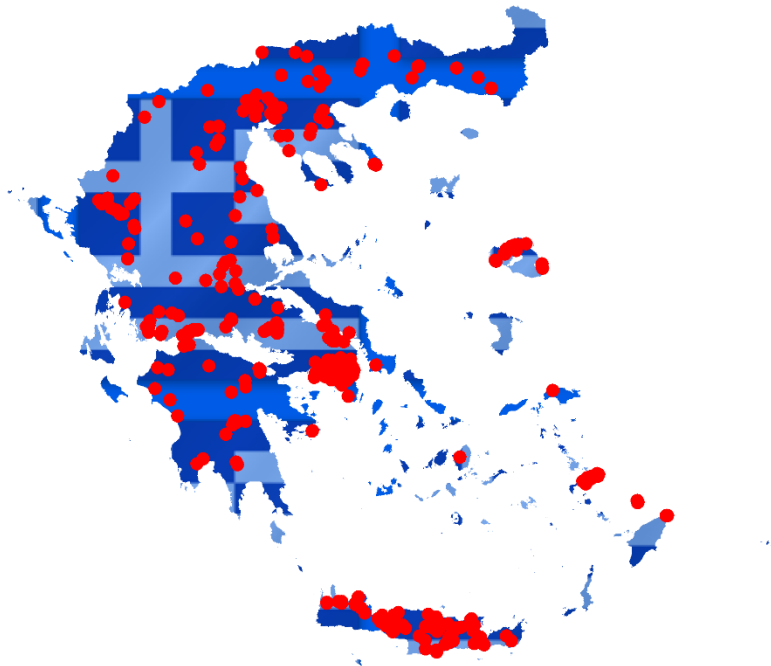




MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND INTERFAITH
RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

ACTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE



REPORT 2021

All maps and statistical analysis are also available on the website:

<https://arcg.is/ODHP5b0>



Cover page: Geographical display of all incidents presented in the 2021 Report. Original map-layout source: Hellenic Statistical Authority

Back cover: Detail of inscription, Holy Monastery of Aghios Georgios Hozeva, Israel

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COURTESY AND NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Translated and adapted by Isidora Prokopiou

“I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of thy house; and the place where thy glory dwelleth”

(Psalm 25,8)

כְּבוֹדְךָ מִשְׁכַּן, וּמְקוֹם; בֵּיתְךָ מְעוֹן, אֶהְבֵּתִי--יְהוָה.

(תהלים ח)

“Domine dilexi decorem domus tuae et locum habitationis gloriae tuae”

(Psalm 25,8)

مَجْدِكَ مَسْكَنٍ وَمَوْضِعَ بَيْتِكَ مَحَلًّا أَحْبَبْتُ رَبُّ يَا

(مزَامير ٨)

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Foreword

The Report on Acts against Religious Sites in Greece, published annually by the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, systematically since 2015, aims to officially record these events, providing the public sphere with valid, reliable data, while also presenting the historical course of religious communities and the relevant legal framework in force.

During the last three and a half years of service at the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, we have consistently served the Constitutional principle of safeguarding religious freedom, while seeking to resolve decades of outstanding issues in the regulatory framework governing religions and the status of their ministers. Thus, in the area of Religious Affairs, and despite the difficulties caused by the global pandemic crisis, among others:

- we made a legislative update of permanent positions for 3,520 priests who were already paid by the Greek State - after 77 years,
- we resolved the legal status of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos - after 75 years,
- we established a new, modern framework for the Muftiates - after 31 years,
- we established a new framework for Religious Education - after 16 years,
- we worked with perseverance and vigour to tackle antisemitism and religious intolerance through special educational programs, seminars, training and meetings of religious leaders,
- we have set priorities for the immediate future, including the establishment of a new regulatory framework for places of worship, the Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools) in Thrace and clergy of the Diaspora.

All our initiatives are aimed at defending one basic principle: respect for religious freedom and the religious identity of Hellenism, as well as respect for all religious communities living in our country. Fundamental rights that Greece, a modern, European state governed by the rule of law, guarantees for all its citizens.

The Report that we are presenting this year is a tool for reflection, comparison, understanding, but also to prevent any complacency in the face of intolerance. Religious pluralism and respect for diversity, together with respect for the religious tradition of our country, constitute an essential contribution to civilisation and democracy.

Niki Kerameus

Minister of Education and Religious Affairs

Introductory Note

In 2021, seven (7) years were completed during which data on acts against religious sites were kept and made public. The following table summarises this data:

**Number of acts against religious sites and their distribution by religious community,
2015 - 2021**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total	%
Orthodox Church	137	208	525	563	504	374	370	2.681	95,31%
True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)			1		3	4	3	11	0,39%
Catholic Church	1	1	2	1	3	7		15	0,53%
Ethiopian Orthodox Church			1					1	0,04%
Armenian Evangelical Church			4					4	0,14%
Jehovah's Christian Witnesses			4	3	4			11	0,39%
Judaism	4	5	11	20	5	10	3	58	2,06%
Islam	5	1	8	2	5	9	2	32	1,14%
Total	147	215	556	589	524	404	378	2.813	

The analysis of the above data and the conclusions that can be drawn from their study do not belong to the objectives of the Report, as has been pointed out many times. The Report aims to present valid, reliable and accurate data, which have been obtained by developing a combined information network under the supervision of the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations, which devotes a large part of its activities to the thorough collection, recording and classification of incidents against religious sites, drawing on a variety of sources throughout the year.

The Report includes a wealth of information on the country's religious freedom legislation and historical data on the religious communities present in the country. It is translated into English so that it is accessible to non-Greek speaking audiences, and both the Greek and English texts are published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Therefore, any interested party has the possibility to access a valid, rich and informative material on the acts against religious sites that occurred in our country every year but, at the same time, can form a comprehensive view on the general policy of Greece in the field of religious affairs.

Greece, as a modern European democracy, guarantees and protects in an effective manner the religious freedom of all its citizens and of all those living on its territory, as well as the right to hold non-religious beliefs for those who choose it.

George Kalantzis

Secretary General for Religious Affairs

Content Summary

In the **Introductory Part (I)** the background and the general regulatory framework for the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is presented as well as the regulatory framework governing the protection of religious freedom in Greece with particular reference on the framework for building and operating worship places. Reference is made on setting up the Network for recording incidents against religious sites, on the types of religious sites referred to in this Report and a list with the co-operating religious and state bodies is drawn up.

In **Part II** all incidents against religious sites by religious community are listed, as they have come to the knowledge of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. Additional information is provided on relevant historical, legal and statistical data where appropriate.

For the year 2021, a total of three hundred seventy-eight (378) incidents against religious sites were recorded, which are broken down by religion as follows:

- **Christianity: three hundred seventy-three (373) incidents of all kind (vandalism, burglaries, thefts, sacrilege, robberies, explosive devices and other types of desecration).**

In particular there have been:

- **370 incidents against the Greek Orthodox Church, representing 97,89% of the total number of incidents.**
- **3 incidents against the True Orthodox Christians, i.e. 0,79% of the total,**
- **Judaism: 3 incidents of racist/antisemitic nature, i.e. 0,79% of the total,**
- **Islam: 2 incidents, i.e. 0,53% of the total.**

No incidents against other religions have been reported.

In **Part III** data is presented geographically and statistically in the form of maps and graphs, as follows:

- a) Geographical breakdown of the incidents in Greece by religious community,
- b) Geographical breakdown of the total of incidents reported by administrative region,
- c) Chronological order of the incidents by month,
- d) Cases that have been solved and cases remaining unsolved.



I. INTRODUCTION



A. General Secretariat for Religious Affairs

1. Overview

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs has always been associated with the Ministry of Education because matters concerning religion and education have been dealt with jointly since the creation of the independent Greek State. This relation is easier to understand through summarizing the establishment and evolution of the Ministry currently called Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and in particular the course of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in time.

At the first National Assembly of Epidaurus which was the first assembly of the legislative body of the Modern Greek State (Epidaurus, December 20, 1821 – January 16, 1822) the Provisional Constitution of Greece which is considered the first Constitution of Greece was adopted on January 1st, 1822. By this text it is established, inter alia, that “the Government is composed of the Senate and of the Executive Power”. The Executive Power names eight Secretaries renewed every year, one of whom is the Secretary “of Divine Worship”. The Bishop of Androussa, Iossif, was named to this position (The Provisional Constitution of Greece, First National Assembly of Epidaurus).

At the Second National Assembly convened in Astros a year later, the Provisional Constitution of Greece was revised and a new Constitution was adopted, named “the Epidaurus Law”, demonstrating the continuity between the new Constitution and the previous one. In this text, it is established that the Executive body shall be composed of seven ministers, one of whom still is the “Minister of Religion” (The Provisional Constitution of Greece, Second National Assembly at Astros, p. 5).

The Political Constitution of Greece adopted by the Third National Assembly at Troezen establishes six Secretaries of the State who are responsible for implementing the laws. One of the Secretaries of the State is the Secretary for law and education responsible for matters of Religion.

Subsequently, in 1829, within the education and ecclesiastical policy of Ioannis Kapodistrias, a Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs and Public Education was established, bringing together two inseparable bodies that serve a single purpose: the moral education of the citizens which is the fundament for the social and political growth of the nation, as stated by Kapodistrias himself¹.

This choice made by Kapodistrias reflects the historical experience of Greeks because preserving self-awareness of the “Genos” and the continuum of Greek language are inextricably connected with the Orthodox Church and, in particular, with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Indeed, the education structures of the “Genos” before the Greek Nation was established, depended to a great extent on the Orthodox Church. This initiative of Kapodistrias indirectly reflects one of the fundamental principles of Ancient Greek civilization: “All

¹ Fr Georgios Metallinos. “Ioannis Kapodistrias: Politician and martyr of the Orthodox Church and of Hellenism”. *Ecclesia, Year 85, Volume 8*, August – September 2008, Athens, pp. 606-607. (π. Γεωργίου Μεταλληνού, «Ιωάννης Καποδίστριας (Ο πολιτικός – μάρτυρας τῆς Ὀρθοδοξίας καὶ τοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ), περιοδικό «ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ», ἔτος ΠΕ', τ. 8, Αὐγουστος-September 2008, Αθήναι, σσ. 606-607.)

knowledge, when separated from justice and other virtue, appears to be cunning, not wisdom” (Plato, Menexenus, 347a).

The Royal Constitution of 1832, which was never applied, established that the Ministers - Secretaries were no more than seven, one of whom was responsible for the Ecclesiastical matters and Public Education.

In 1833, King Otto established with a Royal Decree that the Heads of Ministries shall be hereafter called “Secretaries of the State”. The Secretary for Ecclesiastical matters and Public Education was one of them (Official Gazette A’ 2). By the same decree, it is established that the scope of this Secretariat is to confer full freedom of worship to the Greek nationals of any religion. In the same year, the seven Secretariats are established, governed by the competent Secretary as Chief Director.

The Royal Decree establishing the seven Secretariats sets out that the Secretariat for Ecclesiastical matters and Public Education is the fourth in command among the Secretariats (A’ 13, 1833). Later on, the competences of the Secretariat for Ecclesiastical matters and Public Education are set out in two parts, the first of the two being Ecclesiastical matters:

- a. To comply with the laws regulating the relations among Christian churches and their religious communities;
- b. To maintain legitimate limits between political authority and ecclesiastical authorities and to protect the rights of the public sector in cases of conflict relating to ecclesiastical property and facilities;
- c. To examine decrees by the ecclesiastical authorities, especially those issued by the Pope of Rome, and to issue royal authorization before their publishing;
- d. To establish Synodal authorities, supervise their acts and issue relevant decisions;
- e. To supervise the holy worship and to restrict or to annul fairs or celebrations that are not essential;
- f. To secure the Royal Decree;
- g. To issue permits for establishing religious organizations and facilities and to shut them down if there is justified reason;
- h. To renovate and establish clerical facilities for the education and training of the clergy and with regard to the examination of the candidates for posts in the ecclesiastical hierarchy;
- i. To divide provinces of different ecclesiastical authorities;
- j. To provide for building and maintaining buildings for churches and priests’ residences;
- k. To supervise the administration and management of the property dedicated to religious needs.

The second part includes Public Education matters, as follows:

- a. To supervise schools and education-related matters in general, to take the necessary actions to set up a body competent for the elementary and higher facilities, a University and an Academy for sciences;
- b. To take the necessary actions to provide equipment for schools and educational facilities and to supervise the administration for school property;
- c. To take the necessary actions to train competent teachers for schools and to build the necessary facilities;
- d. To secure scholarships for gifted students;

- e. To set up and supervise public libraries, an Observatory and other institutions of the kind;
- f. To direct the Royal Printing House and to accelerate translating the most significant foreign books into Greek;
- g. To achieve progress in art and to set up schools for teaching art and collections and to build an Academy for plastic and visual arts, to make preparations for excavations and discovery of lost masterpieces of art and to preserve the existing ones and to ensure that they remain in the State;
- h. To promote scientific research for expanding knowledge and to publish manuscripts of monasteries which may be valuable to sciences;
- i. To make proposals on the faculty that shall be appointed to teaching positions or to public institutions promoting sciences and the arts.
- j. To supervise the administration and management of property and revenues devoted to education and to care for the erection and maintenance of the buildings necessary for the education of the people and the development of the arts.

Additionally, the Secretary for Ecclesiastical matters and Public Education is responsible for maintaining discipline among the staff that he supervises and for applying sanctions. The staff of the Secretariat, according to this Act, includes two advisers, three secretaries, two clerks and an usher. The staff may be increased if there is extreme urgency.

In the Constitution of 1844, State Secretariats are named Ministries and State Secretaries are named Ministers.

Law ΑΓ' "On organizing Ministries" (A' 14) adopted in 1846 establishes by legislation the term Ministries. The seven preexisting Ministries (former State Secretariats) are maintained, but for the first time it is laid down that the administration of the Ministries is divided into Departments and the post of the Secretary General is introduced. By the same law it is established that the staff of the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Matters includes two Department Heads, three Secretaries (class a' and class b'), three Clerks (class a', class b' and class c') and two ushers.

By law ΣΙΕ' of December 16, 1852 (A' 65), an additional secretary of the minister is included and a clerk of class a'.

Four years later, in 1856, by Law ΤΟΣΤ' adopted on October 12, 1856 (A' 60), an additional secretary of the minister of class a' is included.

By the Act of Legislative Content of December 29, 1925 (A' 5) the Directorate for Religious Affairs is established in the Central Agency of the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs. The Head of the Directorate is a General Director and has, along with the Minister, the high supervision of "Ecclesiastical" matters and may be instructed by the Minister to supervise "special matters". The General Director for Religious Affairs has the responsibilities and jurisdiction that the Head of the Department of Ecclesiastical matters hitherto had.

In 1926, a new Act of Legislative Content lays out that the Ministry of Ecclesiastical matters and Public Education is named Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education, consisting of twelve departments, first of which is the Department for Religious Affairs. By the same Act, the Act of 1925 (A' 140) is repealed, by which the Directorate for Religious Affairs was established.

In 1937, by emergency law 782 (A' 267) the Directorate for Religious Affairs is reestablished and the Ministry is named Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Education consisting of six departments:

- a) The Minister's Cabinet,

- b) The General Directorate for Antiquities, Letters and Fine Arts,
- c) The General Directorate for Education,
- d) The Directorate for Religious Affairs which includes two departments: 1) for Ecclesiastical Matters and 2) for Administration,
- e) The Directorate for the Youth and
- f) The Directorate for Staff, Processing and Archives.

In 1951, by Emergency Law 1671 (A' 33), the Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Education is renamed Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs; this has been the name of the Ministry since 2009².

In 1976, by Presidential Decree 147 (A' 56) the General Directorate for Religious Affairs is established. It comprises three Directorates:

- a) for Ecclesiastical Administration, including i) the Department for Ecclesiastical Administrative matters and ii) the Department for Churches, Monasteries and Clergy
- b) for Ecclesiastical and Religious Education, including i) the Department for Staff and ii) the Department for Administration; and
- c) for other denominations and religions, including i) the Department for other Denominations and ii) the Department for other Religions.

In 1987, by Presidential Decree 417 (A' 186) the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is established, providing for a position of Secretary General as Head (special positions type, 1st degree). The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is responsible for implementing the government policies on Religions and for supervising the Directorates under the General Directorate for Religious Affairs, as set out in Articles 5, 6 and 7 of Presidential Decree 147/1976. These Directorates along with their staff have been set under the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

In 1990, by Presidential Decree 339 (A' 135), General Directorates are established at the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs. The first in order is the General Directorate for Religious Affairs including the Directorates for:

- a) Ecclesiastical Administration
- b) Ecclesiastical Education
- c) Other Denominations and Religions

The General Directorate coordinates the action of the units it is comprised of, aiming at specializing, analyzing and evaluating the policies implemented in Religious Affairs.

The General Directorate for Religious Affairs was repealed in 2014 by Presidential Decree 114 (A' 181). By this Decree, it is established that the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs includes two Directorates:

² In 2009, the Ministry was named Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs (B' 2234/07-10-2009). In 2012, it was named Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports (A' 141/21-06-2012). In 2013, it was named Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (A' 152/25-06-2013). In January 2015 it was named Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs (A' 20, 27-01-2015). In September 2015 it was named Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (A' 114/22-09-2015) and the Ministry of Culture and Sports was reconstituted. On July 8, 2019, the Ministry was renamed "Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs" (A' 119 A' /8-7-2019).

- a. Directorate for Religious Administration including the Department for Ecclesiastical Administration and the Department for other Religions and Denominations, and
- b. Directorate for Religious Education including the Department for Ecclesiastical and Religious Education and the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations

In this Presidential Decree, protection of freedom of religious conscience and religious worship as well as supervising religious ministers of all known religions is included for the first time among the scope of the mission of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

2. Regulatory framework in force

Article 1 of the Presidential Decree 18/2018 (Official Government Gazette A'31) on the Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, sets out the mission of the Ministry which is:

"[...] to develop and to constantly improve education aiming at:

- a. Educating Greeks morally, spiritually and physically;*
- b. Developing national consciousness;*
- c. Protecting freedom of religious conscience and of worship and supervising religious ministers of known religions;*
- d. Teaching respect for freedom of speech and expression;*
- e. Tolerating diversity;*
- f. Educating based on the principles of democracy, equity, solidarity, non-discrimination, transparency and merit-based procedures;*
- g. Respecting the natural and cultural environment and consolidating the principles of sustainability;*
- h. Shaping free, active citizens with critical thinking;*
- i. Developing and promoting science, research, innovation, technology, information society;*
- j. Catering for quality education for the youth and for life-long learning."*

Additionally, according to Article 57 (1) of this Presidential Decree as amended by Law 4589/2019 (A' 13) Article 72 (par. 3 indent a'), "the scope of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is to protect the freedom of religious conscience and religious practice, to supervise the religious education system and the religious ministers of known religions and to connect religion, education and culture while promoting actions against fanaticism and intolerance and for interreligious relations and dialogue in benefit to religious peace and social cohesion".

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs includes two Directorates:

- a. The Directorate for Religious Administration including the Department for Ecclesiastical Administration, the Department for Administrative matters and Register and the Department for Islamic Matters, and
- b. The Directorate for Religious Education including the Department for Ecclesiastical and Religious Education, the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations and the Department for Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools).

B. Protection of religious freedom

1. Regulatory framework

Since 1821 all Greek constitutional texts in addition to recognizing the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the prevailing religion in Greece³, ensured the freedom of religious observance of all other known religions. The freedom of religious conscience was explicitly enshrined in the Constitution of 1927 and since then the word tolerance was substituted by the expression “religious freedom”. The consolidation of religious freedom is very significant because it constitutes an individual **right** which shall not be hindered by the State and the State shall take all appropriate measures (legislative, administrative etc.) to ensure the free exercise of this right⁴. According to the commonly held view, the individual right of religious freedom includes the concept of religious conscience and the freedom of observance⁵.

Article 13 of the Constitution of Greece establishes that: *“1. Freedom of religious conscience is inviolable. The enjoyment of civil rights and liberties does not depend on the individual’s religious beliefs 2. All known religions shall be free and their rites of worship shall be performed unhindered and under the protection of the law. The practice of rites of worship is not allowed to offend public order or morality. Proselytism is prohibited. [...] 4. No person shall be exempt from discharging his obligations to the State or may refuse to comply with the laws by reason of his religious convictions [...]”*.

This Article of the Constitution protecting religious freedom may not be suspended when in state of siege (as referred to in Article 48 of the Constitution) and paragraph 1 of Article 13 may not be revised (as referred to in Article 110 (1) of the Constitution).

Particularly with regard to the exemption from the fulfilment of obligations to the State or the refusal to comply with the laws due to religious beliefs, an extract is quoted as follows from Judgement 2706/1977 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State: These provisions enshrine in Greece the individual right to religious freedom, both as freedom of religious conscience, and as freedom of worship. However, the exercise of this right is conditional upon the fulfilment of obligations towards the State and compliance with its laws and the non-infringement of public order and morality. Therefore, a religion’s adherent may not refuse to fulfil his/her obligations to the State or to comply with the laws of general application that are unrelated to the above matters, such as Royal Decree 229/1965 “on holiday calendar, incomplete attendance etc. of Secondary school students which was issued on the basis of the enabling provision of Article 12 of Decree Law 4379/1964 and lays down (Article 1) the days that Secondary school students are allowed to be absent from school, including certain religious holidays for Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish students; it also lays down (Article 2) that

³ See section I.B.2 for the meaning of the term “prevailing religion”.

⁴ Troiannos, S., *Course in Canon Law*, Sakkoulas Publishing House 1984, 2nd edition, §2.1.4 and 2.2.2. (Σπ. Τρωιάννου, Παραδόσεις Εκκλησιαστικού Δικαίου, Σάκκουλας 1984, β’ έκδοση, §2.1.4 και 2.2.2.)

⁵ Dagtoglou, P.D., *Constitutional Law- Civil Rights*, §554 Sakkoulas 1991. (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα, Σάκκουλας 1991, §554).

in case of a student being absent on days other than the ones listed above, consequences may result to him/her not being admitted to the class exams.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, establishes that: *“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”*.

Article 9 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, ratified by **Law Decree 53/1974** (Official Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic A' 256) establishes that: *“1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance. 2. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitation as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others”*.

Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000/C 364/01) establishes that: *“1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance”*.

Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Law 2462/1997 (Official Government Gazette A' 25) provides that: *“1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. 2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice. 3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. 4. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions”*.

2. The meaning of the term “prevailing religion”

The distinction between the “prevailing religion” in Greece and all “known religions” is stated in the Constitution in force as well in all previous Constitutions since the foundation of the modern Greek state. As stated in Article 3 of the Constitution: *“1. The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ [...]”*.

It has been often clarified in public rhetoric and in constitutional law literature by constitutional experts that recognizing the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the “prevailing” religion is an ascertainment due to the fact that the vast majority of Greeks (representing more than 95%) is connected to the Orthodox Church.

According to Professor Evaggelos Venizelos: *“... the term “prevailing religion” contains on the one hand a historic and cultural content which is of no legal relevance, and on the other a factual content of legal relevance since it describes the orthodox church as the largest*

collective body of exercising religious freedom under all conditions and always by reference to the list of all other constitutional rights...⁶.

The view that the “prevailing religion” does not have the meaning of state religion or official religion is widely accepted nowadays as well as that the Constitution does not mandate dominance of a particular religion⁷.

In terms of case law, in the judgment 660/2018 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State, reason 14, it is stated that, in accordance with the predominant opinion of the Court, the term “prevailing” established in the Constitution, Article 3 (1), referring to the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ in Greece, has been the introductory statement of all the previous Constitutions (1844, 1864, 1911, 1927, 1952) and represents to date a core element of Constitutional tradition in Greece. This term, as well as the invocation to the Holy, Homoousios and Consubstantial Holy Trinity on the heading of the Constitution, is linked with the critical role of the Orthodox Church in the course of history of Hellenism, in particular during the period of Ottoman rule, before national independence. This is also an ascertainment that this is the religion of the vast majority of the Greek population and there are regulatory consequences due to that, such as establishment of certain Christian holidays as compulsory holidays at national and local level, in the public and private sector (see also judgment 100/2017 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State).

Moreover, in the judgment 926/2018 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State, it is stated that : “[...] Article 3 of the Constitution, which is subject to review in accordance with Article 110 (1), refers to the actual fact that the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church is the religion of the majority of Greek people and it is included in Greek constitutions since the Revolution and was included since then in the Constitution also of 1975 mainly for historical reasons (see Minutes of the Hellenic Parliament for the Revision of the Constitution – Plenary Session p. 402). This provision is of limited regulatory content which is connected in particular with establishing official religious holidays to facilitate interested citizens in exercising their religious duties (see judgement 100/2017 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State) etc. It has been deemed by the aforementioned judgements 2280-2285/2001 of the Plenary Session of the Court that this provision of Article 3 which is included in Part One, section II of the Constitution regarding the relations between Church and the State, does not affect the right of freedom of religion enshrined in Article 13 included in Part Two of the Constitution on individual and social rights, and does not grant privileged treatment for Greek Orthodox Christians on exercising this right. This would be contrary to the special provision of Article 13 (1) by which equal treatment and enjoyment of civil rights independently of religious beliefs is established [...].”

Reason 16 of judgment 1749/2019 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State states that the term “prevailing” religion included in Article 3(1) of the Constitution referring to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as well as the invocation to the Holy, Homoousios and Consubstantial Holy Trinity on the heading of the Constitution, is linked with the critical role of the Orthodox Church in the course of history of Hellenism, in particular during the period of Ottoman rule, before national independence. This is also an ascertainment that this is the religion of the vast majority of the Greek population and there are regulatory consequences due to that, such as establishment of certain Christian holidays as compulsory holidays at

⁶ Venizelos E., *Church - State relations as relations regulated by the Constitution*, [In Greek], p. 146 Paratiritis Publishing House, 3rd ed., Thessaloniki 2000. (Ευ. Βενιζέλου, *Οι Σχέσεις Κράτους και Εκκλησίας ως σχέσεις συνταγματικά ρυθμισμένες*, σελ. 146, εκδόσεις Παρατηρητής, εκδ. γ', Θεσσαλονίκη 2000).

⁷ P.D. Dagtoglou, *Constitutional Law- Civil Rights*, §569, Sakkoulas 1991. (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, *Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα*, Σάκκουλας 1991, §569).

national and local level, in the public and private sector (see also judgment 660, 926/2018 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State).

3. Prohibition of proselytism

In Article 13 (2)(3) of the Constitution it is established that proselytism is prohibited. This applies to the prevailing religion and also to any other religion. Even before the adoption of the Constitution and of the Penal Code, a sanction for proselytism was provided for by law⁸.

In particular, Article 4 of Emergency Law 1363/1938, as amended by Article 2 of Emergency Law 1672/1939, lays down that: *"1. Anyone engaging in proselytism shall be liable to imprisonment and a fine [...] 2. By the term 'proselytism' is meant, in particular, any direct or indirect attempt to intrude on the religious beliefs of a person of a different religious persuasion (heterodoxos), with the aim of undermining those beliefs, either by any kind of inducement or promise of an inducement or moral support or material assistance, or by fraudulent means or by taking advantage of the other person's inexperience, trust, need, low intellect or naivety. 3. Committing this act at school or educational or charitable institutions is considered a particularly aggravated case"*.

According to a reference made by the Minister of Justice⁹ at the time during the debates on Article 13 of the Constitution in force by the fifth Revisional Parliament, the constitutional legislator understood as proselytism only the *"attempt to penetrate the religious conscience of heterodox or persons of different religions by illegal or immoral means, by abusing a relationship of dependence or by promising benefits of any kind"*. Consequently, it appears that the type of proselytism prohibited by the Constitution and subject to criminal sanctions is the attempt to intrude on the religious beliefs of a person by unlawful means, notably inducement or by fraudulent means.

Therefore, on the basis of the above, (a) confessing one's own religious belief in public; (b) persuading with arguments someone to change their religious beliefs; (c) preaching; (d) holding missions to people of a different denomination or religion; (e) publishing, selling and dispatching printed documents; and (f) holding public and/or open speeches with free attendance and departure and a clear indication of any declaration of religion or doctrine for which the dissemination is made, **do not constitute proselytism**¹⁰.

4. The provisions in the Penal Code regarding the penal approach of acts relating to religious conscience and worship

The new Penal Code ratified by Law 4619/19 (A' 95) entered into force on July 1st, 2019. By the same law, the previous Penal Code which was in force since January 1st, 1951, was repealed.

One of the main changes in the new Penal Code is that the provisions of the following Articles are repealed: Article 198 on malicious blasphemy, Article 199 on insulting religion and Article 201 on insulting the memory of the dead (Chapter Z' on jeopardizing religious peace). In Chapter Z', only Article 200 on disturbance of religious assemblies is still in force. In accordance with Article 200: 1. Malicious attempt or intention to disturb any assembly for

⁸ Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §596

⁹ Chrysogonos C., *Individual and Social rights*, Athens, 2006, p. 281 (Κ. Χ. Χρυσόγονος, *Ατομικά και Κοινωνικά Δικαιώματα*, Νομική Βιβλιοθήκη, 2006, σελ. 281)

¹⁰ Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §597

worship or practice tolerable by the state organized by a religion is subject to imprisonment for up to two years. 2. The same sanction is provided for as regards acting in an insulting, inappropriate manner in a church or in a place assigned for a religious assembly tolerable by the state.

Usurpation of a religious minister's office of the Orthodox Church of Christ or other known religion in Greece continues to be penalized in accordance with Article 175 (2) of the Penal Code. Nevertheless, Article 176 is repealed, which provided for sentence of up to six months imprisonment for illegally wearing clothing or other distinctive item of a religious minister in public, among other cases of public servants.

Additionally, the provision of Article 373 of the previous Penal Code is repealed, in accordance to which grave robbery aiming at illegally taking items for oneself or for a third party shall be penalized as theft.

The provisions of Article 374 (1)(a) on aggravated cases of theft which in accordance to the previous Penal Code was punishable with imprisonment of up to ten years if religious worship items were stolen from a place intended for religious worship, is amended as follows: *"[A penalty of imprisonment of up to ten years and a fine shall be applied to any person guilty of theft if a) this person steals an item of artistic or archaeological or historical interest used for religious worship from a place intended for religious worship, [...]]"*.

Article 191A on "Desecration of symbols or places of particular national or religious interest" is inserted in the new Penal Code. Paragraph 2 of this Article lays down that: *"The same penalty [i.e. imprisonment of up to two years or a fine] applies for acts of polluting or damaging places of particular national or religious interest as well as areas where dead bodies are kept or cemeteries and thus causing fear or concern to an indefinite number of people, if this act is not more severely punishable by another provision"*.

5. Legal framework on acquiring a permit to build and operate worship places (Houses of Prayer and Churches)

The procedure for issuing a permit to build and operate worship places is different for the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ and for the other religions although the same basic principles are followed. This is basically due to technical reasons because the composition of the Greek population is by over 95% Greek Orthodox and therefore there is a multiple need to build and operate churches of the Orthodox Church. Additionally, there are historical and cultural reasons for this practice which date back to the conditions of the establishment of the modern Hellenic State.

Protective provisions are made by the State in order to provide equal treatment for all religious communities in Greece, such as:

- a) **Law 4223/2013** (Official Government Gazette A' 287) introduced an exemption from paying real estate tax for all places of worship and prayer of all known religions and
- b) **Law 4301/2014** (Official Government Gazette A' 223) introduced an exemption from paying fees to regional authorities for all independent buildings of churches and places of prayer of all known religions and denominations.

a. Construction and operation of Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ

In accordance with Article 32 *"Issuing of building permit for ecclesiastical foundations"*, Law 4495/2017 (A' 167):

“1. The provisions of this law apply for issuing a building permit for legal persons prescribed by Law 590/1977 and legal persons prescribed by law 4149/1961 (A’41).

2. Prior authorization for the building permit is compulsory and issued by the competent Building Service, in case of construction work ordered by Churches, Bishopric buildings, one per Metropolis, belonging exclusively to ecclesiastical legal persons of Law 590/1977 or Law 4149/1961 and to Monasteries and their Glebes, as well as on their premises and in their ground serving the community life, as well as their annexes.

3. For construction work ordered by the Church of Greece, as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the positive opinion on the architectural design is issued before the prior authorization by the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture of the Church of Greece, as referred to in paragraph 5.

4. In respect of the works referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 ordered by the Church of Crete and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the positive opinion on the architectural design shall be issued, following the prior authorization, by the Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture in Crete and the Dodecanese and the Building Service of Crete and the Dodecanese referred to in paragraph 6.

5. A Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture shall be established in the Church of Greece. The Council shall consist of seven members and shall meet in this composition:

a. a priest, Higher Education graduate or Professor of Architecture at a Polytechnic School, as Chairman,

b. an architect, employee of the Directorate for Architectural Urban Planning and Permits of the General Directorate of Urban Planning of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. This member and his/her alternate shall be designated by the Minister,

c. an architect, representing and designated by the Technical Chamber of Greece, with his/her alternate,

d. an architect, member of the Association of Architects- Higher Education graduates,

e. a civil engineer or a mechanical engineer or an electrical engineer depending on the discussion matter,

f. an icon painter or a wood sculptor or a marble sculptor depending on the discussion matter,

g. an architect, employee of the Ministry of Culture and Sports designated by the Minister with his/her alternate.

The Council shall be set up by decision of the Permanent Holy Synod of the Church of Greece. The Secretary of the Council shall be appointed by the same decision. The members shall be appointed for a 2-year term, which may be renewed.

6. A Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture for Crete and the Dodecanese shall be established in the Church of Crete. The Council shall consist of seven members and shall meet in this composition:

a. a priest, Higher Education graduate or Professor of Architecture at a Polytechnic School, as Chairman,

b. an architect, employee of the Directorate for Architectural Urban Planning and Permits of the General Directorate of Urban Planning of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. This member and his/her alternate shall be designated by the Minister,

c. an architect, representing and designated by the Technical Chamber of Greece, with his/her alternate,

- d. an architect, member of the Association of Architects, Higher Education graduates,*
- e. a civil engineer or a mechanical engineer or an electrical engineer depending on the discussion matter,*
- f. an icon painter or a wood sculptor or a marble sculptor depending on the discussion matter,*
- g. an architect, employee of the Ministry of Culture and Sports designated by the Minister with his/her alternate.*

The Council shall be set up by decision of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete. The Secretary of the Council shall be appointed by the same decision. The members shall be appointed for a 2-year term, which may be renewed.

The term of office of the Councils established in accordance with Article 2 of Law 4030/2011 shall expire automatically on 31.12.2017.

7. Upon prior authorization, the building permit and the permit for the building to be used as a church are issued in accordance to this law by the Building Service of the Church of Greece which has been set up by Law 4030/2011 Article 2. Additionally to the provisions of this law, in order for construction work to be carried out, the building permit shall be sent to the competent Building Service and archived for initiating the control procedure for the works, in accordance with the provisions of this law.

8. A Building Service shall be established in the Church of Greece exercising responsibilities of Building Services and shall issue building permits within the spatial jurisdiction of the Church of Greece. A Building Service shall be established in the Church of Crete and the Metropolises of the Dodecanese which shall issue building permits within the spatial jurisdiction of the Church of Crete exclusively on:

a. Bishopric buildings

b. Churches belonging exclusively to ecclesiastical legal persons as referred to in Law 590/1977 and their annexes. Only annexes to churches belonging to ecclesiastical legal persons as referred to in Law 590/1977 are allowed to be built and in condition that the annex constitutes a single architectural whole along with the church and that it is of use to the church,

c. Monasteries, especially on fencing work and on the premises inside the fencing serving monastic life.

9. It is within the competences of the aforementioned Building Services to issue permits for areas belonging to these buildings for both their use as places of worship as well as all other uses. A legal condition for the works or for the use to begin shall be the issuing of the permit for use as a worship place and the permit for use which is issued with the building permit and may be contained on the same document.

10. The aforementioned Building Services fall within the supervision and control of the Minister of Environment and Energy.

The staff is hired and paid by the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, respectively.

The Building Services are integrated in the same electronic information system as all Building Services.

11. The application for prior authorization and a dossier attached shall be submitted to the competent Building Service via the competent local Metropolis. This procedure shall be followed for all monasteries or churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ whether they are ecclesiastical legal persons, or natural persons or legal persons governed by private law.

12. A permit is required for the iconography and decoration of monasteries and churches as artwork, issued by the Building Service of the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete and the assent of the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture or the Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture for Crete and the Dodecanese, respectively.

13. A Regulation by the Permanent Holy Synod sets out the establishment, organization, competences, administrative support, operation and statute of the abovementioned services and agencies as well as the details on the electronic record-keeping.

14. The buildings referred to in paragraph b are special buildings of public interest and derogations are allowed by decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy, in accordance with Article 27 of Law 4067/2012 following an opinion by the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture.

15. For construction or repair work as referred to in paragraph b, instead of the title deed, the interested parties are required to submit to the competent service the following supporting documents for the issuance of the prior-authorization of the building permit and its issuance:

a. a document by the competent land register certifying that the property is not being claimed by the State or the local authorities.

b. a notarial deed of consensus or an inventory report drawn up and transcribed in accordance with Article 7 of Law 3800/1957 (A' 256) or Article 88 of Emergency Law 2200/1940 (A' 42) or Article 62 of Law 590/1977 (A' 146), signed by the legal representative of the ecclesiastical legal person with a topographic mapping attached. A notarial deed of consensus as referred to above must be also drawn up for the property of monasteries.

For existing buildings, a solemn declaration of law 1599/1986 declaring the year of construction.

Prior authorization and building permit for private churches and chapels shall be issued by the competent local Building Services of the municipalities.

16. By decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy the manner of informing, interconnecting and exchanging of information from the records of the Building Service with the authorities which are competent for complying with the provisions of Articles 1-4 of Law 3843/ 2010 (A' 62) shall be set out".

Furthermore, according to par. 1 of Article 341 of the recent Law 4957/2022 (A' 141) concerning the building permits for Churches and ecclesiastical properties of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos: "For the building permits of Churches and ecclesiastical properties of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, Article 12 of Law 4258/2014 (A' 94), and Article 32 of Law 4495/2017 (A' 167), as well as the provisions of Section II of Law 4858/2021 (A' 220) shall be applied".

b. Construction and operation of places of worship (houses of prayer and temples) of religious communities other than the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete, the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos

In accordance to the regulations of the first chapter of **Law 4301/2014** (Official Government Gazette A' 223) and the establishment of a new form of collective religious organization, namely the ecclesiastical and religious legal persons, all religious communities (except for those expressly excluded according to Article 16 of Law 4301/2014, that is the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete, the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos

- and in general every Orthodox ecclesiastical jurisdiction (klima)¹¹ -the Jewish Communities and the religious Muslim communities in the regions under the jurisdiction of the Muftiates in Thrace) may be organized as legal persons of this form governed by private law in accordance with the provisions of this law. In the provisions of the aforementioned law it is provided for that the religious and ecclesiastical legal persons may establish and operate worship places in their own name (Article 9). A permit for establishing and operating a worship place may be issued for religious communities that have not received legal personality as referred to in Law 4301/2014.

In the regulatory framework in force for the construction and authorization of places of worship (temples and houses of prayer) the general regulations of **Emergency Law 1363/1938** (Official Government Gazette A' 305) as amended by the regulations of **Emergency Law 1672/1939** (Official Government Gazette A' 123), of the **Royal Decree of 20-5/2-6-1939** implementing it (Official Government Gazette A' 220) and **Article 27 of Law 3467/2006** (Official Government Gazette A' 128) as well as the [joint circular 105456/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number Ψ56646MTΛH-IO9\)](#), which updated the **joint circulars** 69230/A3/6-5-2014 (Online Publication Number ΒΙΦΘ9-TOT) and 118939/01/19-7-2016 (Online Publication Number 76774653ΠΣ-5Ω9)¹², and also incorporated the circular 128231/01/2-8-2016 (Online Publication Number: ΨΔ014653ΠΣ-ΓΕΙ) are in force. These regulations do not apply to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ (Church of Greece, Church of Crete, Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos), as foreseen in Article 3 of the Constitution, for which specific provisions apply. In particular as concerns building permits for Islamic places of worship and/ or prayer in Thrace (mosques, tekke, masjid, jem, cemevi) [the joint circular 105510/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: 6OX646MTΛH-0Y6\)](#), which replaced the **joint circular 57071/01/3-4-2017** (Online Publication Number: 78ΘΓ4653ΠΣ-Z3X) applies.

In accordance to the aforementioned provisions on the operation of places of prayer and/or worship, in addition to the common planning regulations, a relevant authorization by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is required.

The official authorization for a temple or house of prayer (with the exception of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ) is issued by non-discretionary - according to case-law - decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. The authorization may be issued after verification that the three conditions provided for by Article 13 paragraph 2 of the Constitution are satisfied (Council of State Plenary Session decision 4202/2012, Council of State Plenary Session decision 1444/1991, Council of State 5572/1996, Supreme Court of Cassation 20/2001) i.e. that this concerns a known religion with no hidden belief but clear doctrines, no proselytizing is practiced and its worship is free to everyone and does not offend public order or morality; moreover the other provisions laid down by legislation apply. *“Non-compliance with the condition laid down by Article 13, paragraph 2 of the Constitution on practicing religious worship, i.e. the condition of not offending public order or the morality through religious worship is normally established by state repressive action”* (Council of State Plenary Session 4202/2012 argument 8); however the prior – precautionary administrative

¹¹ The Orthodox Churches spiritually connected with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople which are under a different ecclesiastical jurisdiction, “klima”, (other than the Church of Greece), i.e. other Orthodox Patriarchates or Autocephalous Churches, may establish glebes within the territory of the Church of Greece only under the specific provisions of Article 39 of **Law 590/1977** (Official Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic A' 146) “on the Charter of the Church of Greece”.

¹² This [circular](#) as well as a [summary list](#) of the necessary documents are available in English on the webpage of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

investigation to verify formal and easily verifiable requirements and regulations – as those are set by the public order rules, may not be excluded or considered incompatible with the Constitution.

A “**house of prayer**”, as it is set out, is a place of worship of relatively small size in a private property designed to operate as a worship place for a limited number of people as opposed to a “**temple**” which is a single building for public religious observance and practice by anyone without distinction (Supreme Court of Cassation 20/2001 Penal Law Chamber). In accordance to the regulations of Article 1 of Royal Decree 20-05/02-06-1939, an application of at least fifty (50) families is required for issuing the authorization required for establishing and operating a temple, whereas even a one-digit number of applicants is sufficient for issuing the authorization of a place of worship (case-law of the Council of State has upheld the number of five (5) applicants as sufficient).

It is noted that the phrases “house of prayer” and “temple” are used as administrative and/or technical terms and that the religious communities select the exact designation of their places of prayer and/or worship which is stated on the application submitted to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Therefore, the human right of religious freedom, as enshrined in the Greek Constitution and in international legal instruments, is not unrestricted or uncontrolled. On the contrary, it is subject to specific, limited conditions including not offending the public order, which is a legitimate restriction as laid down in Article 13 (4) of the Constitution where it is provided for that complying with the law is a restriction to this right. This restriction has a consequential function, meaning that practice of religious worship is not above the law, and a positive function, meaning that practicing believers are subject to the same legal obligations and requirements shared by all under the law.

As it is accepted by all legal theory and case-law: *“Freedom of worship does not enshrine the absolute right for believers to worship God where they want and when they want, without complying with the law nor does it enshrine a particular right to practice rites of worship in a designated area. It merely guarantees the right for believers of all religions and denominations to worship God in their own way and with the means chosen by themselves and imposed by the rules of their religion without unjustified obstacles and arbitrary interference by the State.”* (opinion by Antonis Manitakis entitled: “Constitutional protection of cultural property and freedom of worship in response to the use of the Rotonda” Thessaloniki 05-03-1995¹³).

Therefore, under the above conditions, the administrative authorization for the place of worship is *“a necessary measure in a democratic society pursuing a legitimate aim, namely the protection of public order, as the authorization is a measure proportionate to the aim pursued”* (Supreme Court 20/2001).

The meaning of public order (as laid down by Article 3 of the Civil Code) includes those provisions of mandatory law set out to serve the public -general and not private-interest. The implementation of these laws may not be excluded by the volition of private persons. That is to say that such mandatory rules apply in an absolute manner, without permitting any derogation, amendment or exclusion by virtue of a private agreement or a unilateral expression of the opposite will.

¹³ Published in Journal *Law and Nature* (Νόμος και Φύση), 1995 and can also be found at: <http://www.constitutionalism.gr/manitakis-rotonda/>

Therefore, in addition to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the specific legislation, it is clear that, for the issuing of the authorization and the lawful operation of a place of worship, compliance with the laws on street planning, urban planning and health regulations is required as well as the provisions on quiet times, i.e. mandatory rules universally applicable which may not be excluded by private citizens, and regulations designated to ensure the necessary conditions of safety and protection of assembled citizens.

Particularly with regard to the regulations of urban planning and street planning legislation, the Legal Council of the State has held by opinions 343/2002 and 121/2008 that: *“Within the definition of public order the following is included inter alia: compliance with regulations of the relevant urban planning and street planning legislation applicable in the area where the temple or place of worship shall operate”*. In fact, the Greek Ombudsman has expressed his position on this issue in the past, stating that prioritizing urban and building approval is not restrictive of the freedom of religion, provided that this is applicable under conditions of sound administration and is accompanied by a notification to the applicants as laid down by Article 4 par. 2 of the Law of Administrative Procedure (see Greek Ombudsman document Ref. number 18893.06.2.6./09/09/2008 and Mediation Summary of September 2009).

The following rules are included in particular within the generally applicable rules of public order (in terms of urban planning, street planning and public health) aiming at the safe use of buildings and the protection of their users and the local residents:

A. Rules on categories and content of land use i.e. **Presidential Decree 23/02/1987** (Official Government Gazette D’ 166/06-03-1987). These rules lay down the land use in areas of application of the general urban development plans according to their general or specific urban functional dimension in which particular case the legislator has specifically provided for the category “Religious Sites” as a special category (Article 1, indent B, number 3) which is allowed to be used in several areas of Urban Development Plan (e.g. residential areas, “exclusive”, as referred to in Article 2, indent 7, and “general” in Article 3 indent 8, urban areas, as referred to in Article 4, indent 12, tourist areas as referred to in Article 8, indent 10). In accordance with these provisions, a religious site (house of prayer, temple) may operate legally in an Urban Development Plan area where such use is provided for.

B. Rules on categories and classification of buildings depending on their use and on the subsequent specifications that must be followed depending on the estimated population served, in accordance with **Articles 3 and 4 of the Building Code** (see Articles 346-347 Code of Planning Legislation 14-07-1999, Official Government Gazette D’ 580/27-07-1999) which lay down that the category “Public Assembly” includes buildings and parts of buildings used for the assembly of at least 50 persons for religious events and activities (therefore inter alia temples are explicitly included in accordance to Article 346, paragraph 1, indent C); for these religious places floor area of at least 0,65 square meters per person is required (Article 347, indent C (bb)).

C. Rules on general conditions of hygiene of the building and on public health protection (e.g. water, sewerage, lighting, ventilation etc.) such as: a) **Article 11 of the Building Code** (see Article 354 Code of Planning Legislation 14-07-1999, Official Government Gazette D’ 580) on the obligation for all areas of principal use in buildings to have natural lighting and ventilation (direct and indirect) and b) **the Ministerial Decree Γ1/9900/27-11/03-12-1974 of the Minister of Social Services** (Official Government Gazette B’ 1266/1974) in so far as it is in force, laying down the obligation of constructing and providing toilet facilities in all areas of public assembly and living areas (Article 1, indent 9).

D. Rules on fire safety, i.e. the provisions of **Fire Fighting Regulation 3/2015** (Official Government Gazette B’ 529/2015), **Fire Protection Regulation for Buildings, Presidential Decree 71/1988** (Official Government Gazette A’ 32) as well as the **Fire Fighting Regulation**

13/2013 (Official Government Gazette B' 1586) in force. In accordance with the aforementioned legal provisions, designated requirements on fire safety measures must be followed– depending on the date of the application of the building permit and on the number of people gathered– both for the assembly areas for fewer than fifty persons and those for over fifty persons. It is explicitly mentioned that buildings or parts of buildings where people gather for religious events and activities (in accordance with the relevant regulation of the Building Code) explicitly referring to temples (Article 1, Fire Fighting Regulation 3/1981, Official Government Gazette B'20) are included in the abovementioned places. Compliance with the relevant regulations is evidenced by the fire safety certificate issued by the competent firefighting authority.

E. The regulation on quiet hours measures, i.e. **Police Regulation 3/1996** (Official Government Gazette B' 15); in accordance with Article 2, managers of public establishments and other enterprises as well as home owners *“are required to use mechanical means or other appropriate means to diminish to the minimum possible level the noise caused”* by various installations to protect neighboring population.

Additionally, the rules of public order generally applicable clearly include the general fiscal provisions relating to taxes, penalties and specific obligations not only with regard to taxpayers (natural persons, legal persons, associations, societies etc.) but also with regard to non-taxpayers, as defined in Article 11 (3) of **Law 4174/2013** *“Tax procedures and other provisions”* (Official Government Gazette A' 170) in force, stating that: *“3. Tax administration may issue a VAT identification number to a tax-exempt person, if this is required by other provisions. In particular, Tax administration shall issue a VAT identification number at the request of any natural person or legal person or legal entity if a financial transaction is carried out with national general government entities, credit institutions and payment institutions. All issues related to the application of the aforementioned indent as well as all additional details may be set up by decision of the Secretary General”* as well as all the relevant regulatory decisions pursuant to this authorization.

Council of State decision 582/2011 on mandatory issuing of VAT identification number held that this obligation: *“... is not contrary to 13 of the Constitution or Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights because it aims at achieving a public objective (the effective operation of the new computerized system and the subsequent tackling of tax fraud) and it introduces an obligation of general and impersonal scope not dependent on religious beliefs, which is not subject to any exception, especially as this obligation does not constitute an attempt to exercise state authority to the personal beliefs of the citizens.”*

It is noted that according to circular 128231/Θ1/2-8-2016 on *“Process for construction of a worship place (temple or house of prayer) of a formal or informal type of organization of a religion or a denomination of a religious community (other than the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ)”* (Online Publication Number: ΨΔ014653ΠΣ-ΓΕΙ) the provision for the administrative authorization is applied in all cases of operating temples or houses of prayer and in general all buildings, new or existing, used for practicing religious beliefs of all religious communities (except for those within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ in Greece as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution). The above concern religious communities organized as legal persons of any formal type, as well as communities remaining informal, with no special legal personality (on the same legal grounds and given the equal enjoyment, by all religious people, of their constitutional rights, as explicitly stipulated by the Constitution and implemented for decades in the Greek national law).

Before the planning authorities issue a permit to **construct** a temple or a worship place of any religious community (except for those within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution), a permit by the

Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is required. Having regard to all the above, the religious community concerned should be addressed to the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs before the issuing of the building permit by the competent building authority in order to request the issuing of the relevant administrative act by the Directorate of Religious Administration on the authorization to construct.

It is clarified that the **authorization to construct** issued in the stage prior to building, **shall not be under any circumstances authorization to establish and operate**. Therefore, it does not authorize the operation of the worship place and it is limited only to authorize on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs the reconstruction work. This authorization is issued by the Directorate of Religious Administration before the beginning of the building works and only following an examination of the conditions defined by Article 13, paragraph 2 of the Constitution on free practice of worship (*“All known religions shall be free and their rites of worship shall be performed unhindered and under the protection of the law. The practice of rites of worship is not allowed to offend public order or morality. Proselytism is prohibited”*) and the provisions in force of Law 1363/38 and Law 1672/39, and it does not replace the authorization to establish and operate (separate and distinct from the one cited above) which is issued in a second step and concerns the operating possibility of an existing building to serve the aim for which it was built. Therefore, following the issuing of a building permit and the completion of the necessary building works, all interested parties should be addressed again to the Directorate for Religious Administration to submit the file with the necessary supporting documents in order to receive then the necessary authorization to establish and operate a temple.

c. Procedure for recognizing a worship place existing before 1955 (except for the ones under the jurisdiction, “klima”, of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution)

A large number of old worship places of different religious communities, even historical ones, despite the fact that they have not received a permit for establishing and operating a worship place, they operate in a constant and uninterrupted manner for many decades catering for the worship purposes of the relevant communities. A significant number of these worship places had been established and operated before the existing regulatory framework (1938-1939).

In order to settle this problem that has been unsolved for many years creating serious practical issues in terms of the relations between the religious communities and the public agencies, and of the everyday operation and mission of these communities, the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs initially issued the circular 176169/01/19-10-2018, the provisions of which have now been incorporated into the current joint circular [105456/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: Ψ56646MTΛH-IO9\)](#), and, specifically for Muslim places of prayer/worship in Thrace, in the joint circular [105510/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: 60X646MTΛH-0Y6\)](#). According to the relevant provisions, all religious communities may request an act of declaratory effect, especially as regards worship places for which no permit has been issued for their establishment and operation. In this way, these worship places will operate legally and their religious ministers will be included in the Register held by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. **The condition to be fulfilled in order to apply for this act is that the worship places have been operating in a constant and uninterrupted manner in this specific building or in part of the building for a long period of time and at least since August 9, 1955, or before, to the present day.**

6. The Network for recording incidents against religious sites and the Report drawn up

By Decision (Ref. number: 1149/22-6-2015) of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations was made responsible to:

- a. set up and establish a **Network of cooperation** for recording incidents of desecration/vandalism and any type of offence against religious sites as well as the procedural course. This network consists of representatives of religious communities and state bodies and authorities, as appropriate, involved with confronting and/or recording such incidents (i.e. the Hellenic Police, the competent Public Prosecutors' offices, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture and Sports etc.) and
- b. collect, process and publish this information **in an annual Report**.

All places of worship (Churches, Synagogues, Mosques, Houses of Prayer etc.) and their associated annexed buildings, both the ones operating lawfully as well as the unofficial ones (i.e. operating without the relevant authorization by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs) are considered as religious sites. Schools of religious nature [Ecclesiastical Schools, Jewish Schools and Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools) in Thrace], cemeteries of religious nature (Parish cemeteries, Muslim cemeteries, Jewish cemeteries) and, in certain cases, monuments of religious nature or monuments connected to religious minorities (i.e. Holocaust Memorials for Greek Jews etc.), are also considered as religious sites. The data collected and reported is relevant to all types of acts against such religious sites.

It is noteworthy that the publication of the previous Reports of years 2015-2020 has been broadly welcomed by religious communities and has led further expansion with the participation of more religious communities which is particularly significant for extracting primary data, regarding offences against sites of specific religious communities as well as lack of such acts within the reference year.

On March 7, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and the General Secretariat of Public Order on collecting and recording official data regarding acts against religious sites in Greece and on determining and implementing further action. Among the points of agreement laid down in the Memorandum is the possibility for the two parties to work together on matters of mutual interest, such as training of the staff on matters of antisemitism, intolerance, racism, islamophobia, interreligious dialogue and deepening on matters related to the Christian Orthodox Church, Orthodox culture etc.

Therefore, by this seventh Report, an attempt has been made to collect offensive acts against religious sites, by recording the overall situation at national level so that this may be used as a reliable tool to draw conclusions on the real scale of these phenomena and to contribute in developing policies to tackle them.

More specifically, for the year 2021, the data was mostly provided by the official correspondence with the Network participants, Press Releases and Communiqués by the Hellenic Police and news and articles published in the daily press as indexed by the Press Office of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and news published in electronic media.

The following religious and state bodies whom we thank once again for their support, have worked with us within the framework of the Network of cooperation for recording incidents:

A. Religious Communities	
RELIGION	Public Law Bodies /Ecclesiastical Legal Persons/ Religious Legal
CHRISTIANITY	Orthodox Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church of Greece • Church of Crete • Metropolis of Symi - Tilos - Halki and Castellorizo • Metropolis of Rhodes • Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia • Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros • Metropolis of Karpathos and Kasos
	Catholic Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, art. 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, art. 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (Religious Legal Person, art. 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Ioannina (Religious Legal Person, art. 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Evangelical Church of Corinth
	Armenian Orthodox Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, art. 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Armenian Community of Komotini
	Christian Evangelist Church
	"Jesus Christ is the answer to life" International Church
	Biblical Baptist Church
	Apostolic Church of Christ (member of the Synod of Greek Pentecostal Churches)
	Church of Christians of Greece
	Free Apostolic Church
	Redeemed Christian Church of God
	Choice of Life Christian Church
	Abundant Grace Christian Church - Apostolate
	German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece - Thessaloniki Parish
	Lamb of God World Outreach Ministries
	Christ Pentecostal Church
	Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ
Armenian Evangelical Church in Greece	
Jehovah's Christian Witnesses in Greece	
JUDAISM	Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece
ISLAM	Muftiate of Didymoteicho
	Muftiate of Komotini
	Muftiate of Xanthi
	Managing Bodies of the Waqf property in Kos
	Managing Bodies of the Waqf property in Rhodes
	Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in the City of Xanthi
	Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in the City of Komotini
	Worship house DAROL JANATA (PARADISE)
Worship House of Greek Muslims	
BUDDHISM	Tibetan Buddhism-Karma Kagyu-Diamond Way

HINDUISM	SARBAT DA BHALA-Welfare of All	
BAHA'I	National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Greece	
GREEK NATIONAL RELIGION	Worship House of Greek National Religion	
B. State bodies		
Hellenic Police: Public Security Division/Hellenic Police Headquarters		
Public Prosecutor's Offices:		
Athens	Katerini	Messolonghi
Aigio	Kefalinia	Naxos
Alexandroupolis	Drama	Nafplion
Amaliada	Edessa	Orestias
Amfissa	Ilia	Patra
Arta	Heraklion	Preveza
Veria	Thesprotia	Rethymno
Volos	Thessaloniki	Rhodes
Giannitsa	Ioannina	Trikala
Kavala	Larissa	Chalkis
Kalavrita	Lasithi	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs:		
A7 Directorate for North America		
D3 Directorate for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe		
D4 Directorate for Human Rights, Minorities, Refugees and Migrants		
E2 Directorate for Religious and Ecclesiastical Affairs		
Ministry of Justice: Department of European and International Relations		
Ministry of Culture and Sports: Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities/Department for Supervision of Scientific Institutions in Greece and abroad and for Coordination of International Cooperation and Organizations		

7. Protection measures against the spread of coronavirus (COVID 19) in places of worship of religious communities in Greece in 2021

In the year **2021** the performance of services, worship meetings, rituals, sacraments (e.g. marriages, baptisms), funerals (and related religious services and other ceremonies and funeral events) and all kinds of religious ceremonies, as well as the attendance of persons for private prayer in all places of religious worship without exception (of any kind and of any legal, canonical and generally religious status of temples and chapels, houses of prayer, mosques, synagogues, etc.) of all denominations and religions, irrespective of their size and capacity, **under certain conditions**, for reasons of public health precaution.

In particular, the measures in force during the main Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious celebrations were as follows:

Christianity:

- **Easter (2 May 2021):** Given that in Greece, Greek citizens of the Catholic denomination, following permission received by the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church in Greece from the Vatican, and Greek citizens belonging to the Protestant Confession celebrate Easter on the same date as the Orthodox, during Holy Week (26 April to 1

May 2021) and the Bright Week (3 May 2021 to 9 May 2021), the following joint Ministerial Decisions Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.26380/23-4-2021 (1682 Β') and Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.27683/29-4-2021 (1814 Β') were in force. According to these, during the period in question the maximum number of people allowed inside places of worship was based on the ratio of one (1) person per twenty-five (25) sqm. with a minimum distance of two (2) meters between them and a maximum of one hundred (100) persons. Specifically in the outdoor areas (courtyards) on the ratio of one (1) person per ten (10) sqm, with a minimum distance of two (2) meters between them in all directions. Also, it was suspended throughout the territory to hold any kind of religious ceremonies of any religion or denomination by conducting a procession outside the places of religious worship. Finally, the presence of up to nine (9) persons was permitted at weddings and funerals, strictly complying with other precautionary measures and instructions from the health authorities.

- **Christmas (25 December 2021):** The joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.80417/23-12-2021 (6214 Β'), which was in force from 24-12-2021 to 3-1-2022, provided, inter alia, for keeping a distance of one and a half (1,5) meters between persons [one (1) person per 2 sqm] indoors and outdoors, while the restriction of the maximum limit of 9 persons at weddings and funerals no longer existed.

Judaism:

- **Yom Kippur (15-16 September 2021):** During this period, the joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.55400/10-9-2021 (4206 Β') was in force, according to which the maximum number of people allowed inside the places of worship was derived from the ratio of one (1) person per fifteen (15) sqm, with a minimum distance between them of two (2) meters and a maximum of one hundred (100) persons, while specifically in the outdoor areas (courtyards) of one (1) person per ten (10) sqm, with a minimum distance of two (2) meters between them in all directions. In this joint Ministerial Decision, the restriction of the maximum limit of 9 persons at weddings and funerals no longer existed.
- **Hanukkah (28 November to 6 December 2021):** During this period, the joint Ministerial Decisions Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.72486/19-11-2021 and Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.75414/3-12-2021 were in force, which provided, inter alia, for keeping a distance of one and a half (1,5) meters between persons [one (1) person per 2 sqm] in indoor and outdoor areas, while the restriction of the maximum limit of 9 persons at weddings and funerals was no longer in force.

Islam:

- **Ramadan-Eid al Fitr (13 April to 12 May 2021):** During the period of Ramadan, the joint Ministerial Decisions a) Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.22439/9-4-2021 (1441 Β'), b) Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.24489/16-4-2021 (1558 Β'), c) Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.26380/23-4-2022 (1682 Β'), d) Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.27683/19-4-2021 (1814 Β') and e) Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.28503/7-5-2021 (1872 Β') were in force.

According to the first two joint Ministerial Decisions, effective successively from 12 to 19 April and from 19 to 26 April 2021, the maximum number of people allowed inside places of worship was derived from the ratio of one (1) person per twenty-five (25) sqm. The minimum distance between them was two (2) meters, with a maximum of nine (9) persons in areas of increased risk, and it was suspended throughout the country to hold any kind of religious ceremonies of any religion or denomination by conducting a procession outside places of religious worship.

Pursuant to the third, fourth and fifth aforementioned joint Ministerial Decision, effective successively from April 26 to May 3, May 3 to May 10 and May 10 to May 14, 2021, during the said period, the maximum number of people allowed inside places of worship was derived from the ratio of one (1) person per twenty-five (25)

sqm, with a minimum distance between them of two (2) meters and a maximum of one hundred (100) persons, while specifically in the outdoor areas (courtyards) of one (1) person per ten (10) sqm, with a minimum distance of two (2) meters between them in all directions. Also, it continued to be suspended throughout the territory to hold any kind of religious ceremonies of any religion or denomination by conducting a procession outside the places of religious worship. Finally, the presence of up to nine (9) persons was permitted at weddings and funerals, strictly complying with other precautionary measures and instructions from the health authorities.

- **Eid al Adha (12 to 14 May 2021):** During this period, the joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ.28503/7-5-2021 (1872 Β') and the above-mentioned measures were in force.

In addition, according to all the aforementioned joint Ministerial Decisions, at the entrances of places of worship where visitors are not allowed to enter with their footwear, there should be the possibility of washing their feet at a distance of two (2) meters or the use of shoe covers, which are not reusable. Their footwear had to be placed by each person in a bag, which was hermetically closed. There was a recommendation that each bag of shoes be placed separately and without contact with each other and in the event that the worship ritual involved the use of a mat, the believers should bring and use their own prayer mat within the worship place.



II. INCIDENTS OF YEAR 2021



Next, **the incidents recorded** are listed, by religion, in chronological order and with a brief reference to their details (place, date, description of the incident, perpetrators, police and procedural actions, any other observations). The relevant sections are accompanied, where appropriate, by historical, legal, statistical and other information of general interest.

A. Christianity

1. Orthodox Church

a. Introduction

The Orthodox Church in Greece is not a single administrative unit; it consists of ecclesiastical structures sharing a common reference point: their relation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The term “**Orthodox Church in Greece**” designates: a) the **Church of Greece** which is autocephalous and consists of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and eighty one (81) Holy Metropolises, b) the semi-autonomous **Church of Crete**, which, according to the canon law is under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, consisting of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and eight (8) Holy Metropolises, c) the **Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese** (5 Holy Metropolises¹⁴ and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos¹⁵) which, according to the canon law come directly under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, spiritually and administratively and d) the Aghion Oros (Mount Athos) which is a self-governed part of the Greek State as established by the Hellenic Constitution, spiritually under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Holy Metropolises and the Parishes (which are the basic subdivisions of the ecclesiastical organizational structure) are legal persons governed by public law¹⁶.

In **Article 3 of the Constitution** the definition of the “Orthodox Church of Greece” is established: *“1. The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ. The Orthodox Church of Greece, acknowledging our Lord Jesus Christ as its head, is inseparably united in doctrine with the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople and with every other Church of Christ of the same doctrine, observing unwaveringly, as they do, the holy apostolic and synodal canons and sacred traditions. It is autocephalous and is administered by the Holy Synod of serving Bishops and the Permanent Holy Synod originating thereof and assembled as specified by the Statutory Charter of the Church in compliance with the provisions of the Patriarchal Tome of June 29, 1850 and the Synodal Act of September 4, 1928. 2. The ecclesiastical regime existing in certain districts of the State shall not be deemed contrary to the provisions of the preceding paragraph. 3. The text of the Holy Scripture shall be maintained unaltered. Official translation of the text into any other form of language,*

¹⁴ a) Holy Metropolis of Rhodes, b) Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros, c) Holy Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia, d) Holy Metropolis of Karpathos and Kassos, e) Holy Metropolis of Symi.

¹⁵ Patmos was pronounced a Holy Island by Law 1155/1981 aiming, inter alia, at safeguarding the island’s unique religious nature and at protecting its holy sites along with its artifacts and treasures and at showcasing and evaluating them (Article 1(2)(a)).

¹⁶ Articles 1(4), 11(3) and 36 (1) Law 590/1977 (Official Government Gazette A’ 146)

without prior sanction by the Autocephalous Church of Greece and the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople, is prohibited”.

The factual situation and place of the Church of Greece is established by Law **590/1977** “On the Charter of the Church of Greece” (Official Government Gazette A’ 146), as amended by Laws **2740/1999, 2817/2000, 3432/2006, 4178/2013, 4235/2014, 4301/2014, 4386/2016, 4485/2017, 4559/2018** and the Decisions of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece Ref. 4432/2823/8-10-10 (Official Government Gazette A’ 244), Decision of 23-6-2010 (Official Government Gazette A’ 156), Decision Ref. 4562/2593/16-11-2010 (Official Government A’ 200), Ref. 4736/2758/7-10-2011 (Official Government Gazette A’ 234) Decision of 8-3-2012 (Official Government Gazette A’69) and of 8-5-2012 (Official Government Gazette A’ 120), 5053/2016/625/17 (A’ 45), 3823/2018/581/2019 (B’ 1332), 2473/2206/2019 (A’ 175) and 4622/2223/2019 (A’ 175).

As regards the semi-autonomous Church of Crete, Law **4149/1961** “On the Statutory Act of the Orthodox Church of Crete and other provisions” (Official Government Gazette A’ 41) as amended by **Emergency Law 137/1967, Decree Laws 464/1970 and 77/1974 and Laws 1894/1990, 2413/1996, 4301/2014 and 4310/2014.**

Par. 2 of Article 347 of Law **4957/2022** (A’ 141) solved the long-standing problem arising from the fact that 2,311 Chaplains of the Church of Greece were legally employed and paid without the corresponding permanent positions. Specifically, paragraph 2 states the following: *“In the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and in the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece, two thousand three hundred and eleven (2,311) permanent positions of Chaplains shall be established, which shall be occupied by Chaplains who are already paid by the State and whose decision of appointment has been published in the Official Government Gazette at the time of the entry into force of the present [...] The positions of the first subparagraph shall be added to the existing permanent positions of Chaplains of the first subparagraph of par. 1 of Article 15 of the first paragraph of Article 15 of the Emergency Law 536/1945 (A’ 226). The expenditure shall be within the Medium-Term Framework of Financial Strategy”.*

Par. 2 of Article 348 of Law **4957/2022** (A’ 141) solved the long-standing problem arising from the fact that all the Chaplains of the Church of Crete (955) were legally employed and paid without the corresponding permanent positions. In particular, par. 2 states the following: *“In the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and in the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Crete, nine hundred and fifty-five (955) permanent positions of Chaplains shall be established, which shall be occupied by Chaplains who are already paid by the State and whose appointment decision has been published in the Official Government Gazette at the time of the entry into force of the present [...] The expenses are within the Medium-Term Framework of Financial Strategy”.*

In addition, in par. 16, 17, 18 of Article 336, par. 14, 15, 16 of Article 347 and par. 13, 14, 15 of Article 348 of Law **4957 /2022** (A’ 141), a crucial reform was introduced, for the first time, which provides for the halving of the salary of Clerics (of all three degrees of priesthood) who are paid by the Greek State and against whom a criminal prosecution has been brought for a felony or for the following offences: a) theft, embezzlement (common and in the service), fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of duty, slander, any crime against sexual freedom or crime of economic exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to an embryo or a newborn child, the offences of Law 3500 /2006 (A’ 232) for dealing with domestic violence, abduction of minors, unlawful detention, unlawful violence, vigilantism, threatening, disturbing religious gatherings, b) violence against officials and judicial persons, undue influence on judicial officials, disruption of the functioning of the service, disturbing judicial sittings, contempt of court, revolt, counterfeiting, breach of seals set by the authority, breach of the authority's custody; c) incitement to disobedience, incitement to commit crimes, violence or dissension, inviting and offering to commit a crime, criminal organization, terrorist acts - terrorist

organization, criminal support, disturbing the peace, threatening to commit crimes, spreading false news, insulting symbols or places of particular national or religious importance; d) the offences of Law 927/1979 “on the damnation of acts or actions aimed at racial discrimination” (A’ 139), as in force; e) proselytizing under Article 4 of Law 1363/1938 (A’ 305), as replaced by Article 2 of Law 1672/1939 (A’ 123).

Prosecution for a felony and the offences referred to in the preceding paragraph, because of the social demerit which they bring to the profession and the particular moral value which the average member of society requires of the religious minister, and not only of the religion to which he or she belongs, but also of all religious ministers of any religion in general, require that measures be taken. However, the Greek State does not interfere in the internal functioning of religious communities and therefore, does not impose penalties related to placing a clergyman on mandatory or potential leave and suspension from the exercise of his religious duties in the event that he is prosecuted for a felony or any of the aforementioned offences. Such penalties shall be imposed by the competent ecclesiastical courts, acting as quasi-disciplinary bodies, which deal with serious internal canonical offences, have jurisdiction over clergy and monks and impose disciplinary sanctions.

The State of its own volition, because of the special value and moral importance attached to the Clergy, the undoubted contribution of the Orthodox Church to the national struggles for freedom and independence, but also for the support of Greek society, such as the disposal of church property for national or public benefit, decided to cover the salary of the Clergy. It is precisely this decision, which has a high symbolic and moral value, which requires, among other things, and in order to protect the prestige of the Cleric's office, as a minimum measure, the reduction or even the complete cessation of their salary and the simultaneous vacating of the permanent position they hold at the time of committing a felony or one of the aforementioned offences if they are prosecuted or convicted by final judgment, respectively.

In addition, by Articles 347-348 of Law **4957/2022** (A’ 141), greater efficiency is achieved in the organization and operation of the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, which contributes to the increased credibility of the institutions.

The legal status of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese had remained unregulated since 1947 with obvious negative results for the State, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Clergy and ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and, of course, the citizens who embrace Orthodoxy.

Law 4957/2022 (A’ 141) is the first law that regulates in a comprehensive and systematically structured manner the status of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese since the liberation and the union of the Dodecanese with Greece (Article 14 of Decree Law 423/1947 [A’ 226], Article 1 of Law 518/1948 [A’ 7]). As far as the ecclesiastical situation of the Dodecanese is concerned, Article 2 indent γ’ of Law 510/1947 (Official Government Gazette A’ 298), only Articles 50 to 55 of Decree Law 671/1943 “On the Charter of the Church of Greece” (A’ 324) were introduced in the Dodecanese, which dealt with marriage and betrothal, while, single Article par. 1 of Decree Law 1062/1949 (Official Government Gazette A’ 211) provided for the possibility of extending to the Dodecanese, by means of Royal Decrees in the competence of the then Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Education (such as: for the extension to the Dodecanese of the provisions governing the Insurance Fund of the Orthodox Clergy of Greece (“T.A.K.E.”) (see the Royal Decree of 7.2.1950 Official Government Gazette A’ 46/16.2.1950), the extension of various provisions of ecclesiastical laws (see the Royal Decree of 18.2.1955, Official Government Gazette A’ 62/14.3.1955, see also Plenary Session of the Council of State 2081/1950), and the provisions concerning contributions to the Insurance Fund of the Orthodox Clergy of Greece (“T.A.K.E.”) (see the 107/1963 Royal Decree, Official Government Gazette A’ 20).

Subsequently, Decree Law 295/1969 (A' 194/25.9.1969) was issued, which determined the fixed salaries of the Metropolitans of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and regulated other issues related to financial benefits to them. Moreover, from the interpretative declaration included in Article 2 of the 1952 Constitution, which covers the Dodecanese as well, the provisions of Article 1 par. 3 of the "Constitution" of 1968, Article 1 of the "Constitution" of 1973, Article 3 par. 1 and 2 of the Constitution in force, and Article 1 par. 2 of the previous Decree Law 126/1969 "On the Charter of the Church of Greece" (Official Government Gazette A' 27) and Article 1 (3) of Law 126/1969 "On the Charter of the Church of Greece" (Government Gazette A27) and Article 1 par. 3 of Law 590/1977 "On the Charter of the Church of Greece" (Official Government Gazette A' 146), it is concluded that from the liberation and unification of the Dodecanese with Greece and onwards, the Orthodox Church in the Dodecanese, i.e. the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, is under a special status, directly subordinated to the Ecumenical Patriarchate (see also Council of State 603/2009, 3237/2000, Plenary Session of the Council of State 3768/2009, Council of State 1999/2018 opinion 17).

With Articles 317-146 of Part C "Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese and other provisions" of **Law 4957/2022** (A' 141), a problem that had remained unsolved for 75 years was finally resolved. In this way, greater efficiency is achieved in the organization and administration of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos and a more complete coverage of the devotional, pastoral and welfare needs of the believers, as well as legal certainty with regard to the relevant legislative framework.

Lastly, Aghion Oros (Mount Athos) is self-governed, as established by **Article 105 of the Constitution**: *"1. The Athos peninsula extending beyond Megali Vigla and constituting the region of Aghion Oros shall, in accordance with its ancient privileged status, be a self-governed part of the Greek State, whose sovereignty thereon shall remain intact. Spiritually, Aghion Oros shall come under the direct jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. All persons leading a monastic life thereon acquire Greek citizenship without further formalities, upon admission as novices or monks. 2. Aghion Oros shall be governed, according to its regime, by its twenty Holy Monasteries among which the entire Athos peninsula is divided; the territory of the peninsula shall be exempt from expropriation. The administration of Aghion Oros shall be exercised by representatives of the Holy Monasteries constituting the Holy Community. No change whatsoever shall be permitted in the administrative system or in the number of Monasteries of Aghion Oros, or in their hierarchical order or in their position to their subordinate dependencies. Heterodox or schismatic persons shall be prohibited from dwelling thereon. 3. The determination in detail of the regimes of Aghion Oros entities and the manner of operation thereof is effected by the Charter of Aghion Oros which, with the cooperation of the State representative, shall be drawn up and voted by the twenty Holy Monasteries and ratified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Parliament of the Hellenes. 4. Faithful observance of the regime of Aghion Oros entities shall in the spiritual field be under the supreme supervision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and, in the administrative, under the supervision of the State, which shall also be exclusively responsible for safeguarding public order and security. 5. The afore-mentioned powers of the State shall be exercised through a governor whose rights and duties shall be determined by law. The law shall likewise determine the judicial power exercised by the monastic authorities and the Holy Community, as well as the customs and taxation privileges of Aghion Oros".*

In particular, as regards Aghion Oros, Decree Law **10/16-9-26** "On ratification of the Charter of Aghion Oros" (Official Government Gazette A' 309) is applicable.

b. Numerical data

The existing Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece are (96) ninety-six and there is one (1) Patriarchal Exarchate, as listed in detail in the [Addendum](#) (Table iii).

According to the data in the possession of the Directorate for Religious Administration, **the existing parish churches and monastery churches for the total of the Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece, amount to 9,825 nine thousand eight hundred twenty- five.** Chapels, pilgrimage churches, private churches, cemetery chapels and other religious sites do not factor in this figure.

The number of parishes and monasteries on the basis of which is calculated the total number of churches per Metropolis in Greece, is also listed in the [Addendum](#) (Table iii).

In **2021**, three (3) **Presidential Decrees** were adopted for establishing parishes, while two (2) requests for the issuance of Presidential Decrees for the establishment of Holy Monasteries were submitted, whose publication was pending as of 31-12-2021.

c. Incidents

The religious sites of the Orthodox Church for this Report include all types of churches¹⁷, monasteries, religious monuments (such as the Areopagus where Apostle Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians, wayside shrines), as well as Ecclesiastical schools and cemeteries.

The incidents presented below are those communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs within the framework of the Network of cooperation, as they were registered at the time they occurred. The numbers of incidents against the Orthodox Church for the year 2021 recorded here are certainly not exhaustive.

For the year **2021, three hundred seventy (370)** incidents have been recorded.

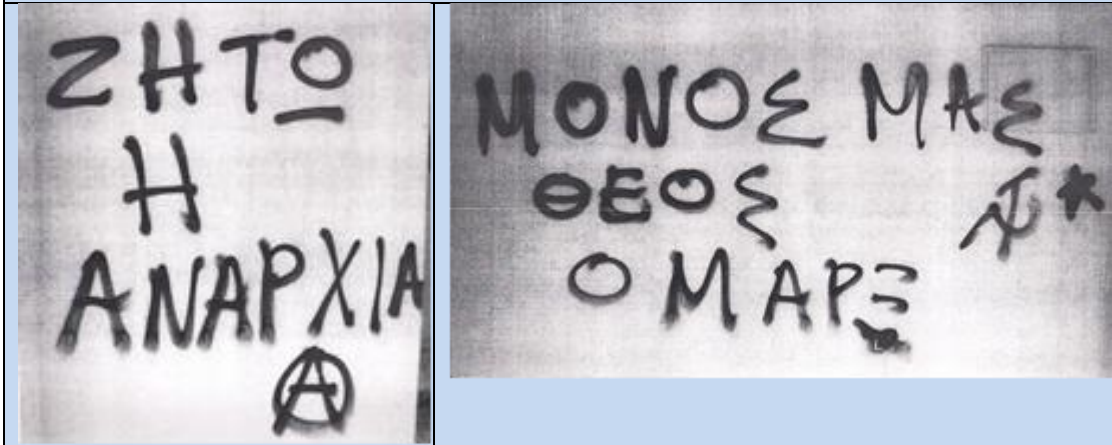
The incidents are presented in summary fact sheets, as follows:

No	1.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Alea, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	5 January 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a window of the Church storeroom, entry, destruction and attempted removal of a big brass tray. Total damage cost approximately 500€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested in the act and a dossier was formed

No	2.
Location	Church of Treis Ierarches, National Technical University of Athens (Polytechnic Campus, Zografou, Athens)
Date	5 January 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans "A CALL FOR ANARCHY" and "OUR ONLY GOD MARX" together with the symbol of Anarchy and the hammer and sickle on the walls and porticoes of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

¹⁷ According to Article 1 of the Regulation of the Holy Synod 8/79 "On Churches and Parishes" the churches of the Greek Orthodox Church are divided into a) parish churches, including their chapels, b) Pilgrimage churches or churches of public benefit purpose and Church foundations, c) Private Churches, d) Cemetery Churches.

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	3.
Location	Offices of the Metropolis of Piraeus
Date	7 January 2021
Brief description	Hanging a banner with the phrase "HOW MANY MORE DEAD PEOPLE? LOCK DOWN THE CHURCH. FREE SOCIAL SPACE FAVELA"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

No	4.
Location	Church of Aghios Petros, Acharnes, Attica
Date	8 January 2021
Brief description	Entrance to the unsecured Church and removal of the collection box, which contained 400 euros
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	5.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Peristeri, Attica
Date	9 January 2021
Brief description	Removal of the collection box with donations from believers
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	6.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Minas, Heraklion, Crete
Date	10 January 2021
Brief description	Red paint on the masonry of the Church and writing with black spray paint a slogan in greek "COME TO GET THE VIRUS"
Perpetrator/s	3 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	7.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Apsalos Almopia, Pella
Date	18/19 January 2021
Brief description	Breaking 3 locks of the main entrance, entry, and theft of 6 iron seats, 2 flags, 1 kettle, 1 embroidery tablecloth, and approximately 3 litres of olive oil. Damage to the collection

	box outside the Church. Total value of stolen goods and damages 300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Searching for perpetrators

No	8.
Location	Church of Ypapanti Kyriou (11 th century) of the Monastery of Panagia Kastrianon, Palaio Pyli, Kos
Date	19 January 2021
Brief description	Illegal cutting of a tree of an archaeological site outside the Monastery, breaking of the door of the Monastery and destruction of the windows of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	9.
Location	Church of Timios Stavros, Nippous, Chania
Date	20 January 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box and theft of approximately 1,000-1,500€
Perpetrator/s	Preliminary investigation in progress
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	10.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Markopoulo, Attica
Date	23 January 2021
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from the collection box. The perpetrators were noticed by a neighbour of an adjacent house and fled without completing their action
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	One of the perpetrators was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	11.
Location	Church of Aghios Petros, Acharnes, Attica
Date	26 January 2021
Brief description	Entry into the unsecured Church and removal of the collection box, which the perpetrators, having failed to break into, abandoned in a nearby field
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	12. (Multiple incidents within the year)
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Elliniko, Attica
Date	27 January 2021 (and at regular intervals within the year)
Brief description	Painting walls (graffiti) with inappropriate slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Briefing of the Municipal Authority

No	13.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios-Parish of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Kilkis
Date	January 2021

Brief description	Trespassing of the Chapel, destruction of part of the narthex, theft of a small amount of money, candles, tablecloths and household utensils
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	14.
Location	Chapel of Evangelismos of Theotokos-Parish of Aghios Nikolaos, Pyli, Kos
Date	January 2021
Brief description	Break-in and destruction of the main entrance and destruction of the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	15.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Antimacheia, Kos
Date	January 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	16.
Location	Church of Aghia Irini Chrysovalantou, Vathilakos, Kozani
Date	4 February 2021
Brief description	Theft of 20€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	17.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Xanthi
Date	5 February 2021
Brief description	Break-in through the front door, removal of a baptismal font and a wheelchair
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	18.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Messini, Messinia
Date	6 February 2021
Brief description	Minor damage within the Church during the attempted removal of oil. Attempted removal of oil also from the graves of the Municipal Cemetery of Messini, where the Church is located.
Perpetrator/s	1 woman-national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	19.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Kamares, Chalkida
Date	10 February 2021
Brief description	Entrance into the courtyard of the Church Nursing Home, breaking of a side window of the Church, entry and removal of a small amount of money from a collection box. The perpetrator ransacked the whole area of the Church,

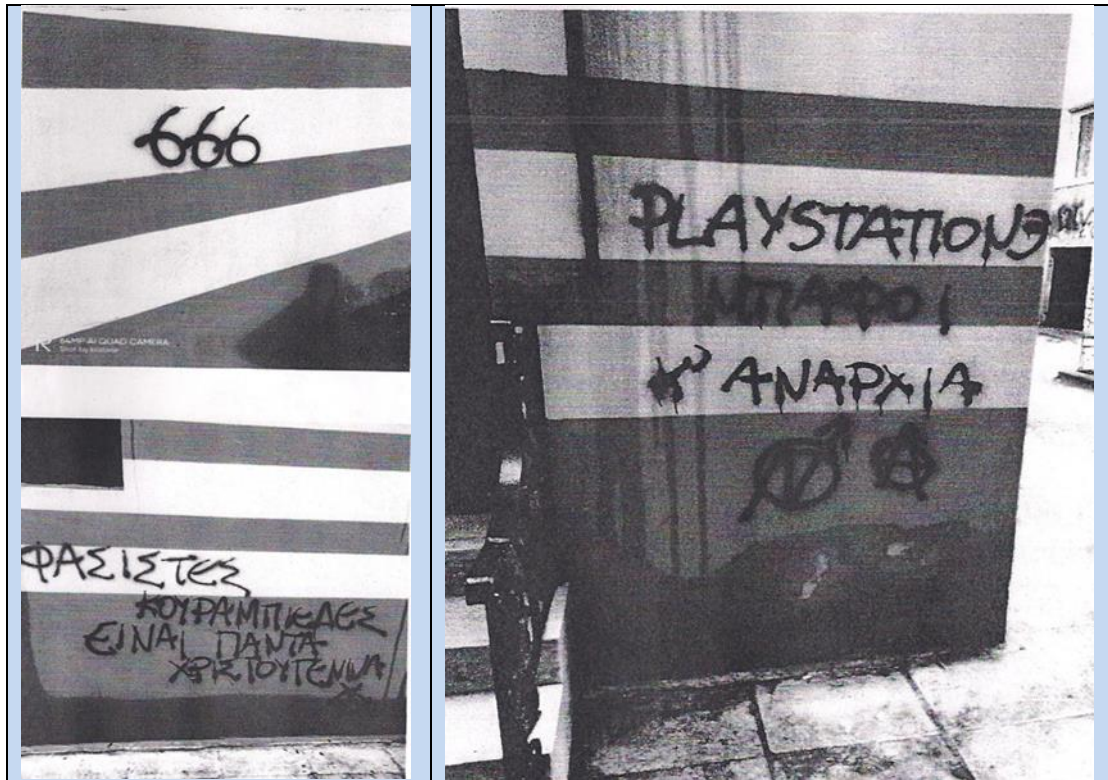
	damaged two side doors of the Church and broke two other side windows
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	20.
Location	Cultural Center of the Church of Aghioi Theodoroi Gargittou, Gerakas, Attica
Date	12 February 2021
Brief description	Break-in through a window and attempted theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	21.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos, Karpofora Messinis, Messinia
Date	15 February 2021
Brief description	Fire incident and total destruction of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation by the competent Fire Service

No	22.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Sozopoli, Chalkidiki
Date	16 February 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a window on the north side of the Church, entry, damage to the locks of the Sanctuary, the inner storage room and of the collection box and removal from the inner storage room of 5-6 containers of olive oil worth about 100 euros
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	23.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Apostoloi, Kypseli, Athens
Date	16 February 2021
Brief description	Inscription of anarchist symbols and slogans in greek on the walls of the Church "666, FASCISTS, WUSSES, IT'S ALWAYS CHRISTMAS, PLAYSTATION, JAYS AND ANARCHY"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>
Comments	It is a Church of great historical importance, which was erected by the hero of the Revolution of 1821 and Prime Minister of Greece Konstantinos Kanaris and belongs to the Parish of Aghios Georgios in Kypseli.
(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	24. (Multiple incidents within the year)
Location	Metropolitan Chapel of Aghioi Kosmas and Damianos, Akrotiri, Elliniko, Attica
Date	21 February 2021
Brief description	Vandalism to the outside area: a) breaking of olive trees, b) destruction of the external electrical installations, c) breaking of the railings of the fence and the central entrance of the Church, d) inscription of slogans in greek: "SOURMENA FANS 1312, NIKOS SAMPANIS KILLED BY THE STATE OF JUSTICE"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint. Briefing of the Municipal Authority

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)





No	25.
Location	Monastery of Zoodochos Pigi, Piraeus
Date	26/27 February 2021
Brief description	Entry from an open door to the event hall next to the Church. Break-in and damage of a wooden storage room door lock, and theft of approximately 1,670€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	26.
Location	Municipal Cemetery, Elaiochori, Arcadia
Date	Beginning of March 2021
Brief description	Damage to a family grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	27.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Sourmena, Elliniko, Attica
Date	3 March 2021
Brief description	Writing on the walls of the Church using purple spray paint of the slogan in greek: "VICTORY IN THE HUNGER STRIKE OF DIMITRIS KOUFONTINAS" and the sign of Anarchy and using stencil and black paint of the slogan in greek: "IN AN ILLIBERAL WORLD, WE DO NOT BREATHE UNLESS WE ARE IN CONFLICT WITH IT" and the Anarchy sign
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	28.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ano Kastelliana, Municipality of Minoa, Pediada
Date	7 March 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage to the entrance glass panes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	29.
Location	Church of Aghioi Saranta Martyres, Nerokouro, Chania
Date	9 March 2021
Brief description	Break-in of a Church window, entry, and removal of a wooden reliquary with two pieces of relics of the Holy Forty Martyrs from the Altar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	30.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos, Nerokouro, Chania
Date	9 March 2021
Brief description	Break-in of the north window of the Church and causing damage without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	31.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kato Gefyra, Thessaloniki
Date	9 March 2021
Brief description	Entrance to the Church through the window, without tampering and removal of a wooden box of the collection box, with approximately 200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	32.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Scholari, Thessaloniki
Date	11 March 2021
Brief description	Breaking of three windows of the Church, entry, breaking of the protective glass pane of the icon and removal of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	33.
Location	Cemetery of Ampeles Vissaltias, Serres
Date	12 March 2021
Brief description	Entry from an unsecured entrance to the fenced Cemetery, removal and damage to an unknown number of metal objects (candelabras, crosses, flowerpots and other utensils) from the graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	34.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Stylos Apokoronou, Chania
Date	Between 14 and 18 March 2021
Brief description	Break-in, removal of two lighting spotlights and money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	35.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Atalanti, Fthiotis
Date	18/19 March 2021
Brief description	Break-in of the south entrance of the Church by tampering a lock and internal sliding doors, and entry without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	36.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Varvara, Chalkidiki
Date	20 March 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a window with a sharp object and removal of offerings from an icon, worth about 3,500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	37.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Monopigado, Thessaloniki
Date	20/21 March 2021
Brief description	Break-in through the Church entrance, entry and removal of an undetermined amount of money from the collection box as well as sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	38.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis, Mytilini, Lesvos
Date	24 March 2021
Brief description	Breaking the iron door of the Church, entering and attempting to remove, with the help of a metal rod, the contents of the collection box. Damage of the lock, a total cost of 20€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	39.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Athanasios, Elliniko, Farsala, Larissa
Date	24/25 March 2021
Brief description	Theft of 5 old portable icons from the Temple of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	40.
Location	Glebe of the Monastery Panagia Kandila, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	26 March 2021

Brief description	Perpetrators pretending to be employees of the Electricity Supply Company entered within the glebe and using the method of distraction theft, they managed to snatch a total of 1,750 € and a mobile phone
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	One of the perpetrators was identified - A dossier was formed

No	41.
Location	Church of Aghioi Sophia, Ioannis Chrysostomos and Spyridon, Karditsa
Date	27 March 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the door and the collection box of the Church and theft of approximately 150-200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	42.
Location	Church of Aghios Efstathios, Sesi, Koropi, Attica
Date	27 March 2021
Brief description	Breaking the lock of the main door, and a window in the northern part of the Church, entering, breaking the lock of the collection box and theft of an undetermined amount of money, throwing icons on the floor
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	43.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Vounenis, Artemida, Αρτέμιδα Attica
Date	31 March 2021
Brief description	Breaking of an iron window railing, entry and removal of 3 collection boxes with an amount of approximately 500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	44.
Location	Church of Asomatos, Asfendi, Kos
Date	March 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and attempt to destroy the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	45.
Location	Chapel of Metamorfosis Sotiros (at the top of Mount Dikaios), Zia, Kos
Date	March 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	46.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Antimacheia, Kos
Date	March 2021

Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	47.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos Trapezountis
Date	March 2021
Brief description	Vandalism-theft of a bell, candelabra, microphones, loudspeakers, cables
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	48.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, provincial road of Palaios Panteleimon-Kallipefki, Pieria
Date	Between 27 March and 2 April 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of four 19th century icons.
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	49.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Katsikas, Ioannina
Date	3 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking the entrance of the porch and removal of a small amount of money from a collection box. Attempted break-in of the main entrance of the Church and damage.
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	50.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Stomio, Larissa
Date	Between 29 March and 4 April 2021
Brief description	Theft of 3 icons and one spoon (cochlear)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	51.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Pallini, Attica
Date	Between 3 and 5 April 2021
Brief description	Window breaking and theft of 300€ from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	52.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Elliniko, Xylokastro-Evrostini, Korinthia
Date	5 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a door and removal of the icon of Aghioi Theodoroi
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	53.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Platanaki, Marathonas, Attica
Date	Between 15 March and 6 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door, overturning the collection box, detaching the safe from the concrete base, moving it near the entrance and attempting its break-in, which was finally abandoned as it was found to contain no money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	54.
Location	Church of Treis Ierarches, National Technical University of Athens (Polytechnic Campus, Zografou, Athens)
Date	Between 8 and 10 April 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans on the walls and the porticoes of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	55.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ziros, Siteia
Date	9/10 April 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	56.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos, Rafina, Attica
Date	10/11 April 2021
Brief description	Break-in, attempted theft and causing minor damage to the cabinets
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	57.
Location	Chapel of Koimisis of Theotokos, Rafina, Attica
Date	10/11 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door and the collection box, and removal of approximately 50€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	58.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Pallini, Attica
Date	11/12 April 2021
Brief description	Break-in through a window and theft of 150€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	59.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Patra, Achaia
Date	12 April 2021
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the church under the pretext of individual prayer and without being immediately noticed

	removed from a drawer two bags containing the sum of money of approximately 40€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	60.
Location	Cemetery Anthili, Lamia, Fthiotis
Date	15 April 2021
Brief description	Damage to 20 graves by painting the photos of the interred with blue spray paint
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	61.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Palaio Olvio, Xanthi
Date	15 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box and removal of its content
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	62.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Hydra
Date	16 April 2021
Brief description	Perpetrators attempted twice to enter the Church damaging the lock of the main door
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	63.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Dokos, Chalkida, Evia
Date	17 April 2021
Brief description	Theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	64.
Location	Church of Aghia Kyriaki, Spata, Attica
Date	18 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into through a side window, breaking of the glass pane, causing a mess in the nave and the porch, and theft of about 1,000€. Before entering the temple, the perpetrators climbed onto the canopy of the main entrance and tore off the alarm siren that was there
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	65.
Location	Chapel of Koimisis of Theotokos, Rafina, Attica
Date	18/19 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into main door. Damage and breaking-into the collection box and removal of approximately 30€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	66.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Makyneia, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	19 April 2021
Brief description	Entry into the Church, removal of candelabra and candlesticks of an estimated value of about 2,000€, causing extensive damage and desecration of the Church and the Holy Table by breaking and throwing sacred objects on the ground
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	67.
Location	Church of Aghios Vasileios, Exarchia, Athens
Date	24 April 2021
Brief description	A group of masked people vandalized the north wall of the Church (on Metsovo Street) with the slogan "FUCK CHURCH" and an anarchist symbol (letter A in a circle)
Perpetrator/s	3 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)





No	68.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, settlement of Aghios Antonios, Lasithi
Date	25 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance of the Church, damage and theft of approximately 80€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	69.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Kounali, Aghios Nikolaos
Date	25/26 April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into an external wooden door of the main entrance with material damage, breaking of the lock of the collection box and theft of about 80€. Total value of damage about 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	70.
Location	Cemetery Neas Makrissis Domokou, Fthiotis
Date	Between 23 August 2020 and 27 April 2021

Brief description	Removal from a monument of an inscription with the phrase: "You have offered so much, you have suffered so much, you have enjoyed so little, your granddaughter Evangelia"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	71.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Athanasios, Melitaia Domokou, Fthiotis
Date	Between 23 and 27 April 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of the icon of the Great High Priest Christ from the Holy Altar, of undetermined age and value, as well as two table candlesticks
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	72.
Location	Cemetery, Markopoulo, Attica
Date	30 April 2021
Brief description	Damage to the wall surrounding the Cemetery, by writing in black spray paint " A CALL FOR ANARCHY, FREEDOM TO V. STATHOPOULOS"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	73.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Mavrokampia Zipariou, Kos
Date	April 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	74.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Askoi, Municipality of Minoa, Pediada, Herakleion
Date	1 st May 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and removal of approximately 20€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	75.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Hydra
Date	3/4 May 2021
Brief description	Damage to the lock of the Church and illegal entry
Perpetrator/s	3 nationals
Police/procedural actions	One of the three perpetrators was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	76.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Svoleika Gareas, Arcadia
Date	4 May 2021
Brief description	Breaking into the window of the Church, entry and removal of 50€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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No	77.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Garea, Arcadia
Date	6 May 2021
Brief description	Entry into the Church and search of all the spaces, without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	78.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Theotokos, Polyrachos, Kozani
Date	Between 21 November 2020 and 7 May 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church and theft of: (a) 1 breadbasket from the Holy Altar and (b) the 2 double doors of the Beautiful Gate, which were wooden and hagiographed. The above stolen items date back to 1600, according to the competent Archaeological Service and are of undetermined monetary value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	79.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Ai Giorgi area in Eretria, Evia
Date	7 May 2021
Brief description	Theft of about 30 icons, the vessels of the Holy Table, the gilded Holy vessels, the Gospels, the coverings, the font, the Icon of Jesus Christ Despot, about 10 wooden seats, the Crucified and an attempt to remove the roof of the Sanctuary which is made of lead
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	80.
Location	Chapel of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Artemida, Attica
Date	7 May 2021
Brief description	Break-in, theft of the collection box with a small amount of money and a photovoltaic electrical system. Desecration of the Holy Oblation and Holy Altar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	81.
Location	Church of Aghios Alexios, Garea, Arcadia
Date	8 May 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church and theft of small metal objects of a total value of 80€. The damage caused to the Church amounts to approximately 150€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	82.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, position of Sotiras, Anatoliki Fragista, Agrafa, Evritania
Date	9 May 2021

Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, breaking-into the collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	83.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Alea, Arcadia
Date	11 May 2021
Brief description	A broken window and damage to a metal door. Entry and search of the Church premises. The perpetrators fled as soon as the alarm sounded.
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	84.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Velvitsi, Patra
Date	13 May 2021
Brief description	Breaking the lock of the small chapel located in the courtyard of the Church and removal of 10€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	85.
Location	Holy Cell of Metastasis of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Aghion Oros, Chalkidiki
Date	Between 20 April and 15 May 2021
Brief description	Theft of various items of religious worship, namely Holy Relics, chalices, censers, crosses, vestments, etc.
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	86.
Location	Holy Cell of Apotomi Kefalis Timiou Prodromou, Aghion Oros, Chalkidiki
Date	Between 20 April and 15 May 2021
Brief description	Theft of various items of religious worship, i.e. Holy Relics, chalices, censers, crosses, vestments, etc. Part of the stolen items were unreservedly identified by a monk of the Holy Cell of Apotomi Timiou Prodromou, which were recovered, while the rest were returned to a monk of the Holy Monastery of Megisti Lavra
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	87.
Location	Chapel of Issodia of Theotokos, Hydra
Date	15 May 2021
Brief description	Damage to the lock of the Chapel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	88.
Location	Parish Office of Aghios Antonios, Skinia, Municipality of Minoa, Pediada, Herakleion

Date	20 May 2021
Brief description	Window break-in with no losses
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	89.
Location	Cultural Center and Warehouse of the Parish of Prophitis Ilias, Municipality of Minoa, Pediada, Herakleion
Date	21 May 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	90.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ypati, Lamia, Fthiotis
Date	Between 20 and 22 May 2021
Brief description	Destruction of the lock of the exterior door and the glass pane of the interior door-Unsuccessful break-in of the safe
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	91.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Nea Ionia, Volos, Magnesia
Date	23 May 2021
Brief description	Breaking of the Church glass panes, breaking-into the collection box and theft of 51,80€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator (a woman) was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	92.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Nikopoli, Stavroupolis, Thessaloniki
Date	23 May 2021
Brief description	Theft of coins from a collection box in the chapel of the Church of Aghios Spyridon using a 50 cm wire stick, on the end of which a magnet was placed
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	93.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Skepastro, Kalavryta, Achaia
Date	24 May 2021
Brief description	Break-in of the main entrance of the Church and theft of 10€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	94.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Skepastro, Kalavryta, Achaia
Date	24 May 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the main entrance of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	95.
Location	Church of Aghios Raphael, Koropi, Attica
Date	26/27 May 2021
Brief description	Broken glass panes of the main door, detachment of a brass decorative eagle and entry to the Church. Searching of drawers in the bench and pulpit without removing anything. Cutting of power cables, breaking of window in the lodge and theft of a decorative eagle
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	96.
Location	Church of Gennisis of Theotokos, Koumaria, Imathia
Date	27 May 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	97.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos, Spata, Ilia
Date	26/27 May 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in in the Lodge
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	98.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Epano Sourpi, Analipsi, Livadia
Date	Between 26 and 28 May 2021
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	99.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Eleftherios, Rhodes
Date	28 May 2021
Brief description	Attempted theft of ecclesiastic artifacts
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	100.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Rhodes
Date	28 May 2021
Brief description	Theft of 2 candelabras with base and 1 wall clock, with a total value of 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	101.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kavallari, Lagkadas, Thessaloniki
Date	May 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box of the Chapel of Timios Stavros and material damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>
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No	102.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Kalathas, Chania
Date	31 May/1 June 2021
Brief description	Extensive vandalism inside the Church, without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	103.
Location	Parish Office of Kalathas, Chania (opposite the Church of Aghios Ioannis Theologos)
Date	31 May/1 June 2021
Brief description	Extensive vandalism inside the Office, without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	104.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Choraphakia, Chania
Date	31 May/1 June 2021
Brief description	Extensive vandalism inside the Office, without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	105.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Lessini, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	2/3 June 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a side door, entry into the Church and theft of 2,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	106.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Nea Philadelphia, Attica
Date	4 June 2021
Brief description	Entry through an open main door and theft of candles and 2 metal myrrh containers
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	107.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Aghios Vlassis, Herakleion
Date	5 June 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance with a crowbar and theft of approximately 2,500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	108.
Location	Church of Panagia Faneromeni, Thessaloniki
Date	5 June 2021

Brief description	Entry through a window of a women's loft with a rope, without stealing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

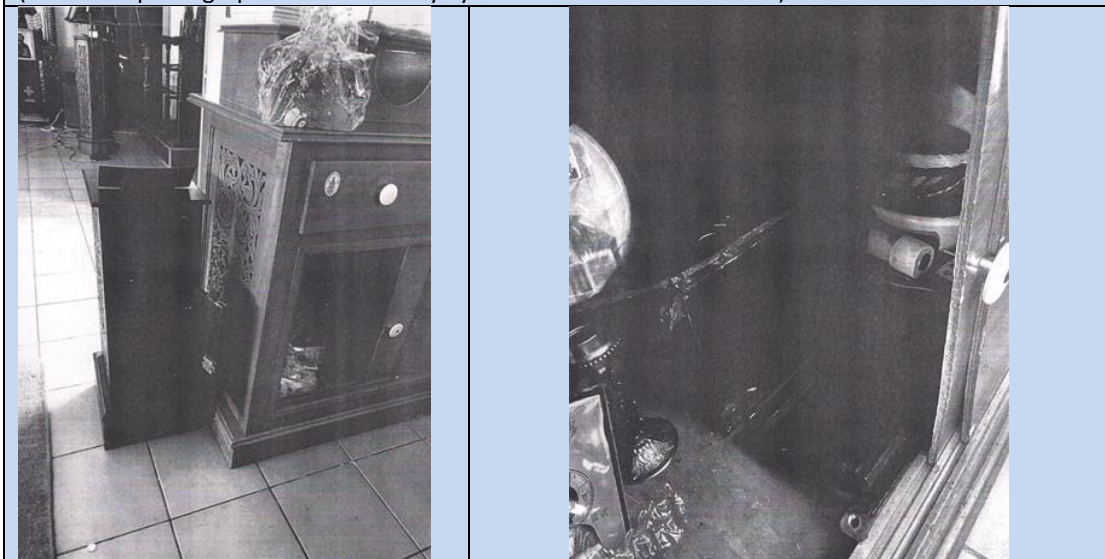
No	109.
Location	Church of Evangelismos of Theotokos, Saitoures, Rethymno
Date	5/6 June 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money, olive oil and damage amounting to 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	110.
Location	Church of Aghios Evmenios, Saitoures, Rethymno
Date	5/6 June 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money, olive oil and damage amounting to 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	111.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Saitoures, Rethymno
Date	5/6 June 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money, olive oil and damage amounting to 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	112.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Petroto, Oraiakastro, Thessaloniki
Date	8 June 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box and material damage- Theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	113.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Sakellariko, Ioannina
Date	9 June 2021
Brief description	Break-in and removal of a small amount of money and an olive oil container
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	114.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Lithino, Ioannina
Date	Between 21 May and 10 June 2021
Brief description	Break-in and removal of 430€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	115.
Location	Church of Aghia Kyriaki, Dafnofyto, Ioannina
Date	Between 9 and 11 June 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	116.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Aghios Athanasios, Thessaloniki
Date	11 June 2021
Brief description	Cutting a CCTV cable, entering a chapel located in the courtyard of the Church and attempting to break into the collection box but without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	117.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Vassilopoulo, Ioannina
Date	11 June 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	118.
Location	Cemetery, Anthili, Lamia, Fthiotis
Date	12 June 2021
Brief description	Causing damage to graves by smashing photographs of the deceased
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	119.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Fylis, Attica
Date	12 June 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	120.
Location	Church of Gennisis of Theotokos, Petsali, Ioannina
Date	13 June 2021
Brief description	Break-in, breaking-into the collection box and removal of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	121.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Melissochori, Thessaloniki
Date	14 June 2021
Brief description	Theft of a wooden collection box with approximately 400-500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	122.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Minas, Herakleion
Date	14 June 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	123.
Location	Monastery of Stomio, Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	14/15 June 2021
Brief description	Entry without tampering to a separate room - kitchen of the Holy Monastery, consumption and removal of edible products
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	124.
Location	Church of Treis Ierarches, National Technical University of Athens (Polytechnic Campus, Zografou, Athens)
Date	15 June 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans on the walls and the porches of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	125.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Aghios Vlassios, Herakleion
Date	17 June 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the main door with a crowbar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	126.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Anavrito, Kilkis
Date	19 June 2021
Brief description	Entry from the main door without any signs of burglary, breakage of the lock of the collection box and theft of approximately 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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No	127.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryfon, Kolonos, Athens
Date	19 June 2021
Brief description	Perpetrators caused damage to icons in the courtyard of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	128.
Location	Private Chapel, Vounichora, Fokida
Date	20 June 2021
Brief description	Entry into the property, breaking of a Church door and theft of icons, religious utensils and valuables
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified and a dossier was formed

No	129.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kastritsa, Ioannina
Date	21 June 2021
Brief description	Break-in and removal of a sum of money of about 500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	130.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Gerakli, Domokos, Fthiotis
Date	Between 21 and 27 June 2021
Brief description	Entry to the unsecured Church, breaking of safe locks and removal of about 150€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	131.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Kakia Skala, Evia
Date	28 June 2021
Brief description	Causing damage to the outer wall of the Church by digging it up to remove the collection box that was inside, which they failed to break in or remove. Breaking-into a container-storage room near the Church and theft of electrical equipment with a total value of 2,350€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	132.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Vainia, Ierapetra, Lasithi
Date	Between 1 st June and 1 st July 2021
Brief description	Entry without tampering and theft of 25 seats and 1 old chandelier, total value 1,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	133.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Demati, Ioannina
Date	Between 26 June and 1 st July 2021

Brief description	Break-in of the main entrance, breaking-into the collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	134.
Location	Cemetery Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Chryssovitza, Ioannina
Date	1 July 2021
Brief description	Theft of the collection box, which contained a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	135.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Rhodes
Date	3 July 2021
Brief description	Breaking of the skylight and entry, search of the Church premises. After triggering the alarm, the perpetrator fled without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	136.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Sophia, Livadia
Date	7 July 2021
Brief description	Breaking of glass panes and windows, breaking-into the main door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	137.
Location	Church of Epano Episkopi, Sitia
Date	10 July 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	138.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Ilioupoli, Attica
Date	12 July 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans with abusive and threatening content against the Police and the Government on the walls of the Church by participants of a protest march
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	139.
Location	Church of Gennisis of Theotokos, Panagia Gortynas, Herakleion
Date	14 July 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door of the Church offices and the office drawers, theft of 500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	140.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Neochori, Ioannina
Date	Between 14 and 17 July 2021
Brief description	Break-in, breaking of the collection box and removal of a sum of money of about 300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	141.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Stamna Aitolikou, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	17/18 July 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a window of the Sanctuary and theft of a small amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	142.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Palaiokastro, Chalkidiki
Date	18 July 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a window, theft of icon offerings, breaking-into the collection box and theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	143.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Trilofa Makrakomis, Fthiotis
Date	24 July 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured central door and theft of 1 brass utensil, 1 central loudspeaker unit and 1 plastic basin, total value approximately 200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	144.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias "Aniforou", Symi
Date	25 July 2021

Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main entrance and removal of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	145.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Kato Xirochori, Zacharo, Ilia
Date	26 July 2021
Brief description	Entry from side doors and theft of the ciborium from the Altar, a microphone equipment worth 5,000€ and 100€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	146.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Platanitis, Nafpaktia
Date	26 July 2021
Brief description	Fire provocation at the Altar of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	147.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Velo, Korinthia
Date	28 July 2021
Brief description	Broken glass panes of a wooden door at the back of the Church, causing damage to the bench and the Philoptochos fund and theft of about 200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	148.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Zaros, Herakleion
Date	28/29 July 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the Church Office and theft of votive offerings of undetermined monetary value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	149.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Geni, Rethymno
Date	Between 20 and 31 July 2021
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	150.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Selli, Rethymno
Date	Between 20 and 31 July 2021
Brief description	Theft 90€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	151.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Amykles, Sparti, Laconia
Date	July 2021
Brief description	Vandalism and desecration of the Church - Destruction of icons and candelabra
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	152.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Antimacheia, Kos
Date	July 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	153.
Location	Church of Assomatos, Asfendi, Kos
Date	July 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and attempted destruction of the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	154.
Location	Church of Panagia Zoodochos Pigi, Zoodochos, Ioannina
Date	3 August 2021
Brief description	Break-in, breaking-into the collection box and removal of approximately 100€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	155.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Kiato, Korinthia
Date	3/4 August 2021
Brief description	Damage amounting to about 300€ and theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	156.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalampos, Rafina, Attica
Date	Between 3 and 6 August 2021
Brief description	Broken glass panes of the office of the Recreational Association and attempted entry. Broken glass panes of a side window of the Church, entry, attempted breaking of the main entrance and theft of a small amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	157.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Loutra, Aghia Paraskevi, Chalkidiki
Date	5/6 August 2021

Brief description	Broken glass panes of a side window of the Church and theft of 150€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	158.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Nemea, Korinthia
Date	Between 20 July and 8 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	159.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Marmari, Karystos, Evia
Date	9 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of 1 Liturgical Book worth about 50€
Perpetrator/s	1 unidentified woman
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	160.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Choumeriakos, Aghios Nikolaos, Lasithi
Date	14 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box and theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	161.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Manthyrea, Arcadia
Date	Between 10 and 15 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	162.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Tapes, Aghios Nikolaos, Lasithi
Date	15/16 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

№	163.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Psari, Ilia
Date	19 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of copper rings, incense burners and candelabra from ten graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	164.
Location	Church of Panagia Parigoritria, Arta
Date	21 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of 100€

Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	165.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Choumeriakos, Aghios Nikolaos, Lasithi
Date	21/22 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking the lock of the main entrance of the Church and damage to the doors of the bell tower, amounting to about 1,000€. No theft was detected.
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

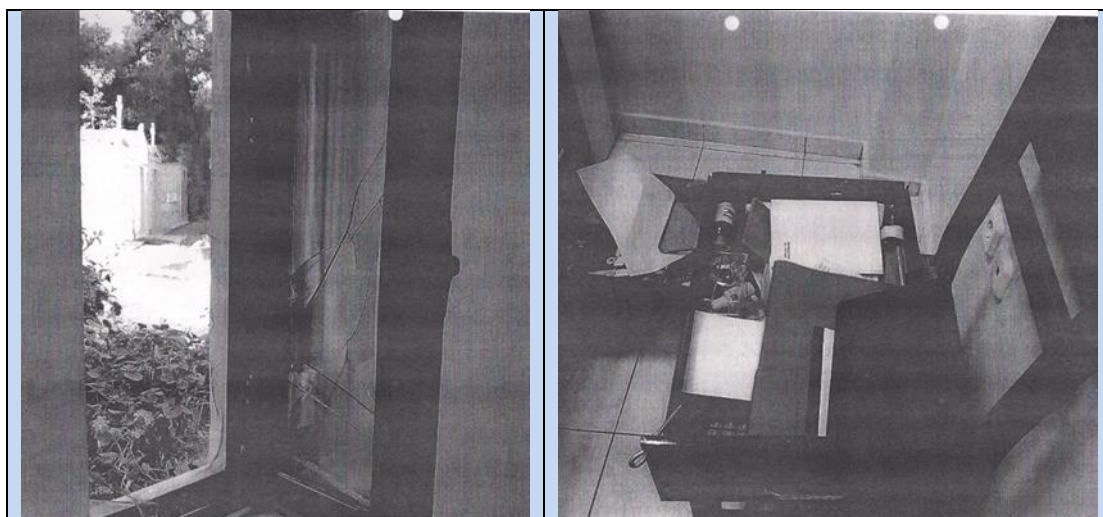
№	166.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Metamorfosi, Attica
Date	21/22 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a donation box and theft of about 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	167.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Καλό Χωριό, Aghios Nikolaos Lasithi
Date	22/23 August 2021
Brief description	Theft of an undetermined amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

№	168.
Location	Pilgrimage Church of Panagia "Alithini", Symi, Dodecanese
Date	23 August 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main door and removal of a portable wooden icon of the Assumption of Theotokos of priceless religious value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	169.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Athens
Date	23 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the Office of the Church and theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	170.
Location	Parish Chapel of Aghios Vasileios, Cemetery, Municipality of Vyronas
Date	24 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking the window of the Clergy Office, adjacent to the Church and causing damage to the window, desks and furniture
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	171.
Location	Chapel of Panagia-Timios Prodromos, Kerasia, Magnesia
Date	25 August 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main door and theft of a wooden portable icon of undetermined value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	172.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghia Marina, Symi, Dodecanese
Date	26 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door and the collection box and theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	173.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Asprokampos, Kiato, Korinthia
Date	27 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a side window of the Church, messing up the interior, breaking-into the collection box and theft of 150€. The cost of the damage is about 350€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	174.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Katalagari, Herakleion
Date	Between 27 and 30 August 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance of the Church and theft of votive offerings of undetermined monetary value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	175.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Solomoni, Litochoro, Pieria
Date	30 August 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of a portable icon of Sainte Solomoni, measuring approximately 30x40cm,

	dated around the year 1700, of undetermined monetary value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation
Comments	On September 11, 2021 an unidentified person deposited the icon in front of the house of the deaconess of the Church

№	176.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Martha, Municipality of Minoa, Pediada, Herakleion
Date	August 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into an entrance without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	177.
Location	Chapel of Metamorfosis Sotiros (on top of mount Dikaios), Zia, Kos
Date	August 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	178.
Location	Church of Evangelismos of Theotokos, Venerato, Herakleion
Date	Summer 2021
Brief description	Smashing of a Sanctuary door, breaking of a safe and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	179.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kos
Date	Summer 2021
Brief description	Destruction of the shrine in front of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	180.
Location	Chapel of Timios Stavros, Estavromenos, Herakleion
Date	Beginning of September
Brief description	Arson of the Church
Perpetrator/s	<i>Unavailable data</i>
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

№	181.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of Aghios Eleftherios, Markopoulo, Attica
Date	1 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking the central metal door and removal of the collection box with a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	182.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Paranimfi, Archanes, Herakleion
Date	Between 30 August and 4 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance and the collection box, and theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	183.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Kandila, Xiromerou, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	7 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance, theft of 12,000€ from a safe and votive offerings with a worth of about 5,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	184.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryfon, Amaliada
Date	8 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 minor (girl)
Police/procedural actions	Arrested

No	185.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Perdikari, Rodavgi, Preveza
Date	10 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance, theft of a CCTV recorder, an electricity meter and an electrical panel. Damage to the nave (discarded liturgical books) and the Sanctuary (spilled oil)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	186.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi, Koufalia, Thessaloniki
Date	10/11 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the door of a small house in the churchyard and theft of a small amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	187.
Location	Chapel of Panagia "Strateri", Symi, Dodecanese
Date	12 September 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main door and theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	188.
Location	Church of Evangelismos of Theotokos, Treis Ekkliisies, Herakleion
Date	12 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Complaint
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№	189.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Penteli, Ioannina
Date	15 September 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	190.
Location	Chapel of Gennisis of Theotokos, Anatoli, Ierapetra
Date	Between 13 and 16 September 2021
Brief description	Removal of a built-in stone with relief inscription from the Sanctuary and 2 stone columns from the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	191.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Stavros, Ierapetra
Date	Between 13 and 16 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the lock of the collection box and theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	192.
Location	Church of Aghioi Saranta Martyres, Serres
Date	16 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted theft after breaking-into the windows, but nothing was removed
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	193.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Rodia, Herakleion
Date	16/17 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance, theft of 700€ (belonging to the priest) and 2 small golden crosses
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	194.
Location	Chapel of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Agrileza, Tanagra, Viotia
Date	17 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main iron door and entering the Church without removing anything or causing damage. Attempted break-in of two other iron doors of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	195.
Location	Monastery of Aghioi Taxiarches, Gouria, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	Between 12 and 19 September 2021

Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box, theft of a small amount of money and attempted break-in of the side door of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	196.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Kato Kraniona, Kastoria
Date	Between 17 and 19 September 2021
Brief description	Theft of 2 old (around 1860) wooden doors of the Beautiful Gate, and 4 old (around 1847) icons of the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	197.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Skala Oropou, Attica
Date	18/19 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door, destroying lock and breaking-into an empty wooden collection box
Perpetrator/s	Two wanted perpetrators, a man and a woman
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	198.
Location	Chapel, Sykamino Oropou, Attica
Date	18/19 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and theft of 1 amplifier
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	199.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Anna, Chalkouts, N. Ekali, Attica
Date	18/19 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the exterior collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	200.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Marina, Aghioi Apostoloi, Kalamos, Attica
Date	18/19 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the main entrance of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	201.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Chalkouts, Oropou, Attica
Date	22/23 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the north door, destruction of the collection box, removal of an undetermined amount of money and 1 pendant cross
Perpetrator/s	Two wanted perpetrators, a man and a woman
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	202.
Location	Church of Aghio Pnevma, Prinos, Rethymno

Date	Between 22 and 24 September 2021
Brief description	Minor damage
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	203.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kymina, Thessaloniki
Date	24 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking of Church doors, messing-up the interior and theft of 1 silver pendant cross
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	204.
Location	Church of Aghios Symeon, Magoules, Neochori, Aetolia-Acarania
Date	24/25 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a window of the Sanctuary and theft of about 400€ from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	205.
Location	Church of Evangelistria, Sidirokastro, Serres
Date	25 September 2021
Brief description	Entrance from an unsecured window on the 1st floor of the Church administrative services building, search of premises and theft of 1 pendant cross from an office drawer
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	206.
Location	Church of Evangelistria, Limni, Rethymno
Date	25 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance of the Church, without establishing theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	207.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Livadia
Date	26 September 2021
Brief description	General outdoor mess, broken bottles, breaking of storage space, theft of church items
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

(Indicative photographic material:
Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	208.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Kissos, Rethymno
Date	27/28 September 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	209.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Kissos, Rethymno
Date	27/28 September 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	210.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Domokos, Fthiotis
Date	28 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door, breaking of the collection box and theft of a small amount of money. Breaking-into a cabinet of the Sanctuary and theft of 1 gold plated pendant cross worth 700€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	211.
Location	Church of Aghios Savvas, Langada, Palaiokastros, Herakleion
Date	28 September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a Church entrance without stealing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	212.
Location	Church of Aghios Myron, Aghios Myron, Herakleion
Date	28 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	213.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Ampelokipoi Thessaloniki
Date	29/30 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box after removing marbles and causing damage to a chapel outside the church, using a metal object which was abandoned at the site
Perpetrator/s	1 Iraqi national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified by fingerprints, he was not arrested and a case was filed against him for violation of Art. 372 of the Penal Code "Theft"

No	214.
Location	Church of Gennisis of Theotokos, Lagoudi, Kos
Date	September 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	215.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Ardaktos, Rethymno
Date	Between 29 August and 1 st October 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	216.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Vatos, Rethymno
Date	Between 19 September and 1 st October 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	217.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Chamalevri, Rethymno
Date	Between 30 September and 1 st October 2021
Brief description	Theft of votive offerings worth 200€ and causing damage amounting to 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	218.
Location	Church of Timios Stavros, Kissamos, Chania
Date	Between 30 September and 1 st October 2021
Brief description	Break-in of the main door of the Church and theft of 1 Chalice and 1 Disk
Perpetrator/s	1 Moroccan national

Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed
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No	219.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Smila, Ancient Olympia, Ilia
Date	Between 1 st and 5 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells worth around 4,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	220.
Location	Church of Aghia Irini, Palaia Fokaia, Attica
Date	5 October 2021
Brief description	Causing a fire with burning material in the courtyard of the Church. A container of unknown liquid was found and seized at the scene. No property damage was caused
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	221.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Gerani, Rethymno
Date	5/6 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of a safe worth 100€ and a sum of money 50€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	222.
Location	Metropolitan Chapel of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni–Osios Paisios, Kampos Neon Palation, Oropos
Date	5/6 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the north door of the Sanctuary, destruction of the collection box, unsuccessful attempt to remove a sum of money from it, mess inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Two wanted perpetrators, a man and a woman
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	223.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Agrilia, Messolonghi, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	8 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking of the protective railing and side window glass, entry to the Church, breaking of the collection box and theft of about 300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	224.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Marina, Oropos, Attica
Date	8 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the door of the Sanctuary of the Church, theft of 1 silver Cross containing sacred relics and 500€ from the Philoptochos Fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	225.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Polemarchi, Platania, Chania
Date	9 October 2021
Brief description	Break-in through the door and theft of 300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	226.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Ano Archanes, Herakleion
Date	Between 17 September and 11 October 2021
Brief description	The perpetrators pretending to be employees of state social structures, deceived officials of the Church and extracted the sum of 1,400 €
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	227.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Varvara, Toumpa, Thessaloniki
Date	12 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money from the collection box of the monastery chapel
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	228.
Location	Church of Ypapanti Sotiros, Avli Minoa, PEDIADA, Herakleion
Date	First fortnight of October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a window and theft of a microphone amplifier and two containers of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	229.
Location	Monastery of Zoodochos Pigi, Parthenonas, Kissamos, Chania
Date	16 October 2021
Brief description	The perpetrators, pretending to be employees of state social structures, tried to deceive officials of the monastery and extract a sum of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	230.
Location	Church of Osios Paisios, Radi, Orchomenos, Viotia
Date	16/17 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of various objects of religious worship of high monetary value
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	231.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Radi, Orchomenos, Viotia
Date	16/17 October 2021

Brief description	Theft of various objects of religious worship of high monetary value
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

№	232.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Nea Politeia, Skala Oropou, Attica
Date	17/18 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a side door, destruction of the collection box and theft of 500€
Perpetrator/s	Two wanted perpetrators, a man and a woman
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	233.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Nea Madytos, Thessaloniki
Date	18 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a window, entering the Church, breaking-into a glass box and votive offerings of unknown value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	234.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Athanasios, Orchomenos, Viotia
Date	18 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	2
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

№	235.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos and Aghios Charalampos, Vistagi, Rethymno
Date	Between 16 and 19 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of 500€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

№	236.
Location	Metropolis of Florina, Florina
Date	19 October 2021
Brief description	The perpetrators pretending to be employees of state social structures extracted the sum of 250€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	237.
Location	Metropolitan Chapel of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni–Osios Paisios, Kampos Neon Palation, Oropos
Date	19 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the south door of the Sanctuary and search of all areas without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	238.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Thermo, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	21 October 2021
Brief description	Unknown perpetrators entered the Church and after searching the premises removed a wooden collection box, in favor of the construction of the Church, which contained 50€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	239.
Location	Church of Aghios Polykarpos, Mamoulada, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	21 October 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of sacred vessels and a Ciborium
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	240.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Solinari, Livadia, Viotia
Date	22 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking the lock of the collection box and theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	241.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Aghia Paraskevi, Livadia, Viotia
Date	22 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a door of the Church and search of the premises
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	242.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Voulismeni, Lasithi
Date	24 October 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage to a locked door of the Church
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	243.
Location	Cemetery, Gerakas, Attica
Date	24/25 October 2021
Brief description	Theft of an incense burner from a tomb
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	244.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Elefsina, Attica
Date	Between 31 August and 27 October 2021
Brief description	The perpetrators pretending to be employees of state social structures deceived officials of the Church and extracted the sum of 1,000€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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No	245.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Delfoi, Thessaloniki
Date	Between 8 September and 27 October
Brief description	Vandalism of the exterior of the Church and insulting slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	246.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Archanes, Herakleion
Date	27/28 October 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	247.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Vasilika, Salamina
Date	Between 23 and 29 October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the north iron door of the Church, search of the premises and theft of the collection box with about 600€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	248.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Florina
Date	29 October 2021

Brief description	The perpetrators pretending to be employees of state social structures deceived Church officials and extracted the sum of 400€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	249.
Location	Cemetery, Demetritsi, Serres
Date	29 October 2021
Brief description	Entering a fenced cemetery area and causing damage to approximately 10 tombs and various other areas within the cemetery
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	250.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalampos, Armacha, Minoa Pediada, Herakleion
Date	Last week of October 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance, removal of about 200€ from the collection box and 2 votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	251.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Avli Minoa, Pediada, Herakleion
Date	October 2021
Brief description	Theft of an amplifier and microphones
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	252.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Agrinio, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	1 st November 2021
Brief description	Removal of a side window protective railing, breakage of a glass pane, entry to the Church and theft from the collection box of approximately 1,200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified and a dossier was formed

No	253.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Karlovasi, Samos
Date	1/2 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the Church door, breaking of the collection box and theft of an unknown amount of money, theft of various ecclesiastical objects (torches, candles, wine bottles, etc.)
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	254.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Anna, Fyli, Attica
Date	2 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Complaint
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No	255.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Marina, Oropos, Attica
Date	5 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of the parish activity fund box with an amount of about 500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	256.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kato Platanitis, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	6 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking a side window, entering the Church and searching the premises without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	257.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Palaiopanagia, Nafpaktia
Date	6 November 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in, damage to the exterior of the Church, to the the electricity meter resulting in a power cut and in the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	258.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Nafpaktos, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	6 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in through a side door, entry to the Church, search of the premises and theft of 332€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	259.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Minas and Aghia Anastasia, Xanthi
Date	7 November 2021
Brief description	A group of 7 young Roma men entered the interior of the Church and caused damage, breaking a window and throwing candles and other objects that were in cabinets inside the chapel, without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	7 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	260.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Varia Thermou, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	7/8 November 2021
Brief description	Damage. During the restoration works, in the courtyard of the Church, 1 improvised package with a small amount of dried raw cannabis was found
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	261
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Elaiostasio, Nafpaktos
Date	10 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and theft of a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	262.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Stavrakia, Herakleion
Date	10 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	263.
Location	Church of Panagia, Stavrakia, Herakleion
Date	10 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	264.
Location	Church of Aghios Theofanis, Xanthi
Date	Between 21 October and 11 November 2021
Brief description	The perpetrators pretending to be employees of state social structures extracted the sum of 1,575€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	265.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Mantamados, Lesvos
Date	Between 10 and 12 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of 1 metal box of the Philoptochos Fund, with approximately 1,000€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	266.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Koufi, Rethymno
Date	13/14 November 2021
Brief description	Minor damage
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	267.
Location	Church of Sotiras Christos, Koumoj, Rethymno
Date	Between 14 and 16 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of 1,000€ and damage amounting to 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	268.
Location	Church of Analipsis Sotiros, Larissa

Date	16 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the side door of the Cultural Centre, theft of food and a jacket, damage amounting to 450€
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	269.
Location	Chapel of Theotokos, Skala Eresou, Lesvos
Date	18 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 50€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	270.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis, Amfissa, Fokida
Date	Between 18 and 20 November 2021
Brief description	Entrance through an unsecured door, breakage of the collection box and theft of 300€
Perpetrator/s	3 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	271.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Valtochori, Thessaloniki
Date	20 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in and breakage of the collection box, theft of about 200€ and votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	272.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vourvoulitis, Herakleion
Date	20 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the entrance and the collection box and theft of about 200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	273.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kypseli, Athens
Date	20 November 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans on the walls and the staircase of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Indicative photographic material:
Holy Synod of the Church of
Greece)



No	274.
Location	House for the Elderly of the Church of Aghios Georgios, Kypseli
Date	20 November 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans on the façade of the entrance of the House for the Elderly
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	275.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Efpalio, Fokida
Date	20/21 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 150€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	276.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Paisios Aghioritis, Ano Archanes, Herakleion
Date	Between 15 and 22 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	277.
Location	Church of Panagia Kera, Krousonas, Herakleion
Date	21/22 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a Church door, theft of 200€ from a collection box and damages of around 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	278.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalampos, Krousonas, Herakleion
Date	21/22 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a Church door, theft of 200€ from a collection box and damages of around 100€

Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	279.
Location	Private Church, Koropi, Attica
Date	23 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a Church door located within a gated estate, and theft of 18 icons, of which 7 were stolen whole and the rest had their silver plate lining removed
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	280.
Location	Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Pigi, Rethymno
Date	Between 21 and 24 November 2021
Brief description	Damage amounting to 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	281.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioudas Thaddaios, Peristeri, Attica
Date	25/26 November 2021
Brief description	Unidentified perpetrators broke-into the main door and after breaking the collection box, they removed the sum of 100€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	282.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos at Acharnon av., Athens
Date	26 November 2021
Brief description	Throwing paint on the porticoes and painting of slogans on the walls of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Indicative photographic material:
Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	283.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Palaiochora, Chalkidiki
Date	27 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a side door of the Church, breaking of a glass screen of an icon of Virgin Mary and theft of votive offerings of a total value of 1,200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	284.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Ano Archanes, Herakleion
Date	Between 25 October and 28 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in through the side door and theft of about 700€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	285.
Location	Church of Aghios Fanourios, Mourne, Rethymno
Date	Between 26 and 28 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money and votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	286.
Location	Cemetery Aghios Nikolaos, Amfissa, Fokida
Date	27/28 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a security door and entering without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	287.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Koumoi, Rethymno
Date	28 November 2021
Brief description	Perpetrators proceeded to the removal of jewellery worth 300€ and caused damage amounting to 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	288.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Vyroneia, Serres
Date	28 November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and theft of 2 bronze flowerpots. Breaking of a wooden bell tower door and theft of 1 bronze bell
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	289.
Location	Church of Ipsosis of Timios Stavros, Kypseli, Athens
Date	28 November 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans on the walls of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	290.
Location	Chapel of Osios Serafeim, Livadia
Date	28 November 2021
Brief description	Causing a fire in the Sanctuary, desecration of the Crucifix and general mess of the premises
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)







No	291.
Location	Church of Aghios Vasileios, Aghios Vasileios, Rethymno
Date	Between 27 and 29 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	292.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Fourfouras, Rethymno
Date	28/29 November 2021
Brief description	Theft of 220€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	293.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Daskio, Imathia
Date	28/29 November 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of icons and silverware

Perpetrator/s	2
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	294.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Vamvakias, Thessaloniki
Date	November 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box , damage and theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	295.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Voulismeni, Lasithi
Date	November 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the entrance and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	296.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Lagouta, Municipality of Minoa, Pediada, Herakleion
Date	November 2021
Brief description	Break-in without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	297.
Location	Church of Genesis of Theotokos, Kardameni, Kos
Date	November 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	298.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kastraki, Fokida
Date	Between 1 st November and 1 st December 2021
Brief description	Break-in and search of the premises without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	299.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Skala Eresou, Lesvos
Date	1 st December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into through the side door of the Church and theft of about 150€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	300.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Pterounda, Lesvos
Date	2 December 2021

Brief description	Breaking-into through the side door of the Church and theft of an undetermined amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	301.
Location	Church of Aghios Thomas, Makrichori, Larissa
Date	3 December 2021
Brief description	Theft of silver candelabra and sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	302.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Revma, Lesvos
Date	3 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	303.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Psachna, Dirfys-Messapia, Evia
Date	Between 26 November and 4 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking the metal railing of the window of the Sanctuary, entry to the Church and theft of an undetermined amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	304.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Kera, Hersonissos, Herakleion
Date	4/5 December 2021
Brief description	Theft of about 90€ from a collection box and damage amounting to 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	305.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Adele, Rethymno
Date	6 December 2021
Brief description	Theft of 1,000€ and damage amounting to 50€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	306.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Drymia, Xanthi
Date	6 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	307.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Skalochori, Kalloni, Lesvos
Date	7 December 2021

Brief description	Breaking-into the side door of the Church, entry and departure without removing anything, because of the alarm activation
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	308.
Location	Monastery of Myrtidiotissa, Kalloni, Lesvos
Date	8 December 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door of the Monastery and theft of 150€ from the collection boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	309.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas, Charmena, Amfissa, Fokida
Date	7/9 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a small amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	310.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Dafni, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	9 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance, entry to the Church, search of the premises and theft of 60€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	311.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Nippos, Apokoronos, Chania
Date	12 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance of the Church and attempted breaking-into the collection box. The perpetrators were noticed by residents, who immobilized them and called the police
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested and questioned

No	312.
Location	Church of Aghios Grigorios, Efpalio, Fokida
Date	Between 8 and 13 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a window protection railing, entry to the Church and theft of about 200€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	313.
Location	Parish Office of Zoodochos Pigi, Kontomari, Platania, Chania
Date	13 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	314.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Messolonghi, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	15 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking of the iron protection railing of the window of the Sanctuary and the glass pane, entry to the Church, breaking-into the collection box and theft of about 250€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	315.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Dragatsoula, Orchomenos, Viotia
Date	15 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking of window protection rails and glass panes, entry to the Church and theft of 1 bronze candlestick and 1 metal candle holder
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	316.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Stamna, Aitoliko, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	16 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a small amount of money. Damage of a total value of 50€ to the bench and the safe, which was detached from the wall without breaking it
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	317.
Location	Chapel of the Metropolitan Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Trikala
Date	16 December 2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box. The act was noticed by oncoming police officers of the Crime Prevention and Suppression Team of Trikala Police, at the sight of whom the perpetrators fled
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	318.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Veria, Imathia
Date	16 December 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	319.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Peristeri, Attica
Date	Between 12 and 17 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the windows and theft of various items
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	320.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Vitoli, Makrakomi, Fthiotida
Date	16/17 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the side door of the Church and theft of an undetermined amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	321.
Location	Cemetery, Koudounia, Drama
Date	17 December 2021
Brief description	Damage to a tomb
Perpetrator/s	1 national (a woman)
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	322.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Skoutaros, Lesvos
Date	17 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	323.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Vamvakia, Thessaloniki
Date	17/18 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into 2 windows, entering the Church, breaking-into the collection box and theft of 200€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	324.
Location	Church of Aghios Polykarpos, Menemeni, Thessaloniki
Date	17/18 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking of a side window, entry to the Church, search of premises and theft of 2 portable icons. Damage, vandalism of the icon of St. Polycarp and theft of all its votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	325.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Myrsinotissa, Lesvos
Date	18 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	326.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Kavalari, Kilkis
Date	18 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into an external door, 50€, masks, antiseptics, candles, incense charcoal and oil were stolen from a bench
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	327.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Stypsi, Lesvos
Date	19 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

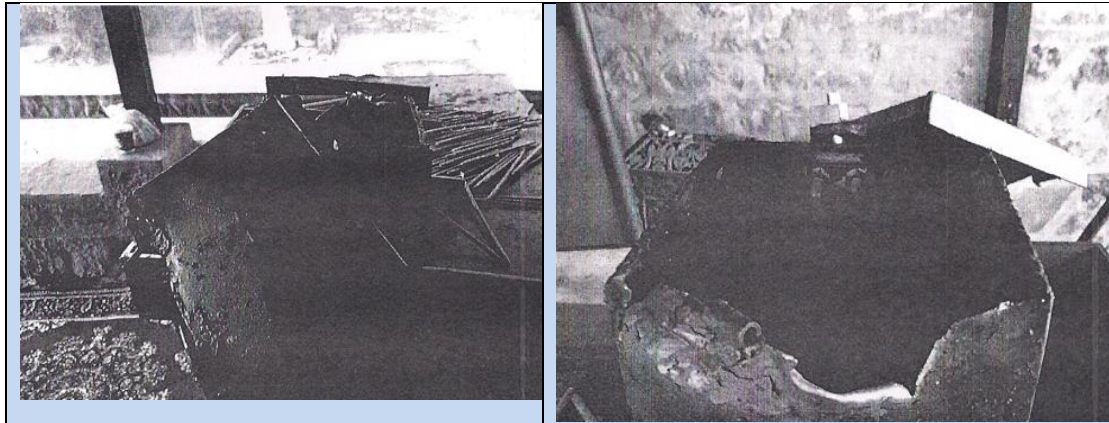
No	328.
Location	Church of Aghios Chrysostomos Smyrnis, Drama
Date	19 December 2021
Brief description	Immediately after the Evening Prayer and while the people had left, an unidentified man, who was in the Church during the Evening Prayer, entered the area of the Sanctuary, threw on the Altar various leaflets and handwritten documents of religious content and left
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	329.
Location	Private Church, Koropi, Attica
Date	20 December 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and theft of 1 bronze candelabra, including its base, with a total value of approximately 900€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	330.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kastraki, Fokida
Date	Between 8 and 21 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into a window, entry to the Church and breaking-into the collection box without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	331.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos, Kaltezes, Arcadia
Date	21 December 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Monastery from a fenced spot and removal of the entire central three-phase lighting cable of the Monastery, approximately 45 meters long. The value of the damage amounts to approximately 560€
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	332.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Iana, Alexandroupoli
Date	21 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Recording the incident without filing a complaint (Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	333.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Taxiarches, Komnina, Kato Vourla, Fthiotida
Date	Between 17 and 22 December 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church through an unsecured door and theft of 3 large icons of undetermined value from the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	334.
Location	Cemetery, Mandra, Attica
Date	21/22 December 2021
Brief description	Theft of bronze handles and icons from tombs, and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	335.
Location	Cemetery, Loudia, Thessaloniki
Date	22 December 2021
Brief description	Damage to at least 20 tombs in the cemeteries, glass and frames breaking
Perpetrator/s	3 nationals and 2 unidentified (minors)
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	336.
Location	Cemetery Church, Loudia, Thessaloniki
Date	22 December 2021
Brief description	Damage to three windows of the Church, breaking-into the collection box and theft of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	3 nationals and 2 unidentified (minors)
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	337.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Imathia
Date	22/23 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of silver sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	338.
Location	Church of Aghia Anna, Flampouro, Serres

Date	23 December 2021
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured rear small window, messing-up of the space and causing damage without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	339.
Location	Church of Konstantinos and Eleni, Sfikia, Imathia
Date	23 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in and removal of silver sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	340.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Armenoi, Rethymno
Date	Between 18 and 24 December 2021
Brief description	Perpetrators removed votive offerings - jewellery worth 1,000€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	341.
Location	Private Church, Artemida, Attica
Date	Between 20 and 24 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 1 icon and an undetermined amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	342.
Location	Cemetery, Elefsina, Attica
Date	23/24 December 2021
Brief description	Removal of all metal and bronze objects from about 30 graves, vandalism and damage to many graves, even to marble surfaces
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	343.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Lafionas, Lesvos
Date	24 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	344.
Location	Church of Evangelistria, Sidirokastro, Serres
Date	25 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking the glass pane of the main door of the Church office, entry inside, search of all areas without removing anything, as the offender was noticed and immobilized in the office premises
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

No	345.
Location	Cathedral of Evangelismos of Theotokos, Metropolis of Fthiotida, Lamia, Fthiotida
Date	26 December 2021
Brief description	Damage on the wall of the Church with purple spray paint: "DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO WEAR - TELL HIM NOT TO RAPE"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	346.
Location	Church of Aghia Zoni, Kaki Vigla, Salamina
Date	26 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the Church and the collection box, without removing anything due to the arrest of the perpetrator in the act
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	347.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Raphael, Outza, Moria, Lesvos
Date	26 December 2021
Brief description	Damage to the main door of the Church, windows, candelabra and religious objects and theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	348.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Moria, Lesvos
Date	26 December 2021
Brief description	Vandalism of icons and the site - Inscriptions in a foreign language inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	349.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Ktistades, Agnanta, Ioannina
Date	27 December 2021
Brief description	Entry to the Church without tampering, breaking-into the safe of the bench and theft of about 120€. Search of the Church premises and theft of 1,080€ from the Sanctuary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	350.
Location	Church of Koimisis of Theotokos, Agnanta, Ioannina
Date	27 December 2021
Brief description	Unidentified perpetrator(s) entered the Church, without tampering, and by breaking the wooden collection box they removed 700€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

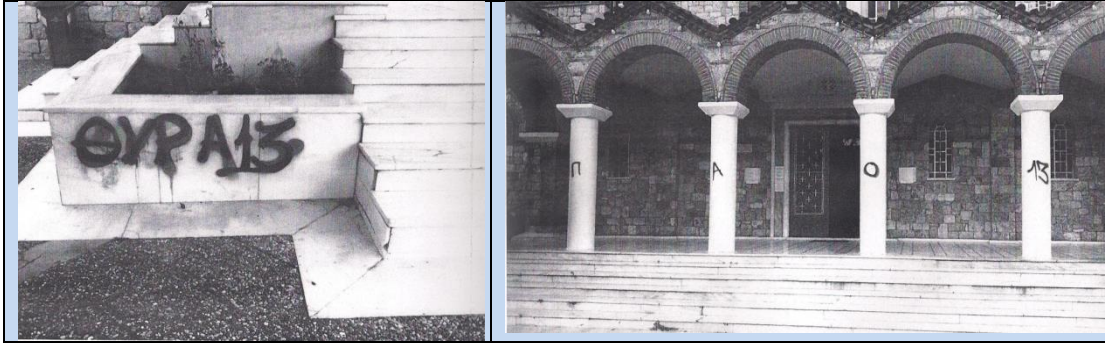
No	351.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Armenoi, Rethymno
Date	27 December 2021
Brief description	Damage amounting to 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	352.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Kyparissos, Platania, Chania
Date	28 December 2021
Brief description	Break-in of the side door of the Church and theft of the collection box containing 150€

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	353.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Dafni, Attica
Date	28 December 2021
Brief description	Painting of slogans on the walls of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Unavailable data</i>

(Indicative photographic material: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	354.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Xerokampos, Kontomari, Chania
Date	After 28 th December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	355.
Location	Church of Koilada, Kontomari, Chania
Date	After 28 th December 2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	356.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Koropi, Attica
Date	29/30 December 2021
Brief description	Breaking a window, entry to the Church and breaking-into the collection box, which was empty
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	357.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Geni, Rethymno
Date	Between 29 and 31 December 2021
Brief description	Theft of a small amount of money and damage amounting to 100€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and a dossier was formed

No	358.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Stylianos, Giapyli, Paradeisio, Kos
Date	December 2021

Brief description	Destruction of the shrine in front of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	359.
Location	Monastery of Timios Stavros, Sagri, Naxos
Date	2021
Brief description	Removal of sacred symbols, obstruction of the celebration of sacred services, events that do not respect the sanctity of the place
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	360.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Ekaterini, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into of the main entrance and damage to the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	361.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Paradeisi, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Damage to Church doors following an attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	362.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Paradeisi, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Vandalism and damage to the doors of the Church and adjacent ancillary area following an attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	363.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Eleftherios, Paradeisi, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	364.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Karydia, Paradeisi, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Breaking-into an external gate and vandalism of the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	365.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Klavdia, Pyli, Kos
Date	2021

Brief description	Vandalism to the mosaic icon of the monument
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	366-368 (3 Incidents – see also Incident 8)
Location	Church of Ypapanti Kyriou (11 th century) of the Monastery of Panagia Kastrianon, Palaio Pyli, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Destruction of the doors of the Church, damage to the marbles and illegal felling of the archaeological site
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	369-370 (2 Incidents)
Location	Church of Asomatos, Palaio Pyli, Kos
Date	2021
Brief description	Breaking-into the Church doors and destruction of window coverings (screens)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

In addition to the above, the following incidents that took place during **2021** came to the attention of the Service:

Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki:

Throughout the year there were frequent vandalisms in the Chapel of the Monastery of Koimisis of Theotokos near the Church of Panagia Dexia, desecration of ecclesiastical objects and theft of money by unidentified perpetrators.

Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros:

Throughout the year:

- 1) archaeological sites in the town and villages of Kos, where the important early Christian Basilicas of the island are located, were often desecrated
- 2) the main entrance and the collection box of the parish Church of Theia Analipsis Kyriou of Zipari in Kos were repeatedly broken-into; and
- 3) the door of the Church of Aghios Antonios in Palaio Pyli in Kos was frequently destroyed.

Holy Archdiocese of Crete:

The Church of Koimisis of Theotokos “Panagitsa” Mastampa of Heraklion: and throughout the year 2021 and especially in the evening hours during the non-quarantine period (with the exception of nights when it rains or it is very cold), unidentified young people, Greeks and foreigners, adults and minors, in groups (at least 5 persons) or individually:

- 1) Deliberately and to an excessive extent, pollute yards, entrances, porches and walls.
- 2) Cause glass breakage, significant damage to marble stairways, exterior railings, draw graffiti with indelible spray paint on doors and walls.

The following actions were taken by the Archdiocese:

- 1) Telephone communication with the Police Authorities, so that checks and recommendations can be made.
- 2) In previous years, the 4th Municipal Community of Heraklion, the Municipal Council of Heraklion and the Head of the Police had been informed, the latter promising more regular policing of the area, especially during the night hours. However, when police visits become less frequent, the phenomenon continues and sometimes becomes more acute and magnified.

Municipality of Elliniko - Argyroupoli:

On March 1, 2021, there was extensive vandalism with black spray paint on the portraits of the Heroes of the 1821 Revolution, which had been created on the initiative of the Municipality along a swimming pool wall, for the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution¹⁸. Among the portraits that were vandalized were those of the Hieromartyr Saint Gregory V, Patriarch of Constantinople (1745 - 10.4.1821), the Metropolitan Germanos III of Old Patras (25.5.1771 - 30.5.1826) and the Archimandrite Grigorios Dikaïos, popularly known as “Papaflessas” (1788 - 20.5.1825).

The Mayor, Mr. Yiannis Konstantatos in his 1-3-2021 post on social media¹⁹ stated:

“And the Turks did the same!

We were not surprised by the desecration of the Heroes of 1821 that we painted in order to commemorate their struggles.

It was to be expected from the so-called “democrats” of our city who, in a delirium of hatred, went on a rampage on the internet in the last few hours, even though the vast majority of people and the media welcomed our original idea which other municipalities are already following.

But what surprised us was the blacking of their eyes, a typical action that the Turks and the Hagarenes did to our Saints when they entered our temples!!!

But even today, the Turks would show respect to Kolokotronis, but not the “Neneko” who still do not want any reference to any national symbol.

By tomorrow we will have restored the works. And we will do it as many times as necessary, have no doubt.

We are not going to allow a miserable minority of unethical sacrilegious people to tarnish our principles and values.

Patras, Georgiou I Square:

During the night of December 21, 2021, unidentified persons desecrated the manger placed by the Municipality of Patras at Georgiou I Square in Patras. According to a relevant announcement of the Municipality on social media²⁰: “UNIDENTIFIED PERPETRATORS TODAY, DURING THE NIGHT, VANDALISED THE MANGER IN THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE OF GEORGIU I SQUARE, DESTROYING THE CONSTRUCTIONS IN IT.

The Municipal Authority denounces the vandals, who are once again trying to destroy what is beautiful in the city. The same has been done in schools and squares, in the plinths in front of the Town Hall during the Carnival season, with the public bicycles and bicycle stations, and last Christmas, with the Christmas balls in the Trion Symmachon Square and the Christmas village in the Ethnikis Antistaseos Square (formerly Olgas Square).

The people of Patras can defend their city by creating the necessary socio-economic conditions that will put a stop to the path chosen by some”.

¹⁸ For more information on this initiative, please see the official website of the Municipality: <https://www.elliniko-argyroupoli.gr/article.php?id=6115> (date: 17-8-2022)

¹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/yiannis.konstantatos/posts/3250678275034752>

²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/patrasmunicipality>

Indicative photographic material (Source: Municipality of Patras social media account)



d. Addendum

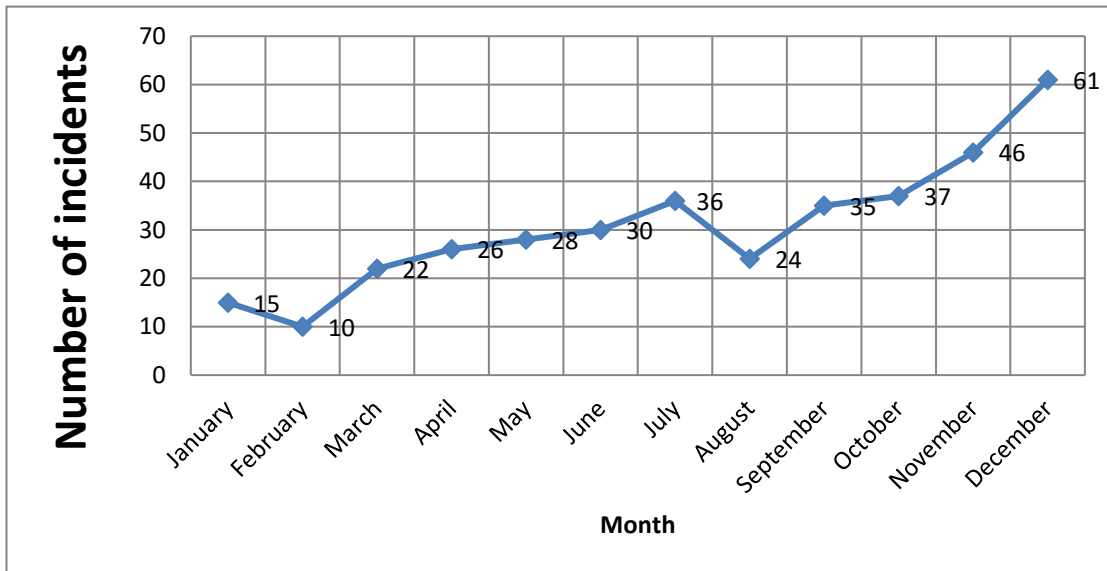


Figure 1: Incidents of year 2021 by month

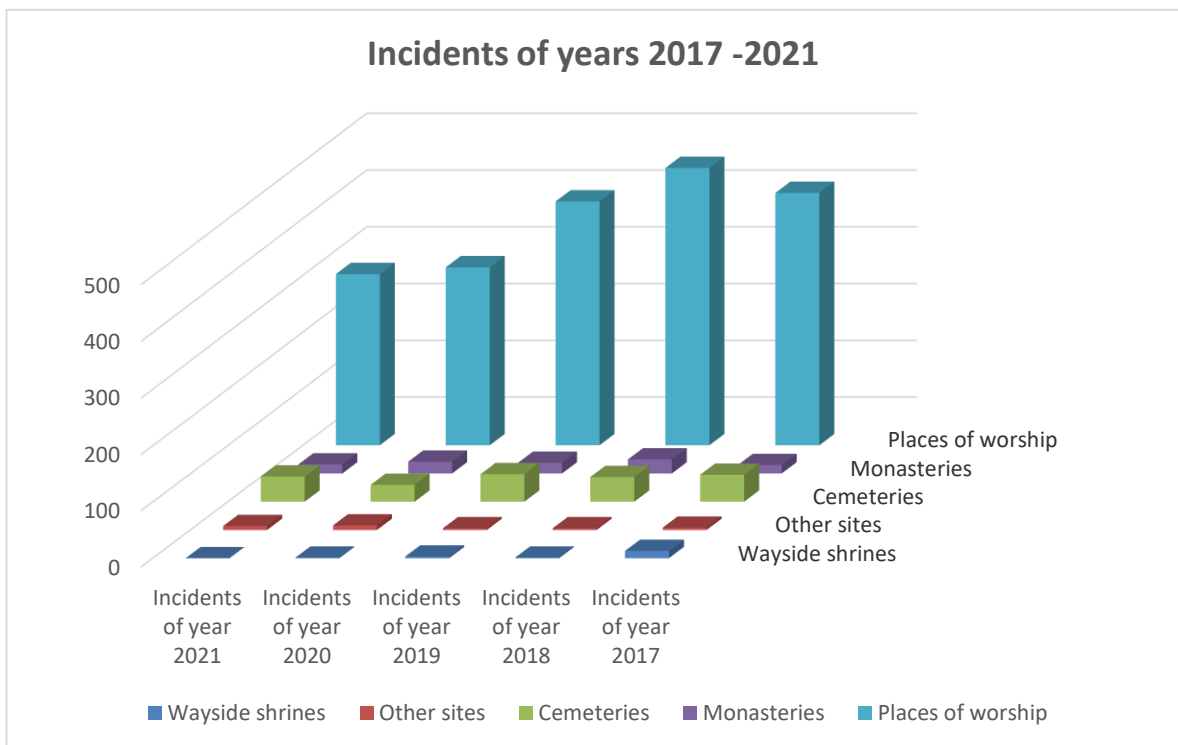


Figure 2: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2017-2021, by site

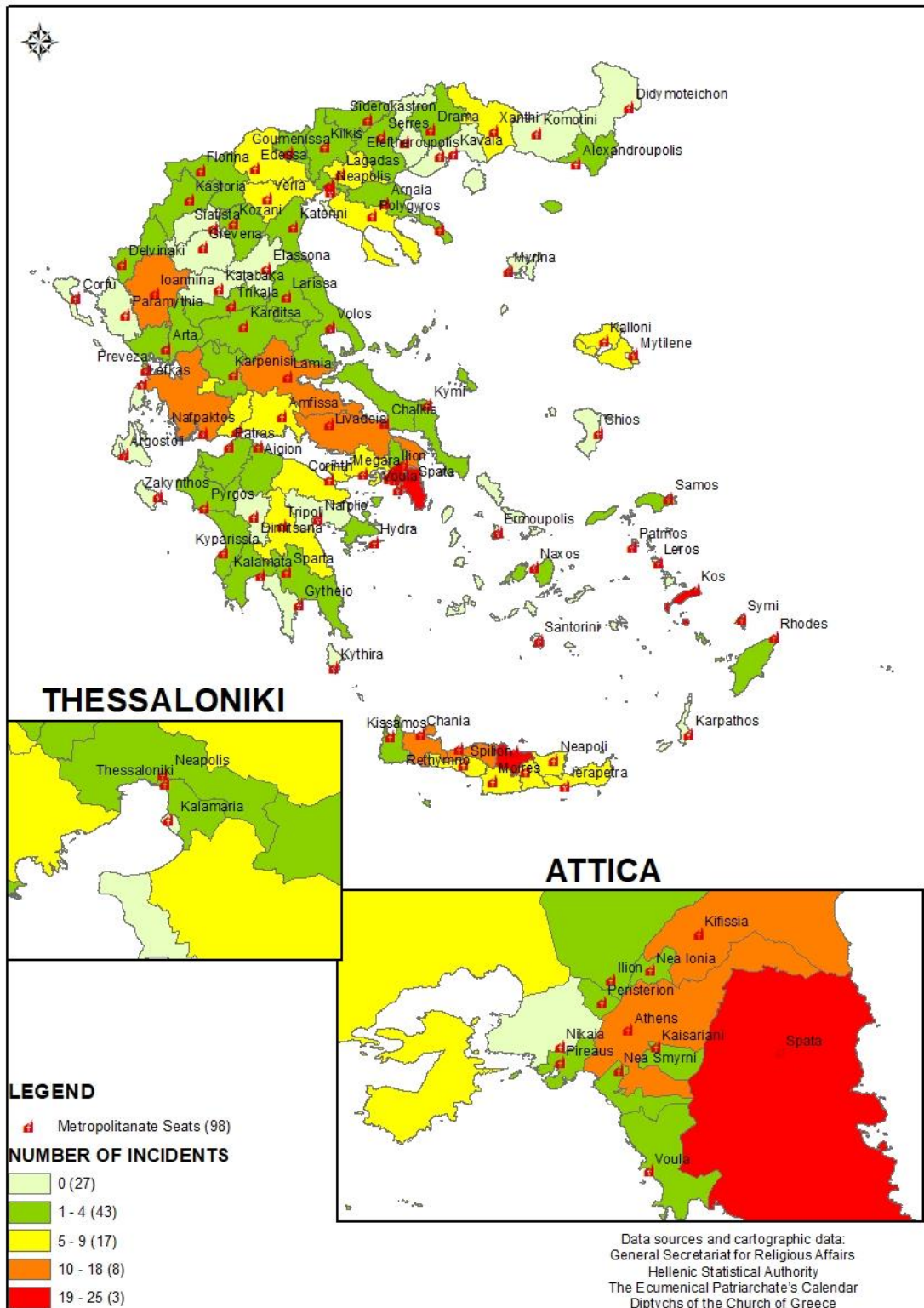
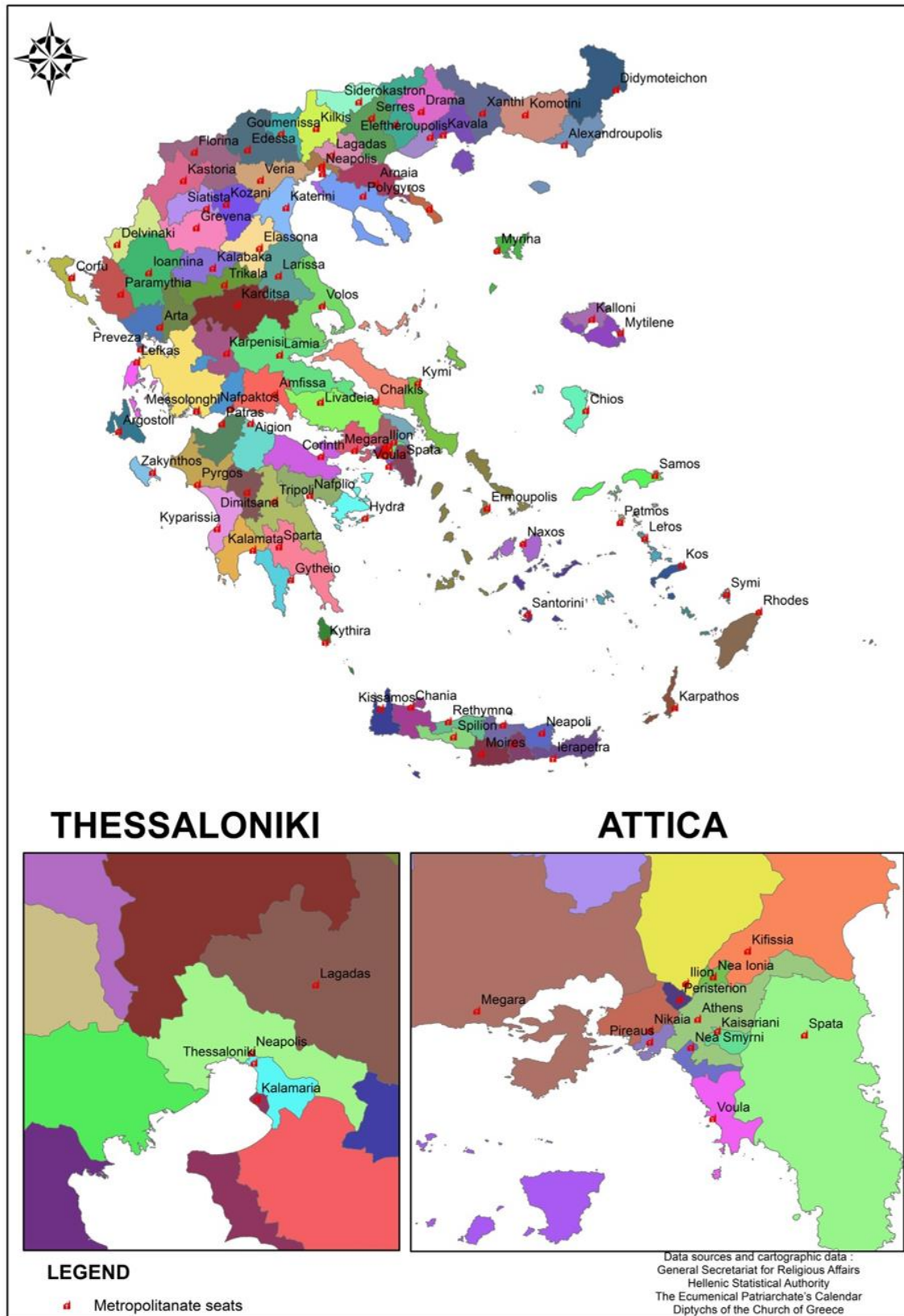


Figure 3: Incidents of year 2021 by Holy Metropolis

ii. Map of Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church of Greece



iii. Numerical Data on the Orthodox Church in Greece

CHURCH OF GREECE (TOTAL: 82 Metropolises)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Athens	Athens	145	7
2	Aetolia and Acarnania	Messolonghi	215	19
3	Alexandroupolis	Alexandroupolis	61	3
4	Argolis	Nafplion	78	7
5	Arta	Arta	97	4
6	Chalkis	Chalkis	145	12
7	Chios, Psara and Inousses	Chios	109	16
8	Demetrias and Almyros	Volos	142	14
9	Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli	Didymoteichon	106	3
10	Drama	Drama	107	3
11	Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa	Delvinaki	96	3
12	Edessa, Pella and Almopia	Edessa	140	8
13	Elassona	Elassona	61	9
14	Eleia and Oleni	Pyrgos	220	4
15	Eleftheroupolis	Eleftheroupolis	39	4
16	Filippii, Neapolis and Thasos	Kavala	95	4
17	Florina, Prespai and Eordaia	Florina	119	7
18	Fokis	Amfissa	110	6
19	Fthiotis	Lamia	245	18
20	Glyfada, Elliniko, Voula, Vouliagmeni and Vari	Voula	20	1
21	Gortys and Megalopolis	Dimitsana	148	15
22	Goumenissa, Axiopolis and Polykastron	Goumenissa	48	2
23	Grevena	Grevena	97	1
24	Ierissos, Aghion Oros and Ardamerion	Arnaia	52	3
25	Ilion, Acharnai and Petroupolis	Ilion	47	3
26	Ioannina	Ioannina	249	11
27	Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos	Kaisariani	9	3
28	Kalavryta and Aigialeia	Aigion	162	14
29	Karpenision	Karpenision	97	4

30	Karystia and Skyros	Kymi	95	5
31	Kassandraia	Polygyros	79	6
32	Kastoria	Kastoria	123	8
33	Kefalinia	Argostoli	153	7
34	Kerkyra, Paxoi and Diapontioi Nisoi	Kerkyra	183	17
35	Kifisia, Amarousio and Oropos	Kifisia	63	11
36	Kitros, Katerini and Platamon	Katerini	84	6
37	Korinthos, Sikion, Zemenon, Tarsos and Polyfengos	Korinthos	164	17
38	Kythira and Antikythira	Chora of Kythira	31	1
39	Lagadas, Liti and Rentina	Lagadas	61	6
40	Larissa and Tyrnavos	Larissa	119	6
41	Lefkas and Ithaki	Lefkas	66	4
42	Lemnos and Aghios Ephstratios	Myrina, Lemnos	37	0
43	Mani	Gytheion	114	5
44	Mantineia and Kynouria	Tripoli	157	13
45	Maroneia and Komotini	Komotini	71	4
46	Megara and Salamis	Megara	32	15
47	Mesogaia and Lavreotiki	Spata	64	8
48	Messinia	Kalamata	224	9
49	Methymna	Kalloni, Lesvos	37	3
50	Monemvassia and Sparta	Sparta	142	7
51	Mytilini, Eressos and Plomarion	Mytilini	72	4
52	Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios	Nafpaktos	94	2
53	Nea Ionia, Philadelphia, Heraklion and Chalkidon	Nea Ionia	22	2
54	Nea Krini and Kalamaria	Kalamaria	21	0
55	Nea Smyrni	Nea Smyrni	19	0
56	Neapolis and Stavroupolis	Neapolis	54	3
57	Nikaia	Nikaia	40	1
58	Nikopolis and Preveza	Preveza	131	4
59	Paramythia, Philiata, Geromerion and Parga	Paramythia	150	3
60	Paronaxia	Naxos	44	4
61	Patrai	Patrai	189	9

62	Piraeus	Piraeus	30	1
63	Peristerion	Peristerion	18	1
64	Poliana and Kilkis	Kilkis	120	3
65	Samos, Icaria and Korsoi	Samos	117	18
66	Serrai and Nigrita	Serrai	118	5
67	Servia and Kozani	Kozani	96	5
68	Siderokastron	Siderokastron	69	7
69	Sisanion and Siatista	Siatista	87	11
70	Stagoi and Meteora	Kalabaka	71	14
71	Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos	Ermoupolis	129	13
72	Thira, Amorgos and Nisoi	Thira	33	3
73	Thessaliotis and Fanariofersala	Karditsa	234	14
74	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	43	2
75	Thevai and Levadeia	Levadeia	112	23
76	Trikki, Gardiki and Pyli	Trikala	128	5
77	Triphylia and Olympia	Kyparissia	159	6
78	Veria, Naousa and Kampania	Veria	110	8
79	Xanthi and Peritheorion	Xanthi	86	4
80	Hydra, Spetsai and Aigina	Ydra	52	12
81	Zakynthos and Strophades	Zakynthos	61	4
82	Zichnai and Nevrokopion	Nea Zichni	69	5
TOTAL			8.136	562
CHURCH OF CRETE			SEAT	N° of PARISHES
(TOTAL: 9 Metropolises)				N° of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Crete	Heraklion	127	9
2	Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos	Arkalochori	91	4
3	Gortyna and Arcadia	Moirai	108	6
4	Ierapytni and Sitia	Ierapetra	86	5
5	Kissamos and Selino	Kissamos	80	3
6	Kydonia and Apokoronos	Chania	108	6
7	Lambi, Syvritos and Sfakia	Spili Rethymnis	78	6
8	Petra and Cherronisos	Neapolis	80	11
9	Rethymno and Avlopotamos	Rethymno	101	10
TOTAL			859	60

ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF THE DODECANESE (TOTAL: 5 Metropolises & 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Karpathos and Kasos	Apereion, Karpathos	20	4
2	Kos and Nisyros	Kos	24	7
3	Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea	Leros	36	7
4	Rhodes	Rhodes	64	9
5	Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	Symi	18	5
6	Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	Patmos	10	4
TOTAL			172	36
GRAND TOTAL: 96 Metropolises and 1 Patriarchal Exarchate			9.167	658
			Grand Total of Parish and Monastery Churches: 9.825	

iv. Incident of desecration of a portable holy Icon of Theotokos and the Holy Cross

From relevant audiovisual material posted on the internet²¹, it appears that on Monday 8 March 2021, during a protest in the centre of Athens, a group of young people forcibly snatched from the hands of a passing motorcyclist the holy icon of Theotokos throwing it to the ground, where a Holy Cross was also lying, resulting in the breaking of the icon and the trampling of both sacred objects. While snatching the holy Icon from the motorcyclist, one of the youths smashed it, destroying it completely. As can be heard in the audio-visual material, the group of youths were shouting: "Greece should die, let us live. To hell with the family, to hell with Motherland".

For the above incident, a complaint was submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office Athens by two lawyers, which stressed the flagrant violation of the rule of law through the violation of the fundamental individual right of religious freedom, and called for the investigation of the event and the legal punishment of all participants, directly or indirectly²². As a result, a preliminary examination was ordered and on 29-11-2021 the dossier was placed in the Unidentified Perpetrators File.

v. Historical religious sites of the Orthodox Church

In Greece, a number of Christian Churches of the Byzantine period (330-1453) have been preserved, dating from the early Christian era (4th-7th century), such as the Acheiropoietos Monastery and the Latomos Monastery in the city of Thessaloniki, the pre-Byzantine period (mid 7th century to mid 9th century), the middle Byzantine period (mid-9th century to the fall of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204) and the late Byzantine period (1204 to the fall of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453). The following period, the post-Byzantine period

²¹ <https://youtu.be/TZNgzbb0yr0>

²² The full text is available at the link: <https://www.romfea.gr/images/article-images/2021/03/ANAFFORA.pdf>

from 1453 to 1830, also has some remarkable cultural monuments and, by extension, Christian Churches in Crete (before the Ottoman conquest) and the Ionian Islands (which were never conquered by the Ottomans).

A considerable number of these Churches have been recorded and are presented by the competent Ministry of Culture and Sports on the “[Odysseus](#)” website, which contains information on three hundred and fifty (350) [Christian places of worship](#), which constitute cultural monuments. In addition, Aghion Oros (Mount Athos), Meteora, the Paleochristian and Byzantine Monuments of Thessaloniki, the Holy Monastery of Daphni, the Holy Monastery of Hosios Loukas, Nea Moni of Chios, and the Holy Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Patmos have been declared World Heritage Sites and are protected as such, in accordance with the treaty signed between Greece and UNESCO in 1981.

Unfortunately, a significant part of the Byzantine Christian churches and monasteries of Athens were destroyed and looted, especially during the Regency period (1833-1835) and then during the reign of Otto. Thus, after the publication of the “Declaration on the Independence of the Greek Church” (**Royal Decree of 23-7/1-8 1833**), a series of decrees dissolved those monasteries (almost 400) that had no more than six monks²³ and confiscated their property. The **Royal Decree of 27-5/9-6 1836 (A’ 22)** stipulated that the movable and immovable property of the dissolved monasteries would be sold for the construction of a university, while the ruined parish churches (including the private ones), including the land on which they were located, would be given to the municipalities, to be sold by auction and the money should be used for welfare projects. This policy, which to a certain extent was combined with the transfer of the capital of the State from Nafplio to Athens (Royal Decree of 18-30/9/1834, A’ 36) and the attempt to rebuild it, had devastating consequences for the preservation of the Byzantine churches of Athens, the majority of which were demolished in order to sell off their respective plots of land and to serve the urban planning of the city.

The Church of Greece was never compensated for the destruction and confiscation of the Churches, Monasteries and their properties.

²³ See Sp. Troianos §2.1.4. (Σπ. Τρωιάνου έ.α., §2.1.4.)

2. Catholic Church in Greece

a. Introduction

By the **London Protocol (№ 3) of February 3, 1830**, signed by the three Great Powers, France deposited to the hands of the “future Sovereign of Greece” the right to protect the Catholics subjected to the Sultan. The Protocol established that the new State should guarantee the religious freedom of Catholic Christians and recognize the property of the Catholic Church in Greece: “... *the Catholic religion should enjoy in the new State the free and public exercise of its worship, that its property should be guaranteed to it, that its bishops should be maintained in the integrity of the functions, rights and privileges, which they have enjoyed under the protection of the Kings of France...*”.

The Greek Senate by its **Memorandum of April 10, 1830** accepted this concession mentioned in the Protocol (№3) because it was in accordance with the laws of the new State, but made this conditional upon the acceptance by the “Great Powers” that “*the Greek religion shall be the prevailing religion*” of the Greek independent State. The Greek claims were fully accepted as shown by the interpretive provision of **Article 2 of the Protocol (№ 33) of the London Conference (July 1, 1830)** “*The privileges granted to Catholics by the Protocol of February 3, 1830 may not impose to the Greek Government any requirement which could harm the prevailing religion*”.

The Greek Orthodox Church was recognized as prevailing religion in the Ionian Islands according to the “**Constitutional Chart of the United States of the Ionian Islands**” but a special protection was granted to the Catholic Church. Article 3 of Chapter I on *General Organization* states that: “The established religion of these states is the orthodox Greek religion; but all other forms of the Christian religion shall be protected, as hereinafter stated”. Article 3 of Chapter V on *Ecclesiastical Establishment* states that: “The roman catholic religion shall be specially protected, and all other forms of religion shall be tolerated”.

Article 4 of Law N’ of 1864 “On the ratification of the Treaty between Great Britain, France and Russia on the Union of the Ionian Islands to the Kingdom of Greece” (Official Government Gazette A’ 25) established the following, regarding the position of the Catholic Church in the Ionian Islands: “*The union of the United States of the Ionian Islands to the Kingdom of Greece shall in no wise invalidate the principles established by the existing legislation of those Islands with regard to freedom of worship and religious toleration; accordingly the rights and immunities established in matters of religion by Chapters I and V of the Constitutional Charter of the United States of the Ionian Islands, and specifically the recognition of the Orthodox Greek Church as the dominant religion in those Islands; the entire liberty of worship granted to the established Church of the protecting Power; and the perfect toleration promised to other Christian communions shall, after the union, be maintained in their full force and effect. The special protection guaranteed to the Roman Catholic Church, as well as the advantages of which that church is actually in possession shall be equally maintained; and the subjects belonging to that communion shall enjoy in the Ionian Islands the same freedom of worship which is recognized in their favor by the Protocol of the 22 January (3rd February), 1830. The principle of entire civil and political equality between subjects belonging to different creeds, established in Greece by the same protocol, shall be likewise in force in the Ionian Islands.*”

Following the introduction of the Civil Code in 1946, the question which emerged concerning the legal personality of the Catholic Church and of its establishments in Greece, was solved by **Article 13 of Law 4301/2014**. According to this, the Catholic Church in Greece is recognized as Ecclesiastical Legal Person governed by Private Law and the religious communities (Dioceses, Parishes, Monasteries) inextricably linked to it are recognized as Religious Legal Persons

governed by Private Law and amount to 227 in total. Among those, there are 82 Parishes and 47 Monasteries (see [Addendum](#), Table ii).

Currently, the Catholic Church in Greece has **231 places of worship**.

b. Incidents

No incidents were reported for the year 2021.

c. Addendum

i. Statistical presentation

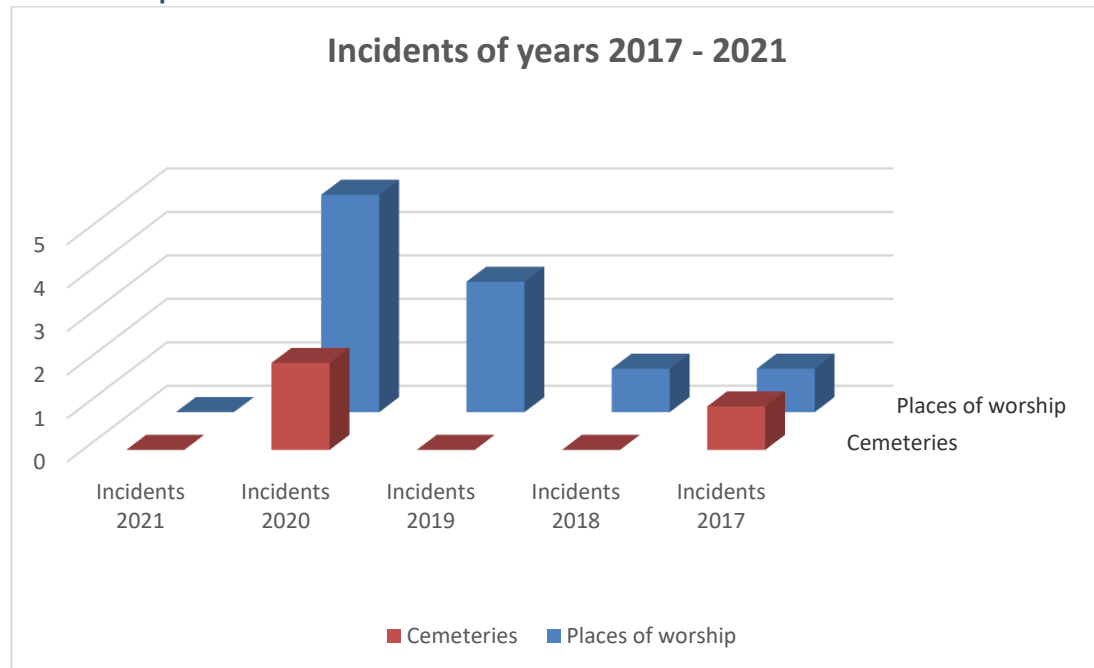


Figure 4: Comparative presentation of incidents 2017-2021, by site

ii. Number of Parishes and Monasteries of the Catholic Church in Greece

Archdiocese/Diocese	Number of Parishes according to Law 4301/2014	Number of Monasteries according to Law 4301/2014
Catholic Archdiocese of Naxos, Tinos, Andros and Mykonos	28	4
Catholic Archdiocese of Corfu, Zakynthos, Kefalonia	7	5
Catholic Archdiocese of Athens	17	18
Catholic Archdiocese of Rhodes	3	3
Catholic Diocese of Syros	15	4
Catholic Diocese of Thira	1	1
Catholic Diocese of Crete	3	2
Catholic Diocese of Chios	1	0
Apostolic Vicariate of Thessaloniki	4	8
Exarch of Byzantine Rite	2	2
Ordinariat of Armenian Rite	1	0
Total	82	47

iii. Catholic Dioceses in Greece

Source: [website](#) of the Catholic Church in Greece and Press Office of the Bishop's Conference of the Catholic Hierarchy in Greece.



Catholic Archdiocese of Naxos - Tinos - Andros- Mykonos, Religious Legal Person. It is also the Metropolis of the entire Aegean.

Seat in Tinos.

It includes the islands of Naxos, Paros, Antiparos, Koufonisia, Donousa, Sxoinousa, Amorgos, Tinos, Mykonos, Andros and Delos.

Catholic Archdiocese of Corfu, Zakynthos and Kefalonia, Religious Legal Person. It is also the Metropolis of the Ionian Islands.

Seat in Corfu

It includes the islands of Corfu, Paxoi, Antipaxoi, Lefkada, Ithaki, Kefalonia, Zakynthos and the region of Epirus.

Catholic Holy Archdiocese of Athens, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Athens.

It includes the regions of central Greece and Evia and Skyros, the Peloponnese, the islands of Argosaronikos, Kythira and Antikythira.

Catholic Archdiocese of Rhodes, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Rhodes.

It includes the Dodecanese.

Catholic Diocese of Syros, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Syros.

The islands of Cyclades: Syros, Gyros, Kea, Kythnos, Serifos, Sifnos, Milos and Kimolos.

Catholic Diocese of Thira (Santorini), Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Thira.

It includes the islands of Thira, Thirassia, Ios, Anafi, Folegandros and Sikinos.

Catholic Diocese of Crete, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Chania.

It includes the entire island of Crete.

Catholic Diocese of Chios (Lesvos-Samos), Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Chios.

It includes the islands of Chios, Psara, Oinousses, Lesvos, Lemnos, Samos, Icaria and Fourni.

Apostolic Vicariate of Thessaloniki, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Thessaloniki

It includes Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly, the islands of Northern Sporades (except Skyros), Thassos and Samothraki.

Exarch of Byzantine Rite, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Athens.

Ordinariat of Armenian Rite, Religious Legal Person.

Seat in Athens.

3. Other Christian Religious Communities

By Article 13 (5) of Law 4301/2014 the following Ecclesiastical or Religious Legal Persons governed by private law were recognized:

1. Anglican Church as Religious Legal Person located in Athens.
2. Ethiopian Orthodox Church as Religious Legal Person located in Athens.
3. Coptic Orthodox Church as Ecclesiastical Legal person located in Acharnes, Attica with 2 Religious Legal Persons.
4. Armenian Orthodox Church as Ecclesiastical Legal Person located in Athens with 9 Religious Legal Persons.
5. German speaking Evangelical Church as Religious Legal Person located in Athens.
6. Greek Evangelical Church as Ecclesiastical Legal Person located in Athens with 8 Religious Legal Persons.
7. Assyrian Orthodox Church as Religious Legal Person located in Aigaleo, Attica.
8. Armenian Evangelical Church in Greece as Religious Legal Person located in Piraeus.

In addition to the above Christian communities which are recognized as legal persons ex lege, the following entities have acquired the status of Religious Legal Person by the issuing of the relevant judgment following the publication of Law 4301/2014:

No	Legal name	Decision number
1	Holy Metropolis of Attica and Boetia of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal	165/2015, Court of First Instance in Thebes
2	Holy Metropolis of Piraeus and Salamina of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal Person	2457/2015, Court of First Instance in Piraeus
3	Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost, Kifissia, Religious Legal Person	2749/2015, Court of First Instance in Athens
4	Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost, Athens, Religious Legal Person	2842/2015, Court of First Instance in Athens
5	Metropolis in Greece of the Armenian Orthodox Apostolic Church, Religious Legal Person	1279/2016, Court of First Instance in Athens
6	Fellowship of Evangelical Churches, Religious Legal Person	2908/2017, Court of First Instance in Athens
7	Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal Person	8711/2017, Court of First Instance in Thessaloniki
8	Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Fyli of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal	2569/2018, Court of First Instance in Athens
9	Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost, Nikaia, Religious Legal Person	2699/2019, Court of First Instance in Piraeus
10	Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki, Religious Legal Person	3353/2019, Court of First Instance in Thessaloniki
11	Charismatic Christian Church, Religious Legal Person	738/2020, Court of First Instance in Athens
12	Holy Metropolis of Talantio and Lokrida of the Old Calendar, Exarchate of Continental Greece, Religious Legal Person	113/2021, Court of First Instance in Lamia

Additionally, religious places (houses of prayer) of various other Christian communities exist and operate either with the legal personality in force before Law 4301/2014 was enacted, that is of civil-law partnership or association, or without legal status, since this is not necessary for issuing a permit for a house of prayer.

According to the latest available information (of **May 2022**), there are **635** worship places of Christian Religious Communities which include those of **the Anglican Church (4), the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt (4), the Armenian Orthodox Church (9), the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (1), the German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece (3), the Greek Evangelical Church (38), the Fellowship of Greek Free Evangelical Churches (47), the Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (2), the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (8), the Christian Assyrian Church (1), the Armenian Evangelical Church (1), the Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost (92), the Apostolic Church of Pentecost (17), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) (3), the Adventist Church (10), the Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses (104), the True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists) (196)** and other religious groups with a smaller number of adherents.

During the year **2021**, **eleven (11)** applications for an authorization to establish and operate a house of prayer or temple were submitted, **seven (7)** were accepted and **four (4)** were pending as of December 31, 2021 due to incomplete documentation.

It is also noted that **twenty-one (21)** authorizations to establish and operate houses of prayer were revoked in the year **2021** due to their discontinuance.

In addition, based on the procedure for the recognition of places of worship existing before 1955 (except for those existing under Article 3 of the Constitution of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ), **twenty-nine (29)** applications for the issuance of a relevant Certification Decision of legal operation were submitted, **twenty-six (26)** Decisions were issued, while as of 31.12.2021 **three (3)** were pending due to incomplete supporting documents.

Finally, during the year 2021, **one (1)** court decision (113/2021 of the Court of First Instance in Lamia) was issued on the recognition of the “Holy Metropolis of Talantio and Lokrida of the Old Calendar, Exarchate of Continental Greece, Religious Legal Person” as a Religious Legal Person, according to the procedure of voluntary jurisdiction under Article 3 of Law 4301/2014.

For the year **2021** the following incidents were reported:

True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

No	1.
Location	Church of Aghia Irini Chrysovalantou, Piraeus
Date	18 May 2021
Brief description	In the courtyard of the Church, an unidentified perpetrator, without being noticed, removed the external water tap and a chain with its lock, both of small monetary value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	2.
Location	Church of Aghia Irini Chrysovalantou, Sidirokastro, Serres
Date	24 June 2021
Brief description	Attempted theft of objects from the Sanctuary through the window
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	3.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Tsami, Salamina
Date	9/10 September 2021
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the main entrance of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

B. Judaism

1. Introduction

A concise and comprehensive overview of the route of Greek Jews can be found in the article [“The Jewish community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe”](#) by Victor Eliezer²⁴:

“The first Greek Jew known by name was “Moschos, son of Moschion the Jew”, a slave identified in an inscription dated approximately 300 – 250 B.C. found in Oropos, a small coastal town 40 km from Athens.

It could be assumed that as a result of frequent Jewish movement through Greece, a Jewish Community was eventually established. This community is believed to have grown further after the Hasmonean uprising (142 B.C.) when many Jews were sold into slavery in Greece. In the early Christian era, the fact that Paul the Apostle, upon his arrival in Greece, preached in the Jewish Synagogues in Athens, Corinth, Veria, Kavala (Philipus) gives proof of the existence of many Jewish Communities in this Country. These Greek Jews were known as Romaniote and had developed their own customs and language (Judeo-Greek). Remnants of this unique tradition survived to our days.

From the end of the 14th century Jewish refugees emigrated from Spain and Portugal to the Greek mainland and adjacent islands. Mainly in Thessaloniki, the Jews known as the Shephardim introduced their own language (Judeo-Espagnol) and customs. During the 16th-18th centuries, Thessaloniki had one of the largest Jewish communities in the World and a solid rabbinical tradition.”

The [Jewish Museum of Greece](#) has played a leading role in preserving and enhancing “2,300 years of History and Tradition of the Jews of Greece”.

In 2018, the Jewish Museum of Greece published in Greek and in English a monumental scientific publication entitled “Corpus Inscriptionum Judaicarum Graeciae (CIJG): Corpus of Jewish and Hebrew Inscriptions from Mainland and Island Greece (late 4th century BCE – 15th century)”. This compilation is the result of a scientific program that was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and was launched in 2010 under Minister P.Geroulanos.

With regard to the nature and action of the Jewish Museum of Greece, Mr. M. Matsas, President of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Museum of Greece states:

²⁴ Eliezer Victor (2017, May 4). The Jewish community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe. European Jewish Press.

“In cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece has evolved into a unique educational center in Greece²⁵ since it:

- *organizes training seminars throughout Greece addressed to educators with a view to enabling them to acquire the cognitive skills and optimal teaching methods to teach the Holocaust*
- *co-organizes school contests on the Holocaust rewarding the winners with an educational visit to the Auschwitz Museum*
- *participates in the project carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, recently, by the Hellenic Parliament on establishing in the Auschwitz Museum a permanent Greek National Exhibition of the Holocaust in Greece*
- *implements far-reaching projects, such as publishing the Corpus of all inscriptions recording and corroborating the history of Greek Judaism”.*

As a result of the [long history](#) of Greek Judaism, before World War II, Jewish communities existed in 28 Greek cities (Didymoticho, New Orestiada – Soufli, Alexandroupolis, Komotini, Xanthi, Kavala, Drama, Serres, Thessaloniki, Veria, Kastoria, Florina, Trikala, Larissa, Volos, Chalkis, Athens, Patra, Agrinio, Ioannina, Preveza, Arta, Corfu, Zakynthos, Chania, Rhodes and Kos). There were 77,377 Greek Jews and the greater concentration of population was in Thessaloniki.

After the Holocaust and the mass extermination of 65,000 Jews in death camps (especially in Auschwitz) and the immigration of many survivors to Israel, the number of Greek citizens of Jewish religion has been reduced significantly and the majority live in Athens.

Currently, there are 8 active Jewish communities in Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Volos, Ioannina, Trikala, Chalkis, Corfu). Since 1970²⁶ the communities of Rhodes, Veria, Kavala and Karditsa remain inactive under a managing committee appointed by the Minister of Education because they total less than 20 families, according to Emergency Law 367/1945 (Official Government Gazette A’ 143) as amended by Law Decree 301/1969 (Official Government Gazette A’ 195).

Eleven (11) Synagogues operate currently in the active Jewish communities for the religious needs of their members. Two (2) Synagogues operate in Athens, three (3) in Thessaloniki, one (1) in Larissa, one (1) in Volos, one (1) in Ioannina, one (1) in Trikala, one (1) in Chalkis and one (1) in Corfu. Three (3) Synagogues operate in the inactive Jewish communities: one (1) in

²⁵ The Hellenic Parliament rewarded the significant work of the Jewish Museum of Greece in terms of research, publications, exhibitions, culture and education, and recognized it as equal to public research centers and the scientific research conducted by the Jewish Museum as part of the overall research effort of Greece (Law 4310/2014 article 3, Official Government Gazette A’ 258).

²⁶ See Moses Konstantinis [“Jewish Communities of Greece after the Holocaust”](#), p. 32

Rhodes, one (1) in Kavala and one (1) in Veria. In Crete, the only remaining Synagogue is the Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania.

2. Legal framework

By the **30-4-1890 Royal Decree** (Official Government Gazette, A' 101) "Regarding the approval of the Statute of the Israelite Brotherhood in Athens", the Statute of the said Brotherhood was approved and published in the Official Government Gazette.

By **Law 2456/1920** (Official Government Gazette, A' 173), adopted under the premiership of Eleftherios Venizelos, it has been laid down that Jewish communities are "Legal persons governed by public law"²⁷.

Under the dictatorship of Metaxas, **Emergency Law 2544/1940** (Official Government Gazette A' 287) has been adopted, by which the Jewish communities maintain their legal personality governed by public law with certain changes on the appointment of their managing board.

By **Law 2/1944** (Official Government Gazette, A' 6 republished in number A' 14), the Greek State was the first European state to return Jewish property – confiscated by the Nazis – to its legitimate owners. This grand act of justice highlights both the democratic identity of the Government of National Unity and the determination of the Greek State to guarantee the presence of Greek Jewish Holocaust survivors.

By **Emergency Law 367/1945** (Official Government Gazette, A' 143) the Jewish Communities have been formed again by the Greek State aiming at guaranteeing their existence. This Emergency Law has been adopted because the losses that the communities had suffered by the Nazis had made the implementation of Law 2456/1920 problematic. The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs supervises these organizations under **Presidential Decree 353/1997** (A' 239).

By **Emergency Law 846/1946** (Official Government Gazette A' 17), the Greek State was the first European state to forfeit its right to escheat Greek Jews' property in the absence of heirs (entire families had been exterminated in Nazi concentration camps). All this property had been granted to a legal person "aiming at looking after and rehabilitating the Jews of Greece".

By the **Decree** "Establishing the Organization for care and rehabilitation of Greek Jews (O.P.A.I.E)" of **March 29, 1949** (Official Government Gazette, A' 79) the legal person provided for by Emergency Law 846/1946 has been laid down.

By **Law 1657/1951** (Official Government Gazette, A' 20) the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece which had been temporarily established by Emergency Law 367/1945 "becomes permanent". Additionally, on the basis of a decision taken by the 2/3 of its members, the Central Board of Jewish Communities acquires the right to levy a contribution from the Jewish communities' income in order to cover operational costs. This levy represents an extra burden for the Jewish communities, similarly to the burden of the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece for the operation of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece.

By **Decree Law 301/1969** (Official Government Gazette, A' 195), adopted under the dictatorship of G. Papadopoulos, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece which had been established by Emergency Law 367/1945 and continued to operate since then, is

²⁷ See [Press Release](#) by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of January 12, 2015 regarding the Legal personality of the Jewish Communities and the Jewish Schools "Communiqué by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, G. Kalantzis, on the legal personality of Jewish Communities and the Central Board of Jewish Communities, of Jewish schools and their taxation"

considered “Legal person governed by public law” since its establishment, therefore since 1945.

By **Presidential Decree 234/1989** (Official Government Gazette, A’ 110) “Amendment and Addendum of the Statute of the Jewish Community of Athens” Presidential Decree 182/1978 (Official Government Gazette, A’ 40) “Regarding the Statute of the Jewish Community of Athens” was repealed. The provisions of these Presidential Decrees lay down, inter alia, the resources of this community, including the membership contributions (“petsia”) designated in Law 2456/1920 and they may not in any case substitute for or exempt the Jewish communities members from mandatory payment of taxes to the Greek State, in the same way as this is required for all Greek citizens.

By **Law 3218/2004** (Official Government Gazette, A’12), January 27²⁸ was designated as “Remembrance Day for the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust” to honor Greek Jews murdered by German Nazis. In the case of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace the total elimination of Greek Jews who lived there was caused by the Bulgarian occupation authorities, ally of Nazi Germany. Pursuant to the provisions of this law, **Presidential Decree 31/2005** (Official Government Gazette A’ 51) was issued on “Organizing commemoration events on January 27, Remembrance Day for the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust”.

By **Law 4018/2011**, Article 13 (Official Government Gazette A’ 215) on “Restoration of Holocaust victims who originally had the Greek nationality”, it is established that “Greek citizenship is granted again to citizens of Israel, who were born by May 9, 1945 and are still alive, if they originally had the Greek nationality by birth and lost it in any way”. It is also established that “the direct descendants of those who shall acquire the Greek nationality [...] may apply for the Greek citizenship as descendants of a Greek citizen”. By **Law 4461/2017**, Article 109 (Official Government Gazette A’ 38), “the right of acquisition of the Greek citizenship is extended also to direct descendants of citizens of Israel or other countries born in Greece by May 9, 1945 who died before acquiring the Greek nationality”.

By **Law 3943/2011** (Official Government Gazette A’ 66) the Greek State settled the legal dispute between the Jewish community of Thessaloniki and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Greek State which was pending since 1961. By Article 45 (10) of this Law, the Greek State “undertook to pay to the Jewish community of Thessaloniki the sum of € 9,943,697 in two instalments expiring in the fifth and tenth year after the entry into force of this Law”.

By **Law 4178/2013** (Official Government Gazette A’ 174) special procedures are provided for regulating urban interventions of Churches, Synagogues and Mosques of the Muslim minority in Thrace.

In **2014**, a **Memorandum of Cooperation** was signed between the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and the Jewish Museum of Greece. In **2017**, a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and Yad Vashem.

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Greece (22-1-2014), firstly **Ministerial Decree of the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (42856/02/4-3-2018 Official Government Gazette 950/2018 B’)** was issued

²⁸ On January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp of the Nazis was liberated by the soviet army. On November 1st, 2005, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution A/RES/60/7, designating January 27th as an annual international Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust in order to mark the sixtieth year of the defeat of the Nazi regime and to honor the courage and commitment of the soldiers who deliberated the concentration camps.

on “**Student Contest – Educational Program on Teaching about the Holocaust in Greece**” which was replaced by Joint Ministerial Decree **149452/02/3-11-2020 (B’5066)** on the same matter. According to Article 1, “the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs may organize annually, following a recommendation by the Institute of Educational Policy, a student video-making contest on the Holocaust; part of this educational program shall be a visit to the Auschwitz- Birkenau Museum in Poland”.

On July 2, 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and the international organization OSCE/ODIHR aiming at providing security to Jewish communities and organizations as well as identifying, recording and fighting racist and antisemitic crime and organizing a pilot training program for members of public security agencies.

Other actions of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs for the awareness of the school community against Antisemitism, which took place in 2021, are the following:

- The Embassy of Israel in Greece in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs made the projection of the film “The Longest Journey: The Last Days of the Jews of Rhodes” available free of charge to teachers and schools. The film projection was included in the proposed educational material of the circular Ref: 8481/02/25-01-2021 sent by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs to school units throughout the country for the Holocaust Remembrance Day, in which it requests that two school hours be dedicated to related events and activities.

- The Olga Lenguel Institute, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, provides impact-grants (250 euros each) to schools that carry out educational programs on the Holocaust. The money is intended to cover logistical needs related to the program. In the school year 2020-2021, 8 impact grants were granted.

- The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs requested from the Institute of Educational Policy “ΙΕΠ” (Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs) the approval for the international educational program, organized by “Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School” in Chicago, USA, entitled “The Face of Resilience”, so that it could be implemented in the 7th High School of Thessaloniki by 1st grade Lyceum students. By the 68/16-12-2021 positive opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, the program took place during the school year 2021-2022. Fourteen (14) groups of students from different countries of Europe and from the USA worked together through the educational platform Edmodo, in order to create a movie on the subject of the Holocaust.

- On April 12-13 and 19-20, 2021, a pilot workshop on “the Holocaust as a starting point: Greece, Bulgaria and North Macedonia dialogue” was held; educators from Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia and Bulgaria participated in the workshop. This workshop was organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in cooperation with the Mémorial de la Shoah, the Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews (North Macedonia) and the Ministry of Education of Bulgaria, with the participation of 13 educators from Greece. **Due to protective measures against the COVID-19 outbreak, the workshop was held on-line.**

- On December 8-9, 2021, the seminar “The Holocaust and mass atrocities: Preparing to single out” addressed to university students was held in Athens. The seminar was organized by the Mémorial de la Shoah in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and the Political Philosophy Research Laboratory of the Faculty of Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

- On December 9-10, 2021, the seminar “The Holocaust and mass atrocities: Preparing to single out” addressed to university students was held in Athens. The seminar was organized

by the Mémorial de la Shoah in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and the Institute of International Relations of the Panteion University.

- On April 25, 2021, the special discussion “How the IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust can help Educators” was held on-line. The discussion was organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, with the participation of 167 educators from the United States, Canada, Israel and Greece (72 Greek educators).

- On May 19, 2021, under the Greek Presidency of the IHRA, the educational webinar “Practical implementation of the three legally non-binding IHRA working definitions in multicultural societies: lessons learned, best practices, steps forward” was held. The webinar was organized by the Austrian, Hellenic and North Macedonian Delegations to IHRA. It was attended by representatives of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, by representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice, as well as by Greek educators.

- On May 24, 2021, the first webinar for Greek Orthodox clergymen was organized on the topic of the Holocaust and the fight against Antisemitism. The webinar was organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and Yad Vashem, with the participation of 16 clergymen.

- The United States Memorial Museum in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs has given the opportunity to 15 Greek educators to participate in the “Belfer National Conference for Educators” on July 7-9, 2021. The webinar was organized by the United States Memorial Museum.

- In January 2021, the Secretary General for Religious Affairs participated in the international #weremember campaign in the context of the Holocaust Remembrance Day.

- On 27 January 2021, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs broadcast on its YouTube channel the event for the Holocaust Memorial Day of Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes, organized by the Jewish Community of Athens and the Region of Attica. The event was held online due to protective measures against the COVID-19 outbreak.

- In the school year 2021-2022, the educational action CONVOI 77 was implemented in schools in Thessaloniki and at the Medresse (Islamic Religious School) of Xanthi. More than 200 classes of students from 19 different countries are already participating in this educational action, attempting to reconstruct the biographies of 272 persons who were initially detained in the Drancy camp in France and then deported to Auschwitz, travelling with the Convoy 77 mission.

3. Incidents

For the purposes of this Report, Synagogues, referred to above, Jewish cemeteries, Jewish schools and Memorials to honor the Greek Jews murdered in the Holocaust are included in the sites of religious interest of the Jewish Communities in Greece.

In 2021, three (3) incidents were recorded in total. These acts are manifestly antisemitic since they refer to specific motives and ideologies similar to those that led to the Holocaust and to the murder of 6 million fellow human beings.

No	1.
Location	Mural dedicated to the Holocaust, New Railway Station of Thessaloniki
Date	18 March 2021
Brief description	Vandalism of a mural using black spray paint
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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No	2.
Location	Jewish Cemetery of Ioannina
Date	5 August 2021
Brief description	Vandalism of a grave by moving and damaging a marble tombstone
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
Comments	<p>Announcement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece:</p> <p><i>“The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece expresses the indignation and disgust of the Greek Jews for the vandalism of a grave in the Jewish cemetery of Ioannina. The vandalized grave was found on 5.8.2021 open, with broken marbles scattered around, and the tombstone torn off.</i></p> <p><i>We unequivocally condemn this shameful act of sacrilege, which demonstrates that the hatred of the perpetrators leads to unholy manifestations of violence and fanaticism.</i></p> <p><i>The Jewish cemetery of Ioannina has been the target of antisemitic hatred and has suffered repeated vandalism in the past.</i></p> <p><i>We call on the competent authorities to ensure that the perpetrators are arrested and brought to justice. The Jewish cemetery of Ioannina is not only the resting place of the Jews of the city, it is a place of memory and cultural heritage of the entire city of Ioannina.”</i></p>

(Indicative photographic material: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)



No	3.
Location	Jewish Cemetery of Ioannina
Date	9 September 2021

Brief description	Vandalism of the grave by moving the marble tombstone, without causing any other damage. The vandalism took place during the holy days of the Jewish religion from the Jewish New Year to the Day of Atonement
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
Comments	<p>Announcement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece:</p> <p><i>“Antisemitism affects even the dead. For the second time in less than a month, a grave in the Jewish cemetery of Ioannina was vandalized. The sacrilegious perpetrators chose the period of the holy days of the Jewish religion - from the Jewish New Year to the Day of Atonement - to show their antisemitic fury with the horrific act of moving the tombstone of a grave. Shame!</i></p> <p><i>The state and local authorities must finally take all necessary measures for the security of the Jewish community and its sacred sites throughout Greece and especially in Ioannina where the city's Jewish cemetery has been subjected to multiple hate attacks in the past. Let the dead be laid to rest!”</i></p>

(Indicative photographic material: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)



4. Addendum

a. Statistical presentation

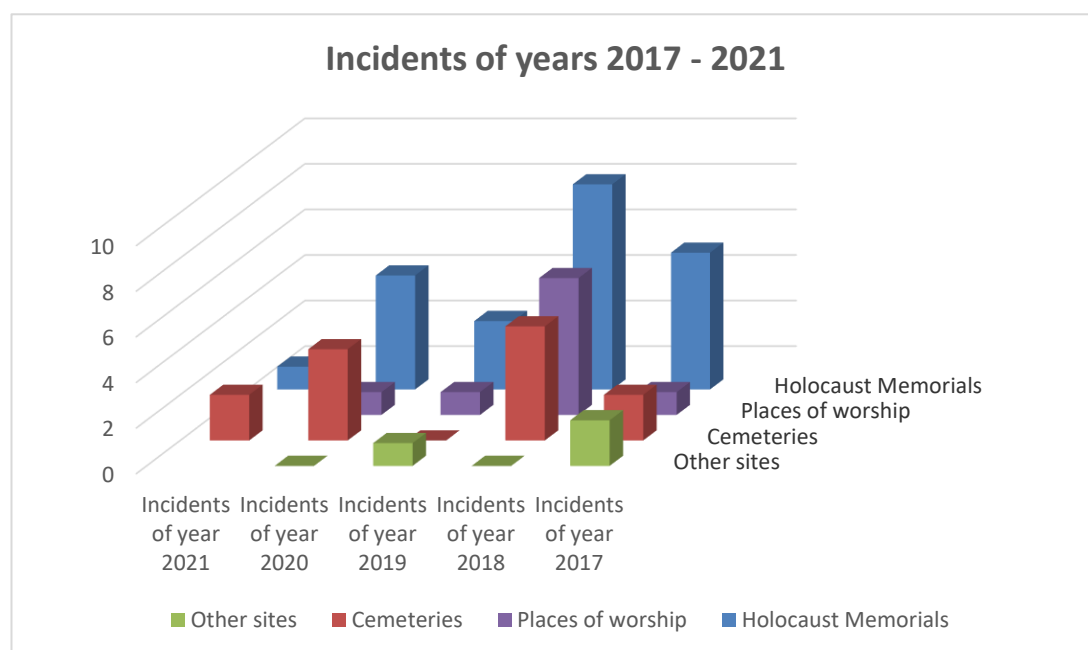


Figure 5: Comparative presentation of incidents 2017-2021, by site

b. Message of thanks from the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece to the Secretary General for Religious Affairs

To the Secretary General for Religious Affairs,

Mr. George Kalantzis

Via E-mail

Ref. No.: 84/15.02.2021

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We would like to refer to the importance of the initiative of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs for the certification of the legality of the operation of the Synagogues and to congratulate you on this necessary action.

Synagogues throughout Greece are the living carriers of the Greek Jewish cultural heritage, the Jewish religion and especially for us Greek Jews they are our history and our continuity.

Your initiative for the certification of places of worship has given an entity and clarified the status of Synagogues in Greece, constituting an important measure for their protection.

We thank you deeply for this action, which demonstrates once again the respect you attach to the protection of religious minorities in our country.

Yours faithfully,

*Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece,
The President, Mr. David Saltiel
The Secretary General, Mr. Victor Isaak Eliezer*

c. Letter of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece for the repositioning of the memorial column at the Lianokladi Railway Station

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE

LEGAL PERSON OF PUBLIC LAW (DECREE LAW 301/1969)

Ref. No. 159

To the Minister of Infrastructure & Transport April, 2, 2021

Mr. KOSTAS KARAMANLIS

[...]

Dear Mr. Minister,

We would like to bring to your attention the issue of the removal of the memorial plaque from the Lianokladi Railway Station, which was placed in 1988, in memory of 500 Greek Jews who during the Occupation worked in the forced labour for the restoration of the railway network and were subsequently deported to the Nazi death camps, meeting a tragic end, along with the six million Jews of Europe, victims of the Holocaust.

We would like to ask for your investigation into this matter and for your actions to reinstall the Memorial at the Lianokladi Railway Station, an action that will restore respect for the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and a commitment to the importance of preserving historical memory.

Thank you in advance for your actions and please keep us informed.

Yours faithfully,

The President

David Saltiel

The General Secretary

Victor Isaak Eliezer

CC: Secretary General for Religious Affairs - Mr. George Kalantzis

d. Statement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Simeon of Fthiotis on the fight against Antisemitism (14-10-2021)²⁹

“Honourable Mr. Minister, Honourable Members of the Parliament, elected rulers, I would like to express my joy, first of all, that our dear friend, the Reverend Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, an elected member of the Jewish Community of Athens is here with us, the President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Athens, His Excellency Mr. Ambassador, whom we welcome

²⁹ Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBnSp1eXJOo>

to Fthiotida, and I only want to say this as Metropolitan of the Church of Greece and as Metropolitan of this blessed Province: the fight against Antisemitism and the recognition of the Holocaust is a priority for the Church of Greece, a priority for me personally. We work perfectly together with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and especially with the Secretary General, Mr. George Kalantzis, our mutual friend, and we have carried out actions in Athens, where I had the pleasure of being the Archbishop's chief assistant of the Archdiocese for many years, and the Rabbi knows how many things we have done together with the Jewish Museum of Athens and other actions, and we must do this, because we owe it to humanity and diversity is the beauty of unity, that is our message."

C. Islam

1. Muslim Minority in Thrace

a. Introduction

Articles 37 to 45 (Section E “Protection of Minorities”) of the Treaty of Lausanne ratified by Decree Law “On ratification of the Lausanne Peace Treaty” (Official Government Gazette A’ 238/1923) establish the legal framework for the protection of populations which were not included in the “Convention Concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations” that is to say, the Greek Orthodox Christians in Istanbul and the Muslims in Thrace.

In particular, in Article 2 of the Convention concerning the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations, it is laid down that: “The following persons shall not be included in the exchange provided for in Article 1: a) The Greek inhabitants of Constantinople, b) The Muslim inhabitants of Western Thrace. All Greeks who were already established before the 30th October, 1918, within the areas under the Prefecture of the City of Constantinople, as defined by the law of 1912, shall be considered as Greek inhabitants of Constantinople. All Muslims established in the region to the east of the frontier line laid down in 1913 by the Treaty of Bucharest shall be considered as Muslim inhabitants of Western Thrace”.

Therefore, the minority in Thrace is a religious minority. It consists of Greek citizens of Muslim religion and it is governed by the Constitution and the laws of the Hellenic Republic and by a special national and international legislation which is determined by a long historical, political and geographical development in full respect of the specific religious and cultural characteristics of Muslim Greek citizens in Thrace who are protected by the Constitution and Greek legislation, as all Greek citizens, and are subject to the same legal obligations and requirements which apply to all citizens equal before the national law.

b. Muftiates in Thrace

The Muftiate of Didymoticho, the Muftiate of Xanthi and the Muftiate of Komotini are separate public service structures equivalent to General Directorates and they are under the authority of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. Operational expenditures are charged to the budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. Financial and management audits are carried out by the General Directorate for Financial Audits of the Ministry of Finance, in accordance with the provisions in force, following a joint decision by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance, including them in the bodies referred to in Article 3 of Law 3492/2006 as well as all other matters which merit special attention (**Royal Decree of Dec.12, 1952; Law 1920/1991, Article 7**, Official Gazette A’ 11, as amended by Law 4235/2014 Article 68 (Official Gazette A’ 32) and Law 4559/2018, Article 48 (A’ 142), **Law 3536/2007 Article 40** (Official Gazette A’ 42). At present there are three Muftiates operating in Didymoticho, Xanthi and Komotini.

The Mufti, who is Head of the Muftiate, is an administrative officer, he has the position of General Director and is paid accordingly; the Mufti is appointed by a Presidential Decree with a ten-year mandate and has religious, administrative and judicial jurisdiction in accordance with Sharia exclusively on matters under personal law (**Law 1920/1991** Official Gazette A’ 11 which ratified the Act of Legislative Content of Dec. 24, 1990, as amended by **Law 4485/2017** (A’114), **Law 4511/2018 (A’2)** and **Law 4559/2018** (A’ 142).

The Parliament's Plenary Session adopted the amendment of Article 5 of Law 1920/1991 (A' 11) by which taking a case before the Mufti becomes optional. This has been a significant step forward on equity and democratic rights, fully respecting identity, religious faith and special characteristics of the Muslim minority in Thrace, adopted with broad majority by all political parties (with the exception of Golden Dawn).

Additionally, following months of processing by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Transparency and Human Rights, Presidential Decree 52/2019 (A' 90) on "Procedural rules on cases under the jurisdiction of the Muftis in Thrace - Establishment, organization and operation of the Directorate for cases under the Mufti's jurisdiction at the Muftiates in Thrace" was issued. The scope of the Presidential Decree is a) to establish necessary rules of procedure on cases under the jurisdiction of the Mufti and issuing of the Mufti's ruling and b) to regulate matters of organization and operation of the Directorate for cases under the Mufti's jurisdiction, as well as procedures for filling vacancies of staff (permanent employees, employees on private law contracts of indefinite duration or political appointees) at the Muftiates.

The Hellenic Parliament passed by a large majority Law 4964/2022 (A' 150), which in Part C entitled "Modernization of the Muftiates in Thrace" (Articles 137-157) includes regulations for the current operation and organization of the Muftiates, putting an end to a pending issue of more than 30 years.

Law 4964/2022, the product of extensive research, consultation with Muslim religious ministers and in line with the proposals of the Inter-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Development of Thrace, comes to fill an important gap in Greek legislation on a number of issues of key importance for a significant group of our fellow citizens:

1. For the first time, the bill provides a modern and comprehensive legal framework for the Muftiates and Muftis in Thrace, fully compatible with the Constitution, but also with the country's international obligations, as defined by the Lausanne Treaty, the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights), but also the case law of the CoE and the ECHR (European Court of Human Rights).
2. The new bill resolves a number of problems that had been identified in practice and which, either due to ambiguity of provisions that were previously in force, or simply due to a change of circumstances, complicated the situation and essentially prevented the proper functioning of the Muftiates, the service of the religious needs of the Muslim minority in Thrace, the effective management of its religious affairs, and the proper exercise of the Muftis' judicial powers.
3. The new law establishes a complete framework for the organization and operation of the Muftiate, with authorization to issue Presidential Decrees, with provisions for covering expenses for their work, their accommodation, security, the transfer of human resources, travel, printed publications, the creation of websites, etc.. In this way, the financial independence of the institution is decisively promoted, while at the same time the overall work of Muftiates and Muftis is facilitated, the impact of the work on the local community is broadened and their image and prestige is enhanced, locally, regionally and on a national scale.
4. Also the new draft law, compared to what was in force until today, no longer emphasizes the person of each Mufti, but the institution of the Muftiate, as a public service, exactly so that the services to the citizen are not recorded as a follow-up of a person, but as coming from an institution, the good functioning of which the State promotes, strengthens and guarantees.
5. At the same time, however, there are provisions to protect the prestige of the Muftis on an individual level, with provisions for the living arrangements of their families, but

also for the protection of the Muftis themselves, through the establishment of incompatibilities, in order to limit the risk of reproaches against them and to avoid any questioning of their morality.

6. In the same spirit, financial support is established, as well as the possibility to serve as Counselors to the competent Ministry, also for those who have served as Muftis and have left. In this way, the State shows that it assists, trusts and invests in those who have played such an important role.
7. The new law also clearly describes, for the first time, the triple status of the Mufti in our country, since, unlike in other EU member states (where the sacred Islamic law-Sharia is not applied at all), here the Mufti is both a religious minister and has judicial powers and is the head of a public service (civil servant). It is the co-existence of these three qualities in the same person that imposes a separate responsibility on the State in relation to the manner of his selection and functioning.
8. There are also important innovations introduced in relation to the selection process for Muftis, all of which work in favour of their widest possible acceptance as persons of increased prestige, with special ties to the citizens they are called upon to serve. The key person in the selection process is no longer the Prefect, but the Locum Tenens Mufti. Of decisive importance is the contribution of a numerically and qualitatively enlarged Advisory Committee consisting of 33 members of the Muslim minority who are selected, without any involvement of the State, through a public drawing of lots and who are drawn from the teachers of the Undergraduate Program of Islamic Studies or the Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools) in Thrace, the Imams, the Islamic Religion teachers and eminent theologians. The Advisory Committee examines the candidatures and decides whether or not each candidate is qualified to assume the duties of the Mufti. It then submits to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs the alphabetical list of those who are adequate and it is on the proposal of the latter that the Mufti is appointed by Presidential Decree.
9. All of the above, and a number of individual regulations described in detail in the Law, contribute to the creation of an institution that operates with guarantees of legitimacy, transparency, independence and effectiveness, headed by persons of prestige, whom the State guarantees to provide with excellent conditions for the performance of their duties, with adequate financial and logistical support. And all this, with full respect for the principles of Islam, the International Treaties and the EU's legislation in force.

These new regulations will restructure and modernize the Muftiates in Thrace, improve the services provided, ensure their proper functioning, effectiveness and efficiency and enhance the credibility and transparency of these institutions.

c. Mosques in Thrace

The Muslims in Thrace exercise their religious duties in mosques numbering **over 260** in the area. **The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs has satisfied all requests for building works for repair or extension of old mosques as well as for building new ones.** It is noted that the repair and conservation of historical mosques is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Moreover, by **Article 27 of Law 4067/2012** (Official Gazette A' 79) special provisions were established for simplifying urban planning procedures which are laid down for the repair or building of mosques in buildings located in a Waqf in Thrace.

The Greek State has demonstrated special attention to resolve longstanding problems regarding mosques in particular in mountain areas of Thrace due to lack of property titles and street planning for almost all of them. By **Article 48 of Law 4178/2013** (Official Gazette A' 174), urban planning matters regarding mosques were solved. These matters concern

mosques located in areas within legal settlements but without street planning, or they concern issuing of building permits or permits to repair mosques (currently this is allowed only in areas with an approved street planning), or generally in legalizing existing buildings and architectural parts such as minarets which have been built in the past but without a corresponding permit.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, taking into account the Muslim minority in Thrace, the large number of the existing Islamic worship places (mosques, tekke, masjid, jem, cemevi), certain cases of malfunction in carrying out repairs or constructions of extensions or annexes, as well as the dense cultural richness of the wider area in recent years, set up in April 12, 2016 a “Committee for resolving planning matters for mosques of the Muslim minority in Thrace”(Online Publication Number ΩΕΣ64653ΠΣ-ΝΤΓ). Members of this Committee were the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the Head of the Directorate for Religious Administration of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, a representative of each Muftiate of the Muslim minority in Thrace, a representative of each Waqf management committee of the Muslim minority in Thrace, a representative of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a representative of the Ministry of Environment and Energy and a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

As part of the work of this Committee, it appeared appropriate for the jointly competent Ministries (Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Energy and Ministry of Culture and Sports) to issue a joint circular with a view to gathering, codifying and grouping the existing legislation, clarifying the authorization procedure with a detailed list of the necessary supporting documents and urban studies where appropriate (i.e. to demolish an existing building and to build a new one, to construct an annex building, to make small-scale repairs and deviations of building height etc.) for the benefit of all parties concerned.

Following the one-year cooperation of the three competent Ministries, the Building Services of Thrace and the Department for traditional agglomerations and listed buildings of the Directorate of Environment and Culture of the State Secretariat of Macedonia-Thrace, a circular was issued on the “Authorization procedure for issuing a building permit to Islamic places of prayer/worship in Thrace (Mosques, Tekkes, Masjids, Jems, Cemevis)” (Online Publication Number 78ΘΓ4653ΠΣ-Z3X), **the provisions of which were updated and incorporated into the joint circular [«Circular on Islamic places of worship in Thrace \(Mosques-Tekkes-Masjids-Jems/Cemevis\) \(Ref. Number: 105510/Θ1/31.08.2021 Online Publication Number: 6ΘΧ646ΜΤΛΗ-0Υ6\)»](#).**

An explicit reference is made in this circular regarding the obligation to protect the cultural heritage as derived from international conventions³⁰ and the national regulatory framework³¹. In particular, in order for newer buildings to be integrated in a protection scheme, the competent bodies designate them since it is through this procedure that the protection scheme is activated. Especially in Thrace, where the majority of Islamic places of worship/prayer are almost a hundred years old, it is necessary to clarify on a case-by-case assessment, if the place of worship/prayer is subject to the provisions of Law 3028/2002 “On protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general”.

d. Alevi of Thrace

The Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace submitted to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs their “Confession of Faith and Application for permit for religious practice of

³⁰ UNESCO Convention of 1972, Granada Convention of 1985

³¹ Constitution of Greece, articles 24 (1) and (6); Law 3018/2002

the Alevi Muslims of Thrace” requesting a permit to operate the Tekke of Roussa in Evros prefecture as place of prayer for Alevi.

According to the information prescribed in this application, Alevism is an independent branch of Islam. The fundamental characteristics of Alevism which arise from the general interpretation of the Quran are:

- Love and respect to all people,
- Tolerance for other religions and ethnic groups,
- Respect for work and workers,
- Equality between men and women,
- Monogamy.

Religious practice takes place in sites called Jem or Cemevi and Tekke (Meydan Evi) and not in Mosques. The Alevi religious minister, Dede, leads the religious services.

According to the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace, at present there are approximately 3,500 Alevi in the prefecture of Evros in particular, as well as in the prefecture of Rodopi.

Every year, ancestral “sacrifice rituals” are organized to honor and commemorate the tragedy of Hussein and to symbolize the persecutions of Alevi over time. The following feasts are organized:

- Annual Kurban in the Tekke of Roussa Mursala on November 8
- Kurban in a number of villages: Roussa, Goniko, Ourania, Mesimeri, Mikro Dereio, Sidirous, Hamilo, Ano Mikraki
- Kirk Kurban in Chloi, Rodopi prefecture
- Ali Baba Kurban in Ano Kambi, Rodopi prefecture
- Sinan Baba and Hassan Baba in Megalo Dereio
- Atmezar Kurban in Kehro, Rodopi prefecture
- Gaziler Kurban in Chloi, Rodopi prefecture
- Kiose Kioi Kurban in Spano, Evros prefecture and
- Feast in Hilia organized every summer (on the first weekend of August) with wrestling competitions

The Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) is the most important in the Balkans. It has a history of approximately seven centuries and has always been an assembly space for Dervishes (and in particular the Bektashi order). It is a monument of great religious and cultural value.

The Secretary General for Religious Affairs issued the following document (Ref: 108011/01/3-7-2019):

“In reply to the application (July 2, 2019) submitted by the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs having regard to:

- a.** *The Confession of Faith and Application for permit for religious practice of the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace (March 27, 2018) and the Application (May 8, 2018) of this Committee requesting permit for religious practice in the Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) on holidays throughout the year on specific dates,*

- b. The declaration of the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace in their Confession of Faith that their “religious practice takes place in spaces of assembly called jem or cemevi and tekke (Meydan Evi) and not in mosques”,*
- c. The fact that the Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) has been a place of assembly for Alevi Muslims since the 15th century and continuous to operate occasionally as such,*
- d. The fact that the Tekke of Roussa is recognized as a monument in accordance with the provisions of Law 3028/2002 (Official Gazette A’ 153) “on the protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general”, and*
- e. The application of the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace (Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs 107584/Ø1/3-7-2019) requesting a permit to perform their religious duties in the Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) on holidays throughout the year on specific dates, conferral to the Committee to organize the feast Secek Yaylasi in Hilia, Roussa, Mikro Dereio, Municipality of Soufli, Evros prefecture, on August 2, 3 and 4, 2019 and to remain in Hilia from July 17 to August 17, 2019 in order to prepare and clean the place,*

authorizes:

- 1. the performance of five specific religious ceremonies/ prayers at the place of worship of Alevi Muslims of Thrace in Roussa, Municipality of Soufli, Evros prefecture, by the name Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) lead by religious minister (Dede) Ismail Oglou Mehmet on the following dates:*
 - March 14, Mart Kurbanı (duration: one day)*
 - August 9, Yala Bayramı (duration: one day)*
 - October 8, Sultan Kurbanı (duration: one day)*
 - December 17, On İkiler Kurbanı (duration: one day)*
 - September 10, Asure Kurbanı (date varies)*
- 2. the conferral to the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace to organize the feast Secek Yaylasi in Hilia, Roussa, Mikro Dereio, Municipality of Soufli, Evros prefecture, on August 2, 3 and 4, 2019, ending on August 9, and to remain in Hilia from July 17 to August 17, 2019 in order to prepare and clean the place.*

The Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace shall have full and entire responsibility to ensure safety conditions of assembly for the adherents, hygiene conditions, fire safety conditions and procedures and conditions for safe evacuation of the Tekke in case of danger. The above can be met by all appropriate means as long as the conditions laid down in the legislation in force are fulfilled. Tax exemptions provided for in the legislation in force for places of worship/prayer of religious communities shall not apply in this case because this is an exceptional use of the site.

It should be noted that this provisional authorization by no means constitutes a permit to establish and operate a worship place and it only authorizes a provisional religious practice/prayer in the Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) in order to cater for the religious needs of the Alevi Muslims of Thrace on the dates of celebrating the abovementioned feasts.

This authorization does not replace the permits required by other competent authorities (i.e. Ministry of Culture) and the interested parties should ensure that they are granted these permits in a timely manner.

This authorization is applicable for one year”.

In addition, by Ministerial Decision 31811/Θ1/19-3-2021 (Online Publication Number: ΩΔ4646ΜΤΑΗ-15Μ), a permit to establish and operate a house of prayer (cem-evi) to the religious community under the name “Alevi of Megalo Derio”, thus making Greece one of the few countries in Europe which have recognized the Alevi as a distinct religious community.

2. Muslims outside Thrace

a. Mosques in Rhodes and Kos

In addition to the region of Thrace where the Treaty of Lausanne is in force, Islamic religious places operate in the Dodecanese and in particular in Rhodes and Kos.

In Rhodes there are [7 historical mosques](#); one of them operates on a daily basis as a Mosque and one operates as a Mosque during Ramadan and on Eid Al-Adha. In Kos there are 6 Mosques classified as [archaeological sites](#) and there is a Mosque operating on a daily basis.

Mosques and Islamic cemeteries are under the Management Committees of the Managing Bodies of the Waqf in Rhodes and Kos respectively. Articles 117 “Managing Bodies of the Waqf Properties of Kos and Rhodes” and Article 118 “Private Waqfs of Rhodes and Kos” of **Law 4821/2021** (A’ 134) resolved the long-standing problem since 1947 of the legal personality, administration and operation of the Managing Bodies of Waqfs in Rhodes and Kos and the Private Waqfs of Rhodes and Kos as until the enactment of this law the legislative framework that had been introduced during the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese with the **Decree 12/2-5-1929** by the Italian Governor of the Islands of the Aegean Islands³² was still in force.

According to **Law 4821/2021**, the Management Boards of the Managing Bodies of the Waqf Properties of Kos and Rhodes are formed of five members and are set up by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs every two years. Their members are Greek Muslims, permanent residents of Rhodes or Kos, respectively. The Bodies may be subsidised by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Particular mention should be made to the funding by the Ministry of Culture and Sports for restoring historical mosques in the area, such as the Recep Pasha Mosque, the Sintrivan Mosque, the Mosque of Mehmet Aga, the Suleiman Mosque, the Murad Reis Mosque in Rhodes.

With the support of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs the Suleiman Mosque in Rhodes – which operates as a Museum- is made available each year to the Managing body of the Waqf property in Rhodes for the Eid al-Fitr prayer (for the end of the fast of Ramadan) and the Eid al-Adha prayer (for the Sacrifice of Abraham). Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the operation of the site continued with strict adherence to sanitary protocols to address the epidemiological risks.

By Acts 182953/Θ1/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number Ω5MY46ΜΤΑΗ-ΖΦ7), 182982/Θ1/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number 6X1H46ΜΤΑΗ-BT2) and 182990/Θ1/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number Ω27Λ46ΜΤΑΗ-ΟΧΝ) issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, it was established that the Islamic places of worship “Ibrahim Pasha Mosque” (Managing bodies of the Waqf property in Rhodes) as well as “Defterdar Mosque” and “Hassan Pasha Mosque” (Managing bodies of the Waqf property in Kos), were operating legally.

³² See also decree by the Army Commander of the Dodecanese (Ref: 19/29-4-1947) as ratified by Resolution ΑΔ’ of the 4th Revisionary Hellenic Parliament (Official Government Gazette Α’ 262/27-11-1947)

The legal operation of the above sites was established in accordance with the provisions of the Circular issued by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs (Ref. 176169/Θ1/19-10-2018, Online Publication Number ΩΑ3Υ4653ΠΣ-8Β3) on «Procedure for recognizing a worship place existing before 1955 (except for the ones under the jurisdiction, “klima”, of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution)». Therefore, a matter remaining unaddressed for a long time was finally settled with regard to these places of worship, which have been operating without interruption for a long time to this day. Thus, the concern of the State to ensure the unhindered enjoyment of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of adherents and religious communities was demonstrated in practice.

Also, with the 19136/Θ1/18.2.2021 Ministerial Decision (Online Publication Number: ΨΤ6Α46ΜΤΛΗ-ΒΩΖ) the Managing Body of the Waqf Property of Kos was granted approval for the temporary operation, the use as a place of worship, for the wedding-events hall due to the impossibility of using the existing mosque in the village of Platani in Kos.

b. Other Mosques in Greece

Other than the above-mentioned Mosques in Thrace, Rhodes and Kos there are at least 60 Islamic sites in Greece. Many of those have been restored, such as the Fethiye Mosque in the Roman Agora in Athens which is accessible as an exhibition gallery since August 2017, the [Yeni Mosque](#) in Mytilene, the Zincirli Mosque in Serres. Other mosques damaged due to the ravages of time are being restored, such as, for example, the Valide Mosque, the oldest mosque in Mytilene, with funding of € 1.2 million from the special development plan for the islands of the Aegean implemented by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesbos; the Beyazit Mosque in Didymoticho following the fire of March 22, 2017; the construction work on the Hünkar Mosque in Edessa.

Some Mosques operate as museums after their restoration, such as the Emir Zade Mosque in Chalkis, the Mosque of the Lower Fountain or Tzisdarakis Mosque in Athens and the Küçük Hassan Mosque in Chania.

An indicative list is included in the [Addendum](#) of this section.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports seeks to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage of Greece in which Islamic monuments are included. Additional efforts are made to that end and special publications have been edited in the past³³.

c. Islamic Houses of Prayer

For the first time in 2013, applications for a permit to establish and operate an Islamic worship place were lodged and they were all satisfied, except for those whose supporting documentation was incomplete. In 2021, three (3) Islamic houses of prayer were granted a permit (“Alfaruk Masjed”, “HASSAN BIL ALI”, “Minhaj”). **Currently, by May 2022, the total number of Islamic Houses of Prayer in Greece, not including Thrace and the Dodacanese, is fifteen (15).**

Since 2011, the Greek State grants spaces to Muslims³⁴ at the Peace and Friendship Stadium and at the Olympic Sports Athletic Center of Athens in order to ensure that Muslims are able to practice their religious duties during the Great Islamic Feast of Sacrifice (Eid Al Adha)

³³ Ottoman Architecture in Greece, Collective work, 2009 (Η Οθωμανική Αρχιτεκτονική στην Ελλάδα – Συλλογικό, December 2009)

³⁴ See [Press Releases](#) of May 17, 2018 and May 8, 2019 by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs: “*Muslims’ religious practice at the end of Ramadan (Eid-al-Fitr)*” and Press Releases of August 16, 2018 and July 25, 2019 on “*Performing prayer on Eid al Adha*”.

marking the end of Ramadan and Abraham's sacrifice. In 2020, however, this procedure was suspended as part of the measures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. After the opening of the Mosque of Athens on November 2, 2020, the reasons for the concession ceased to exist.

Additionally, a parade is performed annually in Athens by Muslims honoring the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad (except for the years 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic of the coronavirus COVID-19); this event is authorized by the Greek authorities and protected by the Hellenic Police.

3. Mosque of Athens

By **Law 3512/2006** (Official Gazette A' 264) the necessary regulatory framework to establish and operate an Islamic Mosque in Attica was established for the first time in national legislation. The Mosque will be under public supervision, so Muslims residing in the Attica area (Greeks and non-Greeks) have the possibility to exercise their religious duties as dictated by their religion.

By the adoption of **Law 4014/2011** (Official Government Gazette A' 209), **Law 4327/2015** (Official Government Gazette A' 50), **Law 4414/2016** (Official Government Gazette A' 149) and **Law 4473/2017** (Official Government Gazette A' 78) several administrative and urban planning matters were settled and as a result the construction of the building of the Mosque of Athens and of the surrounding area of 16 acres was completed in June 2016. On June 7, 2019, the building and the surrounding area were presented to the Muslims of Athens.

By Ministerial Decision **135952/01/11-8-2017** (Y.O.Δ.Δ. 401- Online Publication Number: 7FAB4653PΣ-1ΣΘ) the first Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens" was appointed.

The Joint Ministerial Decision by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance on "*Rules of Procedure of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens"* **151436/01/13-9-2018** was issued providing for, inter alia, the following:

- the possibility to set up, following a decision by the Management Board, non-remunerable religious committees of consultative nature composed of members or non- members of the Board for the better functioning of the Mosque. In particular, members of these committees may be public servants, Muslims legally residing in Attica, faculty members of Universities or graduates of the Undergraduate Programme of Islamic Studies of the Faculty of Theology of the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and religious ministers of Islamic worship places in Attica authorized by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (Article 17),
- the possibility to set up, following a decision by the Management Board, groups of volunteers composed of Muslims legally residing in Attica and members of the Muslim communities of Attica who wish to offer their services on a temporary basis and free of charge and to support the proper functioning of the Mosque of Athens especially during the periods of major Islamic holidays and for the increased needs of the adherents (Article 18),
- the daily functioning of the Mosque of Athens. Opening hours of the Mosque are: from thirty minutes before the time of the first prayer performed by the Imam to thirty minutes after the time of the last prayer performed by the Imam. During the holy Islamic month of Ramadan and the Feast of the Sacrifice of Abraham (Eid Al Adha), the Mosque of Athens shall operate twenty-four hours a day. All adherents

may come freely at the Mosque during the opening hours and at the yearly prayer times in order to perform their religious practices (Article 19) and

- the procedure and conditions for making the Mosque available to individual Muslim communities of Attica for a limited period of time (Article 20).

On May 20, 2019 the Presidential Decree 42/2019 (A' 74) "Organization of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens" was published. The Organization of the Legal Entity defines in particular, even in derogation of the provisions in force for the public sector, its structure and operation, the number, positions, categories, qualifications, status and duties of the staff employed, as well as their disciplinary law, the topics of studies, projects, leasing or renting of real estate and provision of services related to the operation and maintenance of the Mosque and the procurement of supplies, its financial management and its inclusion in the appropriate accounting management system and any other detail necessary for its regular operation and the achievement of its purpose.

Law **4589/19** (A'13) Article 72 (1) regulates in detail matters regarding revenue from donations to the Legal Entity of Private Law and **Law 4610/19 (A'70)** Article 217 regulates the matter of the Islamic religious minister's remuneration. By Ministerial Decision 149184/01/3-11-2020, a religious minister (Imam) was appointed at the Mosque of Athens.

Following the expiration of term of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens", the new composition of the Management Board was appointed by Ministerial Decision 109537/01/25-8-2020 (ΥΟΔΔ 697-Online Publication Number: 6ΨΞ446ΜΤΛΗ-BNE).

The Mosque of Athens began operating on Monday November 2, 2020, according to the relevant announcement made by the President of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law concerned:

"The Mosque began to operate today, November 2, 2020, in accordance with the legislation applicable regarding the places of worship, as referred to in Joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ./67924 on social distancing and other measures taken in Greece to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Official Gazette B' 4709/23-10-2020).

The Management Board of the Mosque of Athens will communicate the date of the inaugural ceremony when this will be possible depending on the developments in the fight against the pandemic".

By Article 49 of Law 4777/2021 (A'25) and Article 97 of Law 4812/2021 (A'110) changes were made to the composition of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens", including an increase in the number of Muslim representatives from two (2) to four (4). The nine-member Management Board was appointed by the Decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs 98380/01/9-8-2021 (ΥΥΟΔ 668, Online Publication Number: 64ΟΨ46ΜΤΛΗ-ΔΤΗ).

The provisions of Article 58 of **Law 4807/2021** (A' 96) have given the possibility to the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens" to provide within the Region of Attica, burial services exclusively and only for decedents of Islam, in accordance with Islamic burial customs and rules.

Finally, with Article 350 of **Law 4957/2022**, the mission of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens" is reformulated, its position as a religious center of the Muslims of Attica is clarified and the relevant legislative framework is amended, in order to ensure increased credibility and transparency of the institutions, improved risk management and consequent improvement of the services provided.

4. Incidents

For the year **2021**, **two (2)** incidents were recorded, as follows:

No	1.
Location	Tabakhane Mosque, Komotini
Date	13/14 March 2021
Brief description	Damage to the wall and windows of the Mosque. Eggs were thrown by minors, who escaped in an unknown direction
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	2.
Location	Mosque, Sapes, Rodopi
Date	13 August 2021
Brief description	The perpetrator entered the mosque by breaking the main door and turned on the mosque's loudspeaker system, playing songs from his mobile phone through the loudspeakers
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and a dossier was formed

Also, we have been informed by the Hellenic Police that on November 29, 2021, a white car with two (2) passengers entered from the main entrance of the courtyard of the Mosque of Athens in Athens and headed towards the Mosque's guardhouse. One of the passengers addressed the guard and after asking him if this is the Mosque and receiving a positive answer, he said "let them know that we love Christ and one day we will come back and burn it down". The vehicle then headed towards the exit, where the co-driver addressed the police guard and, after asking him if he was a Christian and getting a positive answer, he said "we also believe in Christ and we should not be guarding them" and left towards the avenue Iera Odos in the direction of Athens.

5. Addendum

a. Statistical presentation

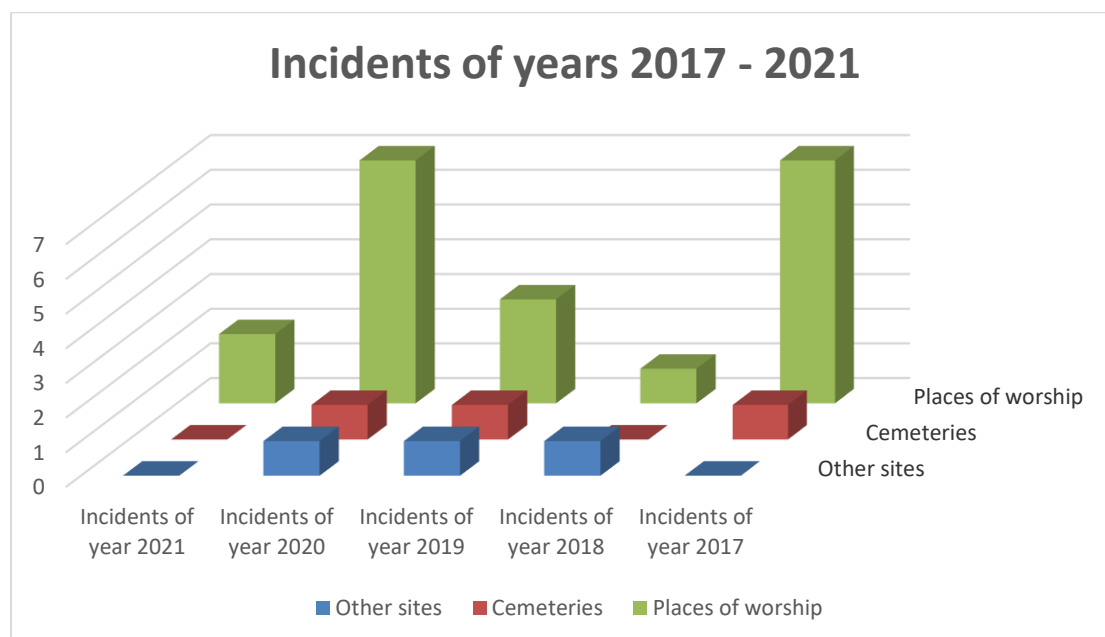


Figure 6: Comparative presentation of incidents 2017-2021, by site

b. A circular on non-attendance days for Minority Schools on Islamic holidays was issued by the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace setting out six (6) days of Islamic holidays for Minority Schools in addition to the rest of national school holidays.

c. 10-12-21: Visit of the Deputy Minister for Citizens' Protection Lefteris Economou to Kavala for the presentation of the Greek translation of the Guide "Understanding anti-Muslim hate crimes-Addressing the security needs of Muslim communities"

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION

Athens, 10 December 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Visit of the Deputy Minister for Citizens' Protection Mr. Lefteris Economou to Kavala in the framework of the presentation of the Greek translation of the Guide "Understanding anti-Muslim hate crimes-Addressing the security needs of Muslim communities".

The Deputy Minister for Citizens' Protection Mr. Lefteris Economou participated today, Friday, 10 December 2021, as a keynote speaker at an Event-Workshop organized in Kavala for the presentation of the Greek translation of the Guide "Understanding anti-Muslim hate crimes - Addressing the security needs of Muslim communities".

The event was held on the initiative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)-Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Kavala-based Research Center "MOHA".

During his statement the Deputy Minister described the whole framework of initiatives undertaken for the training of police officers and the recording of incidents of racist violence through a specific mechanism operating in our country. In fact, the Deputy Minister noted that: “According to these records, the statistics for Greece are quite encouraging in the sense that our country is a main destination of reception on European territory of irregular immigration. Specifically and indicatively, from January 1st, 2020 until December 31st, 2020, a total of 222 incidents with a suspected racist motive were recorded throughout the country by the competent services of the Hellenic Police. Of these, 19 were incidents against Muslims and related to their religious beliefs on the one hand and their ethnic origin on the other.

He also pointed out that : “for the protection of any victims of racist violence and for the relevant complaints to the Hellenic Police, the 11414 telephone line has been operating 24 hours a day, since the beginning of 2013, when migration flows escalated. Also, there is a special contact-complaints form on the website of the Hellenic Police in English.”

The Deputy Minister listed four good practices followed by the Hellenic Police and proposed by the Ministry for Citizens’ Protection, in order to deal more effectively with phenomena and crimes with racist and xenophobic motives. He underlined the zero tolerance to these phenomena, stressing:

“No discrimination on the basis of race, color, language, gender.

This is the doctrine of our Rule of Law.

The starting point of our Democracy.

The proclaimed doctrine and teleological reality of our culture.”

The Deputy Minister continued, stressing that: *“there has been living in our country, a Muslim minority-recognized by the international treaties for a century now. Egalitarianism, equality, cultural and religious freedom of this minority of Greek citizens, fully institutionalized at the constitutional and legislative level, constitute a model and a good example for today’s Europe, which is being tested by the threat of Jihad, but also by the currents of Islamophobia and xenophobia due to immigration.”*

As part of his presence in Kavala, the Deputy Minister for Citizens’ Protection, Mr. Economou visited the Hellenic Police Division of the Prefecture accompanied by the Inspector General of Northern Greece, Lieutenant General Konstantinos SKOUMAS and the Regional Police Director General of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Major General Paschalis SYRITOUDIS, where he had a meeting with the Director of the Kavala Police Division, Brigadier General Ioannis KARAMANLIS, the Deputy Directors of the Kavala Police Division, the Commanders of the Headquarters Services as well as the other Officers of the said Division.

At the same time, on the occasion of the meeting, he met with the representatives of the Officers' Union, the Police Officers' Union and the Border Guards' Union, where trade union issues were discussed.

Below is the full text of the Deputy Minister's speech at this event.

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to express the satisfaction of the Hellenic Ministry for Citizens’ Protection and the encouragement from our side to such workshops.

The fact that structures such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs with its Secretariat for Religious Affairs and the Research Non-Profit Center “MOHA” are meeting today in Kavala and discussing cutting-edge issues in the field of human rights is in itself a remarkable event.

At the same time, the choice of the agenda of the issues on which today's workshop is focused is extremely important. For while most such papers and meetings have as their starting point and main object of reference Jihad, radicalism in Islam and its impact on Western societies or the Caucasus, today's "workshop" has the opposite reference.

The point:

Muslim populations in Europe not to find themselves, by indirect influence of the Jihad, this "sect" in Islam's doctrine of Holy War, victims of intolerance, racism and discrimination.

The proceedings of today's conference thus propose to ensure the defence of our Civilization and Democracy against the barbarism of mass, blind religious terrorism by networks such as Al-Qaeda or ISIS.

No discrimination on the basis of race, color, language, gender.

This is the doctrine of our Rule of Law.

The starting point of our Democracy.

The proclaimed doctrine and teleological reality of our culture.

It is this central assumption of our culture that concerns and binds together Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and the other religious denominations, in the logic of equality, equity and equal opportunity, under the status of citizenship, that Jihad wishes to crush. And how can this happen? If the Rule of Law, the constituted State, the civil societies, the executive structures of law and security respond with Jihad to Jihad.

If we set aside the regulatory framework, the formulation and constitution of which is an outgrowth of the proper functioning of the Democratic State and go to the root causes of individual behavior against Muslims, the issues become more complicated. Firstly, because attitudes against Muslims are related to the inadequacy of "integration" policies with regard to "Metropolitan Powers" of Europe and the rights of inhabitants originating from their former colonies. But also the conflicts between ethnicities, when it comes to the Balkan region for example. The peculiarities of some Muslim communities who accept Sharia law as administration of justice, are "ghettoized" in the suburbs of cities or refuse to integrate into Western culture, as it results from the compulsory basic education of children.

In any case, a critical multiplier of the cultivation of a racist climate against Muslims is irregular immigration and the multiple intricacies and complications it creates in organized societies and state structures in Europe and beyond.

Setting aside this very complex discussion and focusing on the specific subject of today's conference, I would like to highlight some specific issues related to Greece.

My aim in the context of this introductory statement is to "shed light" on the protections and the regulatory framework in force in the country, specifying in the Organization and the Social Services provided for in the operation of the Hellenic Police.

First of all, hate crimes as well as crimes with a possible racist motive are part of the general regulatory framework for dealing with the phenomenon. Specifically, the provisions of the Criminal Law on combating racism and racial discrimination are contained in Law 927/1979, as amended by Laws 1419/1984, 2910/2001 and 4285/2014.

According to Article 82A of the Criminal Code (as amended by Law 4619/2019), a crime with racist characteristics has been committed if the selection of the victim was made on the basis of the characteristics of race, color, national or ethnic origin, genealogical background, religion, disability, sexual orientation, identity or characteristics of the victim's gender.

It is also useful to note that between the Headquarters of the Hellenic Police, and the Hellenic Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, a uniform way of recording crimes with a suspected racist motive has been established. In this context, a unified state mechanism has been set up at the Hellenic Ministry of Justice to record incidents of racist violence, with an obligation for the Hellenic Police to send, twice a year, the data reported or recorded to its services.

According to these records, the statistics for Greece are quite encouraging in the sense that our country is a main destination for irregular immigration to European territory. Specifically and indicatively from January 1st, 2020 until December 31st, 2020, a total of 222 incidents with a suspected racist motive were recorded throughout the country by the competent services of the Hellenic Police. Of these, 19 were incidents against Muslims and related to their religious beliefs on the one hand and their ethnic origin on the other.

It is worth noting that for the protection of any victims of racist violence and for the relevant complaints to the Hellenic Police, the 11414 telephone line has been operating 24 hours a day, since the beginning of 2013, when migration flows escalated. Also, there is a special contact-complaints form on the website of the Hellenic Police in English.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dealing with racism in all its manifestations and parameters requires education and a specific collective culture for our societies. In the field of the Hellenic Police, I would like to highlight and inform about the effort to train the staff and Officers of the Corps in this regard.

The Hellenic Police, responding to the challenges of the times, improves, updates and adapts the training of its personnel to the new requirements and data that arise.

Human rights and combating racist violence are taught at the Schools of Officers and Police Officers. At every opportunity-the latest example is the training that started at the beginning of this month and will develop until September 2022 for the rapid response forces DIAS (Groups of Bicycle-mounted Police), DRASI (Action Group-motorcycle police), Emergency Police- such subjects are included. At the same time, the Headquarters Directorates encourage their officers, especially those involved in the Departments and Offices of Racist Violence, to attend seminars and training activities organized by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and other European institutions, as well as private, non-governmental, prestigious institutions. Furthermore, a series of Circular Orders-I will not list them so as not to tire you-issued by the Chief of Police have defined specific criteria in the investigation of racist motive and given guidelines to the Services. At the same time, in the "Code of Police Ethics", specific provisions are included that define and explicitly prohibit any form of violence in police action.

However, special care is also taken by the police authorities to protect the rights of detainees from racist violence. According to a decision of the Chief of the Hellenic Police, it is a right for them to submit a written complaint about any poor conditions of detention, abuse, ill-treatment or other violations of their rights in accordance with a "Model" drawn up specifically for this purpose and translated into 16 languages.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Greece belongs to the core of the European Union. In terms of tradition, it is a country with a long history and an anthropocentric culture, composed of the osmosis and sounds of both the West and the East.

At this point I would like to note that our country is home to a Muslim minority-recognized by the international treaties for a century now.

Egalitarianism, equality, cultural and religious freedom of this minority of Greek citizens, fully institutionalized at the constitutional and legislative level, constitute a model and a good example for today's Europe, which is being tested by the threat of Jihad, but also by the currents of Islamophobia and xenophobia due to immigration.

What the Greek reality proves in the long run is that the harmonious coexistence of Christians and Muslims is not a wishful thinking, and in no way does such a coexistence disturb the cohesion of a national, European organized state. Moreover, the economic development and gentrification of Thrace, which is one of the priorities of today's Greek Government, and the arrival of international business investment in the region, is in no way disturbed by the coexistence of Christians and Muslims, in terms of religion. Even when neighbouring Turkey occasionally attempts to "manipulate" the Muslim minority to support its expansionist agenda, the entrenched Greek democracy leaves no room and guarantees their individual freedoms, property and security.

In Greece, moreover, despite the fact that there was the phenomenon of "Golden Dawn" with its sermons of intolerance, xenophobia, racism, their leaders are now condemned as a "criminal organization", the average citizen, although pressured by the immigration issue, reacts in the vast majority in a healthy and humanistic way.

Nevertheless, the vigilance of state structures and social collectives must be constant, but above all creative.

From the point of view of the Ministry for Citizens' Protection, I would like to conclude by referring to best practices in the fight against racist phenomena in general and not specifically for Muslims, who are not in any case a special category of victims:

Firstly: in order to combat all forms of negative discrimination and intolerance, it is necessary to involve more actors in the shaping, creation and implementation of measures to combat racism.

Secondly: it is recognized that the functions of the Police cannot have a final effect on the phenomenon, considering it necessary to have parallel social and educational policies of primary prevention in order to weaken the factors and influences that generate or support racism and discrimination on the basis of religion.

Thirdly: In our view, dealing with minor forms of the phenomenon should be done outside the criminal justice system, through alternative forms of intervention, support and social welfare. Repression cannot be an end in itself, nor can it result in a "witch hunt".

Fourth: Cooperation between the Police and Security Authorities and social bodies and organizations active in the protection of human rights is, in our opinion, important and the Ministry is open to such cooperation.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the confrontation with the "Hydra" of Racism is the defence of our Culture against Barbarism.

It is a "gamble" of the present Europe against "apartheid" societies, but also against the mass terrorism of Jihad.

Thank you and I wish you well in your work."

It should be noted that a similar OSCE-ODIHR publication on antisemitic hate crimes and the security of Jewish communities, entitled "Understanding Antisemitic Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Jewish Communities. A Practical Guide", has been published in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs since 2018 and translated into Greek.

d. Statement by the President of the Hellenic Republic Mrs. Katerina Sakellaropoulou on Women in Thrace³⁵.

“With every visit to my region, with every little trip to the corners of our homeland, what impresses me most deeply is the faces of the people. Their voices, their concerns, their worries become a guide, a motivation, an obligation. Returning from Evros, I recall with emotion the encounters with our people on the frontier, especially the women. Women young and older, creative, inspired. Christian and muslim women, overcoming divisions and prejudices and working together in harmony for a better, common future. Descendants of heroines such as the Thracian captain of the 21st century revolution, Domna Visvizi, they too are making history with their significant presence in the country, with their multi-dimensional contribution. They do not forget the past and imprint it on the fabric, embroidering with their hands the huge banner with the history of the city, which was posted at the City Hall of Alexandroupolis in view of the celebrations for its liberation. They preserve the tradition, like the resilient president of the Ethnological Museum of Thrace, Angela Giannakidou, who inspired this monumental embroidery from the handicrafts of our grandmothers, which are preserved in the Museum along with thousands of other objects that testify to the historical route and the depth of the culture of the Thracian land. They work creatively in their fields of activity, demonstrating in practice the importance of women's empowerment, such as the women entrepreneurs operating in Soufli, the manager of the city's excellent Silk Museum, Dimitra Demiskidou, the teacher Maria Kapsogeorgi, the lawyer Despina Bouroutzidou, the pharmacist's assistant Vergkan Nesrin, the president of the Cultural and Educational Association of Megalo Derio, Hairie Ibrahim, with whom I met and discussed in Soufli. They contribute to the productive development of the country, like the women of the Kelidi family, who run the family olive oil mill, producing a multi-award-winning olive oil. They spontaneously undertake valuable initiatives, such as the women of Nea Vyssa, who from the very first days of the pandemic began making masks and collecting consumables for the Evros Health Centers and local communities. And they are trying to manage their unbearable pain, like the mother of the heinously murdered Eleni Topaloudi, whom I visited at her home in Didymoteicho, who with psychic splendor connects her personal suffering with that of all the victims of sexist violence. Women who give us strength by their example and fill us with admiration for their creativity, sensitivity, perseverance and courage. They are the dynamic and indomitable women of Thrace, always up front in the critical national moments, always ready to meet the challenges of our time.”

e. Indicative list of Islamic monuments in Greece³⁶

The Ministry of Culture and Sports implements a multidimensional project funded from national and European resources for restoring and enhancing Islamic monuments. Several of these monuments are now open for visit by the public and host remarkable exhibitions. At

³⁵ The statement was posted on 17-5-2021 on the personal account of the President of the Republic on social media, following her tour of Evros on 14/15-5-2021 on the occasion of the 101st anniversary of the liberation of Alexandroupolis and its integration into the national body. See in this regard:

<https://www.presidency.gr/episkepsi-stin-alexandroypoli/> and <https://www.presidency.gr/episkepsi-se-orestiada-didymoteicho-kai-soyfli/>

³⁶Source: Department of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture and Sports

present, works are underway for restoring important monuments, in some cases in collaboration with the Local Government.

The following list (updated in October 2021) contains the most important Islamic monuments in Greece, either currently open for visit by the public or where work is being carried out or planned, so that they can be open to the public as soon as possible. It is to be noted that information on secular Islamic art and architecture is not presented here and that certainly this list is not an exhaustive index of all Islamic monuments in Greece.

Sterea Ellada

Athens, Fethiye Mosque (Mosque of the Wheat Bazar)

Athens, Mosque of the Lower Fountain (Tzisdarakis)

Athens, Medresse (Islamic Religious School, Aioulou and Pelopida st.)

Athens, Küçük Mosque, Mousaiou square, Plaka

Livadia, Gazi Omer Bey Mosque

Chalkis Emir Zade Mosque and fountain

Palaeochora Karystos, Minaret in the Church of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour

Nafpaktos, Fethiye Mosque

Nafpaktos, Vezir Mosque and ottoman fountains

Peloponnese

Nafplio, Trianon or Old Mosque of the Constitution square

Nafplio, “Vouleftiko” Mosque

Nafplio, Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Nafplio, Catholic church (“Fragoklisia”), Mosque

Argos, Church of Sts. Constantin and Eleni, Mosque

Corinth, Akrokorinthos, Mosque

Corinth, Ancient Corinth, Mausoleum (known as “Tekke”)

Monemvassia, Castle of Monemvassia, Mosque

Pylos, Niokastro, Mosque (or Church of the Transfiguration of our Savior)

Kyparissia, Mosque

Epirus

Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Mosque

Ioannina, Castle, İç Kale, Fethiye Mosque

Ioannina, Medresse (Islamic Religious School) Aslan Pasha, Castle

Ioannina, Cookhouse Aslan Pasha, Castle

Ioannina, Castle, Library of the Castle

Ioannina, Kalousiani, Cesme Mosque

Ioannina, Veli Pasha complex [Mosque, Medresse (Islamic Religious School), cookhouse]

Arta, Imaret Mosque (Faik Pasha)

Arta, Faik Pasha Türbe
Arta, Feyzullah Mosque
Konitsa, Kato Konitsa, three Türbes

Thessaly

Larissa, 31 August st., Yeni Mosque
Larissa, Bajrakli Mosque
Elassona, Varosi, Mosque
Tempi, Hasan Baba Tekke
Asprogeia, Farsala, Durpali Sultan Tekke, Dervish Monastery
Trikala, Saint Constantin, Osman Shah (Koursoum) Mosque
Trikala, General Sarafis st., Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Macedonia

Thessaloniki, Hamza Bey Mosque
Thessaloniki, Rotonda, minaret
Thessaloniki, Yeni Mosque (Old Archaeological museum)
Thessaloniki, Aladja Imaret Mosque
Thessaloniki, Terpsithea square, Mausoleum Musa Baba
Kavala, Ibrahim Pasha Mosque
Kavala, Halil Bey Mosque and Medresse (Islamic Religious School)
Kavala, Imaret
Serres, Ahmet Bey Mosque (Aghia Sophia)
Serres, Mustafa Bey Mosque
Serres, Zincirli Mosque
Drama, Dikastirion square Mosque
Drama, Mosque Agamemnonos and Armen st.
Kato Nevrokopi, Exohi, Mosque
Drama, former Mosque, Church of Aghios Nikolaos
Giannitsa, Mausoleum Gazi Evrenos
Giannitsa, "Mescit" or Türbes Ahmet Bey
Giannitsa, Ahmet Bey Mosque and baths
Giannitsa, Iskender Bey Mosque
Veria, Orta Mosque
Veria, Mahmud Çelebi Mosque
Veria, Musa Çelebi Medresse (Islamic Religious School) Mosque
Veria, Minaret, Old Metropolis- Eski Metropol, Hünkar Mosque
Veria, Northwestern addition and Minaret of the mosque of the Old Metropolis

Edessa, Yeni Mosque

Edessa, Hünkar Mosque

Kastoria, Medresse (Islamic Religious School) and Library Ahmet Pasha

Kastoria, Kursum Mosque

Katerini, Abdullah Pasha Tekke

Kilkis, Messia, Sts. Constantin and Eleni Church

Stageira, Archaeological site of the medieval town of Sidirokafsia, Complex of the small bath and Mosque

Thrace

Xanthi, Genisea, Mustafa Pasha Mosque

Xanthi, Mosque in Myki

Xanthi, Genisea, Kasaba Mosque

Xanthi, Selino, Kütüklü Baba Tekke

Komotini, historical center, Yeni Mosque

Komotini, Imaret

Komotini, Eski Mosque

Komotini, Tekke Pos-Pos

Komotini, Serdar and Tabakhane Mosques

Komotini, Kayali Mosque and Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Komotini, Selvili Mosque

Didymoteicho, Mehmet Çelebi Mosque

Didymoteicho, Oruç Pasha Mausoleum

Evros, Soufli, Rousa, Tekke

North-East Aegean

Lesvos, Mytilene, Valide Mosque

Lesvos, Mytilene, Yeni Mosque

Lesvos, Mytilene, Veli Pasha Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Lesvos, Mytilene, Kastro, Tekke

Chios, Metzite Mosque

Chios, Kara Ali Cemetery

Chios, Osmaniye Mosque

Chios, Bajrakli Mosque

Chios, Hamidiye Mosque

Dodecanese

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Suleiman Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Ibrahim Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Reçep Pasha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Mustafa Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Hamza Bey Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Mehmet Agha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Sindrivan Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Ali Hilmi Pasha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Imaret
Rhodes, Murat Reis complex, cemetery, Mosque, tekke
Kos, Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque
Kos, Defterdar Mosque
Kos, Hassan Pasha Mosque
Kos, Moruk Mosque
Kos, Atik Mosque
Kastellorizo, Mosque

Crete

Heraklion, Vezir Mosque
Heraklion, Three Men Tekke
Heraklion, Mihrab, Abdurrahman Agha Mosque
Heraklion, Nea Alatsata, tekke Mosque
Heraklion Prefecture, Inadiye, Candia Nova
Chania, Venetian Castle, Küçük Hasan Mosque (Yiali)
Chania, Minaret of Hünkar Mosque
Chania, Dervish Tekke
Rethymno, Ibrahim Sultan Mosque
Rethymno, Gazi Hussein Pasha Mosque
Rethymno, Kara Mousha Pasha Mosque
Rethymno, Valide Sultana Mosque
Rethymno, Veli Pasha Mosque complex
Rethymno, Mikrasiaton square, Türbe
Ierapetra, Mosque and fountain

D. Other Religions

According to the information available to the Directorate of Religious Administration, the existing legally authorized worship places of other religious communities are as follows: **Buddhist (4), Hindu (3), Baha'i (6), Hellenic Ethnic Religion (1) and Ancient Hellenic Religion (1).**

For the year **2021** no incidents have been reported against sites of other Religions.



III. GEOGRAPHICAL DISPLAY & STATISTICAL PRESENTATION



A. Geographical display of incidents for year 2021 by Religious Community

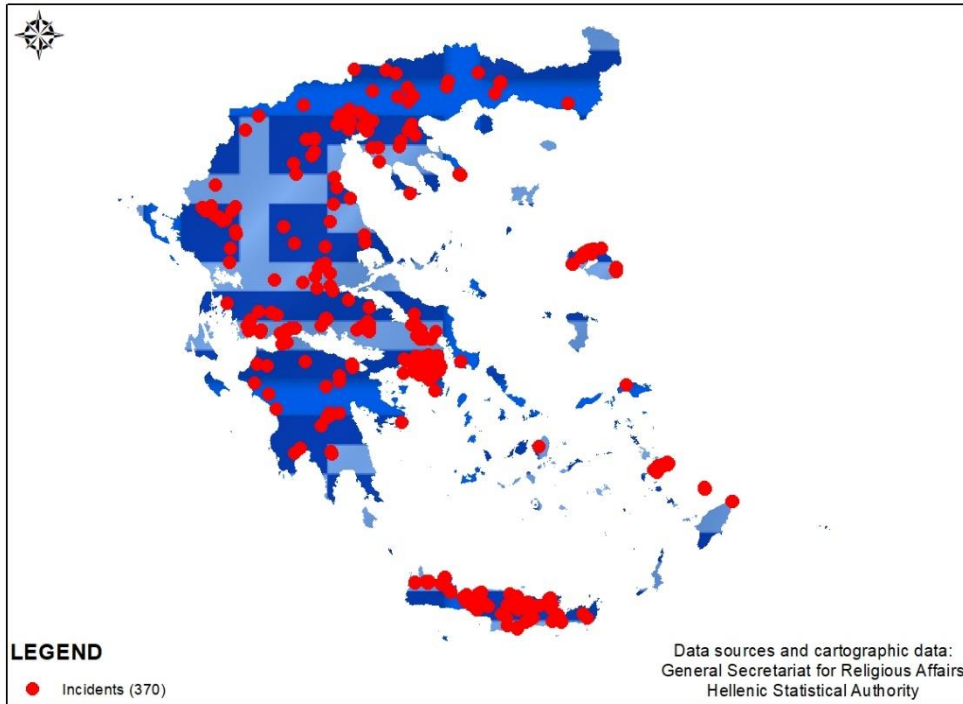


Figure 7: Orthodox Church

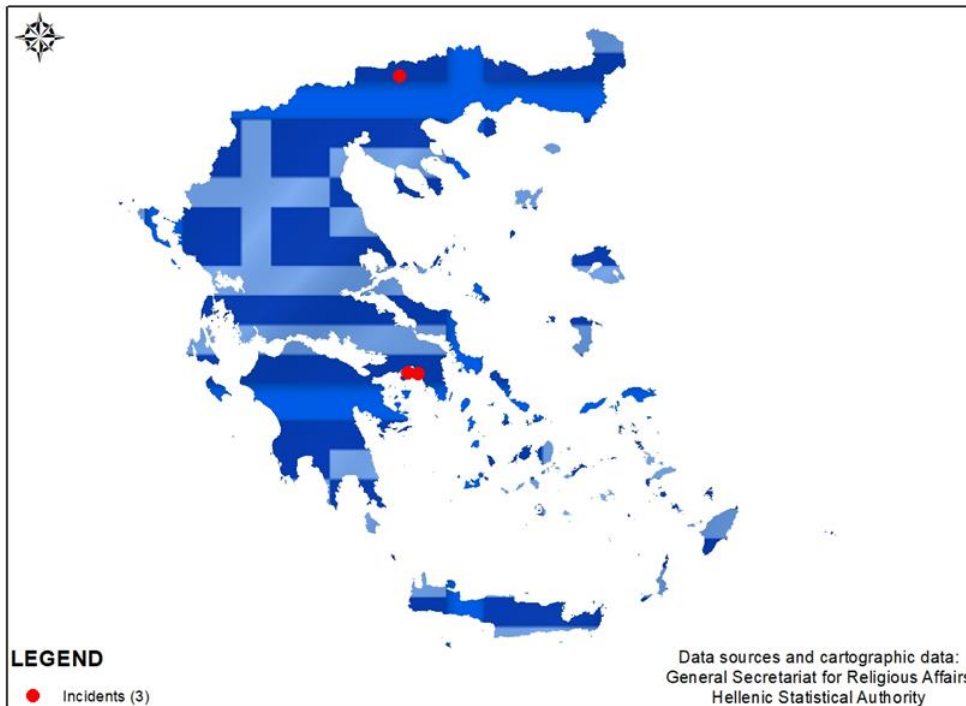


Figure 8: True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

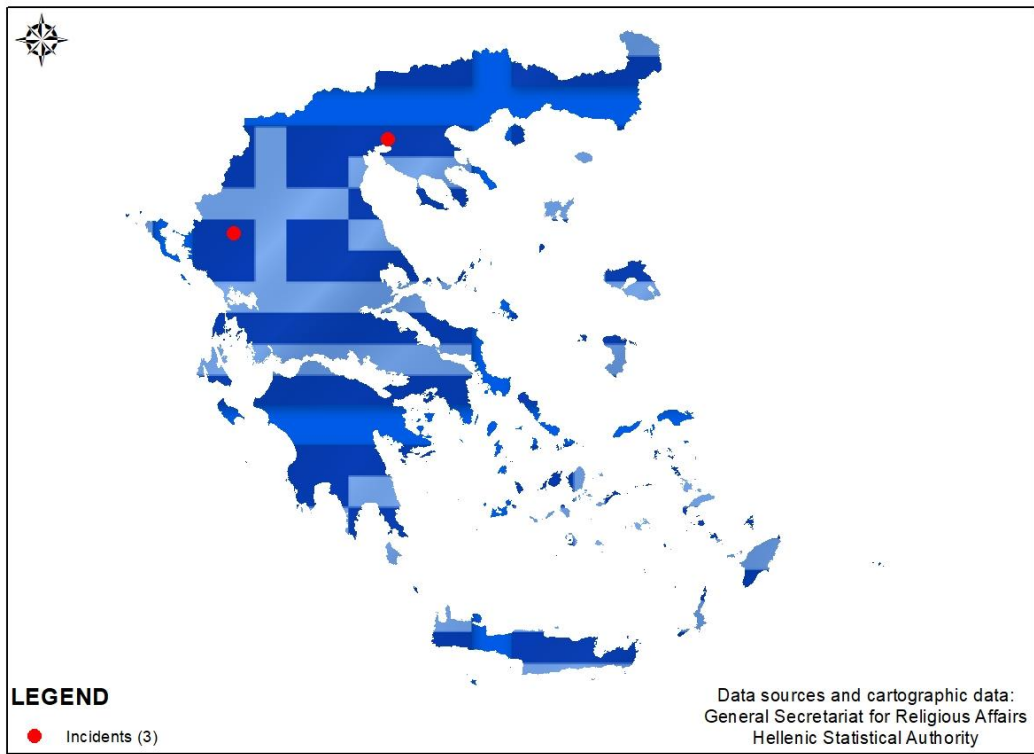


Figure 9: Judaism

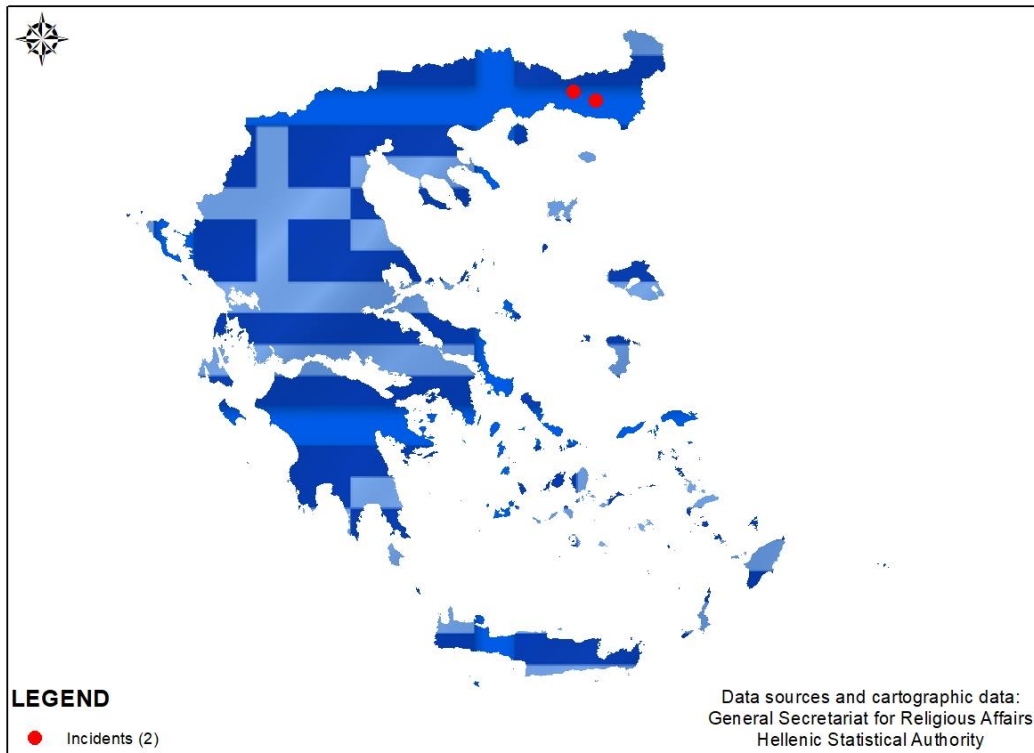


Figure 10: Islam

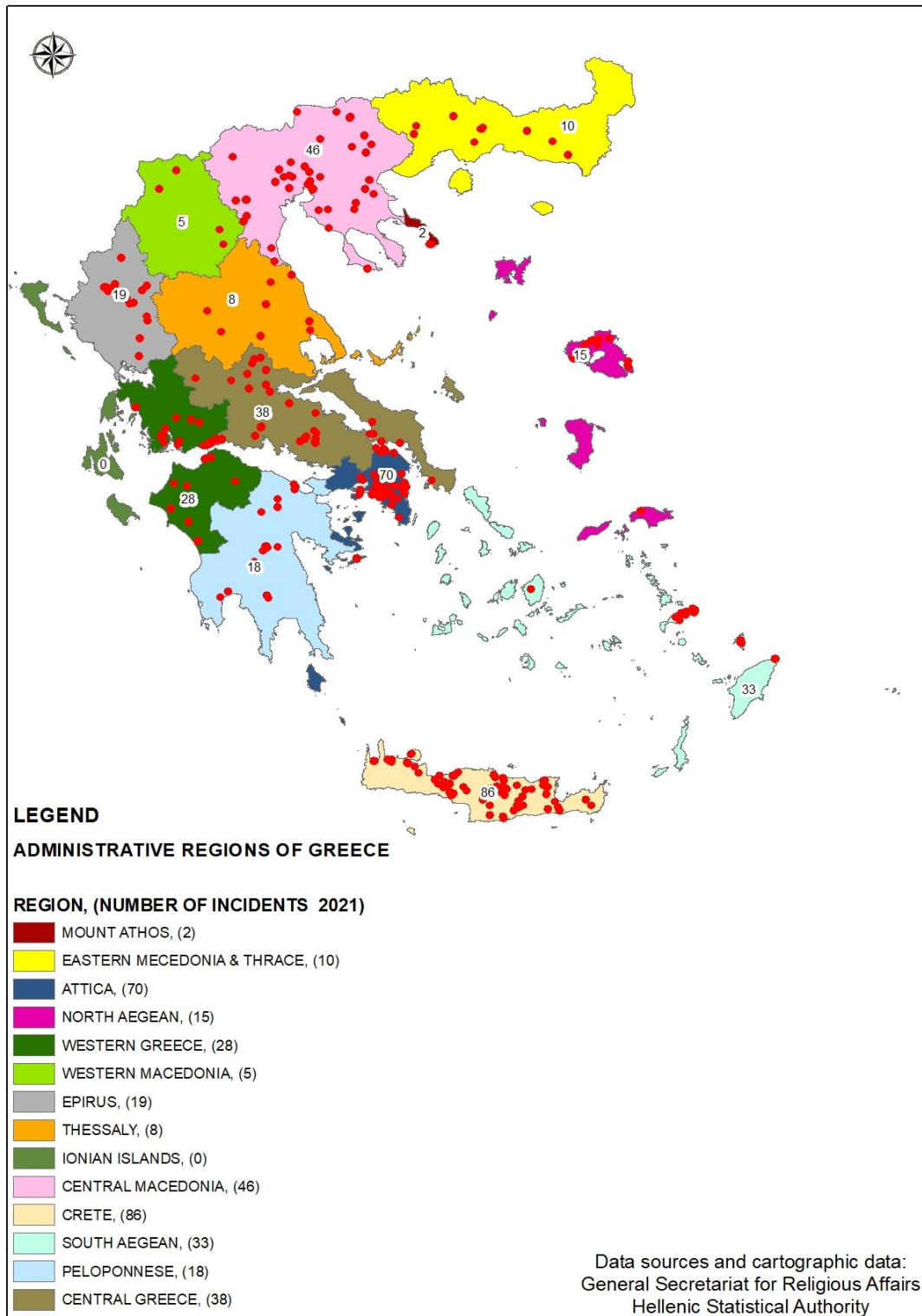


Figure 11: Geographical display of the total number of Incidents of all Religions by Administrative Region

B. Statistical presentation of total number of incidents for the Report 2021

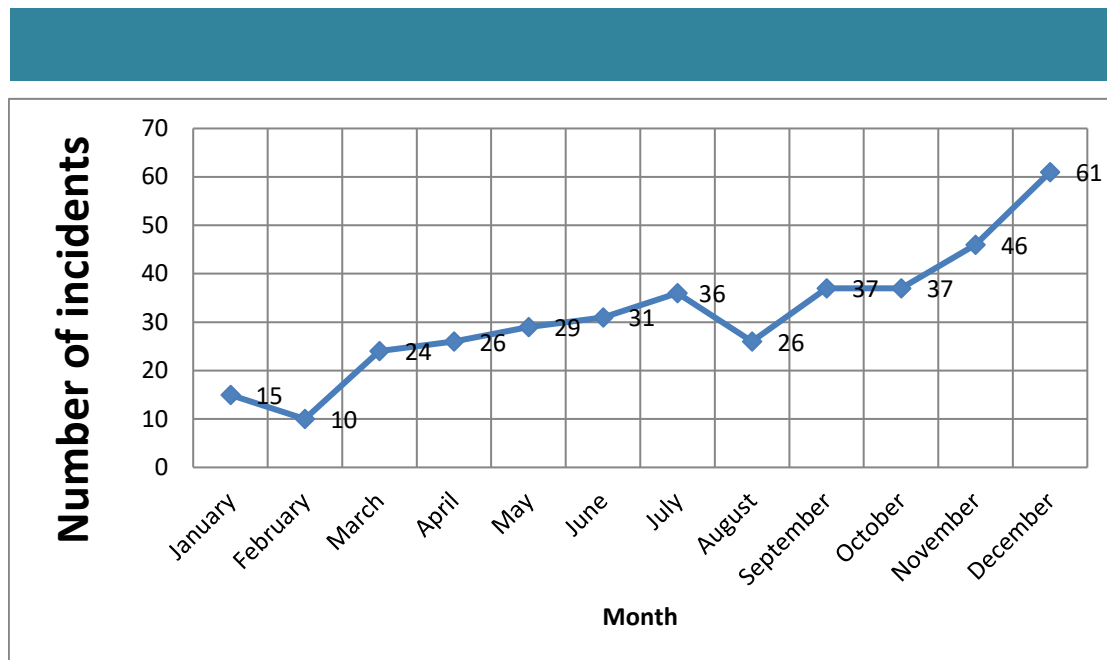


Figure 12: Total number of incidents against all Religions by month

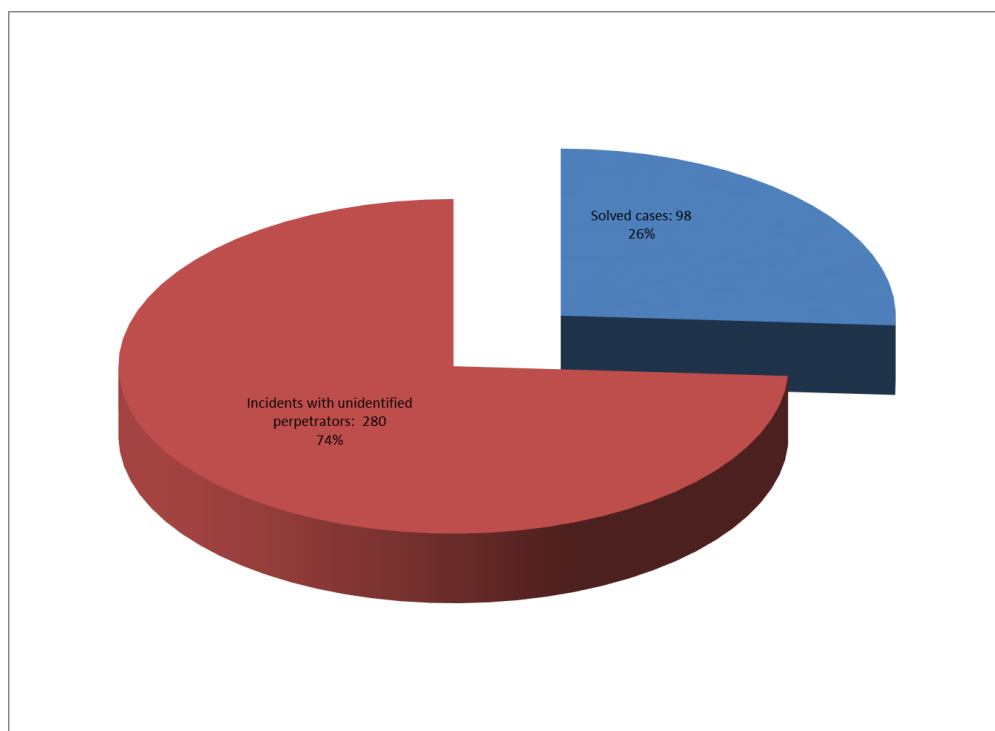


Figure 13: Solved and Unsolved cases of incidents of all Religions

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