



ASIA/MIDDLE EAST - Patriarch Gregoire III: nobody has the right to arm Christians

Damascus (Agenzia Fides) - In his Christmas message sent to his faithful, the Greek-Melkite Patriarch of Antioch, Grégoire III Laham turned his gaze to the situation faced by the Arab world, pointing to all that the Christmas season as an opportunity to recognize that "reconciliation is God's plan for the world." In the Patriarch's Christmas reflection, sent to Fides Agency, His Beatitude focuses in particular on the pressures Christians are subjected to in the conflict in Syria, "I would like to say to my brothers in the Arab world, in particular in Syria, especially to the true revolutionaries," writes the Patriarch "that their claims are the claims of Christians who support them without violence. We tell them frankly that we Christians, when we propose reconciliation, we follow the teachings of Our Lord in the Gospel. No one has the right to rage on us- continues Grégoire III - or confine us in a faction, or dominate, or arm us. We are for reconciliation and for the right needs ". (GV) (Agenzia Fides 28/12/2012)