



*Greek Orthodox Patriarchate  
of  
Antioch and All the East*



Joint statement issued by  
The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East  
And  
The Evangelical Church of Kurhessen - Waldeck  
Balamand, 26/10/2016

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the fraternal friendship between the two Churches.

Taking into account both the experience of fraternity friendship and interactive dialogue for the past two decades, both Churches emphasize the importance of the continuation of the dialogue between the Churches at a local, regional and global level in order to promote convergence and brotherly relations among Christians, through which they fulfil the will of our Lord Jesus Christ in his prayer "That they all may be one."

Both Churches wish to spread the practice of its interactive experience, which began 25 years ago and continues to this day. It has been benefiting the Church and its faithful in the East and in the West, and it allows the interlocutors to closely recognize the traditions of both Churches, and to reduce the false judgments that are built on the ignorance of others.

Both Churches strongly condemn the terrorist acts, those of killing and of kidnapping human beings and demolishing the heritage and ancient stone in the Middle East in general, and in Syria in particular. Both Churches thus stress on the need to expedite the formation of a peaceful political solution to stop the destruction and end the bloodshed.

Both Churches appeal to the international community and to all the members of the Security Council and the decision-makers, regionally and internationally, to support the march of the dialogue in Syria. Both Churches request contribution to learn about the fate of the two Bishops of Aleppo, John Ibrahim and Paul Yazigi, who have been kidnapped for more than three years, asking that they be freed along with other abductees.

Both Churches offer their gratitude to all parties and organizations that contribute to peace-building in Syria, especially its communities in East and West for all that they are offering to those forcibly displaced from Syria, and call upon the spirit of cooperation and charity

work to assist the Church's charitable institutions, that aim to comfort Syrians in their homeland, in order to support their choice to stay and facilitate the sustainability of their livelihood.

To conclude, both Churches are willing to continue their way in Christ to raise their gratefulness to the Lord for His blessings and endless grace, that have been bestowed upon them through their cherished fraternal dialogue, and pray for all those who have passed away, healing of the wounded and the ill, and relieving the pain of those suffering, to embrace the orphans, widows and the poor, to release the kidnapped Bishops and people, to console the broken-hearted and distressed, and to bring peace to the Middle East in general and to Syria in particular.

John X

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John X' with stylized flourishes.

Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox  
Church of Antioch and All the East

Martin Hein

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Martin Hein' with stylized flourishes.

Bishop of the Evangelical Church of  
Kurhessen - Waldeck