



## **His Holiness Patriarch Kirill: Greek Catholics are taking an active part in inciting and supporting the persecutions against Orthodox people in Ukraine**



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Delivering a report to the plenary session of the Bishops Conference of the Russian Orthodox Church, which has opened in the St. Sergius Lavra of the Holy Trinity, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia reminded the bishops that the so-called Greek Catholics - Uniates, who are among the final beneficiaries of numerous lawless captures of Orthodox churches in Ukraine.

Addressing the meeting, Patriarch Kirill noted “that the very idea of Unia - the subjection of church life to Rome with an apparent preservation of the Eastern rite - during several centuries beginning from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, has already brought countless sufferings to Orthodox Christians in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth which once included the lands populated by Russian Orthodox people”. “Suffice it to remember the forcible Polonization and Catholicization of the Russian Orthodox

population in the western Russian lands”, His Holiness added.

“We also remember the Uniates’ factual destruction of the Orthodox dioceses in western Ukraine in the beginning of the 1990s. Finally, it is known that precisely Greek-Catholics took an active part in the coup events in 2013-2014 in Kiev”, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church stressed.

And today, according to Patriarch Kirill, the Uniates have fully identified themselves with the openly nationalistic agenda so much nursed in Ukraine and have become accomplices of the Ukrainian authorities and their discriminatory policy with regard to the canonical Orthodox Church as reported by the Synodal Department for the Church’s Relations with Society and the Mass Media.

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