WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Saturday, 14 November 2026 (Holy Apostle Philip) | Vol. 2026-318 | As of 140800 EST NOV 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)**. On 13 November the head of Ukraine's state religious-affairs service (DESS) said eparchies that do not leave the Russian Orthodox Church will be sued for termination, starting with Zaporizhzhia. In Cyprus, no Synod date is set for the Tychikos memorandum. Jordan's State Security Court is due to rule on the Karak church attack tomorrow. No call resolves today; one new call (ORT-24).

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	DESS signals eparchy-by-eparchy termination suits; Karak verdict 15 Nov	=
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Cyprus: Tychikos memorandum awaits Synod; no date set	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Jerusalem: Arabic Bibles held on Mount of Olives (Patriarchate)	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	Apostle Philip; John 1:43–51	—

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 13 Nov: none. Trend change: none.

Moved indicators (vs 13 Nov). None.

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

Ukraine, DESS. On 13 Nov DESS head Viktor Yelenskyi met Metropolitan Luke of Zaporizhzhia and eparchy clergy in Zaporizhzhia. Per Ukrinform and LB.ua, he said DESS has issued orders to the Zaporizhzhia, Boryspil and Balta eparchy administrations; that Zaporizhzhia has filed no compliance report, so DESS "will be forced" to sue it, withdrawing the suit if it leaves the ROC; and that suits will come "not all at once." UOJ/spzh, a UOC outlet, reports that Metropolitan Luke raised forced parish transfers and clergy mobilization, and that Yelenskyi acknowledged the Cherkasy cathedral transfer was not voluntary. **Ukraine, Upper Lavra.** Culture minister Tetiana Berezhna wrote that the 12 Nov appellate ruling is final and has entered into force, as reported by UNIAN; cassation is still planned (ORT-23). **Jordan.** The State Security Court is set to deliver its verdict in the Hmoud (Karak) St George church case on Sunday 15 Nov; five defendants face seven charges (Jarayid, 14 Nov; Roya News). **Russia.** USCIRF's November 2026 Russia Country Brief says Russia "continues to commit or tolerate particularly severe violations of religious freedom," including in occupied Ukraine. **Indicators.** UOC legal status ABNORMAL (=; proceedings against eparchies announced, none filed). Middle East Christian security ABNORMAL (=). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** DESS is stating its sequence openly: affiliation finding, order, then suit, one eparchy at a time. A filed suit (ORT-24) would be the next concrete step, short of any liquidation ruling. Enforcement at the Upper Lavra before cassation is the other marker.

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

Cyprus. The Archdiocese spokesman said the Archbishop will place Tychikos's memorandum before the Synod "so it can decide on further action" (Cyprus Mail). Deposition would require an ecclesiastical judicial process (Politis, 14 Nov). Reporter.com.cy cites church sources that a session will be scheduled, date undetermined; UOJ reports the next regular session is in February. **Moscow.** The DECR site (mospat.ru, a Moscow Patriarchate outlet) shows no response to Bartholomew's 22 Oct remark through its 12 Nov items. **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL; public polemic ABNORMAL; breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** With no date set, the desk puts a Synod session by 20 Nov (ORT-15, logged 75%) near 30%, and ORT-10 back near 30%. ORT-04 is likely to resolve a miss tomorrow.

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

On 13 Nov Patriarch Theophilos III received the Russian ambassador, who thanked him for his Moscow visit. The Patriarchate's legal adviser reported efforts to release copies of a Patriarchate-printed Arabic Bible "unlawfully detained on the Mount of Olives" (Jerusalem Patriarchate). No Ukraine-visit date was found (ORT-22). **Indicators.** ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=).

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

See WIRE World Instability, EU-T1 (Potential Crisis, dominant Significant, =): a US–Russia–Ukraine leaders' meeting is confirmed for 19 Nov while nightly drone strikes continue. **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing); religious justification ABNORMAL (=); church-state legislation ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). Override −1 (as since 11 Nov): the war is scored in WI EU-T1; T4 scores the Church's entanglement.

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

Spiritual Reflection. This section is not analysis and not evidence. Today the Church remembers the holy and all-praised Apostle Philip, with St Gregory Palamas and Sts Justinian and Theodora (OCA); on the New Calendar the Nativity Fast begins tomorrow. In the Gospel (John 1:43–51), Nathanael doubts that anything good can come from Nazareth. Philip does not argue. He invites him to come and see, and Christ meets the doubter by showing that He already knew him. In a week of courtrooms and memoranda, the apostle's way is a quiet correction: the Church's first answer to suspicion is an invitation to meet Christ. On the eve of the Fast, Philip's question remains for each of us: have we ourselves come and seen?

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Resolved today:** none. ORT-04 (30%) is due 15 Nov; no qualifying Moscow response found to date.
- **New: ORT-24** (55%, about even to likely): DESS files a lawsuit to terminate the UOC's Zaporizhzhia eparchy administration 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%, due 20 Nov; desk ~30%), ORT-16 (30%), ORT-19 (45%), ORT-20 (55%), ORT-21 (75%, verdict 15 Nov), ORT-22 (25%), ORT-23 (75%), ORT-24 (55%).

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **ORT-03:** dates of the DESS orders to Zaporizhzhia and Boryspil not found; their affiliation findings (13 Oct; 9 Sep per RISU) predate the window.
- **Not collected:** Forum 18 (no new Orthodox item found), Türkiye property cases beyond Halki, Morphou (latest homily found dated 31 Oct), Atlanta, Athos, Church of Greece.

Sources

Ukrinform, LB.ua, UOJ/spzh (13–14 Nov); UNIAN (13 Nov); Jarayid (14 Nov); Roya News (11 Nov); USCIRF (Nov 2026); Cyprus Mail (13 Nov); Politis, Reporter.com.cy (14 Nov); mospat.ru; Jerusalem Patriarchate (13 Nov); OCA readings (14 Nov); WIRE World Instability (EU-T1, 14 Nov).