

*Translated from the Russian*

**His Holiness Mar Ignatius Zakka I Iwas  
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East  
Syrian Orthodox Church**

Your Holiness,

I was deeply grieved to learn about the abduction of two Christian hierarchs in Aleppo – Metropolitan Buolos of Aleppo and Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim, head of the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo.

We have once again become witnesses of a brutal and cynical act committed by those whom some mass media try to present as champions of liberty and democracy. This terrible act clearly exposes the real goals of those who have unleashed bloody confrontation in Syria.

Our Church prays for the health and soonest release of the abducted hierarchs. In this hour, we stand together with all Syrian Christians, suffering and grieving.

With brotherly love in Christ,

**+Kirill  
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia**