WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Sunday, 1 November 2026 (22nd Sunday after Pentecost; Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia) | Vol. 2026-305 | As of 010740 EST NOV 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)** on a quiet Sunday. In **Cyprus**, Archbishop Georgios said today that former Metropolitan Tychikos has about ten days to meet him, after which the Holy Synod will reconvene to decide his case; he set renunciation of Tychikos's views on the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Council of Crete as conditions, and called rites reportedly held in private homes in Paphos invalid. In **Lebanon**, Patriarch John X of Antioch received the Moscow Patriarchate's external-relations chairman at Balamand on 30 Oct, a week after Antioch's synod kept silent on Ukraine. **Greece's** government spokesman said the Sinai monastery agreement will be published once finalized. In **Georgia**, the casino-tournament law still awaits the President's signature and no formal Patriarchate position has been found. Karak and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) cases are unchanged.

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 (EU-T1 Potential); Georgia gambling law awaiting signature	=
ORTH-T1 Church and state; pressure on Orthodox Christians	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Karak case file still being completed; UOC appeals in written proceedings	=
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Cyprus ten-day window for Tychikos; Moscow delegation at Balamand	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Sinai agreement pending publication; routine Jerusalem audiences	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	Cosmas and Damian; Luke 8:26–39	—

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 31 Oct: none. Trend change: none.

Moved indicators (vs 31 Oct). None.

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

Karak. No referral to the State Security Court or charges have been reported. The last official word remains the 26 Oct press conference, at which the Public Security Directorate said investigations continue "to complete the case file … in preparation for its referral to the judiciary" (Petra via Fana News, 26 Oct). **Ukraine.** No new DESS (State Service for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience) order or Supreme Court ruling was found since the Rovenky eparchy ruling of 23 Oct, in which the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal ordered the eparchy administration dissolved but refused to transfer its property to the state (UOJ, UOC outlet, party source). The Kyiv Metropolis and Lavra appeals (case No. 855/11/25) remain in written proceedings with no date (INOK). **Indicators.** Middle East Christian security ABNORMAL (carried). UOC legal status ABNORMAL (carried). Roll-up: 2 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Both tracks are in procedural pauses. Nothing today changes the odds on ORT-01, ORT-03, ORT-09 or ORT-11.

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

Cyprus. Speaking today after a memorial for the late Archbishop Chrysostomos II at Tala, Archbishop Georgios said Tychikos would have "a reasonable period of 10 days" to meet him, after which the Holy Synod would meet on the case. He said Tychikos had asked for the meeting by letter but "appeared unwilling to attend" once the Archbishop's office replied, and that any settlement requires Tychikos to renounce his apparent view that the Ecumenical Patriarch is heretical, address his rejection of the Council of Crete, and answer the financial allegations at the Metropolis of Paphos. He dismissed the prospect of a separate church on the island and said rites reported in private homes in Paphos, which he attributed to a defrocked former priest, have no sacramental validity (Philenews, 1 Nov; Politis, 1 Nov, Greek). Quotations are Philenews's English rendering. **Antioch and Moscow.** Patriarch John X received Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, with Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, at Balamand on 30 Oct. A Moscow Patriarchate statement, as reported, says the talks covered Christians in the Middle East and relations between the Orthodox Churches (Orthodox Times, 31 Oct, citing a party source). **Bulgaria and Serbia.** At a Sofia liturgy on 30 Oct with Serbian bishops present, Patriarch Daniel of Bulgaria said, "As Orthodox Christians, we must not be guided by nationality, political preferences, nationalist sentiments, or chauvinism, but by our Orthodox faith" (Orthodox Times, 31 Oct, citing the Patriarchate of Bulgaria). **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL and public polemic ABNORMAL (carried); breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** The Archbishop's own words that Tychikos "appeared unwilling" lower the chance the meeting happens; the ledger keeps ORT-13 at 70%, but the desk's current estimate is closer to 50%. A synod session on the case by about mid-November now looks more likely than the meeting itself (see ORT-15). The private-home rites are small but are the first sign of a parallel sacramental life in Paphos; the Archbishop's framing seeks to deny them legitimacy early. The Moscow visit to Balamand fits Antioch's habit of keeping ties with both Moscow and Constantinople; the published summary gives no sign of a shift on Ukraine.

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

Sinai. Greek government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis said the agreement on St Catherine's Monastery will be made public once the relevant procedures are completed and that nothing is being hidden (Orthodox Times, 31 Oct; Ekklisia Online). Orthodox House reports he earlier described a verbal agreement between the Egyptian state and the monastery (Orthodox House). No signing has been reported (ORT-07 open). **Jerusalem.** Patriarch Theophilos III received delegations and pilgrims on 30 Oct (Orthodox Times, 31 Oct). No new court case, closure or attack was found. **Indicators.** ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** A "verbal agreement" plus a promise to publish suggests signing is near but not dated; ORT-07 (55%, by 31 Dec) stands.

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

Georgia. No report was found that the President has signed or vetoed the international gambling-tournament amendments passed on 28 Oct. On 28 Oct the head of the Patriarchate's public relations service, Archpriest Andria Jaghmaidze, said the bill came as a complete surprise, that the Patriarchate "cannot stay on the sidelines," and that he largely shares the Public Defender's arguments (Civil Georgia; 1TV, Georgian). Seven civil and professional groups, including "Mothers Against Gambling," called for repeal (Genews, 29 Oct). No formal common position after the Patriarchate's 30 Oct meeting has been found. **War.** WIRE World Instability holds EU-T1 at Potential (see that edition). **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing); religious justification ABNORMAL (carried); secularization legislation ROUTINE (watch, Georgia). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Three days after its meeting, the Patriarchate's silence as a body suggests it prefers quiet dialogue with the governing party to a public demand. ORT-12 (due 6 Nov) is now less likely than even in the desk's view; ORT-14 (signing) stays highly likely.

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

Spiritual Reflection. This section is not analysis and not evidence. On this 22nd Sunday after Pentecost the Church remembers the Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian and their mother Theodota, with the Monastic Martyr Iakovos and his two disciples of Mount Athos (OCA). The Gospel is the healing of the man among the tombs. Freed, he is found "sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind," yet when he asks to follow, the Lord sends him home: "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you" (Luke 8:35, 39; OCA). The unmercenary physicians healed without payment. On a day of synods, ultimatums and laws, the call is humbler: be healed, then go home and witness where you already live.

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Resolved:** none today.
- **Open:** ORT-01 (40%), ORT-02 (25%), ORT-03 (70%), ORT-04 (30%), ORT-07 (55%), ORT-08 (10%), ORT-09 (45%), ORT-10 (35%), ORT-11 (60%), ORT-12 (55%, due 6 Nov; desk now leans below even), ORT-13 (70%; desk now about 50%), ORT-14 (85%).

- **New, ORT-15 (logged):** The Holy Synod of the Church of Cyprus holds a session at which the Tychikos case is on the agenda or discussed, **by 20 Nov 2026**. **75%, likely.**

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Cyprus:** the Archbishop's remarks were read in Philenews's English report and a Politis summary; no official Archdiocese text was read. The identity of the defrocked former priest is not named in the sources read.
- **Antioch–Moscow meeting:** only the Orthodox Times summary of a Moscow Patriarchate statement was read; no Antiochian readout was found.
- **Georgia:** patriarchate.ge and Interpressnews were not read directly; the President's office and Matsne were not checked.
- **Not collected:** Forum 18 and USCIRF, Türkiye property cases, recent homilies from Morphou, Atlanta, the Holy Mountain and ecclesia.gr.

Sources

Petra via Fana News (26 Oct); UOJ (23 Oct); INOK; Philenews (1 Nov); Politis (1 Nov); Orthodox Times (31 Oct: Antioch, Bulgaria, Sinai, Jerusalem); Ekklisia Online; Orthodox House; Civil Georgia; 1TV; Genews (29 Oct); OCA readings; WIRE World Instability (1 Nov).

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