

Memorial Service for the victims of the terrorist attack in Paris

Statement by Most Rev. Ignatios, Metropolitan of Demetrias

Volos 18/11/2015

The people of Volos and our Local Church, are all praying tonight for the victims of the cowardice terrorist attacks on November 13th in Paris.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the lamenting families, the French nation, but also every nation that has lived and is living the barbarianism, the blind hate, and insanity of religious fanaticism, that kills in the name of God!, destroys centuries-old civilizations, leads millions of people to enslavement and emigration.

We denounce the misinterpretation and provocative distortion of the Islamic religion by Islamic extremists, who offend the historical tradition and civilization of Islam and compromise the beliefs of hundreds of millions of Muslims, who are peaceful and peace-loving citizens of the world.

We call upon the leaders of those people whose culture and civilization was based, for many centuries, on the Gospel and Christ, to make their own self-criticism. The distortion of the true christian ethos they have adopted, constitutes one of the major causes of this fanatic reaction towards the european civilization. We are also calling on them not to be carried away by a one-sided antagonistic military show of strength, but at the same time to show and give an authentic meaning of life. Lastly, we call upon them to discover the true God of love, of peace and of reconciliation!

We declare, in every possible way and in all directions, that we will not allow terror to penetrate our hearts. As a nation we have lived through barbarianism and we have won. We are free and we will continue to be free, resisting every form of violence and preaching the word of Christ: love will dominate and save the world.