

One suspect arrested for break-in, theft of offerings at Iviron Monastery



A Romanian national was arrested in the early morning hours in a remote region of the Mt. Athos peninsula, on charges of breaking into the main cathedral of the Iviron Monastery and making off with offerings bestowed on a renowned icon displayed in the Catholicos — the Panagia Portaitissa, also known as the Iviron Theotokos.

Greek police arrested the man hours after the break-in was reported in the semi-autonomous monastic community, on the eastern-most promontory of Halkidiki prefecture, in northern Greece.

The perpetrator was initially detected by the monk assigned to the cathedral as its deacon as he was trying to scrap off the precious metals from the offerings, which were later recovered.

The incident comes after a series of similar thefts over the recent period on Mt. Athos.