

Patriarch of Russia Kirill: Conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque poses threat to Christianity



The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill, on Monday also commented on the spectre of a reconversion of greatest of all cathedrals in eastern Christendom into mosque, saying such demands pose a threat to Christianity.

According to Reuters, the Russian Patriarch said "...A threat against Hagia Sophia is a threat to all of Christian civilization, meaning our spirituality and history...What could happen to Hagia Sophia will cause deep pain among the Russian people."

The Russian government on Monday also reiterated a hope, as it noted, that Turkish authorities would take into account the Hagia Sophia's status as a World Heritage Site.

In a statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "...This is a beloved world masterpiece for tourists from all countries who visit Turkey, including for tourists from Russia, for whom Hagia Sophia, in addition to its tourism value, has a very deep sacred spiritual value."