



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Department for External Church Relations

## **Joint press release of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association**



### **WORLD SUMMIT IN DEFENSE OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

The Russian Orthodox Church and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association have come out as initiators and organizers of a World Summit of Christian Leaders in Defense of Persecuted Christians to take place from October 28 to 30, 2016, in Moscow. It is planned that the Summit will bring together about one thousand delegates from over one hundred fifty countries.

The reason for holding such a large-scale event is the mass persecution of Christians of the Middle East, Africa and other regions in the world, unprecedented in modern history and ranking with the persecution of Christians in the first centuries and the mass repression by the atheistic authorities in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. So large-scale evil deeds cannot be ignored by the Christian community. The Russian Orthodox Church and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association seek to make the forthcoming Summit a platform for a comprehensive discussion on this problem with the aim to change the situation for the better.