

**MEETING OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
WITH HIS HOLINESS KIRILL, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA
SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION**

"José Martí" International Airport - Havana, Cuba

12 February 2016

[Link](#)

Joint Declaration
of Pope Francis
and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia

[...] 10. Thousands of victims have already been claimed in the violence in Syria and Iraq, which has left many other millions without a home or means of sustenance. We urge the international community to seek an end to the violence and terrorism and, at the same time, to contribute through dialogue to a swift return to civil peace. Large-scale humanitarian aid must be assured to the afflicted populations and to the many refugees seeking safety in neighbouring lands.

11. We lift our prayers to Christ, the Saviour of the world, asking for the return of peace in the Middle East, "the fruit of justice" (Is 32:17), so that fraternal co-existence among the various populations, Churches and religions may be strengthened, enabling refugees to return to their homes, wounds to be healed, and the souls of the slain innocent to rest in peace.[...]

[...] 17. Our gaze is also directed to those facing serious difficulties, who live in extreme need and poverty while the material wealth of humanity increases. We cannot remain indifferent to the destinies of millions of migrants and refugees knocking on the doors of wealthy nations. The unrelenting consumerism of some more developed countries is gradually depleting the resources of our planet. The growing inequality in the distribution of material goods increases the feeling of the injustice of the international order that has emerged.[...]