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## **Erdogan regime takes offense at Archbishop Ieronymos' comments regarding extreme Islamic fundamentalists**



The Erdogan-led Turkish government this week took offense to statements by the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, given during a television interview broadcast last week, where the latter touched on the phenomenon of Islamists — and despite the fact that the Archdiocese of Athens issued a clear clarification regarding the meaning of the comments by the Primate of the Church of Greece.

Ieronymos spoke during an interview that focused on the Orthodox Church's contribution to struggle for liberation from our Ottoman rule and the Greek War of Independence, as 2021 marks the bicentennial of its commencement.

A spokesman Holy Archdiocese of Athens noted that the statements were misinterpreted, clarifying that «...The Archbishop and our Church respect, in practice, all the known religions...With everything that the Blessed Archbishop of

Athens and All Greece... said about Islam... he meant nothing more than the perversion of the Muslim religion itself by extreme fundamentalists, who sow terror and death throughout the universe...These are exactly the people the Archbishop was referring to, people who are exploiting Islam and turning it into a deadly weapon against all those who have a different opinion from them».

The spokesman added that Archbishop Ieronymos and the Metropolitans of the Church of Greece respect all the known religions and treat all their faithful with Christian love and solidarity.

In Ankara, the Turkey foreign ministry continued to act as a self-appointed protector and voice of Muslims everywhere, which numerous critics and detractors say is part of the Erdogan regime's intent of reviving the caliphate, specifically the announcement claimed that «...Such malign ideas are also responsible for the increase of racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia in Europe,» in referring to the Archbishop's statements.