30/12/2021

# Holy Community of Mt. Athos issues strongly worded statement over insolent quip by noted Greek academic, calls on him to seek forgiveness



The Holy Community of Mount Athos on Thursday expressed its strong reaction to a Tweet posted last week by Prof. Elias Mossialos, one deemed as highly disrespectful by the faithful and Church hierarchs.
In a strongly worded statement, the Holy Community of the semi-autonomous monastic polity in northern Greece underlined that the Tweet by the London School of Economics academic is a direct affront to the Sacrament of the Divine Incarnation of the Son of God.

The impudent social media quip by Mossialos generated a firestorm of criticism, given that he also serves as the Greek government's representative to international organizations dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

The statement read, in part, "…we believe that amid an era when particular emphasis is ascribed to the protection of religious freedom, and, in fact, for religious minority groups, it is impudent and unacceptable to use the pandemic as an excuse to savagely and publicly insult the faith of the Orthodox Christian Greek people… as well as the faith of millions of Orthodox believers and of Christianity

around the world, during a time when we invoke the protection of our Most-Holy Mother, the Theotokos, amidst an escalation of a terrible pandemic.”

The Holy Community also called on the Greek professor to ask forgiveness from the Protectress of Mount Athos, from the faithful and to repent for his action.



ΙΕΡΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΟΡΟΥΣ
ΑΘΩ

ΑΡ. ΠΡΩΤ. Φ.2/7/2821

ΚΑΡΥΑΙ ΤΗΣ 17η/30ῇ Δεκεμβρίου 2021

Ἐλλογιμώτατον
Κύριον Ἠλίαν Μόσιαλον
Καθηγητὴν Πανεπιστημίου-τ. Ὑπουργὸν
Ἐκπρόσωπον τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Κυβερνήσεως
εἰς Διεθνεῖς Ὀργανισμοὺς περὶ τῆς πανδημίας
Εἰς Δονδῖνον

Ἐλλογιμώτατε κύριε Καθηγητά,

Ἡ καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἱερὰ Κοινότης τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὄρους Ἄθω μετὰ πολλῆς θλίψεως ἐπληροφορήθη τὴν προσβλητικὴν καὶ εἰρωνικὴν ἀναφορὰν σας διὰ τὸ πρόσωπον τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου, καὶ μάλιστα κατὰ τὴν παραμονὴν τῆς μεγάλης ἑορτῆς τῶν Χριστουγέννων.

Ἀπευθυνόμενοι πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ὡς δημόσιον πρόσωπον καὶ ἐκπρόσωπον τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Κυβερνήσεως εἰς τοὺς Διεθνεῖς Ὀργανισμοὺς περὶ τῆς πανδημίας, θεωροῦμεν ὅτι εἰς μίαν ἐποχὴν κατὰ τὴν ὁποίαν δίδεται ἰδιαιτέρα ἔμφασις εἰς τὴν προστασίαν τῆς θρησκευτικῆς ἐλευθερίας, καὶ μάλιστα καὶ αὐτῶν τῶν μειονοτικῶν θρησκευτικῶν ὁμάδων, εἶναι ἀνοίκειον καὶ ἀπαράδεκτον, μὲ πρόφασιν τὴν πανδημίαν, νὰ προσβάλλεται βαναύσως καὶ δημοσίως ἡ πίστις τοῦ Ὀρθοδόξου χριστιανικοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ λαοῦ, τῆς μεγάλης πλειονότητας τοῦ πληθυσμοῦ τῆς πατρίδος μας, ἡ πίστις ἑκατομμυρίων Ὀρθοδόξων καὶ ὅλης τῆς χριστιανοσύνης παγκοσμίως, καθ' ὃν χρόνον ἐπικαλούμεθα τὴν σκέπην καὶ προστασίαν τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Δεσποίνης ἡμῶν Θεοτόκου, ἐν μέσῳ τῆς ἐνσκαμμένης σοβαρᾶς πανδημίας. Εἶναι δὲ αὐτονόητον ὅτι τοιαῦται δηλώσεις λειτουργοῦν εἰς βάρος τῆς ἀποστολῆς, ἡ ὁποία σᾶς ἀνετέθη ἀπὸ τὴν Ἑλληνικὴν Πολιτείαν, διὰ τὴν ἀντιμετώπισιν τῆς πανδημίας.

Εἰδικώτερον ὡς Ἀγιορεῖται μοναχοί, ἔχοντες ὡς προστασίαν καὶ καταφυγὴν τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν τὴν Ἔφορον τοῦ Ἱεροῦ ἡμῶν Τόπου Ὑπεραγίαν Θεοτόκον καὶ αἰσθανόμενοι ἀνεξάντλητον τὴν εὐγνωμοσύνην πρὸς Αὐτήν, ὀφείλομεν νὰ ἐκφράσωμεν τὴν βαθυτάτην λύπην καὶ διαμαρτυρίαν μας διὰ τὴν προσβολὴν ταύτην τῆς πίστεώς μας.

Εὐχόμεθα ἡ Προστάτις τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὄρους νὰ σᾶς φωτίσῃ διὰ νὰ καταναήσετε τὸ σφάλμα σας καὶ νὰ ζητήσετε τὴν συγγνώμην Αὐτῆς καὶ τοῦ πιστοῦ λαοῦ.

Ἐπὶ δὲ τούτοις διατελοῦμεν μεθ' ἑορτίων εὐχετικῶν προσρήσεων.

*Ἅπαντες οἱ ἐν τῇ κοινῇ Συνάξει Ἀντιπρόσωποι καὶ Προϊστάμενοι*
*τῶν εἴκοσιν Ἱερῶν Μονῶν τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὄρους Ἄθω.*

*Κοινοποίησις:* Κ' Ἱερὰς Μονὰς Ἁγίου Ὄρους.