# Delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church meets with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun



**DECR Communication service, 30.10.2026.**

On 30 October, the first day of the visit to Lebanon by a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church, which had arrived in Beirut the previous evening to participate in the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church Metochion, a meeting with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun took place at the Baabda Palace.

The delegation is headed by Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, who conveyed to the Lebanese Head of State the greetings of His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'. The hierarch spoke about the significance of the Russian Orthodox Church Metochion in Lebanon and the Antiochian Orthodox Church Metochion in Moscow as bridges connecting the two Churches and the peoples under their pastoral care.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun spoke about the measures being taken in the country to support Christians and expressed his gratitude for the assistance provided by the Russian Orthodox Church in the construction of the Church dedicated to the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "Unexpected Joy" in Zahle. The Lebanese Head of State assured the delegation that he would support any initiatives aimed at developing relations between Lebanon and Russia.

The meeting was also attended by Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis, Representative of the Patriarch of Antioch to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, Advisor to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), Representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the Patriarchal See of Antioch; S.V. Stepashin, Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society; Wadih Haddad, Head of the IOPS Representative Office in Lebanon; and A.N. Rudakov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Lebanon.

---

Source: https://mospat.ru/en/news/94690/