WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Sunday, 15 November 2026 (24th Sunday after Pentecost; Sts Gurias, Samonas and Abibus) | Vol. 2026-319 | As of 150800 EST NOV 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)**. On 15 November Jordan's State Security Court sentenced three men to death for the 23 October attack on St George's Greek Orthodox Church in Hmoud, Karak. Two co-defendants received six years each. Every verdict goes automatically to the Court of Cassation. In Ukraine, prosecutors have opened a second legal front against the Pochaiv Lavra under heritage law. In Moldova, the Moscow-linked Metropolis deposed 19 clergy who left its jurisdiction. In Cyprus, a leading daily expects an extraordinary Synod session on former Metropolitan Tychikos in December. Two calls resolve today: ORT-21 is a hit and ORT-04 a miss. Two new calls are logged (ORT-25, ORT-26).

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, =); Georgian bishop's sermon against the government	=
ORTH-T1 Church and state; pressure on Orthodox Christians	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Karak verdict: three death sentences; Pochaiv heritage suit; Lithuania bills to committee 18 Nov	=
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Moldova deposes 19 clergy who moved; Cyprus Synod expected in December (Philelefthеros)	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Phanar routine (Vespers 14 Nov); Synaxis 30 Nov, no acceptances announced	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37); St Paisius Velichkovsky	—

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 14 Nov: none. Trend change: none.

Moved indicators (vs 14 Nov). None. The Karak verdict resolves a case. It does not raise the Middle East Christian security indicator.

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

Jordan, Karak verdict. According to Jordan's state news agency Petra, on 15 Nov the State Security Court sentenced three men to death. They were convicted of terrorist acts causing death (nine counts), weapons offences, conspiracy and "promoting terrorist group ideology", and one was also convicted of terrorism financing. Petra says the ruling is subject to automatic Cassation review. The families' lawyer told Al Jazeera and JO24 that the fourth and fifth defendants got six years each after their charges were reclassified to firearms possession. He added that the prosecutor must refer the case to Cassation within 30 days. Reuters via NBC and the BBC confirm the verdict. Petra names no organization (ORT-09 stays open). **Ukraine, Pochaiv Lavra.** The Prosecutor General's Office says Ternopil regional prosecutors have sued in a commercial court to end the 2003 free-use agreement for the Lavra complex early. They cite unauthorized alterations to a national monument, and the court has opened proceedings (Ukrinform). This suit rests on heritage law, not on the affiliation law. **Ukraine, DESS.** In a reply to LIGA.net reported by Vesti, DESS said the UOC filed no requests in 2026 to exempt its clergy from mobilization. DESS head Yelenskyi told Zaporizhzhia clergy that UOC communities do not qualify because their statutes "lost force in the part of the name". This is UOC outlet UOJ/spzh's rendering. **Lithuania.** The Seimas Committee on Law and Order is due to consider bill XVP-1977 on 18 Nov (lrs.lt). The bill would transfer five Moscow Patriarchate churches to the Ecumenical Patriarchate's exarchate. Parishes of the Lithuanian Orthodox

Church, a party source, have appealed against it (parish document, 10 Nov). **Indicators.** UOC legal status ABNORMAL (=). Middle East Christian security ABNORMAL (=). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Jordan prosecuted the case fast and severely: verdict 23 days after the attack. That is a state protecting its Christians, not pressing them. In Ukraine, the UOC's large monasteries now face three separate bodies of law: affiliation, contract (Kyiv) and heritage (Pochaiv). That makes their loss more likely even if any single case fails.

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

Moldova. On 12 Nov the Synod of the Orthodox Church of Moldova (Moscow Patriarchate) deposed 19 clergy for leaving its jurisdiction without canonical release (Metropolis of Chișinău; ortodox.md). AZI24 reports that they joined the Metropolis of Bessarabia (Romanian Patriarchate). **Cyprus.** Philelefttheros (13 Nov) expects an extraordinary Synod session in December, where deposition would need a majority. It quotes the Archbishop's reported conditions, including signing the libellus and moving to the Archbishopric. Ekklisia Online (15 Nov), relaying Politis, says the next regular session is in February and an earlier one is possible. **Moscow.** No response to Bartholomew's 22 Oct remark was found on patriarchia.ru or mospat.ru, or from a DECR official, through 15 Nov (ORT-04 miss). **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL. Public polemic ABNORMAL. Breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Moscow answers mostly by silence and by canonical acts on its own clergy, as in Moldova, not by polemic. The desk puts a Cyprus session by 20 Nov (ORT-15, logged 75%) at about 15%. ORT-10 (by 30 Nov) is near 20%.

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

Patriarch Bartholomew presided at Vespers at the Phanar on 14 Nov (Fos Fanariou, pro-Phanar). No acceptances of the 30 Nov Synaxis from Alexandria, Antioch or Jerusalem were found (ORT-19). There is still no date for a visit to Ukraine by Patriarch Theophilos (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, =). The Kremlin has confirmed the 19 Nov trilateral meeting. In Georgia, Metropolitan Iob of Ruisi and Urbnisi said in a 10 Nov sermon that the government had "completely exhausted its potential" (Interpressnews; Civil Georgia). The Patriarchate has made no statement on the substance. **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing). Religious justification ABNORMAL (=). Church-state disputes ROUTINE→watch (one hierarch, no synodal position). 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's Gospel is the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). The Epistle, Ephesians 2:14–22, says Christ "is our peace" and has broken down the dividing wall (OCA). The Church also remembers St Paisius Velichkovsky, who carried the Jesus Prayer from Athos to Moldavia and beyond. The lawyer asks "who is my neighbour?" to set a boundary. Christ answers with a stranger who crosses one. In a week of courts, depositions and contested jurisdictions, we might ask the same question to measure our own mercy, not to rule on who belongs. As the Fast begins on the New Calendar, St Paisius's way stays simple: prayer that becomes love for the wounded man by the road.

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Resolved today: ORT-21** (75%) **hit**: verdict convicting the defendants on 15 Nov (Petra). Brier 0.0625. **ORT-04** (30%) **miss**: no qualifying Moscow response by 15 Nov. Brier 0.09.
- **New: ORT-25** (50%, about even): the Cyprus Holy Synod holds a session with the Tychikos case on the agenda between 16 Nov and 31 Dec 2026. **ORT-26** (30%, unlikely): the Seimas Committee on Law and Order approves bill XVP-1977 by 31 Dec 2026.
- **Open:** ORT-01 (40%), ORT-02 (25%), ORT-03 (70%), ORT-07 (55%), ORT-08 (10%), ORT-09 (45%; verdict named no group), ORT-10 (35%), ORT-15 (75%, due 20 Nov; desk ~15%), ORT-16 (30%), ORT-19 (45%), ORT-20 (55%), ORT-22 (25%), ORT-23 (75%), ORT-24 (55%), ORT-25 (50%), ORT-26 (30%).

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- mospat.ru news lists load by script and could not be read in full. ORT-04 rests on searches and the absence of any reported response.

- The text of the Karak judgment was not seen. Whether the court named the "terrorist group" is unknown (relevant to ORT-09).
- Moldova: the Metropolis of Bessarabia has not confirmed receiving the 19 clergy.
- The Pochaiv court and case number were not found.
- **Not collected:** Forum 18, USCIRF (no new item), Türkiye property, Morphou, Atlanta, Athos, Church of Greece.

Sources

Petra, Al Jazeera, JO24, Reuters/NBC, BBC (15 Nov); Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Ukrinform; Vesti/LIGA.net (14 Nov); UOJ/spzh; lrs.lt; Lithuanian Orthodox parish (10 Nov); Metropolis of Chișinău, ortodox.md, AZI24 (12–13 Nov); Philelefthеros (13 Nov); Ekklisia Online (15 Nov); Fos Fanariou (14 Nov); Interpressnews, Civil Georgia; OCA readings (15 Nov); WIRE World Instability (EU-T1, 15 Nov).

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