News 17 November 2026 | English article

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

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"On Sunday 15 November 2026, Jordan's State Security Court sentenced three men to death by hanging for the gun attack on St George's Greek Orthodox Church in the village of Hamoud, in the southern Karak governorate, that killed nine people and wounded 25 others"

(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

On Sunday 15 November 2026, Jordan's State Security Court sentenced three men to death by hanging for the gun attack on St George's Greek Orthodox Church in the village of Hamoud, in the southern Karak governorate, that killed nine people and wounded 25 others. The three men - two Jordanian brothers and their relative by marriage - were convicted of carrying out terrorist attacks resulting in death, weapons offences, conspiracy to commit terrorist acts and promoting the ideas of a terrorist organisation. The sentences are not final: they face a mandatory review and an automatic appeal before the Court of Cassation.

Think about the scene the court was judging. On Friday 23 October, mourners had gathered inside a small stone church for a funeral. They had come to bury one of their own, to pray, to stand beside a grieving family. Instead, gunmen stormed the service and opened fire. Nine people who had come to mourn the dead became the dead themselves.

The three men sentenced on Sunday were named in earlier reporting as Hazza Zeidan Muhammad, his brother Mishal Zeidan Mohammed, and Ahmed Sami Hussein. They fled after the attack and were arrested three days later, following a shootout with security forces. One of the three was also convicted of providing funds to finance terrorist acts.

Two more defendants in the same case received six-year prison sentences each, according to reporting citing Amer Halsa, a lawyer for the victims' families. The court heard the case fast: just 23 days passed between the shooting on 23 October and the death sentences on 15 November.

Karak Church Attack October 23: What Happened At The Funeral

The attack struck St George's Greek Orthodox Church in Hamoud village, south of Amman, during a funeral procession on Friday 23 October 2026. Jordan's Public Security Directorate first confirmed seven dead and 34 wounded that evening. The toll rose to nine the next day, after two of the wounded died. The Jordanian military statement announcing the sentences put the wounded figure at 25, while earlier reports from the official Petra news agency gave 34 - a reminder that even the basic numbers in this story were still being corrected weeks later.

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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