



## **Bishops of Coptic Church call for speedy release of Metropolitan Jonathan of Tulchin and Bratslav**



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“In our prayers lifted up to the Heavenly Altar of the Almighty Lord we ask Him to show mercy to His Eminence Jonathan, Metropolitan of Tulchin and Bratslav, convicted by an unjust court, so that he could be released as early as possible and peacefully perform his ministry to God. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and especially for all Orthodox faithful who against anything are keeping spiritual unity with His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus’ and with His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy of Kiev and All Ukraine,” says the statement made by the bishops of the Coptic Church: Discoros, abbot of the Monastery of St. John Kolov in El-Alamein, Matrouh Governorate; Joseph, vicar of the Diocese of Luxor; Joachim of Esna; Thomas, abbot of the Monastery of St. Thomas the Martyr and of St. Victor the Martyr in Hadaba, South Sinai Governorate; and Arsenius, abbot of the Monastery of St. Pachomius the Great, Aswan Governorate.

They were joined by other members of the delegation of abbots and monks from the Egyptian monasteries, such as archpriest Abraham Emil Nagi, executive secretary of the Patriarchal residence in Alexandria, and monks from the monasteries of St. Pachomius the Great and St. Paul of Thebes.

The statement was made at the meeting with Metropolitan Dionisy of Voskresensk, chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate, on August 27, 2023. Attending the meeting were also Metropolitan Feognost of Kashira, chairman of the Synodal Department for Monasteries and Monasticism; hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), secretary for inter-Christian Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR); hegumeness Elisaveta (Pozdnyakova), abbess of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy; hegumen Pavel (Polukov) of the Sretensky stauropegic Monastery, also representing the Synodal Department for Monasteries and Monasticism; staff members of this department and of the DECR.

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