



to the situation of Christians. For many years, Syria has been an example of peaceful, calm and benevolent co-existence and cooperation between the Muslim and Christian communities. Naturally, we have apprehensions about what may happen. We saw what happened in Egypt and in Iraq. We see violence committed against Christians and growing Christianophobia. We see the destruction of relations which have taken so much effort and time to build. I very much hope that nothing like that will happen in Syria or Lebanon or any other country in the Middle East and in North Africa or in the world. The topic of Christian-Muslim relations is very important including for us in Russia. We have never had religious wars. For a thousand years we have lived in peace. We have developed a special style of relations between Orthodox people and Muslims. We cherish them and believe that it is only peace between religions, between cultures and ethnic groups that can preserve peace on our planet'.

*DECR Communication Service*

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