

Belarusian Orthodox Church head to discuss with authorities possible peaceful resolution to protests



The leader of the Belarusian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Pavel, has said that he will meet with representatives of the authorities to discuss a peaceful resolution to the situation which has emerged following the presidential election in Belarus.

“I will meet with representatives [of the authorities],” he said at a press conference in Minsk on Wednesday, answering a question from journalists as to whether the church will participate in resolving the current situation.

“But it’s up to the secular authorities to resolve this issue,” the metropolitan said.

He also urged both protestors and law enforcement agencies to engage in dialogue. “I am calling on defenders of our motherland to measure their force and responsibility against those who are looking for their path, but do not know how to embark on it,” he said.

Additionally, he called on those who “came to Belarus to put on airs” to go back home. “Return to your homes, leave the Belarusian people the right to decide how to choose their lives and what to do next,” Metropolitan Pavel said. “I am calling on the parents of the children who are out on the barricades: think [about it] and talk

to your children. There is a path, a path of peace and accord," he said.

"Yes, there are issues. But they can and should be resolved. But not through bloodshed," the metropolitan said.

[Source](#)