

## **Patriarch calls for interfaith council on Arab Spring**

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*Maronite Patriarch Beshara Rai. (Archive, The Daily Star).*

BEIRUT: Greek Catholic Patriarch Gregorios Lahham III called Monday for an Arab Christian-Muslim summit in the wake of the developments in the Arab world and a modern human rights charter.

“I have submitted a proposal for a summit to the Arab League and to Egypt’s highest religious Muslim authority Al-Azhar ,” said Lahham.

Speaking during the opening of the Greek Catholic religious Synod at the Patriarchate headquarters in Metn’s Rabweh, Lahham said commitment expressed by Al-Azhar’s top cleric Sheikh Ahmad al-Tayeb last month to preserve religious freedoms and democracy in Egypt needed to be closely studied.

“These commitments apply especially for the situation in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Iraq,” said Lahham. Lahham added that an inter-Christian summit was also needed so as to decide on the Arab Christians’ upcoming role in the wake of historical developments in the Arab world.