ANALYSIS · UPDATE

Analysis: The Hammoud Church Attack, Who Is Behind It and What Comes Next

26/10/2026 · Update after the arrests · ANL-1026 · Version 2 · version 1 of this analysis (26/10, before the arrests) · Axiom Engine X · Graded open sources and comparison with Jordanian precedents · Jordan · to 23/11/2026

Risk Dashboard		To 23/11/2026 · Medium to high confidence
Threat in Karak and the south	Moderate	Perpetrators in custody; support circle under investigation
Threat nationwide	Low	No foreign link so far; copycat risk remains
Impact on operations	Low	Cordon and checkpoints in the south lifting gradually
Impact on travel	Low	King's Highway reopening gradually
Impact on investment	Low	A local security event contained within three days
Risk trend	Easing	Reviewed on further arrests or an announced foreign link

Scale: **Low** no expected impact · **Moderate** specific precautions · **High** adjust operations · **Severe** suspend operations

01 Bottom line

Public Security announced early on Monday 26/10 the arrest of all three perpetrators after an armed exchange at an abandoned house near the attack site inside Karak governorate, about 63 hours after the attack. All three were wounded; no security personnel were hurt. The Interior Minister said they are Jordanian and that no foreign link has been established so far. This supports the first reading in version 1: a local cell with a takfiri motive.

axiomenginex.com info@axiomenginex.com +962 79 075 6464

> **The direct threat has receded. What remains open is a possible support circle, the source of the weapons, and the risk of copycats over the coming weeks.**

02 What our estimates got right

In version 1 we assessed the probability of arrest before it happened. This is what followed.

What we estimated in version 1	What happened	Assessment
Arrest within two weeks, 65% combined	Arrest after about 63 hours	Confirmed
Arrest most likely through a clash, as in Karak 2016 and Salt 2018	Armed exchange lasting about three hours, per a government source	Confirmed
Most likely a self-directed local cell	Perpetrators Jordanian, arrested near the attack site, no foreign link so far	Supported
Passing 72 hours reflected deliberate caution, not inability	Arrest followed several raids, with no security casualties	Consistent
Arrest inside the governorate with no detainees beyond the three signals containment	That is what has been announced so far	Containment indicator present
Low risk of revenge or communal strife	No revenge incident recorded	Confirmed so far

03 What we know

Each item is graded on the Admiralty scale: the letter for source reliability, the number for information credibility.

Fact	Source	Grade
26/10 around 05:30: Public Security announces the arrest of the three after a joint operation and exchange of fire; weapons and ammunition seized	Public Security via JO24 and Petra	A1
Location: an abandoned house near the attack site inside Karak governorate, where the perpetrators barricaded themselves and refused to surrender	JO24, Al Jazeera	A2

axiomenginex.com info@axiomenginex.com +962 79 075 6464

Fact	Source	Grade
All three wounded, one critically per a government source; no security casualties	Al Jazeera	B2
Interior Minister: perpetrators are Jordanian; no foreign link established so far; several raids preceded locating them	JO24	A2
No detainees announced beyond the three	Public Security, Al Jazeera	A2
23/10 around 14:00: three gunmen fired on mourners outside the church, then fled. Toll: 9 killed	CNN, Al Jazeera Arabic	A2
A publication ban remains in force; official information is issued through state media	Al-Quds Al-Arabi, JO24	B2

In line with the publication ban, this analysis does not discuss the perpetrators' identities or the course of the investigation.

04 Jordanian precedents

Three comparable cases give the estimate a base rather than an opinion.

Case	Attack to resolution	Outcome
Karak, 18/12/2016: attack on patrols and a police post, then a siege at the castle	Siege the same day; follow-up pursuit ended within about two days	Security and civilian deaths; one attacker killed, another arrested, and the cell's financier arrested
Fuheis and Salt, 10/8/2018: bomb against a security patrol	About 22 hours to the raid on the cell's hideout	4 security personnel killed in the raid; 3 cell members killed and 5 arrested
Irbid, 2/3/2016: cell linked to Islamic State	Pre-emptive raid before any attack	A special forces officer killed

What the precedents show: resolution usually comes fast, often through a clash with security fatalities, and often exposes a financier or support network beyond the attackers. Passing 72 hours this time is an exception to the pattern.

This time: about 63 hours to resolution, through a clash, with no security losses. Longer than the precedents, and less costly.

05 Readings after the arrests

Reading	What changed	Assessment now
Self-directed local cell with an ideological motive	Perpetrators Jordanian, hid near the site, no foreign link so far	Strongly most likely
Local cell directed or funded across the border	No evidence so far; the investigation into links continues	Weak · remains under watch
Provocation to ignite communal tension	Official, religious and tribal positions united; no revenge incidents	Weak

06 What to watch now

The event has moved from pursuit to investigation and trial.

Indicator	What it means
Arrest of people who provided shelter or supplies during the 63 hours	A local support circle, as in Karak 2016
Announcement of the weapons source or a financier	A network wider than the three
Official announcement of a foreign link	Return of the second reading
Official confirmation or denial of the claim attributed to Islamic State	Defines the nature of the threat
Referral to the State Security Court	Start of the public judicial track
Copycat attempts or glorification on social media	Risk of a second wave

07 What we do not know yet

There is no public information on the source of the weapons and vehicle, on whether anyone helped the perpetrators stay hidden for 63 hours, and no official confirmation of the claim's authenticity.

08 What it means for organizations

The direct risk has receded. Caution remains warranted for gatherings for two more weeks because of copycat risk.

- **Tourism and hospitality:** Restore the Karak stop and the King's Highway gradually once the security cordon is lifted, and inform foreign partners in writing that the perpetrators are in custody.
- **Insurance:** No need to reprice terrorism cover. Handle claims related to the incident under existing policies.
- **Banks and retail:** Normal hours and replenishment in the south as checkpoints are lifted.
- **Events, religious and community institutions:** Keep entry control for occasions with announced times until 9/11/2026.
- **Foreign companies and their staff:** Lift the suspension of non-essential travel to the south.
- **Corporate communications:** Respect the publication ban, and do not circulate images or names not issued by an official body. Unverified images of the arrest circulated on the night of the raid.

This analysis will be updated on referral to court or further arrests, otherwise on 9/11/2026.

09 Sources

- JO24, arrest of the perpetrators (26/10/2026): https://jo24.net/article/580725
- JO24, timeline of events (26/10/2026): https://jo24.net/article/580738
- Al Jazeera, Jordan arrests three suspects (26/10/2026): https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/26/jordan-arrests-three-suspects-in-deadly-church-attack
- Al-Waqa'i (23/10/2026): https://alwakaai.com/article/758970
- Al Jazeera Arabic, behind the scenes of the Karak attack (24/10/2026): https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2026/10/24/كواليس-هجوم-الكرك-تفاصيل-اللحظات

- Al Jazeera (24/10/2026): https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/24/who-was-behind-the-deadly-church-shooting-in-jordan
- CNN Arabic (24/10/2026): https://arabic.cnn.com/middle-east/article/2026/10/24/jordan-death-to-rise-in-church-attack
- CNN (23/10/2026): https://www.cnn.com/2026/10/23/middleeast/church-shooting-jordan-intl
- Al-Quds Al-Arabi (25/10/2026): https://www.alquds.co.uk/الأردن-يجمع-خيوط-الهجوم-الدموي-على-كن/
- Okaz (25/10/2026): https://www.okaz.com.sa/politics/na/2272337
- Khaberni, no official arrest announcement (25/10/2026): https://www.khaberni.com/news/860444
- Eurasia Review (25/10/2026): https://www.eurasiareview.com/25102026-a-wicked-attack-islamic-state-attacks-a-church-in-jordan-analysis/
- Precedents: Al-Jarida, end of the Karak operation (2016): https://www.aljarida.com/articles/1482343771396242200 · Asharq Al-Awsat, the Salt cell (2018): https://aawsat.com/node/1362511 · Al-Mamlaka, record of Islamic State attacks in Jordan: https://www.almamlakatv.com/news/28112

Khaled Atallah

Founder & Lead Analyst · Axiom Engine X