

07/02/2023

Primates of Orthodox Churches around the world react to quake devastation in SE Turkey, NW Syria



Colossal devastation caused on Monday by earthquakes that struck southeast Turkey and northwest Syria has rescuers struggling to dig people out of the rubble of collapsed buildings on Tuesday, as the death toll across a wide area now exceeds 5,000. The first tremor, a magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale, was the deadliest quake in Turkey since 1999.

Another devastating earthquake, measuring 7.4, followed hours later.

Thousands of buildings have been toppled, hospitals and schools wrecked, and tens of thousands of people were injured or left homeless in several Turkish and Syrian cities.

Harsh winter weather is hampering search efforts and the delivery of aid, while some areas remain without fuel and electricity.

In war-ravaged Syria, the death toll stands at more than 1,600, according to the government in Damascus and a rebel-affiliated emergency service in the insurgent-

held northwest.

The world's Orthodox Primates immediately reacted to the calamitous scenes of destruction and human suffering, with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, expressing his deep shock at the tragic death of thousands of our fellow humans and the injury of many others.

In letters to the President of the Turkish Republic, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, but also to Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, His All Holiness expressed his sympathy to the victims as well as sincerest condolences, along with the support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarch, who is based in Turkey, said the Mother Church is praying that the All-Benevolent God may rest the souls of the victims, and strengthen their families and relatives in their deepest mourning.

The Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, His Beatitude Theodoros II, also expressed condolences and sympathy for the victims, in Patriarchal Letters addressed to His All Holiness Bartholomew I and His Beatitude John X.

On his part, the Patriarch of All Romania, His Beatitude Daniel sent a message of solidarity and compassion addressed to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, stressing, among others:

“In these moments of hard trial, we raise our prayers to the Most Merciful God for the repose of the souls of the deceased and the speedy healing of those injured, as well as for the help of all those who were affected by the earthquake.”

Condolences to the president of Turkey were also extended by the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II.

Back in Greece, the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, in a communique issued by the Archdiocese, expressed shock, and noted that “...all Greeks have been watching with pain...the tragic loss of life of hundreds of our fellow citizens in neighboring Turkey and in Syria...I am certain that, as we did in 1999, so today, Greeks will be in every way close to our neighbors, and that the Greek State will stand by their side, offering all possible assistance. We pray to God for every possible consolation and stand in solidarity with the friendly peoples of Turkey and Syria.”

Elsewhere in southeast Europe, the Archbishop of Durrës, Tirana and All Albania, His Beatitude Anastasios, expressed his deepest sorrow, while conveying letters of



† **Αναστάσιος**
Αρχιεπίσκοπος Τυρόνων, Δογραζίου και Πάσης Αλβανίας

h of Antioch.

Πρός
Τὴν Α.Θ. Πανεγιότητα
Τὸν Οἰκουμενικὸν Πατριάρχην
Κύριον Κύριον Βαρθολομαῖον
Εἰς Κωνσταντινούπολιν

Παναγιότατε,

Μετά συνοχῆς καρδίας παρακολουθοῦμεν τὴν μεγάλην δοκιμασίαν τῶν διαβιούντων ἐν Τουρκίᾳ συνεπείᾳ τοῦ προσφάτου ἰσχυροτάτου καταστροφικοῦ σεισμοῦ.

Οὐ παύομεθα δεόμενοι ὅπως ὁ Θεὸς τῶν οἰκτιρῶν καὶ τῆς παρακλήσεως ἀνακουφίῃ καὶ παρηγορή τοὺς ἐν χαλεπαῖς συμφοραῖς καὶ θλίψεσιν δοκιμαζομένους ἀδελφοὺς ἡμῶν καὶ καθοδηγή τὰς Ὑμετέρας σκέψεις καὶ ἐνεργείας πρὸς στήριξιν καὶ ἐνίσχυσιν αὐτῶν.

Μετ' ἐξαιρετοῦ τιμῆς καὶ εὐλακροῦς πάντοτε ἀγάπης ἐν Χριστῷ τῷ Σωτῆρι ἡμῶν

Ἐν Τυρόνοις τῇ 6ῃ Φεβρουαρίου 2023

to 





Παναγιώτης και Θεόφιλος Οικουμενικοί Πατριάρχες, εν Χριστώ υψίστην
λίαν άγαπᾶν καὶ σεβαστάς ἀδελφεὶ καὶ συλλειτουργεῖς ἡμῶν
Μετρώτητες, κύριοι Βαρθολομαῖ, τῆς ἑταίρας γερμανίας
Παναγιώτης ἐν Κυρίῳ καταστάζετε, ἐκτιμῶντα προσευχεσόμεν.

Μετὰ μεγάλην λύπην ἐκλογισθεῖσθαι ἐπὶ τῶν καταγεγραμμένων
εὐκαισιῶν τοῦ ἱεροῦ νεομῆ, ἡ ἁγία Ἐκκλησία ἐπέλεξε σήμερον
ἐκφορᾶς τῆς κατ' ἑξῆς Πατριαρχίας Ἑσπερίας καὶ ἐκδόχων ἡμῶν
καρδίας ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν Γάλλων, τὸν ἑταίρον γερμανίας
ἑταίρον ἀδελφονοῦν Παναγιώτην.

Ἀντιλαμβάνομαι τὴν τραγικότητα τῆς καταστάσεως ἡμῶν καὶ ἐν τῇ
τῶν Ἀδελφῶν Μεγάλης Πάλλας, συνελθόντες καὶ συμπέροντες
μετ' ἡμῶν, ὅς καὶ μετὰ τῶν ἀποφασισθέντων λογισμῶν ἡμῶν,
ἀποφασίζω ἡμῶν τὴν ἀποστολὴν καὶ τὴν ἔξοδον τοῦ ἱεροῦ κλήρου καὶ
τοῦ Χριστιανικοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ κατ' ἑξῆς Ἀνατολικῶν καὶ
Πατριαρχεῖν Ἑσπερίας.

Ἐπιλαμβάνομαι καὶ εὐχῆς τὸ ἀσθένος ἡμῶν καὶ εὐχῆς ἡμῶν
μετὰ τῶν κατεργασθέντων, ὅς καὶ συλλειτουργοῦντες εὐχῆς ἡμῶν
ἐπὶ τῇ Κίχρῳ ἀποφασίζω ἀποφασίζοντας ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν, ἐπιλαμβάνομαι ἐν
ἡμῶν καὶ ἐπὶ ἐκκαταστάσει τῆς ἑταίρας τῶν ἁγίων ἑταίρων,
καὶ εὐχῆς τῆς Κίχρῳ τοῦ ἐν Τυβίῳ Θεοῦ.

Ἐπὶ ἡμῶν, καταστάζετε τὴν ἑταίραν Παναγιώτην εὐχῆς
ἀδελφῶν καὶ ἁγίων, διατελοῦντα μετὰ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης καὶ εὐχῆς
τῆς.

Τῆς ἑταίρας γερμανίας Παναγιώτης
ἀγαπᾶς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀδελφῶν

Ἐν τῇ Μεγάλῃ Ἐκκλησίᾳ
τῆς Ἀθηνῶν
τῆς 14 Φεβρουαρίου 2022





Αριθμ.Πρωτ. 023/2023

Μακαριότατε Πατριάρχα Αντιοχείας και πάσης Ανατολής, εν Χριστώ τῷ Θεῷ λίαν ἀγαπητέ και κερικόθητε ἀδελφέ και συλλειτουργέ τῆς ἡμῶν Μετρούπολης, κύριε Ἰωάννη, τὴν Ὑμετέραν Μακαριότητα ἐν Κυρίῳ κατασκαζόμενοι, ὑπερήδιστα προσαγορεύομεν.

Μετὰ μεγάλης λύπης ἐληροφροήθημεν περὶ τῶν καταστροφικῶν συνεπειῶν τοῦ ἰσχυροῦ σεισμοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος θανατηφόρος ἐκλεξε σήμερον περιοχάς τῆς καθ' Ὑμῶν Πατριαρχικῆς δικαιοδοσίας και σπεύδομεν διὰ τοῦ παρόντος ἀδελφικοῦ ἡμῶν Γράμματος, νά συμπαρασταθῶμεν τῇ Ὑμετέρῃ φιλή Μακαριότητι.

Ἀντιλαμβάνομεθα τὴν τραγικότητα τῆς καταστάσεως διό και ἐκ τῆς τῶν Ἀλεξανδρείων Μεγάλης Πόλεως, συναλγοῦντες και συμπάσχοντες μεθ' Ὑμῶν, ὡς και μετὰ τοῦ δοκιμαζομένου λογικοῦ ποιμνίου Ὑμῶν, ἐκφράζομεν Ὑμῖν τὴν συμπάθειαν και τὴν θλίψιν τοῦ ἱεροῦ κλήρου και τοῦ Χριστοκενῶνιμου κληρῶματος τοῦ καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἀποστολικοῦ και Πατριαρχικοῦ Θρόνου.

Ἐκδηλοῦντες και αἰθις τὰ αἰσθήματα λύπης και οδύνης διὰ τὴν μεγάλην ταύτην καταστροφήν, ὡς και συλλυπητηρίου εὐχάς διὰ τοὺς πρὸς Κύριον αἰωνιδίως ἐκδημήσαντες ἀδελφούς ἡμῶν, ἐπικαλούμεθα ἐφ' Ὑμῶν και ἐπὶ πνευματικά τέκνα Ὑμῶν τὴν ἄνωθεν ἐνίσχυσιν, παρηγορίαν και πλουσίαν τὴν Χάριν τοῦ ἐν Τριάδι Θεοῦ.

Ἐπὶ δέ τούτους, κατασκαζόμενοι τὴν Ὑμετέραν Μακαριότητα φιλήματι ἀδελφικῷ και ἀγίῳ, διατελοῦμεν μετὰ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης και πάσης τιμῆς.

Τῆς Ὑμετέρας Μακαριότητος
ἀγαπητός ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀδελφός

Ἐ τῇ Μεγάλῃ Πόλει
τῆς Ἀλεξανδρείας
τῇ 6ῃ Φεβρουαρίου 2023

