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Today: Jordan Sentences Three Men to Death for Karak Church Attack That Killed Nine

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The three criminals who carried out the terrorist attack"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Jordan's State Security Court sentenced three men to death by hanging on Sunday, 15 November 2026, for carrying out the gun attack on a funeral at St George's Greek Orthodox Church in the village of Hamoud, in Karak governorate, that killed nine people and wounded 25 others on 23 October. The court convicted the men of terrorist acts resulting in death, weapons offences, conspiracy to commit terrorist acts and promoting the ideology of a terrorist group, according to the state news agency Petra. The sentences are not yet final: they are subject to appeal and automatic review by the Court of Cassation.

Three weeks ago, mourners had gathered in a small stone church to bury one of their own. Gunmen opened fire during the funeral, turning a service of grief into a massacre in a country where attacks on Christians are rare. On Sunday, bells rang at St George's after the sentences were announced, a sound that carried both relief and sorrow across the village.

Karak Church Attack Verdict: Three Men Sentenced To Death By Hanging

The Jordanian military said in a statement on Sunday that the State Security Court had issued its ruling sentencing to death "the three criminals who carried out the terrorist attack" at the Greek Orthodox church. The court found them guilty of committing terrorist acts resulting in death on nine seperate occasions under Jordan's Anti-Terrorism Law, as well as possessing weapons and ammunition for terrorist purposes.

Authorities said the three men - two Jordanian brothers and a relative by marriage - fled after the attack and were arrested three days later, on 26 October, after a shootout at an abandoned house in Karak, as reported in Jordan Church Attack Today: Three Arrested After Nine Christians Killed in Karak. Prosecutors had charged them with terrorism-related offences on 3 November, and the trial moved fast by the standards of a case this grave, reaching a verdict in under a month.

Two further defendants each received six-year prison terms after one charge against them was reclassified as possession of a firearm, according to counsel for the victims' families. The investigation has not fully closed: Jordan's interior minister said inquiries were still ongoing, a reminder that the courtroom verdict is one step in a longer search for answers about how the attack was planned.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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