

**Religious Communities in the Russian Federation Under Threat.
True Orthodox Christianity Is the Most Persecuted Confession of Modern
Times.**

Appeal of the Communities of the Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church (ROAC)
to the World.

We maintain that the world-wide movement to establish universal globalism has chosen falsehood and hypocrisy as its allies. These principles are being used openly by officials in government, as well as by heads of churches. These principles are diametrically opposed to the confession of Orthodoxy, and cannot even remotely be of assistance in the salvation of anyone's soul. The heresies of ecumenism and Sergianism dispense with true spiritual values, and preach the justification of satisfying one's passions, sweeping away the "inconvenient" fundamental principles of life, as expounded in the Gospels. The leading pseudo-religious groups of the world, exploiting the feelings of average believers, work for the subjugation of those who are not in agreement with them, trampling not only upon their freedom of conscience, and of religious expression, but even their basic civil rights.

The situation involving the religious communities in and around Suzdal is a living example of this. The oppression against the ROAC, our clergy and parishioners, is no longer limited to belittling our human dignity and treating us as inferior people, persecuting us on religious grounds, openly harassing us in the mass media and violating our rights to freedom of expression and freedom to confess our religion. We have been barred from visiting our parishioners in the hospitals. We have been denied permission to bury our Chief Hierarch in the church grave prepared for him. In the local official publication of record, as per the verbal instructions of the authorities, information about the ROAC is to be disseminated only if it is presented in a negative and slanderous way. The persecution of the ROAC has not come to an end with chasing our parishioners out of our churches. Now the governmental bodies are now trying to take away from our community that which is most sacred to us – the relics of our patron Saints Euphemios and Euphrosynia of Suzdal.

We call upon all to take notice of this problem because this is not an isolated case, but an indication of a general policy on the part of the Russian Federation towards those who do not agree with their obsessive doctrine of unification in views and profession of faith; with their destruction of the individual character of our Church; with the uprooting of our pure confession of faith; and the abrogation of whichever commandments of the Gospel stand in the way of the Antichrist's ascent to power.

The absurd prosecution of the believers of Suzdal in court exposes the complete vulnerability of the state system of coercion, which those who have usurped power use for their own selfish purposes, and for those of their associates.

God warned us about the sin of blasphemy and its consequences through His Word. He showed what His retribution for it would be, and cautioned us that even for those sins that give rise to blasphemy there will be a punishment. The holy Apostle Paul advises: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16). The holy Apostle Paul was miraculously saved only because he sinned ignorantly, in unbelief: "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief. (1 Tim. 1:13).

Christ our Savior gave us, as wellsprings of salvation, the relics of Saints, which in many ways pour out benefits upon those who pray before them worthily. And this is accomplished through Christ Himself, Who abides in His Saints. (from the Acts of the Seventh Ecumenical Council). "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy [against] the [Holy] Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the [world] to come. (Matt. 12:31-32).