

Statement issued by the Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East for the Greek Orthodox Church Antioch

Damascus, June 22, 2025

On the day our Antiochian Church commemorates all Antiochian saints, a treacherous hand of evil struck this evening, taking our lives along with those of our beloved ones who fell as martyrs during the evening mass at St. Elias Church in Dweilaa, Damascus.

According to preliminary information available so far, an explosion occurred at the church entrance, resulting in the death of many martyrs and injuries among those who were inside or near the church.

As we are currently counting the number of martyrs and wounded, and gathering the remains and bodies of our martyrs — whose numbers have yet to be precisely determined — the Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East for the Greek Orthodox strongly condemns this disgraceful act and denounces, in the harshest terms, this horrific crime. It calls on the concerned authorities to take full responsibility for what has happened and continues to happen in terms of violations against the sanctity of churches, and to ensure the protection of all citizens.

His Beatitude Patriarch John X is personally following up on the developments since the very first moment. He is conducting local and regional communications to convey this dark image from Damascus to the entire world. He calls for urgent action to stop these massacres.

We pray for the repose of the souls of the martyrs, for the healing of the wounded, and for the consolation of our people.

We also affirm our steadfastness in faith, and with that steadfastness, our rejection of all fear and intimidation. We ask Christ the Lord to guide the ship of our salvation amid the waves of this world — blessed is He forever.

Today Translated from Arabic