WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Friday, 13 November 2026 (St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople) | Vol. 2026-317 | As of 130800 EST NOV 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)**. On 12 November the Northern Commercial Court of Appeal in Kyiv rejected the UOC monastery's appeal in the Upper Lavra case (Dormition Cathedral and Refectory Church), leaving in place the 2023 ruling for the National Reserve; the monastery's lawyer alleges procedural violations and says a cassation appeal will follow. In Cyprus, former Metropolitan Tychikos met Archbishop Georgios this morning, declined to sign the profession of faith the Synod requires, and handed over a memorandum for the Holy Synod. Jordan's State Security Court is still due to rule in the Karak church-attack case on 15 November. Three calls resolve as hits (ORT-13, ORT-17, ORT-18); one new call (ORT-23).

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 (WI EU-T1 Potential, =)	=
ORTH-T1 Church and state; pressure on Orthodox Christians	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Upper Lavra appeal rejected; Karak verdict due 15 Nov	=
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Cyprus: Tychikos meeting without agreement; matter goes to Synod	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	No new Jerusalem or Phanar development found	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	St John Chrysostom; Luke 13:31–35	—

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 12 Nov: none. Trend change: none.

Moved indicators (vs 12 Nov). None crossed a threshold. Within band: the Upper Lavra appellate loss (T1 UOC legal status, ABNORMAL, =; expected step in a three-year case, cassation still open); Tychikos refusal (T2 rival jurisdictions, ABNORMAL, =; the dispute now passes to the Synod).

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

Ukraine, Upper Lavra. At its 12 Nov sitting, the Northern Commercial Court of Appeal left unsatisfied the appeal of the UOC's Holy Dormition Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra monastery in case No. 910/423/23 on use of the Dormition Cathedral and the Refectory Church, per the monastery's lawyer, archpriest Mykyta Chekman, as reported by Interfax-Ukraine, LB.ua and RISU. The lower court had upheld the National Reserve's 2023 termination of the use agreement on 9 Aug 2023 (Interfax-Ukraine). Chekman said the defence awaits the full text and will file a cassation appeal; he told Interfax-Ukraine that some monks joined to the case were not notified, that motions got about a minute each and that review of 30 volumes took about five minutes. The Reserve's lawyer had earlier said the plaintiff's motions slowed the case since January 2024 (Interfax-Ukraine). UOC outlets UOJ/spzh and Raskolamnet report the defence left the courtroom before the end. **Ukraine, other.** UOJ/spzh, a UOC outlet, reports a robbery and desecration of a UOC chapel in Dubivtsi and charges by Kyiv prosecutors against a man who staged a mock UOC funeral (UOJ archive, 13 Nov); details not read. **Jordan.** The victims' families' lawyer said the State Security Court will issue its verdict in the Humud (Karak) St George church-attack case on Sunday 15 Nov, subject to completing review of the file; five defendants face seven categories of charges (Roya News, 11 Nov; Ammon News). **Indicators.** UOC legal status ABNORMAL (=). Middle

East Christian security ABNORMAL (=). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** The ruling makes eviction from the two Upper Lavra churches more likely in law, but enforcement while cassation is pending is the real marker; the Reserve has said removal needs a court decision. The Supreme Court's handling of the cassation, and any move to enforce before it, are the next indicators. The defence's procedural complaints are party claims and are not confirmed by the court.

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

Cyprus. On the morning of 13 Nov, Tychikos, the suspended former Metropolitan of Paphos, came to the Archbishopric with his lawyer and three others and spoke with Archbishop Georgios for about 30 minutes; he declined the Archbishop's request to meet one-on-one (RIK). Per Politis, he refused to sign the profession of faith presented to him and left without agreement. The Archbishopric's spokesman told CNA that the memorandum he delivered will be studied by the Holy Synod. The Archbishop had set renunciation of positions against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the 2016 Council of Crete as a condition (Politis, 1 Nov). **Moscow and the Phanar.** No Moscow Patriarchate or DECR response to Bartholomew's 22 Oct remark was found (ORT-04, due 15 Nov). **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL; public polemic ABNORMAL; breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** With the profession of faith refused, a Synod session on the case (ORT-15, 75%, by 20 Nov) is now likely, and the odds of deposition (ORT-10, 35%, by 30 Nov) rise somewhat; the desk holds the logged figures but would now put ORT-10 near 45%.

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

No new statement from the Patriarchate of Jerusalem on the announced Ukraine visit, and no Ukrainian acceptance, was found (ORT-22). Orthodox Times reports Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Crete medical school (Orthodox Times). **Indicators.** ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=).

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

War. See WIRE World Instability, EU-T1 (Potential Crisis, dominant Significant, =): the Russian president met US envoys and a meeting with the US president is planned at APEC. UOJ/spzh reports two more Russian Orthodox priests killed in the war (headline only, UOJ archive). In Belgrade on 12 Nov, Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia told the armed forces' chaplaincy that a priest "is not there to provoke conflicts or fuel hostilities" (Orthodox Times). **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing); religious justification ABNORMAL (=); church-state legislation ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). Override −1 from a mechanical Significant-to-Potential reading, as on 11–12 Nov: the war itself is scored in WI EU-T1; T4 scores the Church's entanglement. **Analyst Comment.** Porfirije's words cut against the use of chaplaincy for division, a theme sharpened by the war between Orthodox peoples, though he named no Church or conflict.

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 memory of St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, who died in exile in 407, together with the Stockholm Icon of the Mother of God and the martyrs of Caesarea (OCA). The appointed Gospels include the Good Shepherd (John 10:9–16) and Christ's lament over Jerusalem (Luke 13:31–35). Chrysostom was a shepherd who would not flatter the powerful and was driven from his own see for it, yet he died, by tradition, giving glory to God for all things. In a week of courtrooms, synods and wars, his memory reminds the Church that her shepherds are measured not by the buildings they keep or lose but by whether they lay down their lives for the sheep, and that the Lord still longs to gather His children "as a hen gathers her brood under her wings."

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Resolved today: ORT-17** HIT (45%; appeal rejected 12 Nov; Brier 0.30). **ORT-18** HIT (30%; appellate ruling issued 12 Nov, within window; Brier 0.49). **ORT-13** HIT (70%; meeting held 13 Nov, reported by RIK, Politis and CNA; Tychikos declined a one-on-one format but the meeting took place; Brier 0.09).
- **New: ORT-23** (75%, likely): the UOC monastery files a cassation appeal with the Supreme Court in case No. 910/423/23 by 31 Dec 2026.
- **Open:** ORT-01 (40%), ORT-02 (25%), ORT-03 (70%), ORT-04 (30%, due 15 Nov), ORT-07 (55%), ORT-08 (10%), ORT-09 (45%), ORT-10 (35%), ORT-15 (75%), ORT-16 (30%), ORT-19 (45%), ORT-20 (55%), ORT-21 (75%, verdict expected 15 Nov), ORT-22 (25%), ORT-23 (75%).

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Lavra:** ruling known from the monastery's lawyer via Interfax-Ukraine, LB.ua, RISU and UOJ; the full text and the court register were not read; the defence's procedural claims are unconfirmed.
- **Cyprus:** memorandum contents not public; no Synod date announced.
- **Ukraine, other:** Dubivtsi chapel, mock-funeral charges and the two priests' deaths are UOJ headlines only, not read or confirmed.
- **Not collected:** Forum 18/USCIRF, Türkiye property, Morphou/Atlanta/Athos/ecclesia.gr homilies.

Sources

Interfax-Ukraine (13 Nov); LB.ua (13 Nov); RISU (13 Nov); UOJ/spzh (12–13 Nov); RIK (13 Nov); Politis (1 and 13 Nov); CNA (13 Nov); Roya News (11 Nov); Ammon News (11 Nov); Orthodox Times (13 Nov); OCA readings (13 Nov); WIRE World Instability (EU-T1, 13 Nov).

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