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Montenegro minister-in-waiting heralds change of controversial law aimed against Orthodox Church



Montenegro prime minister-in-waiting Zdravko Krivokapic, the leader of the “For the Future of Montenegro” bloc, this week told reporters that he only entered politics in 2020 amid the furor over a controversial law that forces the Orthodox Church in the country to prove ownership of its assets and relics.

The law, passed in 2019, is considered by the Church and its faithful as an attack on religious freedom, and has generated large street protests throughout the past year.

Krivokapic noted that “...this was a discriminatory law ...More than 120,000 people peacefully protested week after week against it... We are going to work on changing the law to make it fair.”

He also criticized the previous government for not consulting the Serbian Orthodox Church prior to tabling and passing the law. His government, he added, would ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the legislative process.

In a related development, the Patriarch of Serbia, His Holiness Irinej, on Wednesday received and met with the Metropolitan of Montenegro and the Littoral, His Eminence Amphilochios, in Belgrade, with talks revolving around the situation in the small Adriatic country after last Sunday's election.