



# World Council of Churches

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Geneva, November 2, 2015

His Holiness Kirill  
Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia  
Danilov Monastery  
22, Danilovskz Val, Moscow 115191

Your Holiness,

*For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. (Psalm 22:24)*

I write in a moment of great sadness, extending my deep and heartfelt condolences for all those who died in the tragic airplane crash occurring in the Sinai desert in the early morning of October 31. The victims - men, women, children - leave behind grieving families and friends and communities. This devastating event has forever changed the lives of those who mourn, and it reminds us all of the fragility of this precious and profound gift of life. May their memory be eternal.

In coming days, Russia as a nation will together mourn the loss of these lives. Please be assured of my prayers, and the prayers of the fellowship of churches, as your church offers comfort to those stricken by grief. In sharing the assurance that God is with us in our sorrow, may the faithful be consoled by the hope and promise of new life offered to us all in Christ's death and resurrection.

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Yours in our Common Lord,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary