# Terrorist Attacks Target Places of Worship in Dagestan, Russia, Resulting in Multiple Casualties



On June 23, 2024, coordinated terrorist attacks occurred in Dagestan, Russia, targeting places of worship and resulting in multiple casualties, including law enforcement officers. The attacks hit both synagogues and churches in Makhachkala and Derbent. A priest was reported killed, and several hostages were taken. Among the attackers were the sons of a local official and an MMA fighter. Police casualties were significantly high, implying intense resistance or targeting.

These incidents continue to underline the ongoing issue of Islamist extremism in the North Caucasus region, which has seen periodic violence since the Chechen wars in the 1990s. The response from law enforcement was immediate, with counter-terrorist operations conducted by FSB officers.

In the aftermath, Russian officials, including the head of Dagestan, Sergei Melikov, visited the attack sites. Authorities have highlighted the potential for inter-ethnic violence and have framed the events as provocations by foreign entities, though no group has claimed responsibility yet.

The situation in Dagestan is exacerbated by the larger context of Russia's military engagement in Ukraine, which has strained local security forces. This confluence of domestic unrest and external conflict presents an ongoing challenge for maintaining stability in the region.