



THE ARCHON

NEWSLETTER

THE MOTHER CHURCH AND UKRAINE

A sign to strengthen
a nation's aspirations
and religious liberty

Metropolitan Emmanuel and the
bold statement of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate during celebrations
marking 1,030th anniversary of
the baptism of Kyivan Rus



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew meets with the President of Turkey

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met with His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at the Presidential Palace in Ankara and lasted more than half an hour.

His All-Holiness thanked President Erdogan for everything he has done so far to solve the issues of the Hellenic Community and the Ecumenical Patriarchate and raised the issues that are still pending.

The President of Turkey showed particular interest in the issues of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Community.

Accompanying His All-Holiness were His Eminence Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa, Archimandrite Joachim Billis, Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, Archon Laki Vingas and Mr. Georgios Papaliaris, Vice-President of the Supporting Association of Roman Community Institutions. ■

The Order establishes new website on Christian Persecution

- 6 Dedicated solely to the burning issue of the persecution of Christians worldwide

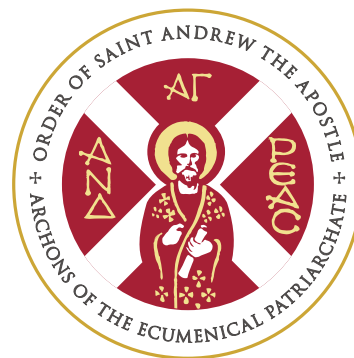
ChristianPersecution.com



Schedule of the Annual Archon Weekend

- 10 Find out the times and room names on the Athenagoras Human Rights Award, The Nicholas J. Bouras Award and the Investiture

ANNUAL
ARCHON
WEEKEND



Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate:

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America

Spiritual Advisor:

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos

National Commander:

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios

National Vice Commander:

John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos

Secretary:

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos

Treasurer:

Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon

Legal Counselor:

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios

Historian:

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD
Didaskalos Tou Genous

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon

Assistant Treasurer:

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA
Dikaiophylax

Editor & Graphic Designer:

John J. Mindala II

The Order of Saint Andrew's fundamental mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate—the spiritual center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Archon is published by the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed and submitted electronically. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. ©2018

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The Ecumenical Patriarch "will not leave his Ukrainian sons unprotected and abandoned"

In a momentous statement at the observance of the 1030th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus in which the Slavic Peoples were Christianized through the missionary work of Saints Cyril and Methodios sent by Ecumenical Patriarch Photios in the 9th century, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, declared that His All-Holiness "will not leave his Ukrainian sons unprotected and abandoned." He added: "The Ecumenical Patriarch cannot remain blind and deaf to the appeals that have been repeated for more than a quarter of a century. Sons of the Ukrai-

that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is on your side. You will not be orphaned because the Mother Church will find a way to become involved in your progress, your success, your growth in the faith of Christ," Metropolitan Emmanuel said.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko added: "Autocephaly is an issue of our independence. This is an issue of our national security. This is an issue of the entire world geopolitics. Dear friends, the time of autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has definitely come." Referring to interference from Moscow, he said it was "absolutely necessary to cut off all the tentacles used by the country-aggressor within our state body."

What His All-Holiness stated ten years ago, during the 1020th baptismal anniversary of Kiev-Russia, remains true: "As the Mother Church of all Orthodox people, the Ecumenical Patriarchate never identified itself with one Orthodox nation in particular, but rather supported willingly the historic destinies of all



2008 Celebration

In 2008, His All-Holiness participated in the 1,020th baptismal anniversary celebration of Kiev-Russia. He is joined by Metropolitan Volodymyr of Kiev and then President Viktor Yushchenko.



Meeting in Ukraine

Metropolitan Emmanuel meets with Ukraine President Poroshenko.

nian Church and its leaders have the right to their place among the Churches. The Mother Church already passed the ruling on April 20 this year. Namely – to begin the procedure for achieving the ultimate goal – to provide autocephaly [independence] to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church."

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel added that this procedure became possible after the appeal of the Ukrainian authorities, the president of Ukraine, "which is the successor to the political structure of Kyivan Rus." "We are sure

Orthodox nations, even at the cost of its own jurisdictional or other benefits, co-operating always on equal terms with the civic and political leadership of these nations, in accordance with the shining example set by our Lord, the Apostles and the eminent Fathers of the Church."

We offer our prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ and beseech the Most Gracious Savior to bring peace and a new flowering to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. ■





The Order regrets pressure placed upon religious minorities by Turkish Government

The Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, regrets the pressure that the Turkish government has clearly placed upon that nation's religious minorities in obtaining a statement on religious freedom from them.

Turkey's Anadolu Agency reported Wednesday: "On Tuesday, in a joint declaration, Turkey's minority community representatives — including followers of the Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches — said that people of different faiths live 'freely'. 'We as religious representatives and foundation directors of societies of different religions and beliefs, who have been settled in this country for centuries, are free to follow our beliefs and practices,' the declaration read."

On the basis of this statement, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared on Wednesday: "Turkey has no problems related to [religious] minorities. Threatening language of the U.S. evangelist, Zionist mentality is unacceptable."

One need not be a "U.S. evangelist" or have a "Zionist mentality" to see that the statement from representatives of the Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches and other religious minority communities was obtained under duress.

The Turkish government also raised concerns with its reference to His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch as the "Fener Greek Orthodox Patriarch Dimitri Bartholomew," as reflected in this Hürriyet Daily News report. This usage once again denies His All-Holiness his rightful Ecumenical status. The undivided Chris-

tian Church bestowed the honor of the title of Ecumenical Patriarch upon the Patriarch of Constantinople, St. John the Faster, in the year 586, and all of St. John's successors have held it since then. It is absurd for the Turkish government, over fourteen centuries later, to withhold this title from the Ecumenical Patriarch, in a deliberate and calculated gesture of disrespect, while claiming that "Turkey has no problems related to [religious] minorities."

The Greek Orthodox and Armenian communities within Turkey are well aware of the five principal issues of concern that the Order of Saint Andrew has identified regarding religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all Christians in Turkey:

1. The lack of any legal identity afforded to the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Turkish state;
2. The closing in 1971 of the Patriarchate's theological seminary and the resultant inability to train new clergy;
3. Confiscation of thousands of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties by the host government;
4. Interference in Patriarchal elections;
5. The non-recognition of the Patriarchate's historic and venerable "Ecumenical" status.

All these conditions go to the very core of this ancient religious community's very ability to survive.

In light of them and other aspects of

the plight of religious minorities in Turkey, it is clear that Erdogan is acting as a dictator, going to religious minorities asking them to sign a paper that belies reality when they are in no position to refuse, for fear that their situation will deteriorate even more.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recently released its 2018 Annual Report, which documents violations of religious freedom around the world, and makes recommendations to the U.S. government on how this fundamental freedom can be more effectively protected worldwide. Once again, the USCIRF has included Turkey among its Tier 2 violators — that is, countries where religious freedom violations are systematic, ongoing, and/or egregious. This coerced statement amounts to yet another violation of religious freedom in Turkey.

Religious freedom goes hand in hand with freedom of the press, and more journalists are imprisoned in Turkey than anywhere else in the world. Accordingly, we hope that this egregious statement, clearly obtained under duress, will inspire journalists worldwide to investigate and shed light upon the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of all Christians and other religious minorities in Turkey.

And once again, we fervently pray for our suffering Christian brothers and sisters and all those who are persecuted simply for professing their faith in Turkey and elsewhere. ■

IN MEMORIAM

MARCH – JUNE 2018

List as of August 2, 2018

Thomas J. Calamaras, Depoutatos
New York, NY
Departed on 3/14/2018

Gust C. Kraras, Depoutatos
Reading, PA
Departed on 5/5/2018

Captain Mark Poneris, Maestor
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Departed on 3/12/2018

Lee G. Rallis, Ostiarios
Denver, CO
Departed on 4/5/2018

Nick M. Stratas, Depoutatos
Mobile, AL
Departed on 3/22/2018

Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas, Hartoularios
Weston MA
Departed on 3/22/2018

Nickas J. Yiannias, Depoutatos
Dubuque, IA
Departed on 5/11/2018

Xenophon Zapis, Ekdikos
Westlake, OH
Departed on 6/13/2018

James Zathas, Notarios
San Diego, CA
Departed on 3/31/2018



Orthodox Christian Leaders hold Religious Freedom Summit

FOCUS ON SURVIVAL AND THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

Recently, the senior leaders of the Archons of Saint Andrew met in New York in their indefatigable effort to assist the senior leader of the Orthodox Christian Church in the world - Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew of Constantinople - to maintain his perilous perch in the Church's most prestigious Sacred See in Istanbul.

The Order of the Archons of Saint Andrew - the "first-called" apostle and brother of Saint Peter, and the founder of the Christian Church of Constantinople - is a group of several hundred accomplished Greek Orthodox laymen, mostly from the United States. They have been drawn together by their devotion to their Church, and have dedicated their lives and all manner of their personal resources to the fundamental mission of promoting the religious freedom, well-being, and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in an often hostile environment. In the

course of their efforts, they have been honored by the Ecumenical Patriarch himself for their service to the Church and the faith they share, with membership in the order of Saint Andrew.

Drawing strength from the exemplary wellspring of appreciation of religious freedom in the United States, they have supported the Ecumenical Patriarchate through decades of difficulties, providing the encouragement, moral leadership, and financial support that has enabled the institution to survive through difficult times, including pogroms, fire, and all manner of harassment and vandalism. Amidst a disturbing increase of the persecution of Christians in the broad area of the Holy Lands and the Middle East, the senior Archons met, as they have several times done in years past, to update themselves on current conditions, identify the most pressing problems, and develop strategies to address these ma-

tters. In this effort, they were joined by a handful of churchmen, diplomats and academic and former governmental experts. All told, the group totaled 30 concerned Orthodox Christians, who were guided all day by Archbishop Demetrios of America at the Archdiocese headquarters in New York City.

The Order of Saint Andrew has consistently identified five principal issues of concern regarding the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its relationship with host Turkish government: 1) the lack of any legal identity afforded to it by the Turkish state; 2) the closing in 1971 of the Patriarchate's theological seminary and the resultant inability to train new clergy; 3) confiscation of thousands of properties by the host government; 4) interference in Patriarchal elections; 5) the non-recognition of the Patriarchate's historic and venerable "Ecumenical" status. All these conditions are fundamental abridgments



Metropolitan Emmanuel of France



Archons Laki Vingas and George Gigicos

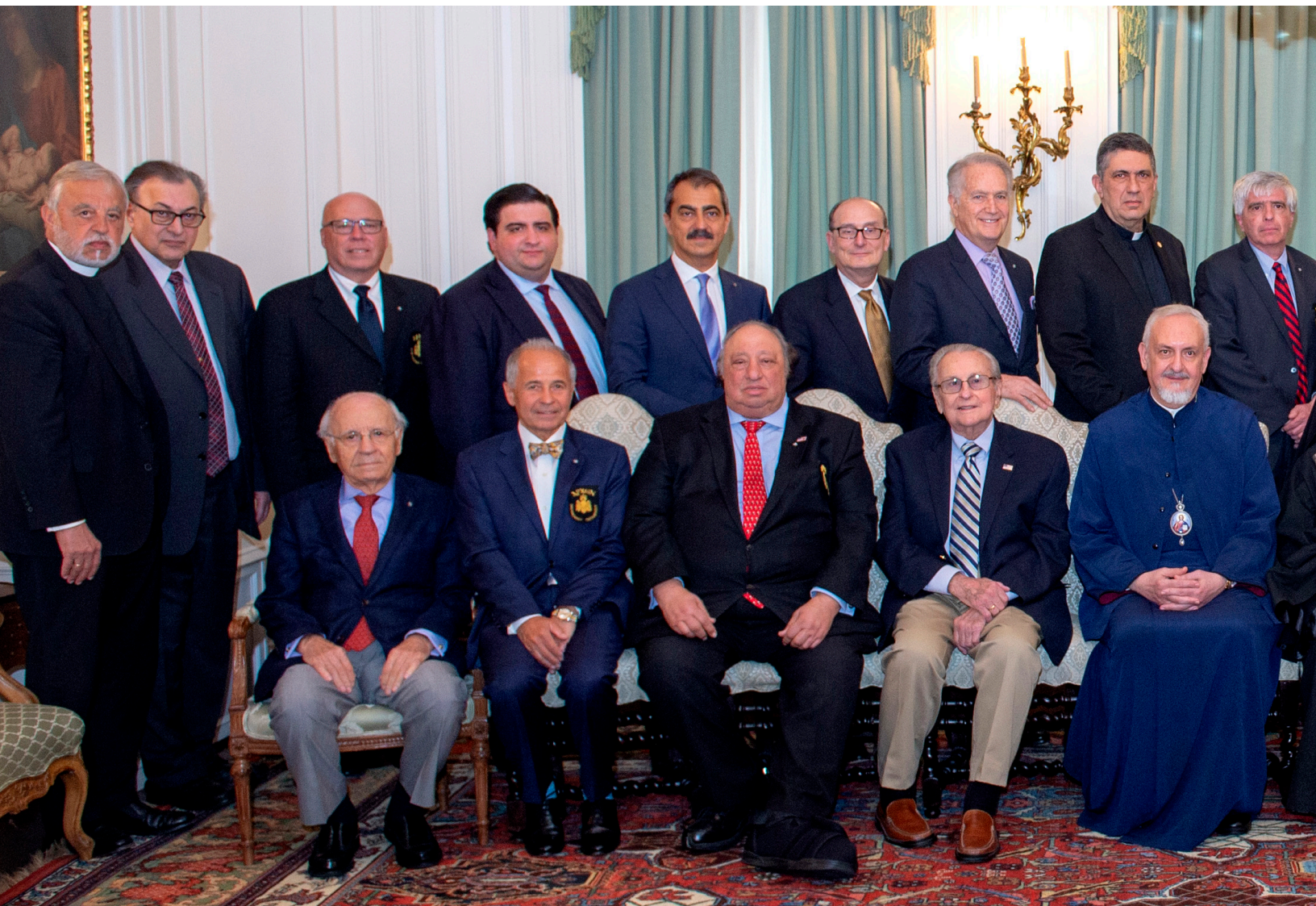


Nicholas Kass

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUMMIT



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



of religious freedom. They also go to the very core of this ancient religious community's very ability to survive. They are, correspondingly, matters that lay at the heart of the work of the Archons, and were at the center of the day's discussions.

In addition, related matters of persecution of Christians throughout the broader geographic region were addressed, both in fact-finding and in strategy-making. Central to this issue is the ongoing trial in Turkey of U.S. citizen and

Protestant pastor Andrew Brunson, who has lived and worked in Turkey as a minister of religion for over two decades and has now been charged by the government with "illegal activity." Linked with the Archons by a conference call, famed American religious freedom champion and attorney Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, who is helping to represent Pastor Brunson, briefed the group on the ongoing trial in Turkey and the conditions there that add to concerns of oppression

of Christians in Turkey and neighboring countries.

The Archons emerged from the day having absorbed much information and insight, and used it to help articulate concerns and form new strategies. Their goal is to now develop a 2018 strategic plan for the Order of Saint Andrew's Religious Freedom Initiatives, that will serve as the roadmap for their efforts in the next three years. ■

Summit Participants

- His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America
- His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France
- Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Adviser
- National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Summit Chair
- Archon John Halecky, Jr., National Vice Commander
- Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Secretary
- Archon Peter Skeadas, Treasurer
- Archon Constantine Caras
- Archon John A. Catsimatidis
- Archon Theofanis V. Economidis
- Prof. Andre Gerolymatos
- Archon Andrew J. Ekonomou, JD, PhD
- Archon Stephen P. Georgeson, Esq.
- Archon George D. Gigicos
- Fr. Nick Greanias
- Hank Hanegraaff
- Archon Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.
- Nicholas Kass
- Archon Andrew E. Manatos
- Archon Alexander Pritsos
- Archon Michael Psaros
- Archon George C. Rockas, Esq.
- James G. Rockas
- Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD (*by phone*)
- Archon Rocky Sisson
- Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq.
- Archon Andrew Veniopoulos
- Archon Laki Vingas
- Archon John Zavitsanos, Esq.





THE PERSECUTION OF

CHRISTIANS

IN THE HOLY LANDS & THE MIDDLE EAST

Offering insights on the issues facing Christians living in the Holy Lands and the Middle East, and wherever they are suffering for their faith.

ChristianPersecution.com

In accord with the goals of the 3rd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom (Washington, D.C., December 2017), and as a result of the follow-up meeting of the Religious Freedom Summit (New York, May 2018), the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has established a new and dynamic website dedicated solely to the burning issue of the persecution of Christians worldwide.

The new site, ChristianPersecution.com, which launched on July 1, 2018, calls attention to the disturbing increase in the persecution of Christians in the broad area of the Holy Lands and the Middle East, and worldwide, by posting news articles about this persecution, along with commentary to help Orthodox Christians, other Christians, and all people of good will understand what is happening to Christians around the world, and why. Articles are published almost daily, and the site also offers people an opportunity to report on instances of persecution wherever and whenever they take place around the globe.

One principal focus of ChristianPersecution.com is to provide ongoing news updates about the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its relationship with host Turkish government.

This site also provides regular news of the persecution of Christians throughout the broader geographic region and around the world. As Orthodox Christians and Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, our concern for our fellow Christians is truly ecumenical; we stand in solidarity and raise our voices in fervent prayer for all of those around the world who are suffering for bearing the name of Jesus Christ.

Above all, we should heed the words of the Lord Jesus: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (St. Matthew 5:44)

The Archons also hope that the news presented on this site about the persecution of Christians worldwide will help to inspire concerted efforts by governments, human rights organizations, and other relevant entities to alleviate their plight. ■

Turkey

July 1, 1964:
Turkey bans
the teaching of
Greek on the
island on which
the Ecumenical
Patriarch
Bartholomew
was born

Rwanda

Over 8,000
churches
closed
following new
government
directive

Cyprus

Orthodox
Christians
in northern
Cyprus still face
discrimination
and persecution;
Turkish
occupation must
end

Turkey

U.S.C.I.R.F.
once again
names Turkey
among the
most egregious
violators of
religious freedom
throughout the
world

Pakistan

Persecution
of Pakistani
Christians
heightens in
first six months
of 2018

Iraq

Kurdish
Government
imposes
discriminatory
new regulation
on Assyrian
Christians

Syria

Historic
Christian
presence in
the Middle
East dwindling
because
of conflict,
persecution

Chad

"A threat to
the way we
live together":
New ruler of
Chad appoints
Muslim sultan
to govern
Christian area

Algeria

UN Human Rights Committee calls on Algerian government to "guarantee freedom of religion to all," stop harassing Christians

Iran

Christians seized from homes, pastor arrested and tasered despite offering no resistance

Egypt

Copts' homes attacked after they protest Muslim men swimming naked in front of them

Egypt

Coptic Christians attacked after Facebook post showing 'contempt of Islam'

Egypt

Mob attack on Coptic Orthodox church encouraged by police, mob chants 'No church will be allowed here'

West Bank

Catholic priest attacked in Bethlehem after giving refuge to tourists

Uganda

Christian children kidnapped by Islamists in Uganda in 2015 are found

Nigeria

Over 6,000 Christians – "mostly children, women and the aged" – killed this year

Nigeria

Death toll in Jos, Nigeria attacks at 218, including Assemblies of God pastor, wife and son

Russia

Modern diplomacy publishes Russian-linked propaganda to discredit Ecumenical Patriarchate



Who is Pastor Andrew Brunson?

Brunson is a native of North Carolina and an evangelical Presbyterian pastor who worked in Izmir on Turkey's Aegean coast, where he was a pastor at the Izmir Resurrection Church.

He is being accused of terrorism and espionage related charges by the Turkish Government and faces up to 35 years in prison if convicted. His trial is set to resume in October 2018.

Statement of National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, calling for the Immediate Release of Pastor Andrew Brunson from Turkish Prison

We note with sorrow that there has been little progress in Turkey regarding the unalienable rights that democratic nations take for granted. Chief among these is the freedom of religion, which the government of Turkey is brazenly disregarding in holding the American Pastor Andrew Brunson prisoner since October 2016. The Order calls upon the government of Turkey to release Pastor Brunson immediately and reaffirm its commitment to religious freedom as an unalienable human right.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

explains that Pastor Brunson is "an American citizen and leader of a small Protestant Christian church who is facing up to 35 years imprisonment on false terrorism and espionage related charges."

According to USCIRF, Pastor Brunson "was initially detained by Turkish officials on October 7, 2016 and accused of membership in an armed terrorist organization. On March 13, 2018, Turkish prosecutors indicted Pastor Brunson on terrorism and espionage related charges, seeking a sentence of up to 35 years' imprisonment. His first hearing took place on April 16, 2018. Pastor Brunson has lived and

worked in Turkey for over 22 years."

The American Center of Law and Justice (ACLJ) explained the truth about the charges against Pastor Brunson: "Pastor Andrew is innocent. This isn't a real trial -- it's a show trial. He's being held as a political prisoner because of his Christian faith."

The Turkish government, however, is not even allowing Pastor Brunson the right to defend himself against these false accusations. Instead, their proceedings against him on these trumped-up charges are as hollow and dishonest as the charges.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Approx 1995 Brunson moves to Turkey to become Evangelical pastor	April 2016 Brunson files an application to renew his residence visa	July 15, 2016 A coup d'état was attempted in Turkey against state institutions, including the government and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.	October 2016 Several months after the failed coup attempt in Turkey, Brunson is arrested and accused of plotting to overthrow the Turkish government.	Dec 9, 2016 Court hearing indicates Brunson has been charged with "membership in an armed terrorist organization." The judge reportedly mentioned allegations that Brunson is linked to the Gülen movement	March 2017 Formally indicted in March on charges of espionage and having links to terrorist organizations	May 2017 Erdogan questions why US is asking for Brunson's release even as the US refused to extradite Fethullah Gulen. Gulen is an exiled cleric living in PA whom the Turkish government accuses of being behind the failed coup attempt.
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"We leave the courthouse with serious concerns. Today's eleven hours of proceedings were dominated by wild conspiracies, tortured logic, and secret witnesses, but no real evidence to speak of. Upon these rests a man's life. Worse still, the judge's decision at the conclusion of today's hearing to dismiss all of the witnesses called by Pastor Brunson's defense without listening to a single minute of their testimony is simply unconscionable."

USCIRF Vice Chair Sandra Jolley

after attending the May 7, 2018 Turkish court proceedings

USCIRF Vice Chair Sandra Jolley attended the May 7, 2018 Turkish court proceedings against Pastor Brunson and commented: "We leave the courthouse with serious concerns. Today's eleven hours of proceedings were dominated by wild conspiracies, tortured logic, and secret witnesses, but no real evidence to speak of. Upon these rests a man's life. Worse still, the judge's decision at the conclusion of today's hearing to dismiss all of the witnesses called by Pastor Brunson's defense without listening to a single minute of their testimony is simply unconscionable."

The ACLJ, which also had a representative at the May 7, 2018 hearing, noted that, as at past hearings, "the first two witnesses were once again 'secret.' They had no firsthand knowledge about any

of their testimony; it was all completely hearsay and conjecture. In fact, in what would have been stunning admissions in an American courtroom, all 7 witnesses testified that they had not personally seen or heard Pastor Andrew do anything."

The Order applauds the statement of Senator James Lankford (R-OK), who spoke at the Third Archon International Religious Freedom Conference last December: "It is unconscionable that Turkey, a NATO ally, has unjustly held an American pastor in prison since October 2016.... If Turkey does not release Dr. Andrew Brunson, Congress stands ready to take necessary and appropriate action."

The Order hopes that such action will be rendered unnecessary by the government of Turkey's immediate release of

Pastor Brunson, but is grateful for Senator Lankford's attention to this all-important issue and determination to bring the plight of Pastor Brunson to the United States Congress. We hope that Congress will act as is necessary in this case, and that Turkey will choose freedom and respect for the human rights of Pastor Brunson over the alienation of its most important NATO ally.

With trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and gratitude to Almighty God for our Orthodox faith, we stand in prayerful hope and solidarity with our fellow Christians and all people of good will, praying urgently for the release of Pastor Brunson and for his safe return to his family. ■

Aug 24, 2017 Anadolu, a state-run news agency, reports that prosecutor submits new evidence corroborating two charges against Brunson: support of a terrorist organization and political or military espionage	May 15, 2018 National Commander Limberakis, calls for Immediate Release of Brunson from Turkish Prison	July 18, 2018 President Trump said it is a "total disgrace" that Turkey won't release Brunson	July 25, 2018 Turkey releases Brunson to house arrest on Wednesday and orders him to wear an electronic monitoring device	July 26, 2018 Vice President Pence calls on Turkish President Erdoğan to release Brunson or face significant sanctions	July 31, 2018 A Turkish court rules against Brunson's appeal to be released from house arrest	Aug 1, 2018 US imposes sanctions on two Turkish officials
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Father Alexander and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos to be recipients of 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

Father Alexander and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos will be honored as the 2018 recipients of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award. The Award will be presented by the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the organization's annual banquet Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 at the New York Hilton Hotel.

The Award, established in 1986, is presented annually to a person or organization that has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication concern

for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people.

Past recipients of the Award have included Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, Mikhail Gorbachev, Admiral James Stavridis, Vice President Joe Biden and last year's recipient, Emilia Kamvisi and Efstratios Valamios, representing the fishermen of Lesbos and the Greek Islands.

Father Alexander and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos, who have been a true

partnership and team well-known throughout the Archdiocese and the Orthodox World. Father Alex and Presbyteria Xanthi have served with unparalleled distinction the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, their beloved Dormition Church of the Hamptons and innumerable philanthropic endeavors in the international community. Indeed, they are most worthy recipients of the 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights Award. ■

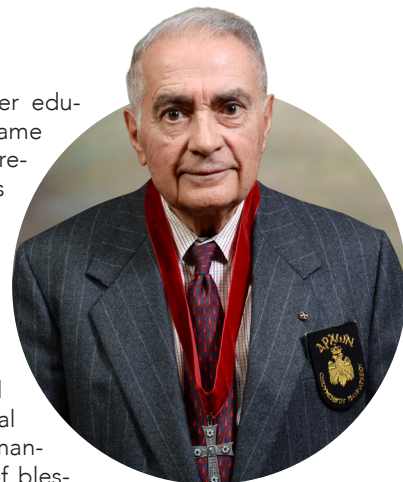
George E. Safiol named recipient of Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

The Order is pleased to announce that George E. Safiol, Archon Archiophylax, has been nominated as the recipient of this year's Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. Archon Safiol has been a member of the Order's governing body, the National Council, for nearly 20 years and served as Chairman of the Audit Committee and of the Bouras Award for the last seven years. A special tribute dinner dance will be held at the New York Athletic Club, Friday evening, Oct. 26, as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Oct. 26-28.

National Commander Anthony J.

Limberakis, MD, said, "Archon Safiol has exemplified tremendous stewardship of time, talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and to the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew in which all children of God should be granted religious freedom as a fundamental, inalienable human right. With the blessings of Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, the National Council deemed it most appropriate to recognize his many accomplishments within the Church, the business world, the military and in the

field of higher education and name him as the recipient of this prestigious Award in recognition of the extraordinary service exemplified by National Vice Commander Bouras of blessed memory." ■



ARCHON WEEKEND

Friday
OCT 26



4PM—5:30PM

Joint Meeting of National Council and Regional Commanders

NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, CONCOURSE A, LOWER LEVEL · Private meeting with members of the National Council and Regional Commanders

7PM—11PM

Nicholas J. Bouras Award For Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Award Presentation and Dinner Dance

NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB · Honoring **George A. Safiol**, Archon Archiophylax

Saturday
OCT 27



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New York, NY 10019

Group discounted rate is:
\$329.⁰⁰ (Code: ARCHONS)
**Effective until
September 22, 2018**

8:30AM—9:30AM

Orientation Breakfast for Archons-elect and their spouses

NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, RENDEZVOUS & PETIT TRIANON · Presentation by the National Commander

9:30AM—12:30PM

Archon General Assembly

NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, TRIANON BALLROOM · Meeting to discuss religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

12:30PM—1:30PM

Archon Agape Luncheon

NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, MERCURY SUITE · Agape Luncheon which will feature **Her Royal Highness Tatiana of Greece and Denmark**.



1:30PM—2:30PM

Archon Boot Camp

NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, NASSAU ROOM · Chairman John Zavitsanos to address Archons-elect on responsibilities.

6PM—10PM

Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet

NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, GRAND BALLROOM · Black-tie gala honoring **Father Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos**.

Sunday
OCT 28



9AM

Matins and Procession of Archons and Archons-Elect

ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, UNDERCROFT · Group portrait and procession into the Cathedral for Matins.

10AM

Archiepiscopal Divine Liturgy and Investiture of the Class of 2018

ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY · Divine Liturgy and Investiture.

1PM

Archon Fellowship Reception

CATHEDRAL CENTER BALLROOM · Archon Fellowship Reception of Thanksgiving

Archons at the Clergy-Laity Congress

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle held an Archon Family Reception during the Clergy-Laity Congress in Boston, MA, July 4, 2018. National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis welcomed guests and hierarchs which included His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, His Eminence Apostolos Elder Metropolitan of Derkon, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Selyria, and His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston. Later that week, the Order hosted a luncheon at Mistral Restaurant in honor of the Patriarchal Representatives in attendance. ■



Archon Family Reception

A custom 4th of July themed plate depicting Paul Revere holding a lantern with the slogan, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works in heaven." were presented to the hierarchs.



Luncheon in honor of representatives

Archons with the representatives from the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Metropolitan Maximos with Father Alex and Dr. Limberakis.



Archon Michael Psaros greets Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Apostolos.



Archon Arthur Anton, Sr. speaks at the Grand Banquet.



Dr. Limberakis with Archons George Behrakis and George Danis.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



"All of us want you to know – especially those of us who have been granted the honor to bear the name "Archon" – that although our bodies dwell here in these United States, our hearts are with you in the Queen of Cities, our beloved Constantinople. Our industry and professions are here, but our intentions and meditations are there. Our daily thoughts and concerns are here in the mundane pursuits of our lives, but our eternal aspirations and cares are with you; for without you, there is no more Orthodox Christian Faith in this land we call America." –National Commander

Annual Archon Lenten Retreat

The 15th Annual Archon Lenten Retreat

took place at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY, March 16-18, 2018. Hank Hanegraaff, also known as the Bible Answer Man, was the retreat speaker who spoke on the topic of "Experiencing the Authentic Christian Life". The retreat was organized under the chairmanship of Archon Peter J. Skeadas and co-chairman Archon Michael G. Psaros. ■



Archon Peter Skeadas, Spirituality Committee Chairman.



Hank Hanegraaff, "The Bible Answer Man".



Archon Damianakis leads Lenten Retreat on Iconography

On March 23-25, 2018, Archon Elias Damianakis of New Port Richey, Florida led a Lenten Retreat for 15 students at Hellenic College Holy Cross, aimed at promoting the art of iconography. Archon Damianakis, a professional iconographer himself, emphasized the importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on the development of Christian Art, Orthodox Iconography, and the Fine Arts in general during a casual discussion.

Students of various Greek, Russian and Coptic Orthodox jurisdictions participated, including several clergy children from surrounding area parishes. The students completed an icon of the Theotokos in honor of the Annunciation. ■



Archons of the Metropolis of Atlanta hold spring meeting

With the blessings of Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, twenty-two Archons from the Metropolis of Atlanta gathered on March 10, 2018 for their annual Spring Meeting and Banquet in Atlanta, Georgia. Regional Commander Dr. Manuel Tissura organized and led meetings for the weekend. Reports were heard from Archons Stephen Georgeson and Michael Missios.

Archon Historian George Demacopoulos, Ph.D, Professor of Theology at Fordham University was the featured speaker that weekend who spoke about the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University where one of the main concerns is the topic of Orthodoxy and Human Rights. ■



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List complete as of August 2, 2018

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Michael G. Psaros • Purchase, NY • 10/19/14

George P. Psihogios • Lake Oswego, OR • 10/26/08

Michael G. Rallis, M.D. • Burgaw, NC • 10/21/12

Gerry Ranglas • Rancho Santa Fe • 3/10/02

Harry Raptakis • Mineola, NY • 3/15/92

George E. Safiol • Weston, MA • 3/16/97

Anthony T. Saris • Mill Valley, CA • 3/10/02

Nicholas C. Sarris • Tyngsboro, MA • 3/10/02

William Scaljon • Atlanta, GA • 3/3/96

Dr. Peter Scamagas • Fresno, CA • 10/28/07

James S. Scofield • St. Petersburg, FL • 8/10/68

Byron Scordelis • Saratoga, CA • 10/16/16

John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07

Theodore Sepsis • Elmhurst, IL • 10/23/05

Demetrios Seremetis • Canton, MA • 11/1/09

Michael Serko, Jr. • Endwell, NY • 3/5/00

Harry G. Siafaris • Los Angeles, CA • 3/3/96

Constantine Sideridis • Salem, MA • 10/18/15

George A. Sifakis • Arlington, VA • 10/22/17

Louis S. Sinopulos • Deerfield Beach, FL • 1/1/68

Franklin Sisson • Paradise Valley, AZ • 10/16/16

John Sitalides • McLean, VA • 10/22/17

Peter J. Skeadas • Greenwich, CT • 10/10/04

George Skoufis • Atlanta, GA • 3/5/00

Nick Smyrnis • Indianapolis, IN • 3/11/84

Alex Spanos • Stockton, CA • 1/14/72

Dean Spanos • San Diego, CA • 6/6/04

Michael Spanos • Stockton, CA • 6/6/04

Harry W. Spell • Edina, MN • 10/16/11

William Spell • Edina, MN • 10/18/15

James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02

Arthur G. Spirou • Ft. Wayne, IN • 3/4/90

Christos Spyropoulos • Old Brookville, NY • 11/1/09

Constantine Stamis • Northbrook, IL • 1973

Gregory J. Stamos • Woodbridge, CT • 10/16/11

Angelo A. Stamoulis • Holliston, MA • 3/23/86

Demetrios Stathopoulos • Victor, NY • 10/19/14

Panos Stavrianidis, Ph.D. • Somerset, NJ • 2/18/01

George Stefanidakis, Ph.D. • Houston, TX • 10/20/13

Michael Stefanoudakis • Denver, CO • 10/18/15

Athena Stephanopoulos • Lenexa, KS •

Wesley A. Stinich • Westchester, IL • 10/22/06

Christopher Stratakis • New York, NY • 3/8/98

Thomas M. Suehs • Austin, TX • 10/16/11

John Tangalos • Shelby Township, MI • 10/31/10

Tim Tassopoulos • Atlanta, GA • 10/28/07

Nicholas E. Terezis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/18/15

Basilios Theodosakis • Brooklyn, NY • 3/19/78

Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S. • Roswell, GA • 3/19/89

George Tsandikos • New York, NY • 3/20/94

Elias Tsekerides • Brewster, NY • 10/19/14

Savas Tsivicos • Wayside, NJ • 3/16/97

Peter A. Tsudis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/22/17

George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11

Manuel Tzagournis, M.D. • Columbus, OH • 3/9/03

Andreas G. Tzakis, M.D. • Miami, FL • 10/10/04

Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos • Princeton, NJ • 10/10/04

Peter N. Vatsures • Columbus, OH • 10/16/11

George Venizelos • Sparta, NJ • 10/20/13

Stefanos Vertopoulos • Vancouver, WA • 10/28/07

Theodore Veru • Fort Lee, NJ • 10/28/07

George M. Ververides • Princeton, NJ • 3/15/81

George Vittas • Bedford, TX • 10/22/17

Peter A. Vlachos • New York, NY • 2/18/01

Dr. Theodore Vlahos • Safety Harbor, FL • 10/22/06

Thomas Vlahos • Bronx, NY • 2/18/01

John P. Volandes • Brooklyn, NY • 3/12/95

Bill J. Vranas • Skokie, IL • 3/20/94

Gus Vratsinas • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02

Constantine N. Vrettos • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05

Gary M. Vrionis • Danville, CA • 10/23/05

Nicholas Yakubik • Cary, NC • 10/28/07

G. Thomas Yearout • Birmingham, AL • 3/8/98

Nickas J. Yiannias • Dubuque, IA • 10/23/82

George P. Zaharas • Cheyenne, WY • 10/16/11

Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10

John Zavitsanos • Houston, TX • 10/10/04

Steve Zervoudis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/16

George P. Zimmar, Ph.D. • Briarcliff Manor, NY • 10/23/05

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Archbishop Demetrios raises the Issues of Religious Freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in State Department Ministerial to advance Religious Freedom



PHOTO BY GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, at the invitation of the Secretary of State of the United States Mike Pompeo, participated in the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, July 24-26, 2018, held at the State Department.

Archbishop Demetrios, addressing the plenary meeting on July 25, raised the issue of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and in particular said that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is deprived, first of a legal status which limits its ability to exercise its duties and ministry; secondly the Ecumenical Patriarchate has suffered a massive confiscation of its properties buildings, and land; and third-

ly, the Ecumenical Patriarchate had only one theological school, located on the island of Halki, which has been closed by the Turkish authorities for almost 50 years and remains closed, despite the efforts of many people and countries in the West, including repeated appeals by U.S. Presidents.

The Ministerial convened a broad range of stakeholders from eighty countries, including foreign ministers, ambassadors, international organization representatives, religious leaders, and civil society representatives, to discuss challenges, identify concrete ways to combat religious persecution and discrimination, and ensure greater respect for religious freedom for all.

On the sidelines of the Ministerial conference, His Eminence had the opportunity to meet with several officials including Sam Brownback, United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom; John J. Sullivan, Deputy Secretary of State; Knox Thames, Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia; and religious and political leaders from around the world.

The last day of the conference, Archbishop Demetrios attended the introductory address of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the very comprehensive Keynote Address of Vice President Mike Pence. ■

Archons in Canada publish book celebrating His All-Holiness

The Order warmly recognizes the Ecumenical Patriarchate Archons in Canada for organizing and publishing *Bartholomew in Canada: A Twenty Year Celebration*.

The book commemorates the 1998 visit to Canada by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios, Exarch of All Canada, and the support of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada), Bartholomew in Canada includes contemporary contributions by foremost Orthodox clergy and monastics.

Authors include Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima, Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa, Archbishop Job of Telmessos (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople), Bishop Maxim Vasiljević (Church of

Serbia), along with Fr. John Chrysavgis, Mother Abbess Theoxeni of Chrysopigi, and Archon Evagelos Sotiropoulos (Editor).

They have each developed texts that include personal stories, scholarly precision, and faithful insights. The book highlights the contributions of the Patriarchate to the world. It focuses on the person of His All-Holiness and calls attention to the future of the Great Church of Christ headquartered at the Phanar in that great City of Constantine. Some of the subjects covered include an examination of His All-Holiness' tenure as Ecumenical Patriarch (by his official biographer, Fr. John Chrysavgis); the future of the Halki Theological School; the Ecumenical Patriarchate and pan-Orthodox unity; and, inter-Christian dialogue and religious tolerance. ■

