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Dour 52nd anniversary of closure of Theological School of Halki by Turkish state



Today marks the dour 52nd anniversary of a Turkish constitutional court decision to abolish tertiary non-state educational institutions in the predominately Muslim country, essentially a pretext to close the Theological School of Halki, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople's primary seminary.

Reopening the school of theology on the eponymous Sea of Marmara Island remains among the top priorities of the Mother Church, and a personal goal of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

International pressure on successive Turkish governments has not achieved a reopening of the school, an issue that ranks as one of the most egregious examples religious freedom violations in Turkey.

Despite various promises by Turkish governments to re-open the theological school, no progress has been recorded.

A feature on the Halki seminary has been posted today on the pages of the Orthodoxy news agency.

In a related development to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, His All Holiness this week

welcomed the leadership of the Baloukli Hospital and Nursing Home of Constantinople, to whom he presented all monetary donations collected for restoration of damages caused to the facility by a devastating fire last August.



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