## Turkish Prime Minister promises reform to religious minorities

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By Ayla Jean Yackley

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan promised democratic reforms on Saturday in a rare meeting with Turkey's religious minority leaders highlighting the issue of minority rights, a key stumbling block in its EU membership bid.

Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and leaders of the small Armenian, Jewish, Syriac Orthodox and Syriac Catholic communities had lunch with Erdogan and senior ministers on Buyukada island near Istanbul, a patriarchate official told Reuters on condition his name not be used. ( $\pi\epsilon\rho\iota\sigma\sigma\acute{o}\tau\epsilon\rho\alpha...$ )