejected'



Beirut's Metropolitan Greek Orthodox Archbishop, Elias Aoude, presided over Sunday Mass service at St. George's Cathedral in Central Beirut this morning, during which he affirmed that the Greek Orthodox Sect has always called for justice and equality, respect for the constitution and the application of laws, as well as the adoption of accountability, reward and punishment, and a transparent mechanism in state appointments.

"However, instead of taking advantage of the energies of our children and treating them like other people of this country, they have been ignored over the days...Perhaps, because they do not raise their voices or resort to methods that do not resemble them. Silence appears to be weak in the time of empty squawking, and civilized behavior is considered a regression," the Archbishop said in his sermon.

"Justice is not to distinguish between one citizen and another, and one sect and another," he added. "Our children have the right to play their national role in all fields. Civilized behavior is part of our values, but our Church, headed by His Beatitude John X, up to its officials and people, expresses unanimous rejection of these practices against its children and the injustice and prejudice that follows them," Aoude emphasized.

"Until citizens of this country unite as one people, with one vision, do not exclude

anyone from responsibilities, and adopt a single standard in appointments that applies to everyone," urged the Archbishop.

"Let your vision of the state be clear and transparent, centered on correcting the situation, fighting corruption, tackling the economy's collapse, the lira's collapse, the waste problems, water and electricity, and creating job opportunities that allow citizens to escape poverty, hunger and despair. Let your aim be to unite the Lebanese people around this vision and push them all to support you instead of rejecting them and provoking their anger and resentment," Aoude corroborated, addressing the state's authorities.

Source