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## Russia won't abandon Ukraine's Orthodox believers – Lavrov

Moscow will make sure religious freedoms in the neighboring country are respected, the foreign minister has said



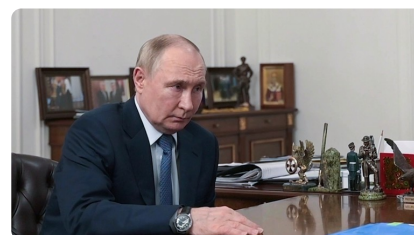
Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. © Sputnik/Sergey Guneev

Russia will not abandon Orthodox believers in Ukraine in the face of ongoing religious persecution by the authorities in Kiev, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has promised.

Speaking at a Russian Foreign Ministry reception on Tuesday dedicated to Orthodox Easter, Lavrov condemned Kiev for cracking down on believers in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), calling it proof of the Ukrainian authorities' *"human-hating essence."*

*"The authorities in Kiev have brought [the UOC] to the brink of legal liquidation... Churches continue to be*

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*seized, vandalized, and attacked, along with priests and parishioners,”* Lavrov alleged. He pointed in particular to Ukraine's attempts to wrestle control over the iconic Kiev Pechersk Lavra, the country's oldest monastery.

*“These acts are being carried out with the connivance and even support of many European countries, where the ghosts of neo-Nazism and Satanism are again lifting their heads,”* the diplomat stated.

*“Russia will not leave the Orthodox people of Ukraine in trouble,”* Lavrov stressed, adding that Moscow *“will ensure that their lawful rights are respected”* and that canonical



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Ukraine has accused the UOC of maintaining ties to Russia despite the church declaring independence from the Moscow Patriarchate in May 2022. The crackdown has included numerous arrests of clergymen and church raids, one of the most notorious of which took place in the catacombs of the Kiev Pechersk Lavra where holy relics are kept.

Last year, Zelensky also signed legislation allowing the state to ban religious organizations affiliated with governments Kiev deems *“aggressors,”* effectively targeting the UOC. The Ukrainian leader has defended the measures, claiming they are necessary to protect the country's *“spiritual independence”* amid the conflict with Russia.

Meanwhile, Kiev has openly supported the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), which is regarded as schismatic by both the UOC and the Russian

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Orthodox Church.

The UN has also voiced concern about the state of religious freedoms in Ukraine, particularly regarding legislation allowing Kiev to target different institutions.

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**John** 5/21/2025 at 4:12 PM

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What in hell would KGB agent Kirill know about religious freedom, or even Christianity? He is the one that taught Francis the social gospel heresy.

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**Blueprint** 5/21/2025 at 4:08 PM

0

The people in the West like Trump administration that Moscow is so amenable to are Mammon worshippers. The bizarre and fanciful claim that the West is full of Satan worshippers is a simple way to try covering this over.

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Ed

**Ed Renfrow** 5/21/2025 at 1:19 AM

4

I am not Orthodox, but, what has happened to Russian Orthodox believers in Ukraine is deplorable. ...yet the US is as quiet as a Ukrainian church mouse 🐭. HYPOCRITE!

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**mario terzic** 5/21/2025 at 2:32 PM ↑

0

US religion is profit that's their god they pray to it

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**olotata@yahoo.com** 5/21/2025 at 2:03 AM

-6

Lavrov never helped the Orthodox church in Ukraine before when it was possible. How can he help now? Lavrov made many mistakes in foreign affairs which Russia are paying now in a hard way This is just


Russia are paying now in a hard way. This is just another illusion Lavrov is trying to convey.

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 **mario terzic** 5/21/2025 at 2:29 PM ↑ 0


you must be on LSD

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 **mario terzic** 5/21/2025 at 2:25 PM 0


golden words Mr.Lavrov united Orthodoxy united Slavs we can stand strong

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 **Jacqueline S** 5/21/2025 at 1:15 PM 1


A weight is lifted from my shoulders and I breathe easier knowing Russia will take care of Orthodox churches and faiths in Ukraine. Good always prevails over evil. And pure evil is zelenski and his backers. Looking forward to the day the Monks get to move back to their Home!

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 **Richard Castle** 5/21/2025 at 7:54 AM 1

I am not religious, but so long as a religion proffers love and peace, I can see why other people get so much out of it.  
Russia needs to fight for religious freedom in Ukraine, just like NATO doesn't. In fact NATO seems to support the religions of Bandera, AZOV and good old German fascism, marching in lock step with the flags and banners.  
It would be interesting to see how much EU money has been spent on these new religions and who was given what..

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 **chew chow** 5/21/2025 at 6:11 AM 1

UKR regime is 100% operated by ghe global Zionists/ Satanists and their bought and paid for sockpuppets.

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 **WILFRED KUSEMERERWA** 5/21/2025 at 5:44 AM 1