



Athens, 13 January 2022

Statement

The Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (I.A.O.) expresses its anguish and opposition to any attempt for alteration of the property status of the Old Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

We express our full solidarity with His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine Theophilus III, as well as the other Churches of Jerusalem, for the threat of deportation of the Christian community of the Holy City.

We consider that illegal and terrorist acts of extremist parastatal groups in Israel against Christians are part of the further expulsion of the Christian element from the Holy Land and the wider Middle East region, which has already shrunk due to the religious intolerance, fanaticism and discrimination.

We support that the inviolability of this property status is an essential element for the consolidation of peace in the region.

The I.A.O. calls on the international community to turn its eyes and stand in solidarity with the ordeal of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and other Christian Churches by extremist circles.

The I.A.O. calls on the Israeli authorities to protect the people of Jerusalem and of all Israel, regardless of religion, from the activities of extremist circles.

Finally, the I.A.O. calls on the fellow members of the region's legislative bodies to contribute by all appropriate ways for securing the property status of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the other Christian churches.

The President of the General Assembly
of the I.A.O.

Sergei Gavrilov
Member of the Russian State Duma

The I.A.O. Secretary General

Dr. Maximos Charakopoulos
Member of the Hellenic Parliament