



## **Hierarchs of the Malankara Church have called for the speedy release of Metropolitan Jonathan of Tulchin and Bratslav**



**DECOR Communication Service, 31.08.2023.**

A statement in support of Metropolitan Jonathan of Tulchin and Bratslav was made by members of the Holy Synod of the Malankara Church: co-chair of the Working Group for Coordinating Bilateral Relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos of New York and Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos of the Diocese of Great Britain, Europe and Africa.

"It is with sheer shock that we learn the verdict against Metropolitan Jonathan of the Russian Orthodox Church. The old and respected Metropolitan, who in his entire life has stood for the true faith, has now been prevented from his ministry to the people. We hope and pray that the human rights organizations and all the Christian Churches together raise their voice for the need of lifting any unruly tags imposed on the Metropolitan by the concerned authorities.

Let us pray that the authorities which are imposing these unjust measures impinging on the life of the Church refrain from such cruelties," the Malankara bishops said.

The statement was made at a meeting of Indian hierarchs with Metropolitan Isidore of Smolensk and Dorogobuzh on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2023 in Smolensk and published on the resources of the Malankara Church. Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), Secretary for Inter-Christian Affairs of the Department for External Church Relations, had also taken part in the meeting.

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