



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Department for External Church Relations

## **Representatives of the DECR and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs discuss the problem of discrimination against Christians**

On November 17, 2011, the working sub-group for cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs met at the Ministry. The DECR was represented by hegumen Philaret (Bulekov), vice-chairman, and the DECR staff members Rev. Alexander Vasiutin, Rev. Dimitry Safonov, Vakhtang Kipshidze, and Miguel Palacio. The Foreign Ministry group included Konstantin Dolgov, commissioner of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on human rights, democracy and the rule of law; Oleg Doganin, director of the department for relations with the Federation constituent regions, the Parliament and public organizations (DSPO); Alexander Doganin, the DSPO deputy director; and other officials.

The participants discussed the problem of discrimination and persecution against Christians and the ways to solve it. They also considered other issues of practical cooperation between the DECR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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