



TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DIASPORA
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STATEMENT ON THE BOMBING OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY DORMITION
IN THE KYIV-PECHERSK LAVRA

Today, we grieve as we witness yet another attack on a center of spirituality, the Cathedral of the Holy Dormition in the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra. This site is one of the greatest treasures not only for the people of Ukraine, but for the entire Orthodox world. The monastery is one of the most revered shrines of the Orthodox world and houses some of the most ancient and sacred relics. This holy shrine has been a beacon of light and a symbol of lasting faith to all the churches of the Slavic lands because it is from these hallowed halls that the faith has been passed on in Ukraine, Russia, and far beyond.

The faith can never be destroyed in the hearts of true believers, but when we see the places in which that faith has been passed on from century to century, we cannot help but have our hearts broken because these were not mere buildings, they were harbingers of the good news to millions of people. They were the place where memories were made. They were the places where we came to know unconditional love.

Today, evil has sought to destroy these memories, this love, and this faith. But we know that evil will never triumph so long as people of strong faith and good will remain. The church will be rebuilt, as it has in times before. But more importantly, the hearts of the people will remain strong as they unite in prayer and with one voice proclaim that evil will never triumph because God is in charge even in these trying times.

As a church, we condemn these actions and call upon all people to unite their voice in prayer with the people of Ukraine. It is not through weapons or civil actions that we can change the world. It is only by the united power of prayer that we can hope to change the cold hearts that we find. Let us be beacons of love and light even to our enemies so that one day the love and mercy of God will rule the world and there will be no more hatred or war.

Metropolitan +ALEXY
First Hierarch of the True Orthodox Church of the Diaspora