



## **A representative of the Russian Church took part in the international forum called "The Role of Media in Inciting Hatred and Violence: Risks of Misinformation and Bias" in Saudi Arabia**



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On the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 an international forum on "The Role of Media in Inciting Hatred and Violence: Risks of Misinformation and Bias" was **held** in the city of Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). The event was organised by the World Islamic League together with the Union of News Agencies of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus', Hieromonk Gregory (Matrusov), Chairman of the Expert Council under the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' on the Interaction with the Islamic World, took part in the forum on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The event was attended by religious leaders, ministers, representatives of news agencies and

international media, ambassadors, leaders of international organizations, representatives of the OIC - participants from more than 70 countries: Secretary General of the World Islamic League Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa; General Manager of the Official Media in the State of Palestine, Minister Ahmed Assaf; Somalia's media chief, Minister Dawud Uwais; Director General of the Union of News Agencies Mohammed bin Abdrabbih al-Yami; Director of Pakistan News Agency, Muhammad Asim Hishi; Secretary of the Committee for Religious Relations with Muslims of the Vatican Department of Interreligious Dialogue, Monsignor Khaled Okasha; Founder President of the Sadhguru Foundation and Ambassador of Peace to India Sadhguru Swamiji; President of the Federation of Latin American News Agencies Juan Manuel Fonrog; Executive Director of the Jordan Center for Research on Religious Coexistence, Father Nabil Haddad; Director General of the Jordan News Agency (Petra) Fairuz Mubaideen; Director General of the Senegalese News Agency, Thierno Ahmadou Sy; Head of the International Relations Department of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio and Film Broadcasting Alamirat Arkaev; head of the Tatmedia agency (Tatarstan) Aidar Salimgaraev and others.

The forum included a plenary session and four sections: "The Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Combating Incitement to Hatred and Violence on Media Platforms", "Bias and Misinformation in International Media (Palestinian Issue as an Example)", "Ethical Responsibility in International Media", "Religious and Media Alliances in Combating Incitement to Hatred and Extremism".

During the forum, a video on the role of media in shaping positive and negative public opinion was shown.

Together with Minister Ahmed Assaf, Hieromonk Gregory (Matrusov) moderated the panel on "Bias and Disinformation in the International Media (Palestinian Issue as an Example)".

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