

## The Ecumenical Patriarch presented the Governor of Istanbul with financial aid for the earthquake victims



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, accompanied by The Grand Chancellor Archimandrite Theodoros, visited on Tuesday, 14 February 2023, The Governor of Istanbul, Mr. Ali Yerlikaya, and expressed to him on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Community the deepest condolences for the thousands of victims of the deadly earthquake that struck south-eastern Turkey, wishing for Almighty God to rest their souls and give strength to their families.

His All-Holiness expressed his congratulations for the work of rescue crews and volunteer groups, from Turkey and all over the world, who rushed to the area from the first moments and are working under difficult conditions to free survivors from the wreckage. He also hoped that the damage to the infrastructure and the houses would be repaired as soon as possible.

As a sign of practical support, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew handed Mr. Yerlikaya a sum of money to be allocated by the State to address the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquake. His All-Holiness informed the Governor that the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Communities of Constantinople and Imbros had already gathered and sent humanitarian aid to the earthquake affected areas, while there is constant communication with local authorities to support our fellow human beings who are suffering.

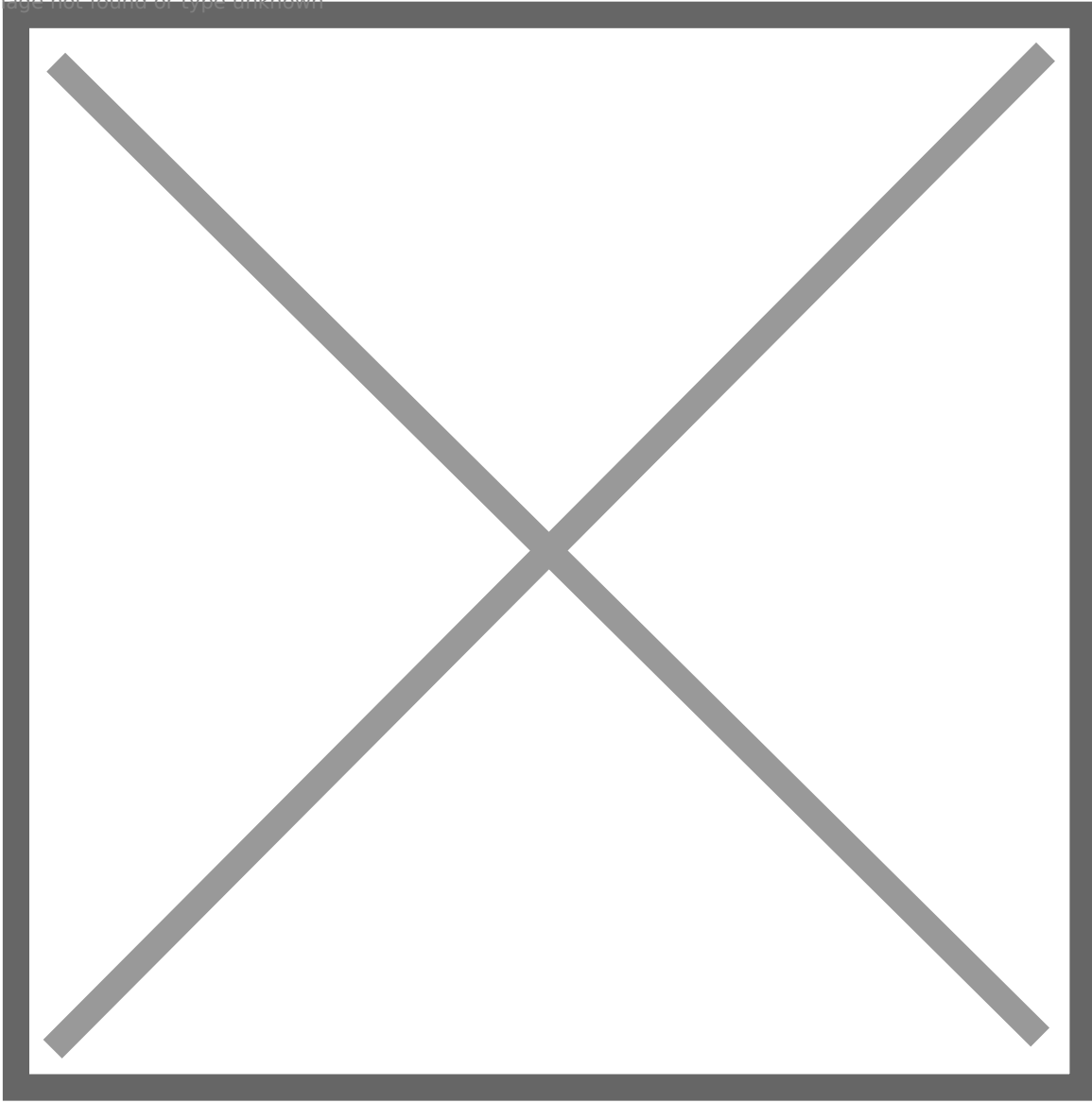
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Mr. Yerlikaya thanked the Patriarch and the Greek community for their immediate interest and support in this difficult moment that the whole country is experiencing, as well as for the financial support of the collective effort to relieve and aid those affected.





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