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BOMB THREAT: POLICE CHECK 135 MOSCOW CHURCHES ON SUNDAY



Moscow police were busy inspecting more than 100 churches over the weekend after an anonymous bomb threat was received.

Police received a threatening email on Sunday, claiming that more than 40 explosives had been placed in three churches in the center of Moscow, a source in law enforcement told TASS.

The perpetrators demanded that \$26,160 (2 million rubles) be sent to their bank account.

“Police officers and dog handlers went out to the sites, but no explosive devices were found,” the source said. Altogether, 135 churches were checked.

OrthoChristian spoke to an altar server at one of the churches that were checked. Police informed the priest that there had been threats and that he had to make a decision whether or not to serve Liturgy that day, on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross. The Liturgy went ahead as usual.

There have been a number of false bomb threats in Moscow in recent years,

including at Danilov Monastery, where several offices of the Patriarchate are located, in September 2016, at Sretensky Monastery in November 2017, and multiple threats at Christ the Savior Cathedral in December 2019. OrthoChristian also reported on a bomb threat against the Kiev Caves Lavra in March 2018.

A terrorist attack against the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra in the Moscow Province was averted in June 2016.

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