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Jordan Sentences 3 to Death for Karak Church Funeral Attack That Killed 9

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Jordan's State Security Court sentenced three men to death by hanging on Sunday 15 November 2026 for the armed attack on mourners at a funeral at St George's Greek Orthodox Church in Hammoud village, in the Karak governorate of southern Jordan"

(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 the armed attack on mourners at a funeral at St George's Greek Orthodox Church in Hammoud village, in the Karak governorate of southern Jordan. Nine people were killed and 25 wounded in the attack on Friday 23 October 2026. The three were convicted of carrying out terrorist acts resulting in death, weapons offences, conspiracy to commit terrorist acts, and promoting the ideas of a terrorist organisation.

It was a funeral. The mourners had gathered to bury one of their own, and the gunmen opened fire on them inside the churchyard. That is the fact that has stayed with people in Jordan ever since - that the attack came at the most defenceless moment a community can have, when it is already grieving. Nine families buried their dead that week. Twenty-five more people carried wounds home.

Among the nine slain was Maher Zreiqat. His daughter Mereal posted a tribute photo of her father after his death - a father killed at a funeral, mourned in public by the daughter who had already lost him once in her heart and now lost him for good. His name is the one to hold on to, because the numbers alone do not tell the story. Nine is a statistic. Maher Zreiqat is a man who went to a funeral and never came home.

The three convicted men are two Jordanian brothers and their brother-in-law. One of them was also convicted of providing funds to finance terrorist acts. Two further defendants recieved six-year prison terms; according to Amer Halaseh, the lawyer for the victims' families, one of the charges was reclassified and related to selling the weapons used in the attack.

Security forces arrested the three on 26 October, three days after the attack, after a shootout at an abandoned house in Karak. Prosecutors charged them on 3 November with seven offences, and the trial began the next day, 4 November. The speed of the proceedings has itself become part of the argument about the case.

Karak Church Funeral Attack: Death Sentences Not Yet Final

The death sentences are not yet final. Under Jordanian law they face automatic review by the Court of Cassation, with a mandatory appeal within 30 days. That matters, because it means the courtroom story is not over - and because the reactions to the sentences have been mixed from the start.

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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