WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Monday, 26 October 2026 (Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-gusher) | Vol. 2026-299 | As of 260745 EDT OCT 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS**, with the trend turning ↓ after Jordan captured the three men suspected of the 23 Oct attack on the **Greek Orthodox Church of St George in Hmoud, Karak**. Jordan's Public Security Directorate says joint units found them before dawn today in an abandoned house in Karak governorate; they opened fire, were wounded and were taken into custody, with no losses among security personnel. Officials now give the toll as **nine killed and 34 injured**. No group has claimed the attack and none has been named. On Sunday, **Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem** led the funeral of eight victims at St George's and visited the wounded. Elsewhere, **Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia** urged calm and acceptance of the result on election day. The Moscow–Constantinople rift is unchanged, and the war between majority-Orthodox nations keeps ORTH-T4 at Significant.

0. WIRE Orthodox Dashboard

TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
ORTH-T4 Orthodoxy and geopolitics	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	War between majority-Orthodox nations continues (EU-T1 Potential, =)	=
ORTH-T1 Church and state; pressure on Orthodox Christians	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Karak suspects captured; toll 9 killed, 34 injured; affiliation not named	↓
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Phanar meets the Ukrainian Greek Catholic head in Rome; still no Moscow reply	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Sinai signing date still pending	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	St Demetrios of Thessaloniki; John 15:17–16:2	—

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 25 Oct: none. Trend change: family = to ↓.

Moved indicators (vs 25 Oct). ORTH-T1 Middle East Christian security: SIGNIFICANT to ABNORMAL, because all three named suspects are in custody and no further attack has been reported. It stays above Routine while affiliation, accomplices and motive are unknown.

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

Karak, Jordan. Petra, the state news agency, reports that joint security units and commando teams captured "three terrorists" linked to the attack in a pre-dawn operation on 26 Oct. The suspects, barricaded in an abandoned house, opened fire when told to surrender; security forces returned fire, wounded and disarmed all three, and recovered firearms and ammunition. Petra gives the toll as nine killed and 34 injured (Petra, 26 Oct). Interior Minister Mazin al-Farrayeh said all three are Jordanians who were identified early, and a government source told Al Jazeera the gun battle in the village of al-Jadeeda lasted about three hours, with one suspect in critical condition. The authorities have not named the suspects or any group, and no group has claimed the attack (Al Jazeera, 26 Oct; AP, 26 Oct). **The Church at the graveside.** BBC reports that Patriarch Theophilos III visited wounded survivors on Sunday, called the attack a "vile, cowardly, and bloody act", and led the funeral at St George's of eight of the victims, attended by thousands; the ninth victim is being buried near Amman today (BBC, 26 Oct; Orthodox Times, 26 Oct). The Patriarch of Bulgaria also condemned the attack (Orthodox Times, 25 Oct). **Ukraine.** No new court ruling or DESS affiliation finding was found dated after 22 Oct. The most recent finding, against the Zaporizhzhia Eparchy administration (DESS order of 13 Oct), predates ORT-03's window (Ukrinform, 16 Oct). The appeal window on the 21 Oct Rovenky ruling (case No. 855/11/26) remains

open (Interfax-Ukraine, 23 Oct). **Indicators.** Middle East Christian security ABNORMAL (moved down from Significant). UOC legal status ABNORMAL (carried). Roll-up: 2 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=), trend ↓. **Analyst Comment.** The quick capture removes the immediate threat of the same cell striking again and supports the state's account that it knew who they were. What it does not yet answer is whether three local men acted alone or with a network behind them; that question, and whether Jordan names an organization, will decide whether the risk to Christians in Jordan falls back to Routine. Jordan's leaders have framed the attack as an assault on the nation, not on a minority, which is the strongest protection the Church there can have.

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

In Rome on 24 Oct, the Ecumenical Patriarch met Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; the UGCC's own account says they discussed Ukraine and opposition to the "Russian world" ideology and that the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches plans to visit the Phanar in December (UGCC, party source; Orthodox Times). On 25 Oct he served the Liturgy at the Patriarchate's church in Rome and called the Church and medical science "partners in the service of life" (Orthodox Times, 26 Oct). No Moscow Patriarchate reply to his 22 Oct remark on "heretical ideologies" was found. The Antiochian Synod's own 2026 communiqué was again not retrievable. **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL and public polemic ABNORMAL (carried); breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=), trend =.

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

No signing date has been announced for the Egypt–St Catherine's agreement since Egypt's 24 Oct statement. The Patriarchate of Jerusalem's leadership was occupied with the Karak funerals (section I). **Indicators.** ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=).

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

WIRE World Instability holds EU-T1 at Potential (=), reporting a heavy overnight drone and missile attack and a local ceasefire due to start on 27 Oct (see that edition for sources). In Serbia, which held early parliamentary elections on 25 Oct, Patriarch Porfirije said he "will not tell anyone how to vote", urged voters to act by conscience, and called for the result to be accepted in peace (Orthodox Times, 25 Oct; B92, 25 Oct). **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing); religious justification ABNORMAL (carried). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** The Serbian Patriarch's message was carefully neutral; if the post-election period stays calm, it will not move this topic.

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

Spiritual Reflection. This section is not analysis and not evidence. Today the Church keeps the Great Martyr Demetrios of Thessaloniki, and with him the Monastic Martyr Joseph of Dionysiou on the Holy Mountain (OCA readings). Among the readings for the Martyr is John 15:17–16:2, where the Lord warns, "the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." Demetrios, the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessaloniki, would not hide his faith when confessing it cost his life, and his city has honored him as its protector ever since (Orthodox Times, 26 Oct). On the day the last of Hmoud's dead is buried and the men accused of killing them are in custody, the feast does not ask the faithful to forget, but to leave judgment to the courts and vengeance to God, and to keep the church doors open.

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Resolved, ORT-06: HIT.** Jordan's Public Security Directorate announced the capture of three perpetrators on 26 Oct (Petra). Forecast 80%; Brier 0.04.
- **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%; none since 22 Oct), ORT-04 (Moscow reply to the "heretical ideologies" remark by 15 Nov, 30%), ORT-05 (Antioch communiqué addresses Ukraine by 31 Oct, 25%; trending miss), ORT-07 (Sinai agreement signed by 31 Dec, 55%), ORT-08 (further armed attack on a church in Jordan by 30 Nov, 10%).
- **New, ORT-09 (logged):** Jordanian authorities publicly attribute the Karak church attack to a named organization (for example, the Islamic State) **by 30 Nov 2026**. **45%, about even.**

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Karak:** suspects' names, affiliation and motive not public; Al Jazeera's explainer still cites "at least eight" killed against nine from Petra and the BBC. Injured count now 34 (Petra), against about 40 reported on 24 Oct.

- **Antioch:** the Patriarchate's own 2026 closing communiqué still not read.
- **Sinai:** agreement text and signing date not public.
- **Not collected:** clergy detentions, Forum 18 and USCIRF updates, Cyprus/Türkiye property cases, latest homilies from Morphou, Atlanta, the Holy Mountain and the Church of Greece.

Sources

Petra (Jordan News Agency, state, 26 Oct); AP, Al Jazeera, BBC (26 Oct); Orthodox Times (25–26 Oct); UGCC (party source); Ukrinform; Interfax-Ukraine; B92; OCA readings; WIRE World Instability (26 Oct).

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