



ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

Ἱερά Μητρόπολις Μπουένος Ἀϊρες καὶ Νοτίου Ἀμερικῆς

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H.E. Metropolitan **Elias** of Beirut, beloved father and concelebrant in the Lord, may the Lord's peace, mercy, and comfort be with you.

In Beirut

Your Eminence,

With deep sorrow I have been informed of the tremendous explosion in the vicinity of the port of Beirut and I promptly refer to you in order to express my closest proximity to you in these moments in which the most beloved Lebanese people suffer a catastrophe of this nature one more time.

I assure you my humble prayers for the fatalities and for the wounded, and their speedy recovery. Also, we all hope that the cause of this fatality has been unintentional so that, this being so, at least, it will bring a little more relief and comfort to the Lebanese people, who have long endured serious crises of all kinds.

Please know, Eminence, that I am spiritually at your side in this serious circumstance and the pleroma of my Archdiocese pray for the Lebanese people.

May the Lord Jesus protect your beloved country and our Lady *Theotokos* relieve the sorrow and tears of the mourning ones and recover the wounded.

Asking your blessing, I remain in the Lord.

At the Archdiocese, August 4th 2020.

Metropolitan Iosif of Buenos Aires
Primate and Exarch of
South America

