



## DECR representative takes part in press conference on Palestine issue



**DECR Communication Service, 26/03/2025**

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, a press conference on the Palestine issue took place in Rossiya Segodnya Press Center in Moscow, timed to the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Quds Day).

The event was organized by the diplomatic missions of Iran and Palestine in Russia. Opening speeches were delivered by Mr Kazem Jalali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation, and Mr Abdel Hafiz Nofal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine to the Russian Federation.

With the blessing of the chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, Deacon Sergy Nesterov, staff member of the DECR Secretariat for Interfaith Relations, took part in the press conference. In his speech he outlined the position of the Russian Orthodox Church on

the current situation in the Palestine-Israel region.

Deacon Sergy Nesterov cited His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus', who had said: "The Holy Land is our shared treasure of religious, cultural and historical importance; therefore, peace in the Holy Land is our shared responsibility and our concern." As the speaker also pointed out, according to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, the situation in the region should not affect the relationships between the traditional religious communities, including those in Russia.

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/93016/>