

## **Turkish govt keeps Halki closed, but eyes operation of Islamic studies center on same isle**



Moreover, the latest in a continuing string of provocations and insults by the Erdogan administration against Christianity, and especially against the hard-pressed Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, is a decision to establish an Islamic studies center on the small Marmara Sea island of Halki.

Halki hosts the venerable same-day school of theology, the foremost seminary by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Nevertheless, Turkish authorities ordered the closing of the seminary in 1971, and despite standing international pressure, refuse to allow its reopening.

Yet, at the same time the Erdogan administration has reportedly approved the transfer of an abandoned sanatorium to the state-run Religious Affairs Directorate, in order to create an Islamic studies center on the same isle where the seminary remains closed.

