

# THE ARCHON

*Defenders of the Faith*

JAN • FEB • MAR 2010  
[www.archons.org](http://www.archons.org)



Archon Leadership tribute dinner honors Archbishop Demetrios of America

PAGE 16



## Archons lead Religious Freedom Mission to the European Union in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a delegation from the Order of St. Andrew, led by Archon Ambassador George L. Argyros and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, participated in a Religious Freedom Mission to the European Union in pursuit of human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate from Jan 26–Feb 7.

Continued on page 2 »



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His All Holiness honored by Prince Albert of Monaco for Environmental Leadership

PAGE 20



## Turkish citizens hold demonstration outside Phanar supporting religious minorities

A demonstration in support of minorities was organized on Saturday, January 9, outside the compound of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. The event was organized by a coalition of liberal and peacemaker organizations named '70 Million Steps Against Coups'.

Continued on page 18 »

Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Archon Ambassador George Argyros, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos, and Mr. Robert Lapsely, former assistant Secretary of State for California (top), prior to their meeting at the Council of the EU in Brussels.



« Continued from page 1

The delegation traveled to Madrid, Spain, which currently holds the EU presidency; Brussels, Belgium, the headquarters of the EU and ended in Athens, Greece where they joined His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

They were guided by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of the Liaison Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Union. Together with Archons Argyros and Limberakis, the delegation also included Archon Christopher Stratakis, Legal Counselor; Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor; and Mr. Robert Lapsely, former assistant Secretary of State for California.

Prior to their departure on December 17, 2009 the Archon Leadership met with Assistant Secretary of State Philip H. Gordon at the State Department in Washington to review the religious freedom issues regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to seek the guidance and full support of the United States government for the Archon Religious Freedom Mission. Secretary Gordon was most forthcoming in his support for the religious freedom goals of the Mission.

In preparation for the Mission, the Archon Leadership consulted and met with H.E. Vassilis Kaskarelis, ambassador of Greece to the United States. Ambassador Kaskarelis prior to his post in the United States served with great distinction as Greece's ambassador to the European Union and is well known and respected in the EU community as one of its finest diplomats. Ambassador Kaskarelis facilitated a number of critical meetings throughout the Archon Religious Freedom Mission and for which The Order is most grateful.

The delegation had substantive meetings with government and religious officials which were reported during the mission utilizing the social networking tool "Twitter" for the first time. All Archons and interested persons who are connected to this network are encouraged to log onto [www.twitter.com/OrderStAndrew](http://www.twitter.com/OrderStAndrew) and become a follower, or visit [www.archons.org](http://www.archons.org) and click on the "Twitter" tab below the homepage image to read the Commander's updates, meeting by meeting, which were archived throughout the trip.

The Order's fundamental goal and mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Archon is published bi-monthly by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. © 2010

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**Departed Archons**

**George Chimples**  
*Archon Megas Primikirios*  
Lyndhurst, OH • March 2010

**Dr. George S. Croffead**  
*Archon Aktouarios*  
Johns Island, SC • January 2010

**Peter T. Kourides**  
*Archon Megas Nomophylax*  
Forest Hills, NY • February 2010

**Michael W. Miaoulis**  
*Archon Notarios*  
Montgomery, AL • March 2010

**William Rummel**  
*Archon Notarios*  
Chicago, IL • March 2010

**Frank Sarris**  
*Archon Laosynaktis*  
Canonsburg, PA • March 2010



*May Their Memory Be Eternal*



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION

FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE



## BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Headquarters of the EU  
Home of European Parliament

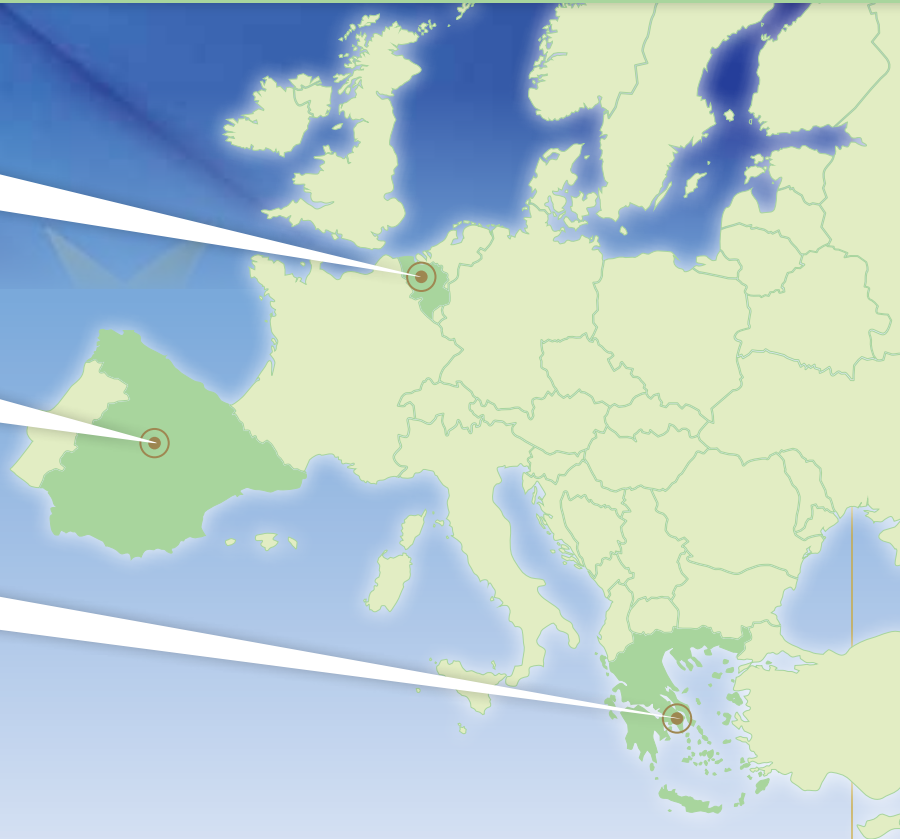


## MADRID, SPAIN

Holds current presidency of the EU  
Coordinates negotiations with EU  
candidate nations, including Turkey



ATHENS, GREECE • Audience with  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



On January 29, the delegation traveled to the US Embassy in Madrid, Spain where meetings were conducted with Ambassador Alan D. Solomont (below) that focused on the core of the mission: promoting the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all minorities in Turkey while simultaneously supporting Turkey's accession into the EU.





 **MADRID**  
**SPAIN**

Holds current presidency of EU  
Coordinates negotiations with  
EU candidate nations, including  
Turkey

The delegation began their religious freedom mission in Spain, which took over the rotating 6-month presidency of the European Union on January 1, 2010. Archon Ambassador Argyros served as the United States ambassador to Spain from 2001 to 2004 and his participation in the religious freedom mission offered a unique opportunity for the delegation to interface with the Spanish government. Upon their arrival on January 27, the delegation was joined by Metropolitan Emmanuel of France. Metropolitan Polycarpus of Spain and Portugal later hosted a welcome dinner meeting for the delegation.

On January 28, the Archon delegation met with Jose Maria Contreras, Director General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Justice. It was reported at that meeting that Spain will be sponsoring a religious freedom



Metropolitan Emmanuel of France (top, far left) and the Archon delegation with Metropolitan Polycarpus of Spain, who is pictured center, inside St. Andrew and St. Demetrios Cathedral. Above, Archon Ambassador George Argyros thanks Jose Maria Contreras, Director General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Justice.

conference in Cordoba this May and the delegation suggested that Turkey's treatment of minorities be included in the agenda. A reception followed that evening at the official residence of Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, the new ambassador of the United States to Spain. Later in the evening, H.E. Ms. Ana Palacio, former Foreign Minister of Spain and current European Parliamentarian and friend of Archon Ambassador Argyros hosted the delegation for dinner

at her home in Madrid. She offered insightful commentary on Turkey's accession into the EU.

On January 29, a full schedule of meetings were conducted beginning with Mrs. Inci Ersoy, Minister Counselor of the Turkish Embassy and later with H.E. Luis Felipe Fernandez de la Pena, the Director General of North America at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also, he served as Spain's Ambassador to Turkey where he acquired an

expansive knowledge of Turkey, its government, its history, and its nationalistic tendencies. The delegation later traveled to the US Embassy where meetings were conducted with Ambassador Alan D. Solomont that focused on the core of the mission: promoting the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all minorities in Turkey while simultaneously supporting Turkey's accession into the EU.

Mrs. Milagros Hernando Echevarria, Director General for International Policy and Security for the EU Presidency of the Government received the delegation at the Presidential Palace for additional meetings in the context of Spain's EU Presidency.

On Sunday morning, the delegation traveled to the St. Andrew and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Cathedral to celebrate the feastday of the Prodigal Son. Members of the Order of St. Andrew offered a donation to Metropolitan Polycarpus for the Metropolis of Spain and Portugal in support of its sacred ministry.



On January 29, the Archon delegation met with His Excellency Luis Felipe Fernandez de la Pena (top) the Director General of North America at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That same day, Mrs. Milagros Hernando Echevarria, Director General for International Policy and Security for the EU Presidency of the Government (middle) received the delegation at the Presidential Palace for additional meetings. On Sunday morning, the delegation traveled to St. Andrew and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Cathedral to celebrate the feastday of the Prodigal Son. Following the Divine Liturgy which was celebrated in eight languages, Metropolitan Polycarpos (bottom) presented Archon George Argyros with the Metropolis of Spain and Portugal Gold Medal.



*National Commander Limberakis offered updates on important developments and status alerts via the social networking tool "Twitter" during the Archon Religious Freedom Mission. Below are a few of his 'tweets'...*

Follow Us ► [twitter.com/OrderStAndrew](https://twitter.com/OrderStAndrew)

**OrderStAndrew** Archon delegation led by Amb. Argyros well received by our new ambassador of US to Spain Alan Solomont at embassy reception in Madrid. -AJL

Jan 28th

**OrderStAndrew** Had late night meeting planning Archon Religious Freedom Symposium with Met Emmanuel, scheduled for EU HQ this fall. -AJL

Jan 29th

**OrderStAndrew** Excellent meeting with Director General of Religious Affairs Jose Contreras at Ministry of Justice. Presence of Amb Argyros impactful. -AJL

Jan 29th

**OrderStAndrew** Had 32 min meeting & reviewed 4 issues of concern on rel. freedom at Turkish Emb. Response was official Turkish line we've heard for years. -AJL

Jan 29th



## BRUSSELS BELGIUM

Headquarters of the EU  
Home of European Parliament

A full day of meetings ensued on Monday, February 1 in Brussels beginning with His Eminence, Metropolitan Panteleimon of the Metropolis of Belgium who blessed and prayed with the visiting Archons in the chapel. An insightful meeting followed with Mr. Christos Katharios, Head of Division, Responsible for Enlargement at the Council of the European Union.

His Excellency, Ambassador Theodoros Sotiropoulos, Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union welcomed the delegation and hosted a luncheon meeting. Ambassador Sotiropoulos was extremely helpful in securing numerous meetings at the EU. The Archons then traveled to the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the EU and met with H.E. Ambassador Selim Kunalalp where frank discussions took place reviewing the issues of concern, the advocacy of Turkey's EU accession and the 60 Minutes Interview.



The Archon delegation experienced several meetings in Belgium, beginning with Ambassador Howard W. Gutman of the United States to Belgium (top) who graciously hosted a breakfast meeting at the official ambassadorial residence. He offered assistance in securing essential meetings during Belgium's EU Presidency which will begin on July 1, 2010. At the European Commission (above, top) Director General for Enlargement Michael Leigh meets with the Archon delegation. The previous day, the delegation met with the Turkish Ambassador to EU H.E. Selim Kunalalp (above, bottom).

They later met with H.E. Archbishop Andre Pierre Louis Dupuy, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Community and concluded the day with H.E. Ambassador Fernando de Galainena, Director of Enlargement Unit and Representative of the Spanish Presidency of the European Council.

On Tuesday, February 2, the delegation experienced a second full

day of meetings beginning with Ambassador Howard W. Gutman, Ambassador of the United States to Belgium who graciously hosted a breakfast meeting at the official ambassadorial residence at which time he offered assistance in securing essential meetings during Belgium's EU Presidency which will begin on July 1, 2010. The delegation later met with the Vice President of the European

Parliament, Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament and Head of the Greek Delegation to the S & D Group.

That afternoon, the members of the delegation had a working lunch with European Parliament member Mrs. Marietta Giannakou, Member of the Group of the European Peoples' Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats and Head of their Greek Delegation.

At the European Commission a very important meeting was held with the Director General for Enlargement, Mr. Michael Leigh the top official in the Commission regarding new countries in the process of gaining accession to the EU. In addition to Director General Leigh, Mr. Christos Makridis, Deputy Head of the Unit of Turkey in the Directorate General was present who individually later offered insights into the accession process. A productive hour-long meeting followed with Ambassador William E. Kennard, Ambassador of the United States to the European Union, at the US Embassy which concluded the day's meetings.



His Excellency, Ambassador Theodoros Sotiropoulos, Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union welcomed the delegation (top) and hosted a lunch meeting on February 1, 2010. Ambassador Sotiropoulos was extremely helpful in securing numerous meetings at the EU. A second meeting followed (middle) with Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, Vice President of the European Parliament. His Excellency Archbishop Andre Pierre Louis Dupuy, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Community (bottom) also met with the Archon delegation.



**OrderStAndrew**

Outstanding meeting with Director General Pena Foreign Ministry of Spain. He is an expert on relations with Turkey & offered superb advice. -AJL

Jan 29th



**OrderStAndrew**

Insightful meeting at Council of the EU with Head of Division Responsible for Enlargement Christos Katharios. His commentary was invaluable! -AJL

Feb 1st



**OrderStAndrew**

Discussed Catholic support for Religious Freedom Conference in Brussels during meeting w/ Papal Nuncio Archbishop Andre Pierre Louis Dupuy. -AJL

Feb 1st



**OrderStAndrew**

European Parliamentarian Minister Marietta Giannakou offered assistance in planning Archon International Religious Freedom Conference in Brussels. -AJL

Feb 2nd



**OrderStAndrew** Leigh & Makridis aware of religious freedom (rf) deficit and Turkey's need to harmonize laws w/ Copenhagen Criteria. -AJL

Feb 2nd



N. MANGINAS

## ATHENS GREECE

### Audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

On Wednesday, February 3, the delegation arrived in Athens, Greece where meetings took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with H.E. Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, the Deputy Foreign Minister.

Following their meeting, the delegation had an audience with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who was on an official Apostolic Visit to the Church of Greece.

Later in the evening, an official dinner at the residence of the United States Ambassador to Greece was hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Daniel V. Speckhard, in honor of Archon Ambassador George L. Argyros and the visiting Archon delegation. Members of the Greek Government including Deputy Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs H.E. Mr. John Panaretos and the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Athens the V. Rev. Archimandrite Gabriel, were present, as was leading Archon Mr. George David.

On Thursday, February 4 the delegation received a rare, private VIP tour of the new Acropolis Museum which recently opened to the public in June 2009. The archaeological museum fo-



On February 3, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who was on an official visit to the Church of Greece, received members of the Archon delegation (top) where they had the opportunity to brief him on their Religious Freedom Mission. Legal Counselor Stratakis and National Commander Limberakis with His All Holiness (above, top). The following day, the delegation met with His Excellency Pavlos Yeroulanos, Minister of Culture and Tourism (above, bottom).

cuses on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens and houses nearly 4,000 artifacts found on the rock and on its feet, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. The delegation later met with Minister of Culture and Tourism H.E. Mr. Pavlos Yeroulanos who discussed among other items religious tourism in Greece.

That afternoon, the delegation met with H.E. Mr. Antonis Samaras, the New Democracy Party President.

Later in the day, the delegation met with Paris Asanakis, attorney and chairman of the Imvrian Association of Athens and other Imvrian Association attorneys to discuss their upcoming visit to the United States seeking human and religious freedom rights for the Greek Orthodox minority residing on the islands of Imvros and Tenedos.

A Byzantine concert in Celebration of the Environment in honor of His All Holiness was held at The Athens Concert Hall and performed by Pro-

topsaltes Lykourgos Angelopoulos and the Greek Byzantine Choir.

On Friday, February 5 the delegation members met with Archon Odysseus F. Sassayiannis, President of the Brotherhood of Pammakaristos Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who reside outside the United States. This initial strategic working lunch hosted by Archon Sassayiannis served to lay the foundation of an ongoing, cooperative relationship between the European and American Archons. Discussions regarding the joint sponsorship of an International Religious Freedom Conference in Brussels by the Order of St. Andrew and the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons were conducted.

The delegation traveled to the Turkish Embassy in Athens to meet with H.E. Mr. Mehmet Hasa Gogus, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Greece. Ambassador Gogus has had extensive experience in human rights and religious freedom in his senior diplomatic career and offered some optimistic commentary regarding religious freedom and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The meeting was frank, substantive and overall positive in its tone.

Before their departure back to the United States, the Archon delegation briefed the Ecumenical Patriarch on their extensive religious freedom mission in support of the Holy and Sacred See of Constantinople. ■





On Wednesday, February 3, the delegation arrived in Athens, Greece where meetings took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, top, with His Excellency Spyros Kouvelis, the Deputy Foreign Minister. Later, His Excellency Antonis Samaras, President of the New Democracy Party, middle, discussed issues with Archon Ambassador George Argyros and the Archon delegation at their headquarters. Members of the Archon delegation with President Archon Odysseus F. Sassayiannis of Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, above, after a working luncheon.



**OrderStAndrew** US

Ambassador to EU Kennard was particularly sensitive to issues of human rights and religious freedom during one hours meeting. -AJL

Feb 6th



**OrderStAndrew** The

Order very impressed with policies and priorities of Greece government regarding Ecumenical Patriarchate and religious freedom. -AJL

Feb 7th



**OrderStAndrew** During

Minister of Culture and Tourism Pavlos Geroulanos meeting, discussed importance of religious tourism in Greece and other cultural issues. -AJL

Feb 8th

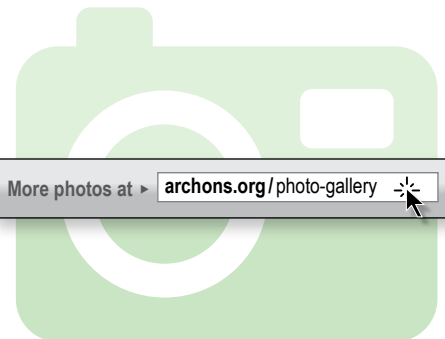


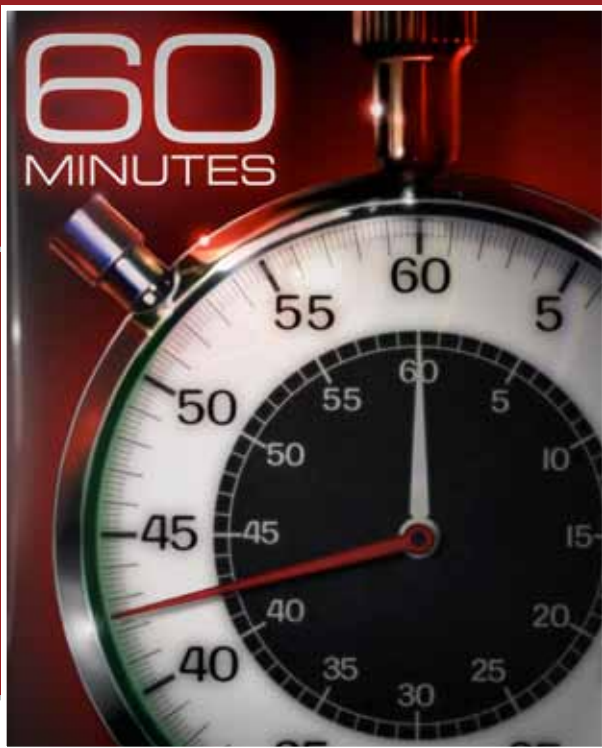
**OrderStAndrew** During

Turkish Ambassador Gogus meeting, brought up Turkey's concerns with lack of Mosque in Athens and nonelection of Muftis in Thrace. -AJL

Feb 8th

More photos at ► [archons.org/photo-gallery](http://archons.org/photo-gallery)





# REACTIONS

## FROM THE TURKISH PRESS

Since CBS's **60 MINUTES** aired its segment on Sunday, December 20, 2009, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has received significant attention and support worldwide. In the segment, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, offers candid answers to questions by correspondent Bob Simon, saying he feels "crucified" living in Turkey under a government he says would like to see his nearly 2,000-year-old Ecumenical Patriarchate die out. Below are some headlines and snippets which appeared in the Turkish press that caught our attention.

### TODAYS ZAMAN

#### Crucifixion remarks lead to tension between gov't and Bartholomew

ANKARA  
12 / 21 / 2009

"We consider the crucifix metaphor an extremely unfortunate metaphor. In our history, there have never been crucifixes and there never will be. I couldn't really square this metaphor with his mature personality," [Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu] told reporters.

Stating that the Turkish nation's history was built on religious tolerance, Davutoğlu went on to say, "I hope to see this as an undesirable slip of the tongue."

Turkey is a secular and democratic state based on the rule of law, and it doesn't treat its own citizens differently according to their religious identities, Davutoğlu said,

"If Bartholomew has complaints about this, there are authorities involved in these issues in Turkey; he can convey [those complaints] to us. Necessary effort will be exerted on whichever issues he feels should be addressed. We are ready to listen to every kind of complaint on this issue, but we cannot accept this making of comparisons that we don't deserve."

### Hürriyet

#### It might be true, we are crucifying the patriarch

MEHMET ALİ BİRAND  
12 / 21 / 2009

"I don't agree with Foreign Minister Davutoğlu. The patriarch is right. The state, with its ignorance of a Turkish institution for 38 years, has not been able to keep its word and has crucified the patriarch.

"Bartholomew is one of the most important religious functionaries living in Istanbul. His international influence is enormous and he can immediately reach any person he wishes to reach. He is a leader for who millions of people get in line to kiss his hand.

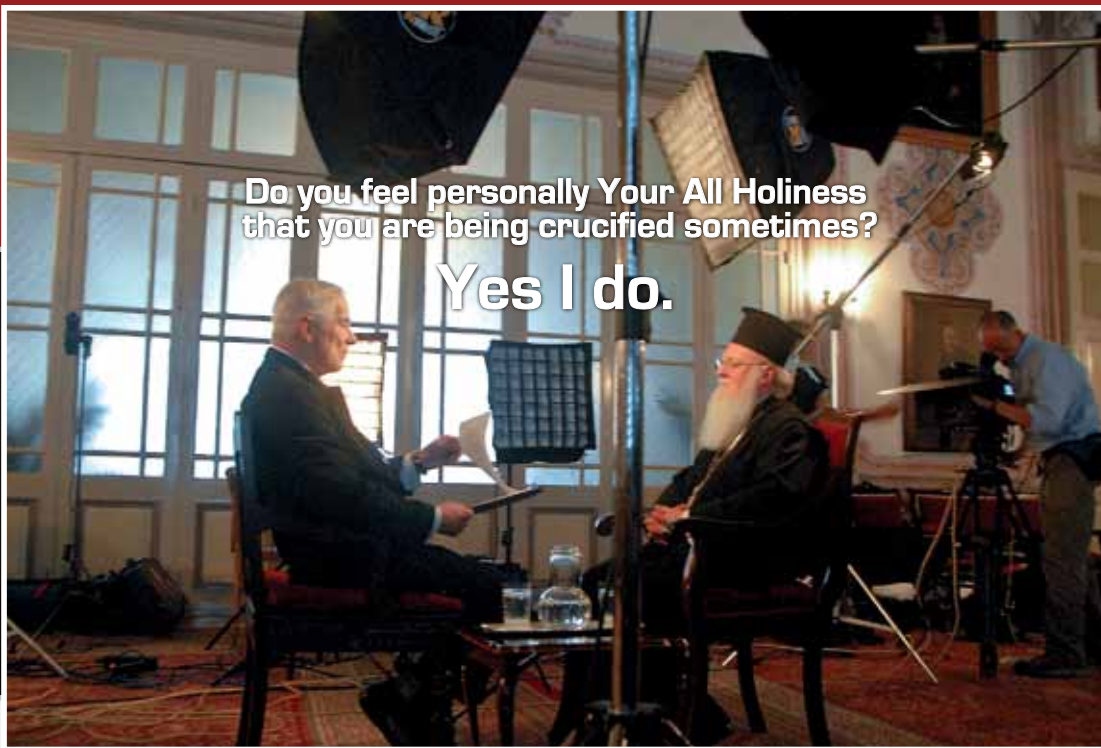
"This country has lived with conspiracy theories for many years. The Patriarchate has been viewed as an institution that sneaks plans about dividing Turkey so Greece can invade the country anew. (!) When his ecumenical presence is accepted, people thought the Christians would create a Vatican in Turkey. This absurd theory was supported by the state, military and some nationalists."

### Hürriyet

#### Being Crucified...

YUSUF KANLI  
12 / 22 / 2009

"The attacks on Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew over his remarks during an interview with the U.S. television network CBS are indeed yet another attempt to crucify him."



N. MANGINAS

**TODAYS ZAMAN**

**Being Crucified in Turkey**

*BÜLENT KENEŞ  
12 / 23 / 2009*

It seems rather understandable to me, as an ordinary Turkish citizen, that if it is possible for Muslim Turks to feel “crucified” at the hands of the bureaucratic state dominated by elitist circles, then the leader of a religious minority whose numbers decrease every day must experience this agonizing feeling much more deeply.

**TODAYS ZAMAN**

**Patriarchate drifting away, says Bartholomew**

*ISTANBUL  
12 / 25 / 2009*

During his interview with the Turkish paper, [Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew] said he used the word crucifixion figuratively, but that everyone has gotten overly fixated on this phrase. “It was supposed to mean we have problems,” he said.

Repeatedly noting that the Halki Seminary has kept closed for 39 years, Bartholomew said most of the metropolitans in Europe are over 70 years old and that they expect new men of religion from the patriarchate. Another issue that he complained about during his interview with Milliyet was that discussions and projects about the Halki Seminary are being carried out in secret in Ankara and that the patriarchate does not have any information on this. On the opening of the seminary, the leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world said the government intends to open the seminary but “perhaps the deep state does not want it to be opened.”

“We are running out of people, patience and there is no solution. If there were no pilgrims from Greece, our churches would be empty. There are only 3,000 Greeks left,” he added. Making mention of the Cage plan, a recently revealed plot that aimed to kill non-Muslims to bring about chaos in the country, Bartholomew pointed to an article published by the Zaman daily to show that he, along with Armenian Patriarch Mesrob and prominent Jewish businessman Ishak Alaton, were on the hit list. “What more can I say? Is this not crucifixion?” he asked.



ORDER OF  
SAINT ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

## Statement of National Commander Limberakis The *60 Minutes* Interview... A Time for Optimism

His All Holiness Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, was featured on the CBS News program *60 Minutes* broadcast on the Sunday before Christmas throughout the United States and globally on the internet at [www.60minutes.com](http://www.60minutes.com). Nielsen Media Research reported the show was watched by more than 12.7 million people in the United States making it the 14th highest rated show on network television for the week of December 14-20. The Order of St. Andrew congratulates the CBS News Organization, Senior Journalist Bob Simon and CBS *60 Minutes* Producer Harry Radcliffe, II for focusing the world's attention on state sponsored religious repression of the oldest church of Christendom. The *60 Minutes* segment sparked international reaction in support of the religious freedom and civil rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and serious introspection in Turkey regarding its restrictive policies. The Order is optimistic that these issues will finally receive the attention necessary for resolution that will benefit both the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the government of Turkey.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a strong supporter of Turkey's accession into the European Union. He openly discussed in the interview his genuine love for Turkey, but also cited instances where successive Turkish governments have not addressed the concerns of the Greek Orthodox minority including the following:

- The forcible closure of the only local Orthodox Patriarchal seminary (Halki) in 1971 by government authorities -- it has not been re-opened since then, despite continued promises by the Turkish governments;
- The confiscation of innumerable Patriarchal properties including the Patriarchal Orphanage that the European Court of Human Rights ruled in July 2008 must be returned to the Church;
- The interference in the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch requiring Turkish citizenship of electors and of candidates for Ecumenical Patriarch, as well as submission of candidates to the Istanbul Prefecture, which can remove any candidate from consideration;
- The refusal of the Turkish government to recognize the ecclesiastical, canonical and historical title "Ecumenical" used by the Patriarch of Constantinople since the 6th century and
- The refusal of the Turkish government to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a bona fide legal entity (in the government's eyes, the Ecumenical Patriarchate does not exist).

When asked during the interview by veteran CBS correspondent Bob Simon "Do you feel personally Your All Holiness that you have been crucified sometimes?" the Patriarch answered without hesitation, "Yes, I do!" But he had stated immediately before the question: "We believe in miracles... after the Crucifixion the Resurrection comes. We believe in the Resurrection."

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In response to a brief advance clip from the interview, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu rejected what he termed "the crucifixion simile," stating "I would like to see this as an undesired slip of the tongue." Noting the Patriarch's comment that Christians in Turkey are often treated as "second-class citizens," Davutoglu said, "If Patriarch Bartholomew has complaints on this issue, he can convey them to the appropriate authorities who will do whatever is necessary."

His All Holiness's characterization of Turkish mistreatment, like the Turkish government's order to close Halki, were not slips of the tongue but rather very real events that are in everyone's interest to remedy. The Order is pleased to hear Foreign Minister Davutoglu's commitment that the authorities will do whatever is necessary to address the issues raised in the 60 Minutes story. The ties between Turkey and the Ecumenical Patriarchate are longstanding and deep, and both have much to gain by working together.

The Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew have been traveling to Turkey since 1998 to "convey" these concerns and issues to the Turkish governmental officials, but to no avail. The Archon Leadership has personally met with the highest authorities in Ankara regarding the religious freedom deficit in Turkey. In 1998 we met with then mayor Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul and in subsequent years the following leaders of Turkey: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, Minister of Education Huseyin Celik, Minister of the Interior Abdulkadir Aksu, Turkish parliamentarians, AKP party leaders, as well as our United States Ambassadors to Turkey who have supported our religious freedom missions and accompanied us to the meetings including Ambassadors Marc Parris, Robert Pearson, Eric Edelman, Ross Wilson and the current ambassador James F. Jeffrey who participated in the 2008 Annual Meeting of Archons in New York City. The Archon initiatives in Ankara on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are just one element in the overall multifaceted domestic and international religious freedom strategy of the Order of St. Andrew.

The example set forth by the Prophet Muhammad in 628 AD, in his Charter of Privileges to Christians sent to the monks of the St. Catherine Monastery in Mount Sinai protecting their religious freedom and human rights is a model by which all people of goodwill should follow, especially the government leaders in Turkey regarding their treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy See of St. Andrew, the first called Apostle. The Order thanks 60 Minutes for bringing to light this little known document written by the founder of the Islamic religion. (An English translation of the Prophet Muhammad's Charter of Privileges, by Dr. A Zahoor and Dr. Z. Haq can be found on the next page.)

The Order of St. Andrew is optimistic that the New Year 2010 finally will bring concrete progress improving the religious freedom, human rights and civil rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His All Holiness Bartholomew the 270th occupant of the Throne of St. Andrew, the First Called Apostle of Jesus Christ.

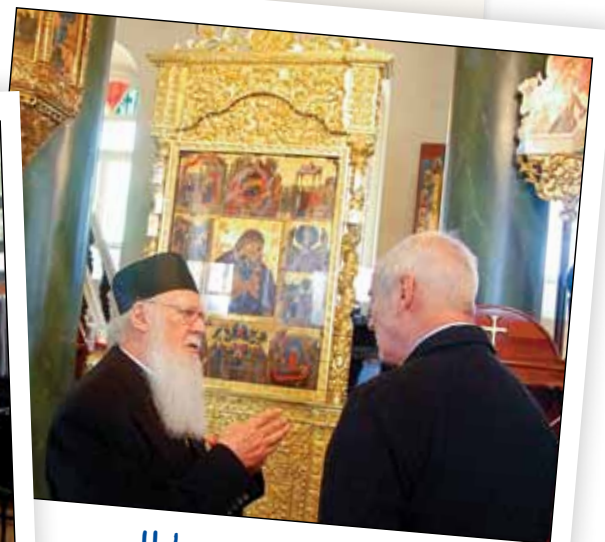
*Anthony J. Limberakis, MD*

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD  
Archon Aktouarios  
National Commander  
December 31, 2009



Halki Seminary

8 East 7



Holy Trinity Chapel

N. MANGINAS

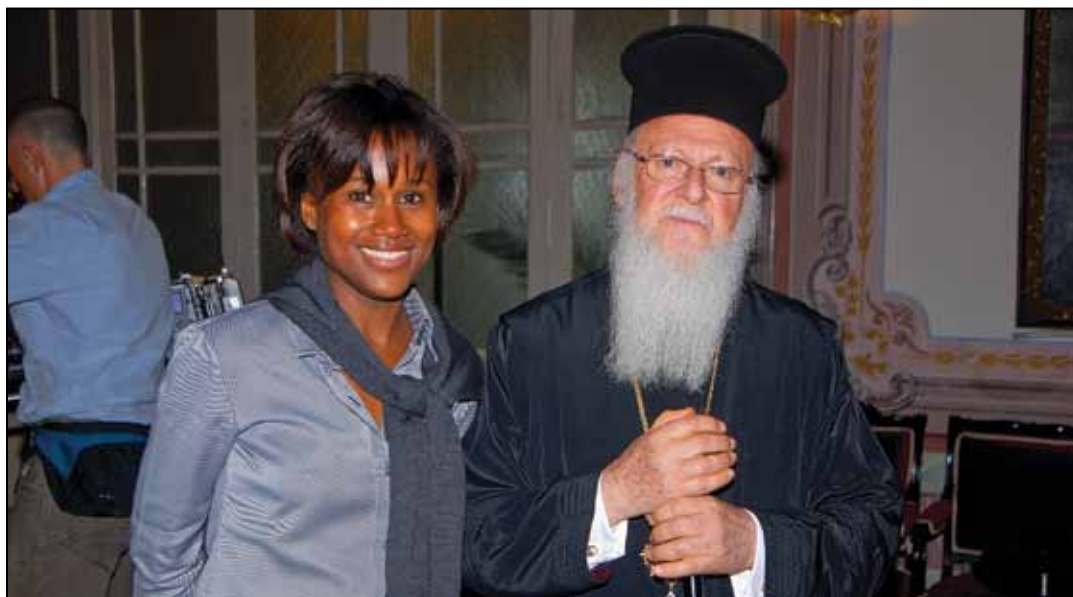
# MEETING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

A reflection by *60 Minutes* Associate Producer Magalie Laguerre-Wilkinson

Last May I had the privilege of traveling to Istanbul, Turkey. We were heading there to profile the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, Bartholomew I. I didn't know very much about him. For one, I always assumed the heart of the Orthodox Church was in Athens, Greece. Finding out it was in Istanbul, Turkey was the beginning of my history lesson.

My knowledge of Greco-Turk relations was also very thin and so learning about the fragile position the Orthodox Church finds itself in, in a country that is 99 percent Muslim was also an eye opener. As with all stories done on "60 Minutes" the first step is research; some stories require more than others and this one involved 17 centuries worth of research! I knew that I was going to see Istanbul; Cappadocia in Eastern Turkey, the Sinai in Egypt and our trip would end in Jerusalem. Overall our story was about the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church and the position of Christianity in the part of the world where it all began.

Seeing Istanbul for the first time is like walking into a giant museum; not only is it a beautiful city, but you somehow get a sense that things happened there a very long time ago. Turkey in general is a beautiful country with lovely people and such a rich culture. So I constantly had to remind



60 Minutes Associate Producer Magalie Laguerre-Wilkinson and the Ecumenical Patriarch.

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myself that our story was about a controversial issue in Turkey which had to do with a minority of people - Turks of Greek ancestry - whose presence had gone from a population of nearly 2 million in the early 1920s to only 4,000 today. The story was ultimately about discrimination and the lack of religious freedom on the part of the Turkish government. Our profile of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was to be his first on a major American television network and his candor, calm and determination are qualities to be appreciated considering the risk he took in speaking with us.

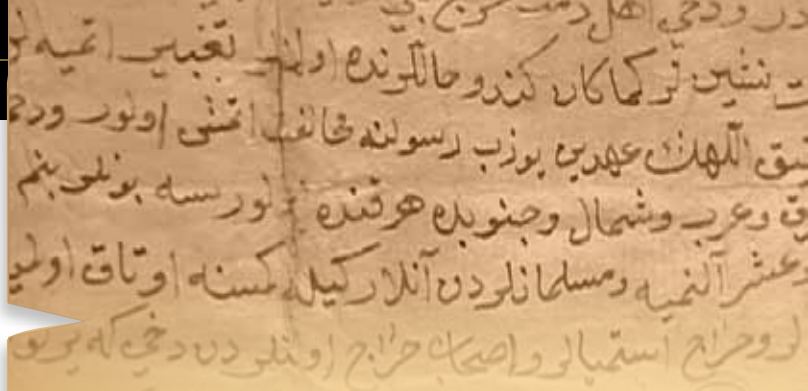
A slight man in stature, his presence is that of greatness. My first encounter with him is one that I will never forget. I was filming some shots with

my camera crew at the Phanar - the Church's headquarters in Istanbul - when someone from His All Holiness's office came to us stating that The Patriarch wanted to meet us right then and there. Because this meeting was not to happen until that evening, I didn't feel I was appropriately dressed to meet him right then and there. We are so focused on people's perceptions of first impressions that I feared his first impression of me wouldn't have been so positive. I felt - and was - underdressed to meet such a person of his stature, but of course I couldn't exactly say 'no, I'd rather go back and change and meet him later.' So here I am feeling both nervous and shy, walking through these lovely corridors and through two doors.

I walk in and up from his desk Patriarch Bartholomew walks

towards me, with his hand out to shake mine and as soon as I felt him, I simply begin to weep. Rarely have I felt someone exude so much goodness, and he just held my hand for what seemed to be a good, long while in the most reassuring way. I composed myself and was invited to sit down.

Someone brought in a treat called "Mastica" which was a sweet, white paste on a spoon in a glass of cold water. I watched as the others began licking their spoons, so I followed and as the Patriarch was licking his, I couldn't help but think that here we are, so relaxed and this man is fighting a battle of survival, the survival of his church. It was really quite surreal. ■



# PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S CHARTER OF PRIVILEGES TO CHRISTIANS

## A Letter to the Monks of St. Catherine Monastery

In 628 C.E. Prophet Muhammad(s) granted a Charter of Privileges to the monks of St. Catherine Monastery in Mt. Sinai. It consisted of several clauses covering all aspects of human rights including such topics as the protection of Christians, freedom of worship and movement, freedom to appoint their own judges and to own and maintain their property, exemption from military service, and the right to protection in war.

This is an English translation of that document →



Correspondent Bob Simon was given a tour of the St. Catherine's Monastery in Mt. Sinai, Egypt by librarian Fr. Justin Sinaites—the only American ever to live at the monastery (top). They toured the chapel and library—the oldest in the Christian world and which houses the Prophet Muhammed's 'Charter of Privileges to Christians'. The charter is written in the Arabic language and depicts symbols of Muhammed's hand and minarets (above).

This is a message from Muhammad ibn Abdullah, as a covenant to those who adopt Christianity, near and far, we are with them. Verily I, the servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens; and by Allah! I hold out against anything that displeases them.

No compulsion is to be on them.

Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries.

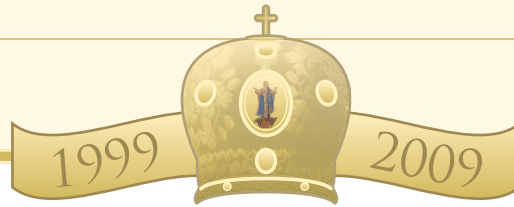
No one is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to the Muslims' houses. Should anyone take any of these, he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet. Verily, they are my allies and have my secure charter against all that they hate.

No one is to force them to travel or to oblige them to fight. The Muslims are to fight for them. If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray.

Their churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor the sacredness of their covenants.

No one of the nation (Muslims) is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (end of the world).

\*The English translated text of the Charter of Privileges was extracted from the Book 'Muslim History: 570 - 1950 C.E.' by Dr. A. Zahoor and Dr. Z. Haq



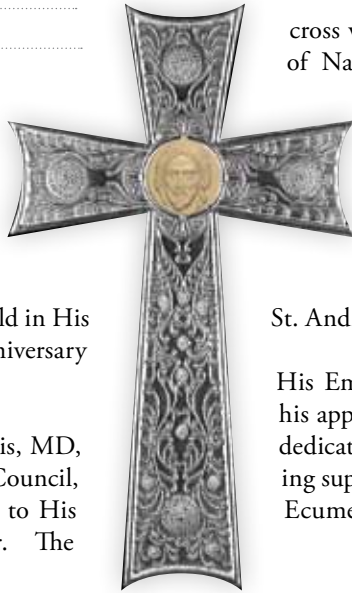
*A Decade of Archiepiscopal Ministry*

## Archon Leadership tribute dinner honors His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America

NEW YORK, NY

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was honored by the National Council, and Regional Commanders of the Order of St. Andrew, along with distinguished clergy and guests on January 13, 2010 at the Central Park Boathouse. A dinner was held in His Eminence's honor in tribute of his 10th anniversary of enthronement.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, together with officers of the National Council, made a special presentation of a hand-cross to His Eminence at the conclusion of the dinner. The



cross was crafted by Pamela Kariotis, beloved niece of National Vice Commander Nicholas, and the late Anna K. Bouras, and granddaughter of Protopresbyter Nikitas Kesses of Blessed Memory, long time pastor of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago. This cross is based on the cross presented to American Archons when they are invested into the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

His Eminence concluded the evening by expressing his appreciation to the Archons for the gift and their dedication and love for His All Holiness and ongoing support and struggle for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■







Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis MD, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Archons Alexander Pritsos, John Halecky, and James Fountas (top). Archbishop Demetrios bears the hand cross designed by Pamela and James Kariotis (pictured above).

His Eminence cuts the Vasilopeta for the New Year and shares it with the guests gathered for the occasion (top). The Order of St. Andrew is appreciative to Archon Dean Poll (third from left, above) for hosting the tribute dinner at his restaurant. Archon Poll is seated next to Fr. Karloutsos, Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos, and Archon Emanuel Demos.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios addresses the hierarchs, clergy, and Archon leadership at the tribute dinner at the Central Park Boathouse in New York, NY.

## Discussions held on Connecticut's Legislative Religious Freedom Initiatives

STAMFORD, CT

On Sunday, January 24, 2010, a meeting was held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Stamford, Connecticut, regarding the status of the Legislative Religious Freedom Initiative in the State of Connecticut. Over thirty clergy, Archons and other interested persons, including Dr. John Grossomanides, Supreme Vice President of AHEPA, attended the event, organized by Archon Regional Commander Peter Skeadas, and Archon Nikiforos Mathews.

Archon Mathews began the meeting by making a presentation to the group about the current situation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, describing the history of the institution and highlighting its current struggle for human, religious and



Archon Regional Commander Peter Skeadas and Archon Nik Mathews

property rights. A discussion outlining subsequent steps to be taken by the participants and their respective parishes and communities followed. ■

Over thirty participants gathered at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Stamford for a religious freedom presentation.



G. SIMONES

## Demonstrations in support of Patriarchate

« Continued from page 1

Demonstrators shouted slogans and held banners reading: 'No one should be able to touch the Patriarchate and Patriarch Bartholomew'; 'Long live the brotherhood of peoples'; 'Freedom'; 'Dissolve Ergenekon'; in Greek: 'All peoples are brothers and sisters'; and in Turkish: 'Bring coup instigators and ones planning "Klovos" to Justice.'

The Turkish government has recently revealed that "Klovos" is a plan of some forces in the army to perform assassinations aimed at creating incidents like the September 1955 pogrom against the Greek

Orthodox minority (Septemvriana).

In a statement which was read by their representative they referred to three bloody coups which took place within the past 50 years; as well as elected mayors who are still being sent to prison, political parties being shut down, and the existence of article 301 of the Penal Code and the recent assassination of the Journalist Hrad Dink.

They say that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew would be the victim of the first planned assassination according to the "klovos" plan and stress that they neither would allow a new coup nor new "Septemvriana".

## Tampa Bay Archons host Regional Forum

TAMPA BAY, FL

More than 120 people from across the Tampa Bay, Florida area attended a presentation on "The Plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate", sponsored by the area Archons and organized by Regional Commander of North and Central Florida, Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos MD. The event was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater.

Father James Rousakis, proistamenos, opened with a moving prayer for the protection of the Mother Church and introduced Archon Vlahos. The program began with the recent *60 Minutes* interview of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Following the video, a presentation was given by Archon Vlahos highlighting the five main issues of concern facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He then discussed the Archon initiatives in Washington D.C, Europe and the Religious Freedom Initiative being pursued in each state. State Representative Peter Nehr, the sponsor of the resolution in the Florida House of Representatives, spoke on his efforts to pass this important legislation supporting religious freedom and calling for an end to the persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the



Archon Regional Commander Dr. Theodore Vlahos.

Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey. Retired Congressman Michael Bilirakis offered several personal vignettes regarding his tireless efforts on behalf of Greek American issues and especially in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Congressman Bilirakis emphasized the involvement of citizens with their legislative representatives and offered many pearls of political wisdom.

The evening ended with a reception offered by the Archons and a grass roots mail campaign from the attendees to all the area legislators. ■

The Coalition, which performed the demonstration today outside the Phanar, was created two years ago by non-governmental organizations. "We have organized many demonstrations against police state and coup instigators," stated their representative Ms. Gilsin Enen, to ANA MPA and added that, "today we are demonstrating in support of our fellow Turkish citizens of the Greek minority who have been victims of attacks. We are here pre-

venting a new attack against Greeks and we will offer our support towards them."

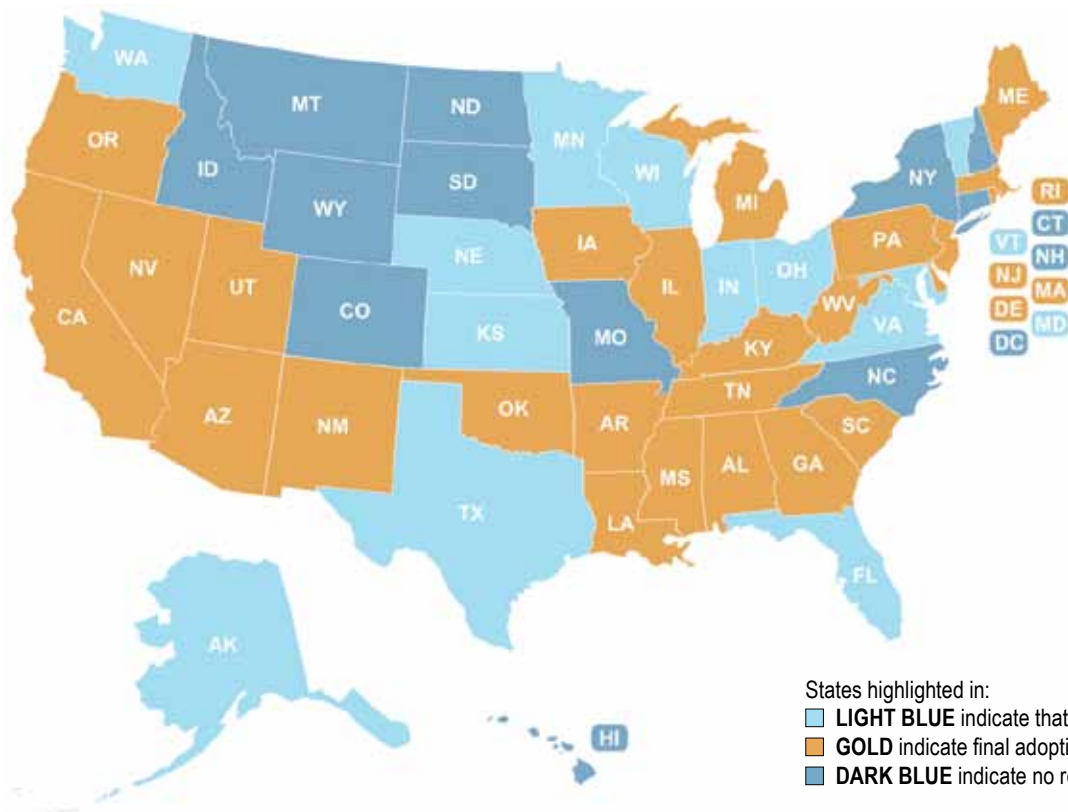
His All Holiness was not present in the Phanar at the time of the demonstration but he was informed by reporters who were at his side while he was at the Black Sea countryside with the Greek Orthodox young people of Istanbul. ■



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# U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION UPDATE

29 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS  
ADOPTED IN 25 STATES



The National Council of the Order of St. Andrew initiated in 2006 the Religious Freedom Resolutions project. The goal of this project, which represents one component of the overall, multi-faceted Religious Freedom Initiative, is the adoption of religious freedom resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in every state legislature. This project is an ongoing effort of the Order of Saint Andrew and represents an important part of the governmental and public affairs strategy of the Religious Freedom Initiative.

States highlighted in:  
 ■ LIGHT BLUE indicate that the resolution has been introduced.  
 ■ GOLD indicate final adoption and no further action is necessary.  
 ■ DARK BLUE indicate no resolution has been introduced at this time.

<p><b>YOU CAN TAKE ACTION</b>                  for your State to pass a Resolution for Religious Freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate!</p> <p><b>Archon Stephen Georgeson</b>                  National Coordinator for the State Resolutions Project                  spgeorgeson@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>VERMONT</b></p> <p>JRS 47 - Introduced on 2/2/2010  <b>Adoption Pending</b></p>	<p><b>NEW MEXICO</b></p> <p>HM 39 - Introduced on 2/2/2010  <b>Adopted by House 2/13/2010</b></p>	<p><b>ALASKA</b></p> <p>SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010  <b>Adoption Pending</b>                  HR 15 - Introduced on 2/23/2010  <b>Adoption Pending</b></p>
	<p>Thanks to the efforts of Father Robert Athas, a Religious Freedom resolution was introduced in the Vermont Senate.</p> <p>JRS 47 is sponsored by Senator Richard Sears and Senator Robert Hartwell.</p>	<p>Thanks to the efforts of Archon Nick Kapnison and Father Paul Patitsas, a New Mexico Religious Freedom resolution, HM 39, was given final adoption by the New Mexico House of Representatives. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Al Park, and we are indebted to him for his commitment to this issue.</p> <p>The 2010 New Mexico legislative session is a brief, budget oriented session, and we were only able to secure the adoption of the resolution because of Nick's close relationships with Governor Bill Richardson and legislative leaders.</p>	<p>Thanks to the efforts of Archon Cliff Argue, Bill Copadis and Kimberly Copadis, two Religious Freedom resolutions were introduced in the Alaska Legislature.</p> <p>Senator Kevin Meyer is the sponsor of the resolution, SJR 28.</p> <p>HR 15, sponsored by Rep. Bob Lynn and Rep. John Harris, was introduced in the Alaska House of Representatives.</p>
	<p>Learn more about the Archons efforts toward the Religious Freedom Project ► <a href="http://archons.org/resolutions">archons.org/resolutions</a></p>		



**PHOTO BRIEFS**



Prince Albert II, current ruler of the Principality of Monaco and high patron of the Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation, chose His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on March 3, 2010 to become his first recipient of the Cardinal Poupard Prize. He honored and recognized the Ecumenical Patriarch for his "engagement in favor of safeguarding creation" and environmental leadership.

His Eminence Paul Cardinal Poupard is the President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Culture and President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue for the Holy See. The award was given to His All Holiness in a ceremony at the Hotel de Paris in the Principality of Monaco.

C. GALLO



During an official visit to the Church of Greece, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew assisted His Eminence Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece by distributing meals for the needy and homeless in the church's soup kitchen on February 4, 2010. His All Holiness later emphasized, ***"The Church shows respect and dignity for the human being, with love and discernment, not degrading and humiliating our fellow man. I leave here shocked by what I saw and experienced."***



Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic presents a gift to His All Holiness during his visit to the Phanar on February 21, 2010.



On January 8, 2010, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate and met with His All Holiness.



His All Holiness received His Excellency Yves Leterne, the Prime Minister of Belgium, to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on December 30, 2009.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

More photos at ► [archons.org/photo-gallery](http://archons.org/photo-gallery)