

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MEETS CATHOLICOS KAREKIN II, PRESIDENT OF ROA SARKISSIAN AND FM MIRZOYAN

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His Excellency Minister Dr. Ramzi Khoury, Chairman of the Supreme Presidential Committee for Church Affairs and Director General of the Palestinian National Fund and the accompanying delegation represented by Ambassador Dr. Manuel Hassassian, Committee member Ambassador Issa Kassisieh, and Ambassador Dr. Omar Awad Allah, met in mid-December the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin II at his Echmiadzin headquarters in Armenia. Dr. Khoury conveyed to His Holiness the greetings of President Mahmoud Abbas, and his invitation to the Catholicos to visit the Holy Land, Palestine.

The meeting touched on the importance of preserving the Christian presence in the East, especially in Palestine, and in its eternal capital, Jerusalem.

Minister Khoury pointed to the importance of joint action, strengthening the Christian Church presence in the Holy Land in Jerusalem, and the role of our Armenian sons in preserving the Armenian heritage that has existed since the fifth century AD.

Dr. Khoury stressed the importance of international law and the decisions of the institutions of the international system, including the occupied city of Jerusalem, and the preservation of the historical and legal status quo in the Holy City, its mosaics, its structure and its status.

In turn, His Holiness expressed his affection and appreciation of President Mahmoud Abbas, and his prayers for the Holy Land for truth, justice, and peace.

The delegation also met with the President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, at the Presidential Palace.

Minister Khoury conveyed the greetings of President Mahmoud Abbas to President Sarkissian and the friendly Armenian people, handing him the President's message, and touching on the importance of developing Palestinian-Armenian relations, and ways to strengthen them in all fields. He also thanked Mr. Sarkissian for Armenia's supportive stances for the Palestinian people's issues in all forums.



Dr. Khoury pointed the importance of international law and the decisions of international organizations, with regard to the occupied city of Jerusalem, maintaining the historical and legal status quo in the Holy City, and the main goal of establishing the Christian and Armenian presence. The Palestinian Authority delegation also met Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan.