



## DECR Chairman meets representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church expelled from Bulgaria



### DECR Communication Service, 25.09.2023.

On September 25 in the Department for External Church Relations, the meeting took place between DECR Chairman Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk with dean of the metochion of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sofia archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), metochion secretary archpriest Yevgeny Pavelchuk, and metochion staff member Vladimir Bonko, who were **deported from Bulgaria** on September 21 following an unjustified decision by Bulgarian authorities. Archimandrite Vassian and those accompanying him shared the details of their detainment and forced deportation.

On behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan Anthony expressed sympathy and support to those targeted by the abuse and condemned discriminatory and abusive actions against representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Taking part in the meeting was Vice-Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk.

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