# Coordinated Attacks in Dagestan Leave Six Officers and Priest Dead



On Sunday, June 23, 2024, a series of coordinated attacks in Russia's North Caucasus region of Dagestan resulted in the deaths of six police officers and a Russian Orthodox priest. Gunmen targeted a synagogue and an Orthodox church in Derbent, and a police checkpoint in Makhachkala, the region's capital, leaving 12 officers injured. The synagogue and church in Derbent were set ablaze following the attack.

The Russian Interior Ministry reported that the assailants fled, prompting an ongoing counter-terrorist operation. In response, law enforcement has blocked the entrances to Makhachkala. In Derbent, unofficial sources indicated that the attackers might have barricaded themselves in a building.

Initial suspicions from Dagestan lawmakers suggest potential involvement from Ukrainian and NATO intelligence services, though no official claim of responsibility has been made. Dagestan, a predominantly Muslim region, has experienced similar instances of violence and Islamist attacks in the past. Four of the attackers were reportedly killed by police, with some still at large. The Russian Investigative Committee has launched a terrorism investigation into the incidents.