



integrity of Ukraine.”

All these charges are absolutely baseless, and the so-called evidence was fabricated. His Eminence Jonathan, together with the whole Church, prays for peace, calls for spiritual unity of the Holy Rus’ and defends the rights of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, unmasking the canonical untruth of the schism. That is why he was convicted.

We regard this court ruling driven by hatred towards the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as yet another act of flagrant violation of religious freedom and a manifestation of persecution because of one’s faith.

Once again I call on the world community, religious and political leaders and human rights organizations to direct their attention to the Ukrainian authorities’ deliberate policy aimed at destroying the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, as well as to continued persecution against its hierarchs and clerics, monastics and laypeople that goes unpunished.

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