



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Department for External Church Relations

## **Prayer for salvation of Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija said at Belgrade representation of the Russian Orthodox Church**

A prayer service for the salvation of Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija urged by the aggravated situation in northern Kosovo was held on September 16, 2011, by Archpriest Vitalij Tarasjev, rector of the Belgrade Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church, with the blessing of Metropolitan Hilarion, head of the Department for External Church Relations.

Present at the service were Russian Ambassador to Serbia A. Konuzin, staff members of the Russian embassy and Russian companies working in Belgrade as well as numerous Russian compatriots and townspeople.

The rector addressed the congregation, stressing the spiritual significance of Kosovo and Metohija as cradle of Serbian Orthodoxy and called upon the faithful to do everything possible for them to support the suffering Serbian brothers and sisters in what they call the Serbian Jerusalem.

On September 15, 2011, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church appealed to the faithful to fast, repent and pray for the Serbian people in Kosovo and Metohija. Prayer services have been held daily at Serbian churches for a conciliation of the situation in the region.

*DECR Communication Service*

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