

## Hagia Sophia may host religious ceremonies

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Brushing aside fears that holding religious ceremonies in churches would undermine Turkey's Islamic character, the country's top religious official has expressed openness about allowing such rites in Istanbul's famous Hagia Sophia.

"Turkey will not become a Christian country by allowing three to five churches to hold religious ceremonies," Ali Bardakoglu, the head of the Religious Affairs Directorate, told journalists at a fast-breaking meal, or iftar.

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