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The Crucified Patriarch

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By Robert Ellis

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew, who is the spiritual head of 300 million Orthodox Christians round the world, created a stir recently with an interview on CBS's "60 Minutes". According to the Patriarch Orthodox Christians are treated as second-class citizens in Turkey and sometimes he feels "crucified".

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu regarded the comment as "an undesired slip of the tongue" and Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arinc dismissed the criticism as "unacceptable". But despite the furore the interview has once again shed light on Turkey's treatment of minorities.

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