WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Sunday, 25 October 2026 (21st Sunday after Pentecost; Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius; St Tabitha) | Vol. 2026-298 | As of 250730 EDT OCT 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS**, with the trend now **=** as the Karak attack moves from shock to investigation. The three gunmen who attacked a funeral at the **Greek Orthodox Church of St George in Hamoud, Karak, Jordan** on 23 Oct were still at large on 25 Oct; The National reports the toll revised to **nine**, and security forces guarded churches across Jordan at Sunday services. The victims' funeral is today at the same church. King Abdullah II ordered a review of policy against extremist ideology. Condolences came from across the Orthodox world, including Moscow, Romania and Alexandria. In Egypt, the foreign ministry confirmed receiving **Archbishop Symeon of Sinai's** letter approving the **St Catherine's** agreement and said it ends all court proceedings; signing awaits a date. The **Antiochian Holy Synod** closed on 24 Oct focused on Lebanon and the Christian presence in the region, with no text on Ukraine reported.

0. WIRE Orthodox Dashboard

TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
ORTH-T1 Church and state; pressure on Orthodox Christians	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	Karak: toll reported at nine, three gunmen at large, churches guarded nationwide	=
ORTH-T4 Orthodoxy and geopolitics	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	War between majority-Orthodox nations continues (EU-T1 Potential, =)	=
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Antioch Synod closes without Ukraine text; still no Moscow reply to the Phanar	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Egypt confirms Sinai approval letter; signing date pending	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	St Tabitha; Rich Man and Lazarus	—

Indicator: ROUTINE ABNORMAL SIGNIFICANT EXTREME **Crisis level:** NO CRISIS ENV. FOR CRISIS POTENTIAL PROBABLE IMMINENT

Family level = highest topic level. Roll-up per WIRE_METHOD §1a. This assessment takes no political side; it scores pressure on the Church's freedom, unity and flock.

Level change since 24 Oct: none. Trend change: family ↑ to =.

Moved indicators (vs 24 Oct). None. ORTH-T1's trend eases from ↑ to = because no further attack has been reported and the state's protective response is widening.

I. ORTH-T1 CHURCH AND STATE; PRESSURE ON ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Karak, Jordan. The National reports that authorities revised the toll from seven to nine on 24 Oct, that none of the three assailants had been caught, and that security forces were stationed at churches across Jordan during Sunday services on 25 Oct, which it calls unprecedented. The funeral for the victims is being held today at St George's (The National, 25 Oct). Al Jazeera, citing the Health Ministry and Petra, gave eight killed and 40 injured, 27 still in hospital, and described three masked attackers (Al Jazeera, 24 Oct). The Royal Palace said the King was briefed on the investigation and ordered the government to "review policies for countering extremist ideology and to intensify efforts to eradicate its root causes" (The National). Unnamed sources told Asharq Al-Awsat the attackers are local adherents of takfiri ideology whose identities are known; the public security chief said only that authorities have information on them and set no timeframe for arrests (Asharq Al-Awsat). **Orthodox response.** Patriarch Kirill sent condolences to Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem and called for the organizers to be held accountable (patriarchia.ru, Moscow Patriarchate). Orthodox Times reports condolences from the Patriarch of Romania and a condemnation by the Patriarchate of Alexandria (Orthodox Times, press releases, 24 Oct). **Ukraine.** No new ruling or DESS finding found today. Reporting on the 21 Oct Rovenky Eparchy ruling (case No. 855/11/26) confirms the court dissolved the eparchy administration but refused to transfer its

property to the state, citing no legal procedure for it; the ruling can be appealed to the Supreme Court within 20 days (Interfax-Ukraine, 23 Oct; UOJ, UOC outlet, 23 Oct). **Indicators.** Middle East Christian security SIGNIFICANT (carried: perpetrators at large). UOC legal status ABNORMAL (carried). Roll-up: 1 Significant + 1 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=), trend =. **Analyst Comment.** The armed guard at Sunday Liturgy across Jordan shows the state treating the threat as national, not local. While three attackers remain free, a second attack cannot be ruled out, and the toll may still rise with patients in critical condition. The court's refusal to seize Rovenky's property is a real limit on the liquidation track: dissolving an administration does not, under current law, hand its assets to the state.

II. ORTH-T2 INTER-ORTHODOX RELATIONS AND THE SCHISM | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

The Antiochian Holy Synod closed its 16th session at Balamand on 24 Oct. Orthodox Times' account of the final day covers Lebanon, threats to Christians in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Jordan, emigration and falling birth rates, and support for Patriarch John X; it reports nothing on Ukraine or Moscow–Constantinople relations (Orthodox Times, 24 Oct). No Moscow Patriarchate answer to the Ecumenical Patriarch's 22 Oct remark on "heretical ideologies" was found; the Patriarch's Books' Journal interview, in which he called Russian church figures' justification of the war heretical, continues to circulate (RISU). **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL and public polemic ABNORMAL (carried); breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=), trend =. **Analyst Comment.** Moscow's condolence to Jerusalem is normal practice between Churches in communion and says nothing new about the schism.

III. ORTH-T3 HOLY LAND AND THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE | NO CRISIS

Sinai. Egypt's foreign ministry said Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty received Archbishop Symeon's letter on 24 Oct approving the contract on St Catherine's Monastery and its lands; it will be signed at an official ceremony on a date to be set, and it brings "all judicial proceedings in the matter to an end," per the ministry (Egypt Today, state-affiliated, 24 Oct). Greece's foreign minister called it "a historic day for Hellenism and Orthodoxy" and said the agreement provides long-term residence permits for the monks (Hellenic MFA, 24 Oct). **Rome.** The Ecumenical Patriarchate described the 24 Oct audience with Pope Leo XIV as cordial (Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greek; Orthodox Times). **Indicators.** ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** The agreement text is still not public. Egypt's wording keeps state ownership of the sites under the 2025 court ruling, while Athens stresses perpetual protection of the monastery's religious character; both can be true, but the signed text will show the balance.

IV. ORTH-T4 ORTHODOXY AND GEOPOLITICS | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

WIRE World Instability holds EU-T1 at Potential (=), with heavy drone strikes overnight and a local ceasefire due 27 Oct (see that edition for sources). No new official religious justification of the war was found today. **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing); religious justification ABNORMAL (carried). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=).

V. ORTH-T5 SPIRITUAL READING OF THE DAY | NOT SCORED

Spiritual Reflection. This section is not analysis and not evidence. On this 21st Sunday after Pentecost the Church remembers the Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius, notaries of Constantinople, and St Tabitha of Joppa, whom the Apostle Peter raised from the dead as her funeral was being prepared (OCA readings; Orthodox Times). The appointed Gospel is the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), and the Epistle says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live" (Galatians 2:20). On the day the faithful of Hamoud bury their dead in the church where they fell, Tabitha's feast reminds the Church that a funeral is never the last word. No newer homily from the Metropolis of Morphou, the Metropolis of Atlanta, the Holy Mountain or the Church of Greece was collected this cycle.

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Open, no resolution:** ORT-01 (Supreme Court ruling on the Kyiv Metropolis appeal by 30 Nov, 40%), ORT-02 (Moscow statement on the Bulgarian visits by 30 Nov, 25%), ORT-03 (new DESS affiliation finding by 30 Nov, 70%), ORT-04 (Moscow reply to the "heretical ideologies" remark by 15 Nov, 30%), ORT-06 (arrest of a Karak perpetrator by 7 Nov, 80%; none yet), ORT-07 (Sinai agreement signed by 31 Dec, 55%; Egypt confirms approval letter).
- **ORT-05 trending miss:** the Antiochian Synod closed 24 Oct and the reporting of its final day has no Ukraine or Moscow–Constantinople text. It will be resolved once the Patriarchate's own communiqué is read, by 31 Oct.
- **New, ORT-08 (logged):** A further armed attack on a church or Christian gathering in Jordan, causing at least one death or injury, is reported **by 30 Nov 2026**. **10%, highly unlikely.**

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Karak toll:** nine (The National, 25 Oct) against eight (Al Jazeera citing Petra and the Health Ministry, 24 Oct); no official statement of nine was read directly. Victims' names not collected.
- **Attackers:** the takfiri-cell account is from unnamed sources; no group claim is confirmed.
- **Antioch:** the Patriarchate's own 2026 closing communiqué was not read; only the Orthodox Times account.
- **Sinai:** agreement text and signing date not public.
- **Not collected:** clergy detentions, Forum 18 and USCIRF updates, Cyprus/Türkiye property cases, latest homilies.

Sources

The National (25 Oct); Al Jazeera, Asharq Al-Awsat (24 Oct); patriarchia.ru (Moscow Patriarchate, party source); Orthodox Times (24–25 Oct); Interfax-Ukraine; UOJ (UOC outlet, party source); RISU; Egypt Today (24 Oct); Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs (24 Oct); Ecumenical Patriarchate; OCA readings; WIRE World Instability (25 Oct).

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