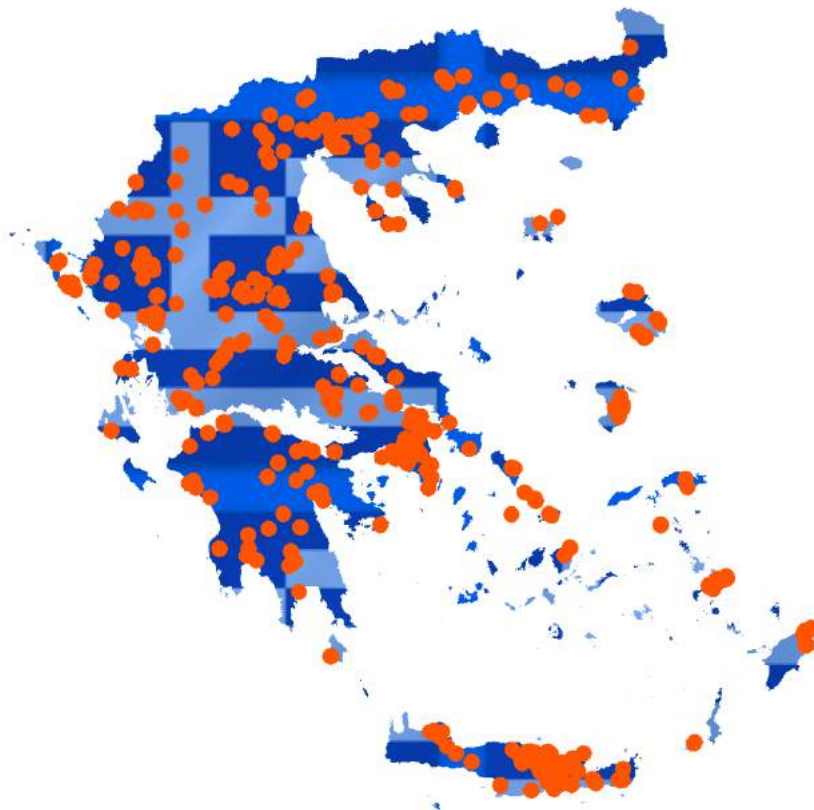




MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
DIRECTORATE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND INTERFAITH  
RELATIONS  
DEPARTMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

# ACTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE



REPORT 2019

All maps and statistical analysis are also available, in Greek and in English, on the website:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/458d92cb4558471bb59b78f2597b596c>



**Cover page:** Geographical display of all incidents presented in the 2019 Report. Original map-layout source: Hellenic Statistical Authority

**Back cover:** Detail of inscription, Holy Monastery of St. George Hozeva, Israel

All maps (except for II.A.2.c.iii) as well as statistical processing and data presentation were prepared, upon request and instructions by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, by V. Rev. Archimandrite Ioannis-Georgios Peristerides, Chemical Engineer MSc, Theologian MA, PhD candidate of School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, National Technical University of Athens- whom we warmly thank - with the support of the research group “GeoCHOROS” of the National Technical University of Athens and were granted free of charge.



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COURTESY AND NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Content enriched

Translated and adapted by Callis MITRAKA

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

(Psalm, 25:8)

**כְּבוֹדְךָ מְשֻׁכָּן, וּמְקוֹם; בֵּיתְךָ מֵעוֹן, אֶהְבֵּתִי--יְהוָה**

(תהלים ח)

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

(Ps. 25,8)

**מְגִדֶּיךָ מְסֻכֵּן וּמִוְצֵעַ בֵּיתֶיךָ מַחֵלָה אֶחְבֵּבְתָּ רֵבּוּ יָא**

(מזמיר 8)

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## Foreword

One of the objectives of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is to design and implement religion policy within the framework laid down by article 13 of the Constitution and the international treaties and agreements which are binding on our country. The Constitution requires the State to guarantee and protect the religious freedom of all individuals, and hence the citizens are also required to respect the religious freedom of everyone, regardless of personal religious beliefs or lack thereof.

The balance between religious freedom and obligations imposed by law or between religious freedom and other goods protected by the Constitution, is an extremely complex and dynamic undertaking that poses many dilemmas. Our system, however, contains a strong safeguard: the Council of State examines the compliance of acts and decrees with the Constitution. The Council of State plays a key role – among other areas – with respect to protecting the good of religious freedom and for the proper application of article 13 of the Constitution.

The Report of 2019 on *Acts against Religious Sites in Greece* contains a detailed presentation of the relevant data, as well as extensive references to the current legal status and the historical religious communities in Greece. The Report constitutes a reliable source of information for anyone who wishes to obtain a broader picture on religious policies in Greece and the principles on which they are based. It is therefore a further action of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs towards strengthening transparency and communication.

Niki Kerameus

Minister of Education and Religious Affairs

## Introductory Note

The Report on “Acts against Religious Sites in Greece” of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is published for the fifth consecutive year. The data collected within this period of time is presented on the following table:

Religious Communities	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Incidents	Percentage	Incidents	Percentage	Incidents	Percentage	Incidents	Percentage	Incidents	Percentage
Orthodox Church	137	93,20%	208	96,74%	525	94,42%	563	95,42%	504	96,18%
True Orthodox Christians					1	0,18%			3	0,57%
Catholic Church	1	0,68%	1	0,47%	2	0,36%	1	0,17%	3	0,57%
Ethiopian Orthodox Church					1	0,18%				
Armenian Evangelical Church					4	0,72%				
Jehovah's Christian Witnesses					4	0,72%	3	0,51%	4	0,76%
Jewish Communities	4	2,72%	5	2,33%	11	1,98%	20	3,39%	5	0,95%
Islam	5	3,40%	1	0,47%	8	1,44%	2	0,34%	5	0,95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>100%</b>

The purpose of this Report is to record the data in a valid and reliable manner and not to interpret it. For that reason, the impressive increase in numbers observed in 2017 compared to 2016 is linked with the effective operation of the network for recording the incidents and the comprehensive collection of data. Efforts to organize the flow of information and to ensure the reliability and validity of the data while raising awareness to the public services involved and, in particular, to the religious communities themselves have had positive results.

The data collected over five years demonstrates that the Orthodox Church is the principal victim of attacks and the only religious community targeted by terrorist attacks and acts of violence against people. In this Report for 2019, acts of intentionally applying or threatening to apply violence or physical pain to people are recorded for the first time. These assaults that occurred in religious sites of the Orthodox Church are presented here in relation to locus delicti.

By publishing this Report annually, it is demonstrated that Greece has the know-how and the political will to collect and provide reliable and valid data, necessary to depict an accurate image of reality, to understand it and to elaborate relevant policies. Concurrently, this information is particularly useful at international level and for this reason the Report is translated in English and posted on the site of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and communicated to Embassies and Organizations.

The data provided and, in particular the specific quality characteristics, confirm that so far Greece maintains religious peace and avoids conflicts of religious nature. Several reasons lead to this success and are associated to the general financial and social situation in Greece. It is certain, however, that the respect for the right of religious practice and observance is reflected in the Constitution and in our culture. If not paired with respect for religious practice, religious freedom exists only in name.

The best way to ensure religious peace and to avoid conflicts of religious nature is to develop a dialogue between religious communities with a view to know and to respect each other. The State needs to provide enabling conditions and to support this perspective against any voice of intolerance, entrenchment and self-reference. For this reason, following a proposal by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, by Presidential Decree 114/2014 on "Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs", the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations was established under the Directorate for Religious Education (article 43, paragraph 2) in 2014. This was an innovative and groundbreaking choice by which supporting interreligious dialogue, associated with religious freedom, was introduced for the first time in the objectives of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Fanaticism and intolerance are enemies of democracy and peace and are based on ignorance, incomplete knowledge and on representing the "other" as a threat that needs to be destroyed. Let us try to make friends with the "other". The only way to do this is with dialogue, information and education.

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 for the year 2019. Additional information is provided on relevant historical, legal and statistical data where appropriate.

**For the year 2019, a total of five hundred twenty four (524) incidents against religious sites were recorded, which are broken down by religion as follows:**

- **Christianity: five hundred fourteen (514) incidents of all kind (vandalism, burglaries, thefts, sacrilege, robberies, explosive devices and other types of desecration).**

**In particular there have been:**

- **504 incidents against the Greek Orthodox Church, representing 96,18% of the total number of incidents**
  - **3 incidents against the Catholic Church, i.e. 0,57 % of the total,**
  - **3 incidents against the True Orthodox Christians, i.e. 0,57% of the total,**
  - **4 incidents against the Jehovah's Christian Witnesses, i.e. 0,76% of the total,**
- **Judaism: 5 incidents of racist/anti-Semitic nature, i.e. 0,95% of the total,**
- **Islam: 5 incidents, i.e. 0,95% of the total.**

**No incidents against other religions have been reported.**

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

- a) Incidents of Vandalism, Desecration and Assault by religious community
- b) Type of attack (against property or against people) by religious community
- c) Chronological order of the incidents by month,
- d) Cases that have been solved and cases remaining unsolved.
- e) Geographical breakdown of the incidents in Greece by religious community,
- f) Geographical breakdown of the total of incidents reported by administrative region.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. The 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 three 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 himself<sup>1</sup>.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Fr George 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-Σεπτέμβριος 2008, Αθήναι, σσ. 606-607.)

civilization: “All 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;
- i. To promote scientific research for expanding knowledge and to publish manuscripts of monasteries which may be valuable to sciences;
- j. To make proposals on the faculty that shall be appointed to teaching positions or to public institutions promoting sciences and 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" (Α' 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 and two ushers.

By law ΣΙΕ' of December 16, 1852 (Α' 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 (Α' 60), an additional secretary of the minister of class a' is included.

By the Act of Legislative Content of December 29, 1925 (Α' 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 (Α' 140) is repealed, by which the Directorate for Religious Affairs was established.

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

The Minister's cabinet

The General Directorate for Antiquities, Letters and Fine Arts,

The General Directorate for Education

The General Directorate for Religious Affairs which includes two departments a) for Ecclesiastical matters and b) for Administration.

The Directorate for the Youth

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 until 2009<sup>2</sup>.

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

for Ecclesiastical Administration, including i) the Department for Ecclesiastical Administrative matters and ii) the Department for Churches, Monasteries and Clergy

for Ecclesiastical and Religious Education, including i) the Department for Staff and ii) the Department for Administration;

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

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<sup>2</sup> 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
- 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), 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 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 Islamic Medresses

## 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 Greece<sup>3</sup>, 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 right<sup>4</sup>. According to the commonly held view, the individual right of religious freedom includes the concept of religious conscience and the freedom of observance<sup>5</sup>.

**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 the good usages. 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 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”.

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

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

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

**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..."*<sup>6</sup>.

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



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 religion<sup>7</sup>.

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, Homooousios 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 decision 100/2017 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State) etc. It has been deemed by the aforementioned decisions 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, Homooousios 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 660, 926/2018 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State).

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

### 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 law<sup>8</sup>.

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 Justice<sup>9</sup> at the time during the debates on Article 13 of the Constitution in force by the fifth Revisional Parliament, 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**<sup>10</sup>.

### 4. Changes in the new 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. By the same law, the previous Penal Code which was in force since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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

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<sup>8</sup> Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §596

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

<sup>10</sup> Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §597

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 to operate worship places (Houses of Prayer and Churches)**

The procedure for issuing a permit to build and to 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. Building and operating 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.

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.

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, the interested parties must submit to the competent service the following supporting documents for issuing of the prior authorization for a building permit:

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.

#### **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)<sup>11</sup> -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

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<sup>11</sup> 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".

a worship place may be issued for religious communities that have not received legal personality as referred to in Law 4301/2014.

In Greece, the 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) and the **joint circular 69230/A3/6-5-2014** (Online Publication Number ΒΙΦΘ9-T0T), as updated by the **joint circular 118939/Θ1/19-7-2016** (Online Publication Number 76774653ΠΣ-5Ω9)<sup>12</sup>, as well as the joint circular 128231/Θ1/2-8-2016 (ΑΔΑ: ΨΔ014653ΠΣ-ΓΕΙ) are in force for granting a permit for worship places (temples and houses of prayer). 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 57071/Θ1/3-4-2017** (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 permit by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is required.

The official authorization for a church 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 the good usages; 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 good usages through religious worship is normally established by state repressive action" (Council of State Plenary Session 4202/2012 argument 8); however the prior – precautionary administrative 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 applicants as sufficient).

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<sup>12</sup> 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.

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 05-03-1995<sup>13</sup>).

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.

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

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



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 (place of worship, 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 churches (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 article 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 churches 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 building permit.

It is clarified that the **building permit** issued in the stage prior to building, **shall not be under any circumstances permit 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 permit 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 the good usages. Proselytism is prohibited"*) and the provisions in force of Law 1363/38 and Law 1672/39, and it does not replace the permit 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 permit 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 issued a circular (Ref. number 176169/01/19-10-2018). According to this circular, 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, Transparency and Human Rights, 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.), both the ones operating lawfully as well as the unofficial ones (i.e. operating without the relevant permit by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs) are considered as religious sites. Schools of religious nature (Ecclesiastical Schools, Jewish Schools and Islamic Medresses 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](#), [2016](#), [2017](#) and [2018](#) has been broadly welcomed<sup>14</sup> 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.

Therefore, by this fifth 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 2019, 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.

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 anti-Semitism, intolerance, racism, islamophobia, interreligious dialogue and deepening on matters related to the Christian Orthodox Church.

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:

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<sup>14</sup> By way of illustration, as stated in:

- a letter (8-4-2019) by the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly of Greece: *"We believe that eliminating prejudice, eliminating any type of hostility against other human beings who have different religious beliefs, should be a defining mission of all religions. [...]"*

- a letter (19-9-2019) by the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete: *"[...] we extend warm thanks and congratulations for this laborious work which provides valuable data on these phenomena as well as the possibility of their evaluation by the State and the Church. [...]"*

- a letter (4/17-9-2019) by the Holy Monastery of Koutloumous of Mount Athos stating that [...] the information provided by this report makes a solid contribution to the completeness of the overview regarding the phenomenon dealt with which for years had been shaped on an occasional basis by the news reports of the media.

- a letter (5/18-9-2019) by the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi of Mount Athos stating that [...] the competent Department must be duly congratulated for this initiative, an example worthy of imitation and a laborious work with respect to observing and recording all types of acts against religious sites within Greek territory in 2017 and expressing the hope that this effort will contribute in dealing with and eliminating as far as possible such acts of sacrilege [...].

<b>A. Religious Communities</b>	
<b>RELIGION</b>	<b>Public Law Bodies /Ecclesiastical Legal Persons/ Religious Legal Persons /Religious Communities</b>
<b>CHRISTIANITY</b>	Orthodox Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church of Greece</li> <li>• Church of Crete</li> <li>• Metropolis of Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo</li> <li>• Metropolis of Rhodes</li> <li>• Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea</li> <li>• Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros</li> <li>• Metropolis of Karpathos and Kasos</li> </ul>
	Catholic Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (Religious Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Ioannina (Religious Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Evangelical Church of Corinth
	Armenian Orthodox Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Armenian Community of Komotini
	Christian Evangelical 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
<b>JUDAISM</b>	Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece
<b>ISLAM</b>	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
<b>BUDDHISM</b>	Tibetan Buddhism- Karma Kagyu - Diamond Way
<b>HINDUISM</b>	SARBAT DA BHALA –Welfare of All
<b>BAHA’I</b>	National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Greece
<b>GREEK NATIONAL RELIGION</b>	Worship house of Greek national religion

<b>B. State bodies</b>
<b>Hellenic Police:</b> Public Security Division / Police Headquarters
<b>Public Prosecutor's Offices</b>
Aigio
Alexandroupolis
Amaliada
Amfissa
Arta
Athens
Chalkis
Crete
Drama
Edessa
Giannitsa
Ilia
Ioannina
Kalavrita
Katerini
Kavala
Kefalinia
Larissa
Lasithi
Messolonghi
Nafplion
Naxos
Orestias
Patra
Rhodes
Preveza
Rethymno
Thesprotia
Thessaloniki
Trikala
Veria
Volos

<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>
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
<b>Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights</b>
Directorate of Legislative work, International Relations and International Judicial Cooperation / Department of the European Union and International Organizations
<b>Ministry of Culture and Sports</b>
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

## II. INCIDENTS OF YEAR 2019

### Defining terms and explaining typology

In this version of the Report on Acts against Religious Sites in Greece for 2019, the incidents reported have been processed in summary fact sheets and classified under certain categories on the basis of which further analysis has been carried out and presented in the Addendum section that follows.

Firstly, the broader classification provides the fundamental distinction between **attacks against property** and **attacks against people**. The significance of this distinction is that acts of violence aimed at people who merely want to practice their religion may constitute criminal offenses but they also violate all civil rights and are incompatible to the principles and values of a democracy. Explosive devices planted and activated in a place of worship as well as raids carried out during mass, terrorizing the adherents of a religion, are classified under the category “attacks against people”.

Secondly, all incidents have been classified in one or more of the subcategories: vandalism, desecration, theft, break-in, assault. This typology is based on the following:

**Vandalism (V).** The term vandalism refers to the “willful or malicious destruction or defacement of public or private property”<sup>15</sup>. In this Report, any type of destruction or damage is classified as vandalism. Inscriptions or slogans drawn, sprayed or painted without permission fall under this category. Vandalism on exterior walls of cemeteries is included in this category. Additionally, incidents of fire set are under this classification because the evidence on the motives (arson or negligence) is not always available.

**Desecration (D).** The term “desecration” is defined as “the act of violating the sanctity”<sup>16</sup> of the sacred. This category includes incidents such as explosive devices placed and activated in sacred places, raids carried out in churches or other places of worship. Vandalized graves in cemeteries are also classified as desecration.

**Theft (T),** meaning the act of stealing money, valuables or any other items from a religious site. Attempted theft is also included in this category.

**Break-in (B),** meaning an entry by force into a religious site. Attempts to break in are included in this category as well.

**Assault (A).** The legal definition of this term is “the crime or tort of threatening or attempting to inflict immediate offensive physical contact or bodily harm that one has the present ability to inflict and that puts the victim in fear of such harm or contact”<sup>17</sup>. This type of acts is included in this Report in relation to locus delicti.

With regard to the statistical analysis following the summary fact sheets, in cases where there has been break-in and theft, the incident is classified under theft. However, in all other cases, when more than one types of offences are committed (i.e. vandalism and theft), the incident will appear in both categories.

The incidents are presented in chronological order as they are in the original text.

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<sup>15</sup> Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Vandalism. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vandalism>

<sup>16</sup> Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Desecrate. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/desecrate>

<sup>17</sup> Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Assault. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/assault>



## 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 Metropolises<sup>18</sup> and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos<sup>19</sup>) 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 law<sup>20</sup>.

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, 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),

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<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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)).

<sup>20</sup> Articles 1(4), 11(3) and 36 (1) Law 590/1977 (Official Government Gazette A’ 146)

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**.

The six Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese are directly subject to the canonical, spiritual and administrative jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Special regulations are established by **articles 21 and 22 of Law 4301/2014** for addressing organizational and administrative issues, in line with recent amendments of the Statutory Charter of the Church of Greece.

Lastly, Mount Athos (Aghion Oros) 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 (the Exarchate of Patmos included), amount to 97 and are 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 9,814**. 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 listed in the [Addendum \(Table iii\)](#).

In **2019**, three (3) **Presidential Decrees** were adopted for establishing parishes and four (4) for establishing Monasteries in Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece. Additionally, four (4) applications were filed requesting to establish parishes and one (1) requesting to establish a monastery (their publication was pending on December 31, 2019).

### c. Incidents

The religious sites of the Orthodox Church for this Report include all types of churches<sup>21</sup>, 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 2018 recorded here are certainly not exhaustive.

For the year **2019**, **five hundred four (504)** incidents have been recorded.

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

#### Incident no 1

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Hospital Chapel	Pella	Giannitsa	January 1, 2019

#### Incident no 2

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Fire set and damage	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Marathonas	January 1, 2019

#### Incident no 3

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Xanthi	Xanthi	January 1, 2019

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<sup>21</sup> 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.

**Incident no 4**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Arta	Arta	January 1, 2019

**Incident no 5**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Arta	Arta	January 2, 2019

**Incident no 6**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Kamilario	January 3, 2019

**Incident no 7**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Kouvaras	January 4, 2019

**Incident no 8**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetary	Attica	Perama	January 4, 2019

**Incident no 9**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Arta	Arta	January 7, 2019

**Incident no 10**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Sitia	Between January 7 and 9, 2019

**Incident no 11**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thessaloniki	Pylaia	January 9, 2019

**Incident no 12**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ilia	Myrtia	January 9/10, 2019

**Incident no 13**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Viotia	Thiva	January 11, 2019

**Incident no 14**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kozani	Kozani	January 13, 2019

**Incident no 15**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Rachoula	January 15, 2019

**Incident no 16**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon and holy relic)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Koilada	January 15, 2019

**Incident no 17**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money, votive offerings and ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Faros Avlidas	January 16/17, 2019

**Incident no 18**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Anochori Farsala	Between January 15 and 17, 2019

**Incident no 19**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Katochori, Farsala	Between January 15 and 17, 2019

**Incident no 20**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Farsala	January 17/18, 2019

**Incident no 21**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money and portable heating device)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Grevena	Polyneri	January 17/18, 2019

**Incident no 22**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money) and damage	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Lefki	January 18/19, 2019

**Incident no 23**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Kougi, Igoumenitsa	January 18/19, 2019

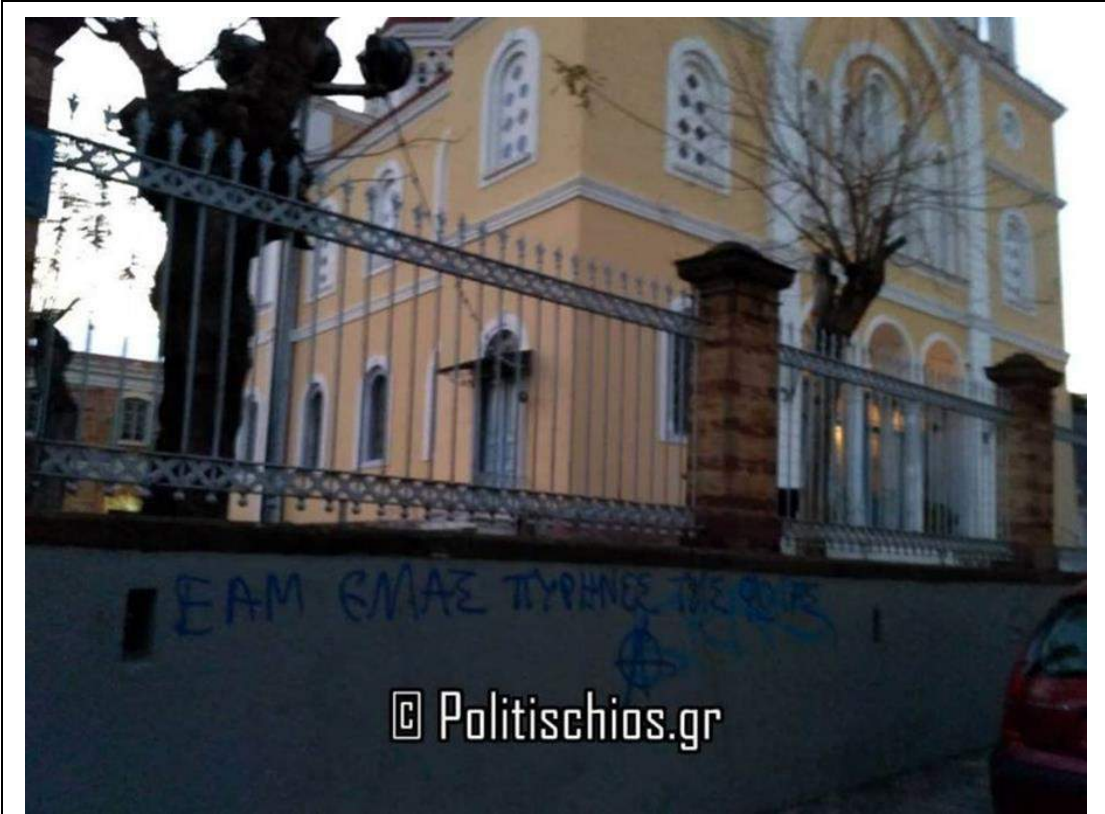
Incident no 24

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with slogans	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Chios	Chios	January 20, 2019

Indicative photographs - Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece and [www.politischios.gr](http://www.politischios.gr) (approval to reprint)







**Incident no 25**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with slogans, damage	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	January 20, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)

**Incident no 26**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Attica	Kouvaras	January 21, 2019

**Incident no 27**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Spata	January 23, 2019

**Incident no 28**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lesvos	Plagia	January 23, 2019

**Incident no 29**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Cemetary Church	Fthiotis	Atalanti	January 23/24, 2019

**Incident no 30**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Wayside shrine	Lesvos	Lesvos	January 24, 2019

**Incident no 31**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (machinery and tools)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church-storage room	Viotia	Romeiko	January 25, 2019

**Incident no 32**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (marble gravestones)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetary	Evia	Kontodespoti	Between January 1 and 26, 2019

**Incident no 33**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money, ecclesiastical item, icon, receipts and olive oil)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Karoplesi	January 26, 2019

**Incident no 34**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Chania	Kalamitsi	January 26/27, 2019

**Incident no 35**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Chania	Kalamitsi	January 26/27, 2019

**Incident no 36**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (ecclesiastical item)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ilia	Varda	January 27, 2019

**Incident no 37**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Salamina	January 27, 2019

**Incident no 38**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Patra	January 27, 2019

**Incident no 39**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Argolis	Tziristra, Argos	Between January 23 and 28, 2019

**Incident no 40**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Chania	Kourna	January 28, 2019

**Incident no 41**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kozani	Kozani	January 29, 2019

**Incident no 42**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Patra	January 30/31, 2019

**Incident no 43**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Fthiotis	Atalanti	January 30/31, 2019

**Incident no 44**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	January 2019

**Incident no 45**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Karousana, PEDIADA	January 2019

**Incident no 46**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Larissa	February 2, 2019

**Incident no 47**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Nea Styra	February 3, 2019

**Incident no 48**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Nea Styra	February 3, 2019

**Incident no 49**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Aetos, Karystos	February 3, 2019

**Incident no 50**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kozani	Kozani	February 3, 2019

**Incident no 51**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bronze bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Kassandra	Between January 27 and February 5, 2019

**Incident no 52**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Lesvos	Plomari	February 4/5, 2019

**Incident no 53**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Explosive device planted and fire set; claim of responsibility by anarchist group	Desecration (D) (Attack against people)	Church	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	February 6, 2019

**Incident no 54**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Illia	Pyrgos	February 8, 2019

**Incident no 55**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with grafiti and damage	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attika	Athens, Petralona	February 9/10, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)







**Incident no 56**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thessaloniki	Langadas	Between February 6 and 13, 2019

**Incident no 57**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Aitolia-Acarnania	Astrovitsa	February 14/15, 2019

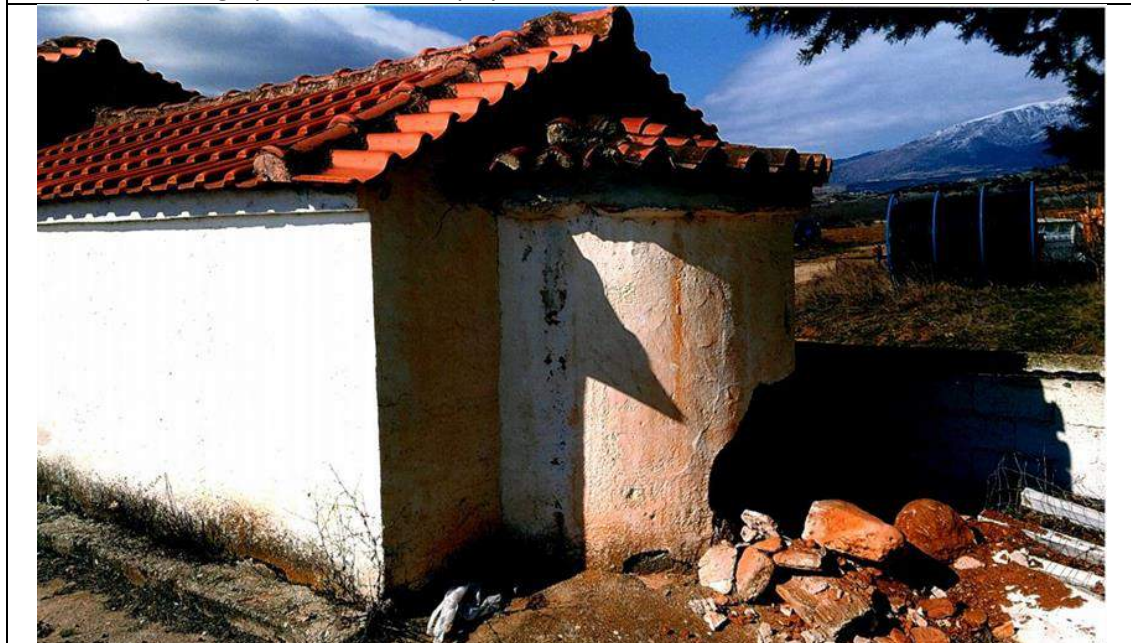
**Incident no 58**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Aitolia-Acarnania	Lesini, Aitolia	February 14/15, 2019

**Incident no 59**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery Chapel	Larissa	Elassona	February 14/15, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



**Incident no 60**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Pyri, Igoumenitsa	February 16, 2019

**Incident no 61**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Raiko, Zitsa	Between February 2 and 17, 2019

**Incident no 62**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in, theft (votive offerings and money) and vandalism	Theft (T), Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Nea Philadelphia	Attica	February 16/17, 2019

**Incident no 63**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (candelabra)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Messinia	Karteroli	February 18, 2019

**Incident no 64**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (vigil lamps)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Messinia	Karteroli	February 18, 2019

**Incident no 65**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Magnisia	Achilleio, Almyros	February 20, 2019

**Incident no 66**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money box)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Molyvdoskepasto	February 24, 2019

**Incident no 67**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Amygdalos	February 24, 2019

**Incident no 68**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Trikala	Kalambaka	February 25/26, 2019

**Incident no 69**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Aitolia-Acarnania	Messolonghi	February 26, 2019

**Incident no 70**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (microphones and amplifier)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Porto Rafti	Attica	February 27, 2019

**Incident no 71**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Legraina	February 28, 2019

**Incident no 72**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Nea Philadelphia	February 28, 2019

**Incident no 73**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (candelabra)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Laconia	Anthohori	February 2019

**Incident no 74**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Laconia	Skoura	February 2019

**Incident no 75**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism and theft (vigil lamps)	Vandalism (V), Theft (T) (Attack against property)	New Cemetery	Kos	Kos	February 2019

**Incident no 76**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism and theft (money)	Vandalism (V), Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Metamorfosi	Between February 25 and March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2019

**Incident no 77**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Taxiarchis	March 2, 2019

**Incident no 78**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (silver icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Langadas	March 3, 2019

**Incident no 79**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	March 4, 2019

**Incident no 80**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Plaka	March 5, 2019

**Incident no 81**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Keratsini	March 7, 2019

**Incident no 82**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Magnisia	Kanalia, Rigas Ferraios	March 9, 2019

**Incident no 83**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Aitolia-Acarmania	Neochori, Messolonghi	March 9/10, 2019

**Incident no 84**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Raid by group of anarchist collective (claim of responsibility) throwing leaflets during Sunday Divine Liturgy	Desecration (D) (Attack against people)	Church	Rodopi	Komotini	March 10, 2019

**Incident no 85**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Attica	Spata	March 10, 2019

**Incident no 86**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and documents from safe)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Nea Efkarpia	March 10, 2019

Indicative photographs: (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



**Incident no 87**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Toumba	March 11, 2019



**Incident no 88**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	March 12, 2019

**Incident no 89**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism (fire)	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Attica	Kapandriti	Between February 13 and March 13, 2019

**Incident no 90**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Aitolia - Acarnania	Tambakaria, Messolonghi	March 12/13, 2019

**Incident no 91**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Patsideros	Between March 9 and 15, 2019

**Incident no 92**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Molyvdoskepasto, Konitsa	Between March 10 and 15, 2019

**Incident no 93**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Tambakaria, Messolonghi	March 15, 2019

**Incident no 94**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Kilkis	Nea Philadelphia	March 15, 2019

**Incident no 95**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Kirinthos	March 16, 2019

**Incident no 96**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thesprotia	Filiates	March 17, 2019

**Incident no 97**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Kefalonia	Argostoli	March 17, 2019

**Incident no 98**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Karditsa	Palamas	March 17/18, 2019

**Incident no 99**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Andros	March 18, 2019

**Incident no 100**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Andros	March 18, 2019

**Incident no 101**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (holy relics, candelabra, holy myron pot)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens (within the area of "Elpis" hospital")	March 18/19, 2019

**Incident no 102**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Andros	March 19, 2019

**Incident no 103**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings, money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Hydra	March 20, 2019

**Incident no 104**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lesvos	Plagia	March 20/21, 2019

**Incident no 105**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lesvos	Plomari	March 20/21, 2019

**Incident no 106**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Corinthia	Moulki	Between March 21/23, 2019

**Incident no 107**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (items from graves)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Areia	March 23, 2019

**Incident no 108**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (items from graves)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Areia	March 23, 2019

**Incident no 109**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Igoumenitsa	March 23, 2019

**Incident no 110**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft (tunnel dug to steal antiquities)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Serres	Efkarpia	March 24, 2019

**Incident no 111**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (candelabra)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Argolis	Agia Triada	March 25, 2019

**Incident no 112**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Chania	Sternes	March 25, 2019

**Incident no 113**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Assault (a priest was attacked in front of the altar)	Assault (A) (Attack against people)	Church	Athens	Attica	March 25, 2019

**Incident no 114**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Sofades	March 25/26, 2019

**Incident no 115**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Spata	Between March 25 and 27, 2019

**Incident no 116**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (equipment)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Heraklion	Filothei	March 27, 2019

**Incident no 117**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Halandri	March 28, 2019

**Incident no 118**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Heraklion	Between March 28 and 30, 2019

**Incident no 119**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Attica	Nea Erithrea	March 31, 2019

**Incident no 120**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in (money)	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	March 2019


**Incident no 121**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Laconia	Trapezondi	March 2019

**Incident no 122**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Heraklion	March 2019

**Incident no 123**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Samos	Karvouni mountain	March 2019
Indicative photographs: (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)					

**Incident no 124**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Igoumenitsa, Pyri	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

**Incident no 125**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Igoumenitsa, Graikohori	April 2, 2019



**Incident no 126**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Private church	Dodecanese	Patmos, Kambos	April 3, 2019

**Incident no 127**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Private church	Dodecanese	Patmos, Kambos	April 3, 2019

**Incident no 128**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Marousi	April 3, 2019

**Incident no 129**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Pilgrimage church	Attica	Politia	April 4, 2019

**Incident no 130**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Halandri	April 4, 2019

**Incident no 131**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Chios	Halkios	April 4, 2019

**Incident no 132**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Monastery (UNESCO World Heritage Site)	Chios	Chios	April 4, 2019

**Incident no 133**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Chios	Kallimasia	April 4, 2019

**Incident no 134**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Chios	Vrondados	April 4, 2019

**Incident no 135**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Igoumenitsa	April 5, 2019

**Incident no 136**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Viotia	Thebes, Koumerki (in the area of the General Hospital)	April 6, 2019

**Incident no 137**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Larissa	Farsala	April 7, 2019

**Incident no 138**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bells)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Corfu	Lefkimmi	Between April 6 and 8, 2019

**Incident no 139**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bones from graves)	Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemeteries	Thessaloniki	Pylaia	April 8, 2019

**Incident no 140**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (small amount of money, olive oil and detergent)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Grevena	Poros	April 8, 2019

**Incident no 141**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Igoumenitsa	April 9, 2019

**Incident no 142**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Fyllo	April 10/11, 2019

**Incident no 143**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Assault and theft (money)	Assault (A) and Theft (T) (Attack against people; attack against property)	Monastery	Pella	Lakka	April 12, 2019

**Incident no 144**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Private church	Corfu	Lefkimmi	Between February 15 and April 13, 2019

**Incident no 145**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Corfu	Lefkimmi	Between April 11 and 13, 2019

**Incident no 146**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Toumba	April 14, 2019

**Incident no 147**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Private church	Corfu	Kavos	Between April 10 and 15, 2019

**Incident no 148**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings) and desecration	Theft (T) and Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Cyclades	Andros, Apoikia	April 15, 2019

**Incident no 149**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	April 15, 2019

**Incident no 150**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Oraiokastro	April 15/16, 2019

**Incident no 151**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Igoumenitsa	April 16, 2019

**Incident no 152**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thesprotia	Nea Kerasounda	April 16, 2019

**Incident no 153**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (valuables)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Tinos, Tripotamos	April 16, 2019

**Incident no 154**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (valuables)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Tinos, Arnados	April 16, 2019

**Incident no 155**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Attica	Gerakas	April 17, 2019

**Incident no 156**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (valuables)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Cyclades	Tinos, Ysternia	April 18, 2019

**Incident no 157**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Corfu	Perivoli	April 19/20, 2019

**Incident no 158**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kavala	Chrysoupoli	April 21, 2019

**Incident no 159**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Assault (perpetrator attacked and injured a priest outside the church)	Assault (A) (Attack against people)	Church	Kavala	Kavala	April 22, 2019

**Incident no 160**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Arta	Rodavgi	April 22, 2019

**Incident no 161**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery chapel	Arta	Rodavgi	April 22, 2019

**Incident no 162**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Bafra	April 23, 2019

**Incident no 163**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (building material)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Fthiotis	Gorgopotamos	April 23, 2019

**Incident no 164**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Corfu	Vitalades	April 23/24, 2019

**Incident no 165**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Ioannina	Between April 15 and 27, 2019



**Incident no 166**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Toumba	April 27, 2019

**Incident no 167**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	April 27/28, 2019

**Incident no 168**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
14 petrol bombs thrown at the altar of the church	Desecration (D) (Attack against people)	Church	Attica	Athens	April 28, 2019

**Incident no 169**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Group of self-called "hooligans" set fire at the churchyard	Desecration (D) (Attack against people)	Church	Attica	Glyfada	April 28, 2019

**Incident no 170**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Corfu	Argyrades	Between April 23 and 29, 2019

**Incident no 171**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Mykonos	April 29, 2019

**Incident no 172**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Halkidiki	Paliouri	April 2019

**Incident no 173**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Altar door vandalized and theft of collection box (money)	Vandalism (V) and theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lakonia	Trapezondi	April 2019

**Incident no 174**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft of altar clothes	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lakonia	Afyssos	April 2019

**Incident no 175**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft of seats and candles	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lakonia	Afyssos	April 2019

**Incident no 176**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft of an icon from 1850 worth €2,000	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Heraklion	Pedias	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

**Incident no 177**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Petty cash theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Halkidiki	Nea Plagia	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

**Incident no 178**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (crosses, valuables etc.)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Lakonia	Sparta	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

**Incident no 179**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (reliquaries, ecclesiastical items, money, crosses, silver gospels etc.)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel (within the area of Athens Retirement Home)	Attica	Athens	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

**Incident no 180**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Farsala	May 4/5 2019

**Incident no 181**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Private church	Corfu	Spartera	Between April 26 and May 5, 2019

**Incident no 182**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	May 6, 2019

**Incident no 183**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Chania	Akrotiri	May 6, 2019

**Incidents no 184-186 (3 incidents)**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Churches	Cyclades	Syros	Between May 1-7, 2019

**Incident no 187**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evritania	Megalohorio	May 8, 2019

**Incident no 188**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evritania	Megalo Horio	May 8, 2019

**Incident no 189**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evritania	Megalo Horio	May 8, 2019

**Incident no 190**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Wayside shrine	Evritania	“Patimata Panagias”	May 8, 2019

**Incident no 191**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa, Pigi	Between May 5 and 11, 2019

**Incident no 192**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa, Pigi	Between May 5 and 11, 2019

**Incident no 193**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Ptelopoula	May 10/11, 2019

**Incident no 194**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Grave vandalized	Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Kavala	Chrysoupoli	May 11, 2019

**Incident no 195**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items, microphone system, candelabra etc. )	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chariseio Foundation, Metropolis of Larissa and Tyrnavos	Larissa	Larissa	Between May 9 and 16, 2019

**Incident no 196**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Pieria	Fteri	Between May 12 and 18, 2019

**Incident no 197**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Five graves were vandalized	Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Thessaloniki	N. Mesimvria	May 19, 2019

**Incident no 198**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Thessaloniki	N. Mesimvria	May 19, 2019

**Incident no 199**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Paliouri	May 19, 2019

**Incident no 200**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Evritania	Karpenisi	May 20, 2019

**Incident no 201**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Corinth	Mosia	Between May 18 and 20, 2019

**Incident no 202**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	May 24, 2019

**Incident no 203**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (baptismal fonts, amplifier etc.)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Nesson	May 24, 2019

**Incident no 204**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Amigdali	May 25, 2019

**Incident no 205**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Kolymbia	May 26, 2019

**Incident no 206**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Attica	Elliniko	May 26, 2019

**Incident no 207**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Lamia	May 28/29, 2019



**Incident no 208**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money, votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Evritania	Prousos	May 29, 2019

**Incident no 209**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with paint	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	May 31, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)

**Incident no 210**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (stairway handrails)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Attica	Athens, Kypseli	May 31, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



#### Incident no 211

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Pilgrimage church	Thessaloniki	Langadas	May 2019

#### Incident no 212

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	May 2019

#### Incident no 213

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (microphones, amplifier)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	May 2019

**Incident no 214**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Karditsa	Karditsa	June 1/2, 2019

**Incident no 215**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Pieria	Litohoro	Between June 1 and 4, 2019

**Incident no 216**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Ierapetra	Between May 26 and June 5, 2019

**Incident no 217**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Arcadia	Tripoli	June 5, 2019

**Incident no 218**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (golden items, votive offerings, money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastic cell	Mount Athos	Monastery of Filotheou	June 5/6, 2019


**Incident no 219**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Attica	Malakasa	June 6, 2019

**Incident no 220**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ilia	Pyrgos	June 6, 2019

**Incident no 221**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Halandri	June 8, 2019
Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)					

**Incident no 222**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against	Pilgrimage church	Attica	Kifisia, Politia	June 9, 2019

	property)				
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**Incident no 223**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Patisia	June 10, 2019

**Incident no 224**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings, tools and equipment)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lefkas	Lefkas	June 11, 2019

**Incident no 225**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Lykovrisi	June 12, 2019

**Incident no 226**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Ierapetra	Between June 1 and 13, 2019

**Incident no 227**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings, valuables)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Mount Athos	Ivion Monastery	June 12/13, 2019

**Incident no 228**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Aggravated damage	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Arcadia	Svoleika	June 15, 2019

**Incident no 229**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lefkas	Kavalos	June 16, 2019

**Incident no 230**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money, crosses)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Rodini	June 17, 2019

**Incident no 231**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Kritsa	June 18, 2019

**Incident no 232**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (copper items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kasos, Emporios	June 19, 2019

**Incident no 233**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (copper items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kasos, Kato Poli	June 19, 2019

**Incident no 234**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (100-year-old icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Omvriaki	June 21, 2019

**Incident no 235**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	June 23, 2019

**Incident no 236**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Larissa	Larissa	June 23, 2019

**Incident no 237**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (air conditioner), vandalism (altar and facade)	Theft (T), Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Karditsa	Karditsomagoula	June 27, 2019

**Incident no 238**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Nea Ionia	June 27/28, 2019

**Incident no 239**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items and crosses)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kilkis	Nea Kavala	Between June 23 and 30, 2019

**Incident no 240**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	June 2019

**Incident no 241**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	June 2019

**Incident no 242**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Patra	July 3, 2019



**Incident no 243**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Rodopoli	Between June 30 and July 5, 2019

**Incident no 244**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Corinthia	Mikros Valtos	July 6, 2019

**Incident no 245**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Illia	Kallikomo	July 7, 2019

**Incident no 246**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (reliquaries, ecclesiastical items, money, crosses, candelabra, money etc.)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church (within the area of Athens Retirement Home)	Attica	Athens	July 8/9, 2019

**Incident no 247**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Malevizi	July 9, 2019

**Incident no 248**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (electrical equipment and food products)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Spiritual center of church	Thessaloniki	Halkidona	July 10, 2019

**Incident no 249**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos, Linopoti	July 11, 2019

**Incident no 250**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Serres	Chryso	July 13, 2019

**Incident no 251**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items and money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kilkis	Vafiohori	July 13/14, 2019

**Incident no 252**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (chalice)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Dionisiou	July 14, 2019

**Incident no 253**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and chalice)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Zografou	July 15, 2019

**Incident no 254**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Agios Miron	July 20, 2019

**Incident no 255**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Dodecanese	Rhodes	July 20, 2019

**Incident no 256**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	July 24, 2019

**Incident no 257**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Larissa	Larissa	July 25, 2019

**Incident no 258**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Malevizi, Moni	Between July 25 and 27, 2019

**Incident no 259**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Dodecanese	Rhodes	July 27, 2019

**Incident no 260**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Bronze vases stolen from graves	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Ioannina	Ioannina	Between July 19 and 29, 2019

**Incident no 261**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money, vigil lamps, votive offerings, chalice and other ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Pella	Edessa, Peraia	July 31, 2019

**Incident no 262**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos	July 2019

**Incident no 263**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Avrakonde	July 31/ August 1, 2019

**Incident no 264**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Kato Gouves	August 1, 2019

**Incident no 265**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Aitolia-Acarnania	Agrinio, Megali Hora	August 6, 2019

**Incident no 266**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money, votive offerings, etc. )	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Sitia, Handra	August 6/7, 2019

**Incident no 267**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Kalamos, Agioi Apostoloi	August 7/8, 2019

**Incident no 268**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Church sacristan was attacked and money was stolen	Assault (A) (Attack against people), Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Nea Skioni	August 9, 2019

**Incident no 269**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church, glebe of Xenophontos Monastery of Mount Athos	Attica	Nea Ionia	August 15, 2019

**Incident no 270**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Erymanthos, Rakita	August 16, 2019

**Incident no 271**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bottled drinks)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos, Antimaheia	August 16, 2019

**Incident no 272**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Imathia	Veria	August 17, 2019

**Incident no 273**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Kato Marmara	August 17/18, 2019

**Incident no 274**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons dating back to 1911)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Nea Makrissi	August 19, 2019

**Incident no 275**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Bronze items stolen and graves vandalized	Theft (T), Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Fthiotis	Makri	August 19, 2019

**Incident no 276**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Fthiotis	Makri	August 19, 2019

**Incident no 277**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Sitia	August 20, 2019

**Incident no 278**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Ioannina	Agora	August 20/21, 2019

**Incident no 279**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Cyclades	Naxos, Moni	August 23, 2019

**Incident no 280**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Karadima	August 23/24, 2019

**Incident no 281**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Nea Ionia	August 24, 2019

**Incident no 282**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Kolymbia	August 24, 2019



**Incident no 283**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa, Plikati	August 26, 2019

**Incident no 284**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with paint; claim of responsibility by anarchist group	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Sepolia	August 26, 2019

**Incident no 285**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Pella	Skydra, Petrea	August 27, 2019

**Incident no 286**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Naxos, Mesi	August 28, 2019

**Incident no 287**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Dodecanese	Rhodes	August 28, 2019

**Incident no 288**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Dodecanese	Rhodes	August 28, 2019

**Incident no 289**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	August 28, 2019

**Incident no 290**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Dodecanese	Rhodes	August 29, 2019

**Incident no 291**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Perivleptos	August 31, 2019

**Incident no 292**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Pilgrim church	Attica	Kifisia	August 31, 2019

**Incident no 293**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Attica	Nea Erythrea	August 31, 2019

**Incident no 294**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Sohos	July - August 2019

**Incident no 295**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (vigil lamps) and vandalism	Theft (T), Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos, Tsoukalaria	August 2019

**Incident no 296**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Viannos	August 2019

**Incident no 297**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	August 2019

**Incident no 298**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	August 2019

**Incident no 299**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	August 2019

**Incident no 300**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Magnisia	Volos	Summer 2019

**Incident no 301**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Markopoulo	September 1, 2019

**Incident no 302**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Marousi	September 4, 2019

**Incident no 303**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Petrol bomb thrown at park next to the church; damage caused on church pathway	Desecration (D) (Attack against people)	Church	Attica	Glyfada	September 5, 2019

**Incident no 304**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Nea Ionia	September 5, 2019

**Incident no 305**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Neo Psychico	September 6, 2019

**Incident no 306**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Arta	Kolomodia	September 8, 2019

**Incident no 307**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Arta	Rokka	September 9, 2019

**Incident no 308**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and altar damaged	Break-in (B), Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Arta	Agia Paraskevi	September 9, 2019

**Incident no 309**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (2 crosses with flower arrangements)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Kavala	Chrysoupoli	September 9, 2019

**Incident no 310**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Collection boxes broken into	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Imathia	Monastery of Saint John the Baptist	Between September 1 and 10, 2019

**Incident no 311**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (crosses and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Imathia	Monastery of Saint John the Baptist	September 11 and 10, 2019

**Incident no 312**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offering)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	September 11, 2019

**Incident no 313**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offering and crosses)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Imathia	Polydendri	September 11, 2019

**Incident no 314**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Viannos	Between September 8 and 12, 2019

**Incident no 315**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Vyronas	September 12, 2019

**Incident no 316**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Kaminaki	September 13, 2019

**Incident no 317**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Money stolen from collection box and vigil lamps broken	Theft (T), Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	September 14, 2019

**Incident no 318**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (reliquaries, gospels, cross, votive offerings, money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	September 14/15, 2019

**Incident no 319**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Entrance door broken into and collection box stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Viotia	Orhomenos	September 15, 2019

**Incident no 320**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (gold embroidered Epitaph)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Magnisia	Volos, Nea Ionia	September 15, 2019

**Incident no 321**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical item)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Heraklion	September 15, 2019

**Incident no 322**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft from grave	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Thessaloniki	Pylaia	September 16, 2019



**Incident no 323**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Lesvos	Mytilene	September 16, 2019

**Incident no 324**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempted theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Aitolia-Acarnania	Aitoliko	September 20, 2019

**Incident no 325**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple bronze items stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Dendra	September 22, 2019

**Incident no 326**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	September 22, 2019

**Incident no 327**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	September 22, 2019

**Incident no 328**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple bronze items stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Iraio	September 23, 2019

**Incident no 329**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple bronze items stolen and graves damaged	Theft (T), Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Argos	Between September 20 and 24, 2019

**Incident no 330**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Kato Archanes	Between September 22 and 24, 2019

**Incident no 331**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple bronze items stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Prophet Elias	September 23/24, 2019

**Incident no 332**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	September 24, 2019

**Incident no 333**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Messinia	Trifylia	September 24, 2019

**Incident no 334**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Messinia	Ihalia	September 24, 2019

**Incident no 335**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple bronze items stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Argolis	Midea	September 25, 2019

**Incident no 336**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons, gospel)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	Between August 18 and September 29, 2019

**Incident no 337**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	Between September 25 and 29, 2019

**Incident no 338**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons, cross)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thessaloniki	Pende Vryses	Between September 24 and 29, 2019

**Incident no 339**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (crosses)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Serres	Serres	September 29, 2019

**Incident no 340**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Illia	Xylokera	September 2019

**Incident no 341**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	September 2019

**Incident no 342**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	September 2019

**Incident no 343**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	Between October 1 and 3, 2019

**Incident no 344**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Efkarpia	October 3, 2019

**Incident no 345**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Imathia	Veria, Ano Zervohori	October 3, 2019

**Incident no 346**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Langadas	October 3/4, 2019

**Incident no 347**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Viotia	Thebes	October 5, 2019

**Incident no 348**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Graffiti spray-painted	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	October 6, 2019

**Incident no 349**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Cross stolen from grave	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Attica	Perama	October 6, 2019

**Incident no 350**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Aitolia-Acarmania	Paliambela	Between September 15 and October 7, 2019

**Incident no 351**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Arnea	October 7/8, 2019

**Incident no 352**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	October 8, 2019

**Incident no 353**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	October 8, 2019

**Incident no 354**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	October 8, 2019

**Incident no 355**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	October 9, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)





**Incident no 356**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Ialysos	October 9, 2019

**Incident no 357**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Ialysos	October 10, 2019

**Incident no 358**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lesvos	Sykamia	October 14, 2019



**Incident no 359**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Toumba	October 15, 2019

**Incident no 360**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Gospel stolen and altar vandalized	Theft (T), Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Acharnai	October 15, 2019

**Incident no 361**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Telephone stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	October 20, 2019

**Incident no 362**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Halandri	October 21, 2019

**Incident no 363**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (bell)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Fthiotis	Mylon	October 22, 2019

**Incident no 364**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Neo Heraklio	October 23, 2019

**Incident no 365**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Nea Makrissi	October 24, 2019

**Incident no 366**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Toumba	October 25, 2019

**Incident no 367**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Private church	Dodecanese	Rhodes	October 26, 2019

**Incident no 368**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Corinthia	Xylokastro	October 29, 2019

**Incident no 369**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Mykonos	October 29, 2019

**Incident no 370**

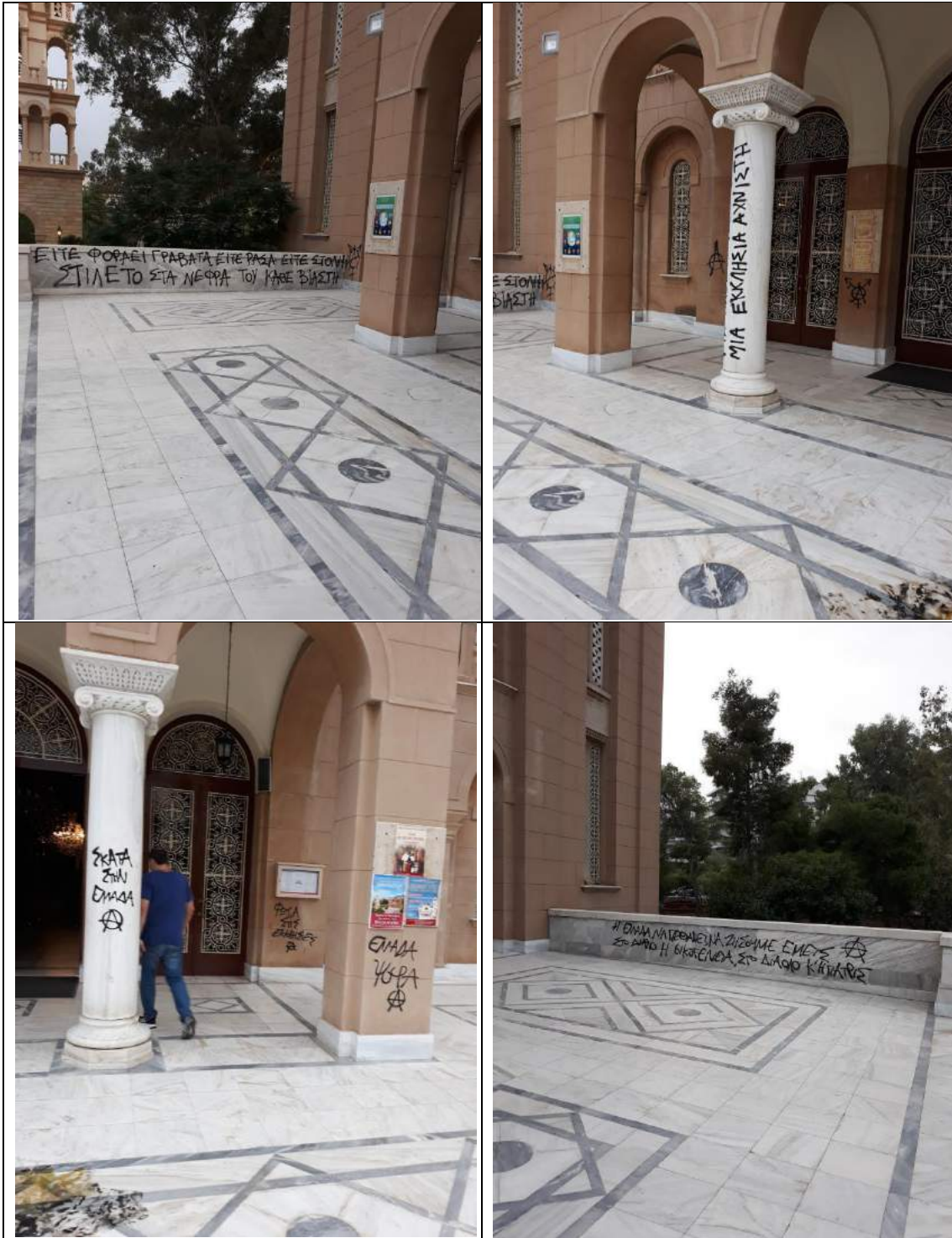
Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Door broken into	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Myrtia	October 30, 2019

**Incident no 371**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery chapel	Imathia	Veria	October 30, 2019

**Incident no 372**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Insulting slogans painted on walls and Greek flag burned	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Metropolitan Cathedral	Attica	Nea Smyrni	October 31, 2019
Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)					



**Incident no 373**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Insulting slogans painted on walls and Greek flag	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Nea Smyrni	October 31, 2019

burned					
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**Incident no 374**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thessaloniki	Lofiskos	October 2019

**Incident no 375**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Viannos	October 2019

**Incident no 376**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	October 2019

**Incident no 377**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	October 2019

**Incident no 378**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Arta	Dichomiri	October 20 to November 1, 2019

**Incident no 379**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery chapel	Karditsa	Mouzaki	October 29, 2019

**Incident no 380**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Toumba	November 2, 2019

**Incident no 381**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Heraklion	Pedias	November 2, 2019

**Incident no 382**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Zofori	November 3, 2019

**Incident no 383**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Tymfristos	November 3, 2019

**Incident no 384**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Tymfristos	November 3, 2019

**Incident no 385**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Chios	Halkios	November 4, 2019

**Incident no 386**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Serres	Neohori	November 5, 2019

**Incident no 387**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft of altar clothes	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Chios	Halkios	November 6, 2019

**Incident no 388**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Fthiotis	Domokos	November 7, 2019

**Incident no 389**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Astraki	November 7/8, 2019

**Incident no 390**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Viotia	Koronia	November 9, 2019

**Incident no 391**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Icons were set on fire	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Lesvos	Limnos	November 9, 2019

**Incident no 392**

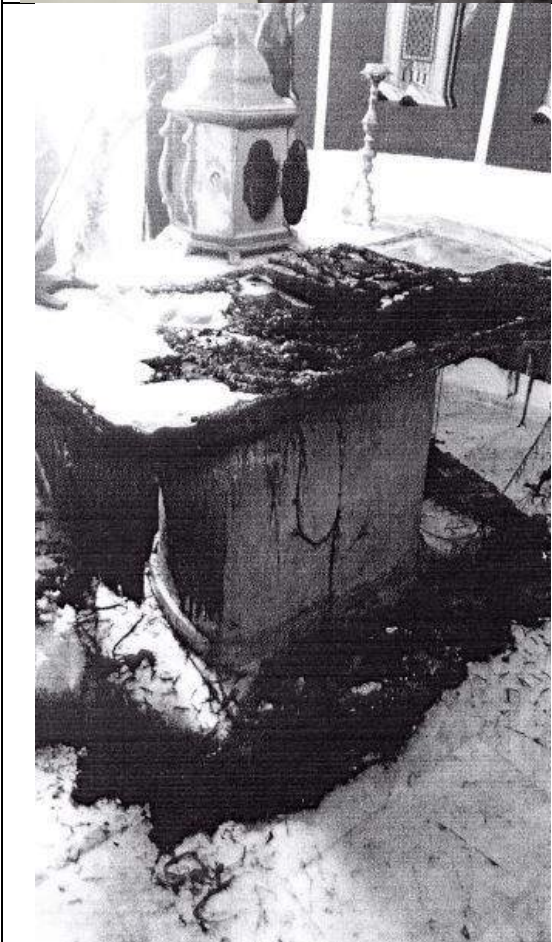
Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Graves were broken and other damage was caused	Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Kavala	Kavala	November 10, 2019

**Incident no 393**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
A burning object was thrown into the church and started a fire	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Chios	Halkios	November 10, 2019
Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Metropolis of Chios - Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)					









**Incident no 394**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Arta	Kostakia	November 10, 2019

**Incident no 395**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft of collection box	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Aitolia-Acarmania	Panaitolio	November 13, 2019

**Incident no 396**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Messinia	Kalamata	November 14, 2019

**Incident no 397**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	November 14, 2019

**Incident no 398**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Nea Philadelphia	November 14, 2019

**Incident no 399**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Karditsa	Sofades	November 15, 2019

**Incident no 400**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Marbles of graves damaged and bronze vases stolen	Desecration (D) and Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Fthiotis	Martino	November 15, 2019

**Incident no 401**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Wayside shrine	Evros	Tyhero	November 15, 2019

**Incident no 402**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Halkidiki	Kallikratia	November 16, 2019

**Incident no 403**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Arta	Peta	November 17/18, 2019

**Incident no 404**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Kopani	November 17/18, 2019

**Incident no 405**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple bronze vases and vigil lamps were stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Fthiotis	Damasta	November 18, 2019

**Incident no 406**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Arta	Grammenitsi	November 18, 2019

**Incident no 407**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Petrokefalos	November 20, 2019

**Incident no 408**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Halandri	November 20, 2019

**Incidents no 409-411 (3 incidents)**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Multiple items from graves were stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemeteries	Evia	Chalkis	Between November 12 and 21, 2019

**Incident no 412**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Serres	Palaiokomi	November 21, 2019

**Incident no 413**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Ierapetra	Between November 16 and 23, 2019

**Incident no 414**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Perpetrator threatened persons present in church with a pocket knife	Assault (A) (Attack against people)	Church	Magnisia	Volos	November 23, 2019

**Incident no 415**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Ymittos	November 24, 2019

**Incident no 416**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Perpetrators threatened priest with pocket knife	Assault (A) (Attack against people)	Church	Drama	Paliambela	November 25, 2019

**Incident no 417**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Arcadia	Agios Petros	November 25, 2019

**Incident no 418**

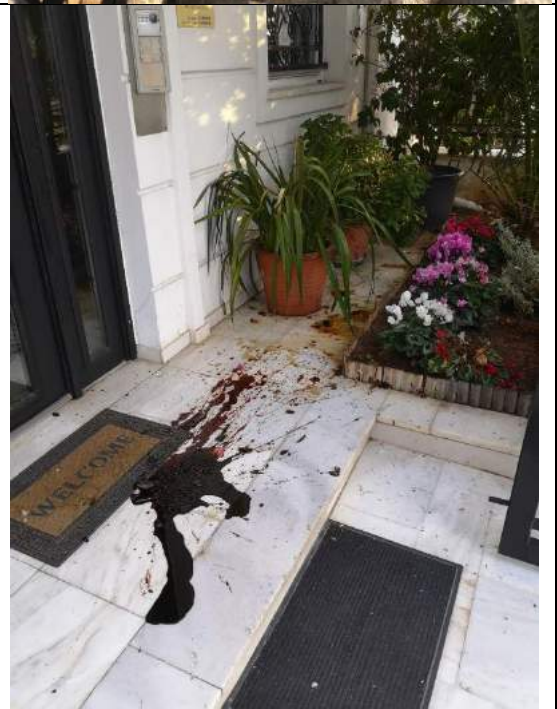
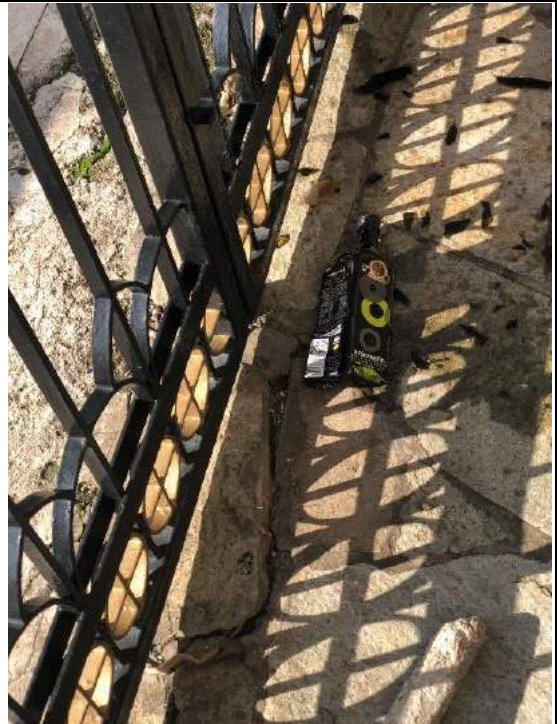
Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Residence of Metropolitan of Piraeus and see of the Metropolis	Attica	Piraeus	November 26, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)









**Incident no 419**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes	November 30, 2019

**Incident no 420**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes	November 30, 2019

**Incident no 421**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Evros	Mikro Dereio	November 2019

**Incident no 422**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Viannos	November 2019

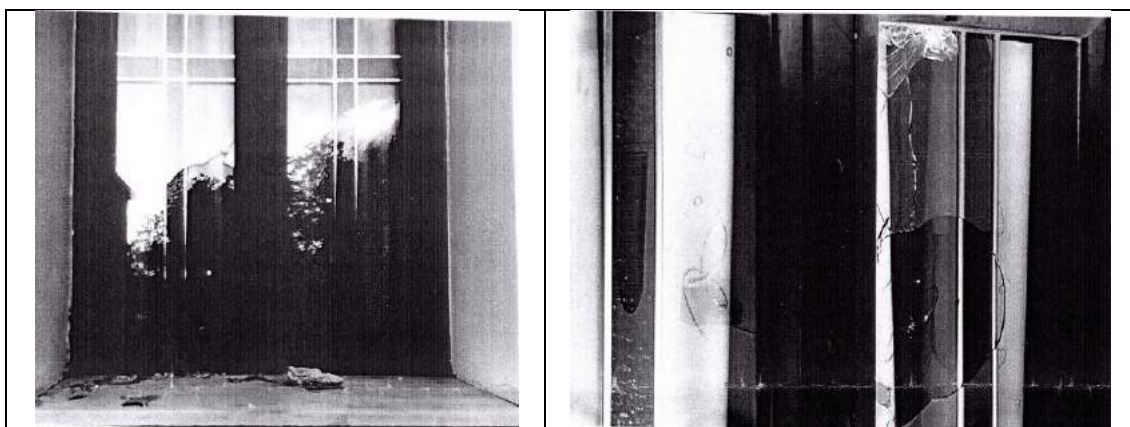
**Incident no 423**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Kastoria	Kastoria	November 2019

**Incident no 424**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Chios	Chios	December 1, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



#### Incident no 425

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Akrata	Between December 1 and 3, 2019

#### Incident no 426

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Akrata	December 2/3, 2019

#### Incident no 427

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Wreaths were stolen from graves	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Thessaloniki	Pylaia	December 3, 2019

#### Incident no 428

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to steal metal container from the churchyard containing	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Aitolia - Acarnania	Agrinio	December 3/4, 2019

ecclesiastical items					
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**Incident no 429**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (a cross and a table)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Fourni	December 3/4, 2019

**Incident no 430**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Ioannina	December 3/4, 2019

**Incident no 431**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism and theft of tools	Vandalism (V), Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos, Paradisi	December 5, 2019

**Incident no 432**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Ialysos	December 5, 2019

**Incident no 433**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Mathia	December 5/6, 2019

**Incident no 434**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money, ecclesiastical items, icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Ano Souli	December 6, 2019

**Incidents no 435-441 (7 incidents)**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Churches	Drama	Drama	Between October 4 and December 7, 2019

**Incident no 442**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Kythira	December 7, 2019

**Incident no 443**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Collection box was broken into	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Lasithi	Merambello	December 9, 2019

**Incident no 444**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Rhodes, Ialysos	December 10, 2019

**Incident no 445**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Serres	Serres	December 12, 2019

**Incident no 446**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Bronze items were stolen from graves	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Corinthia	Nemea	December 14, 2019

**Incident no 447**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Bronze items were stolen from graves	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Fthiotis	Lamia	December 14, 2019

**Incident no 448**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (cross)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Chalkis, Daphni	December 14, 2019

**Incident no 449**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Evia	Chalkis, Strofylia	December 14, 2019

**Incident no 450**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Bronze items were stolen from graves	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Fthiotis	Lamia	December 15, 2019

**Incident no 451**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Graves damaged, corpse exhumed	Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Messinia	Kalamata, Platy	December 16, 2019

**Incident no 452**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Collection box broken into	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Lesvos	Limnos, Plaka	December 17, 2019

**Incident no 453**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (amplifier)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Viotia	Livadia	December 19, 2019

**Incident no 454**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	December 19, 2019



**Incident no 455**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Kastoria	Kastoria	December 20, 2019

**Incident no 456**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon and money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Larissa	Between December 20 and 22, 2019

**Incident no 457**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Paiania	December 22, 2019

**Incident no 458**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (votive offerings)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Achaia	Pournari	December 22/23, 2019

**Incident no 459**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Pyrgetos	Between December 14 and 24, 2019

**Incident no 460**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Larissa	Pyrgetos	Between December 14 and 24, 2019

**Incident no 461**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Marble cross stolen from grave	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Thessaloniki	Pylaia	December 24, 2019

**Incident no 462**

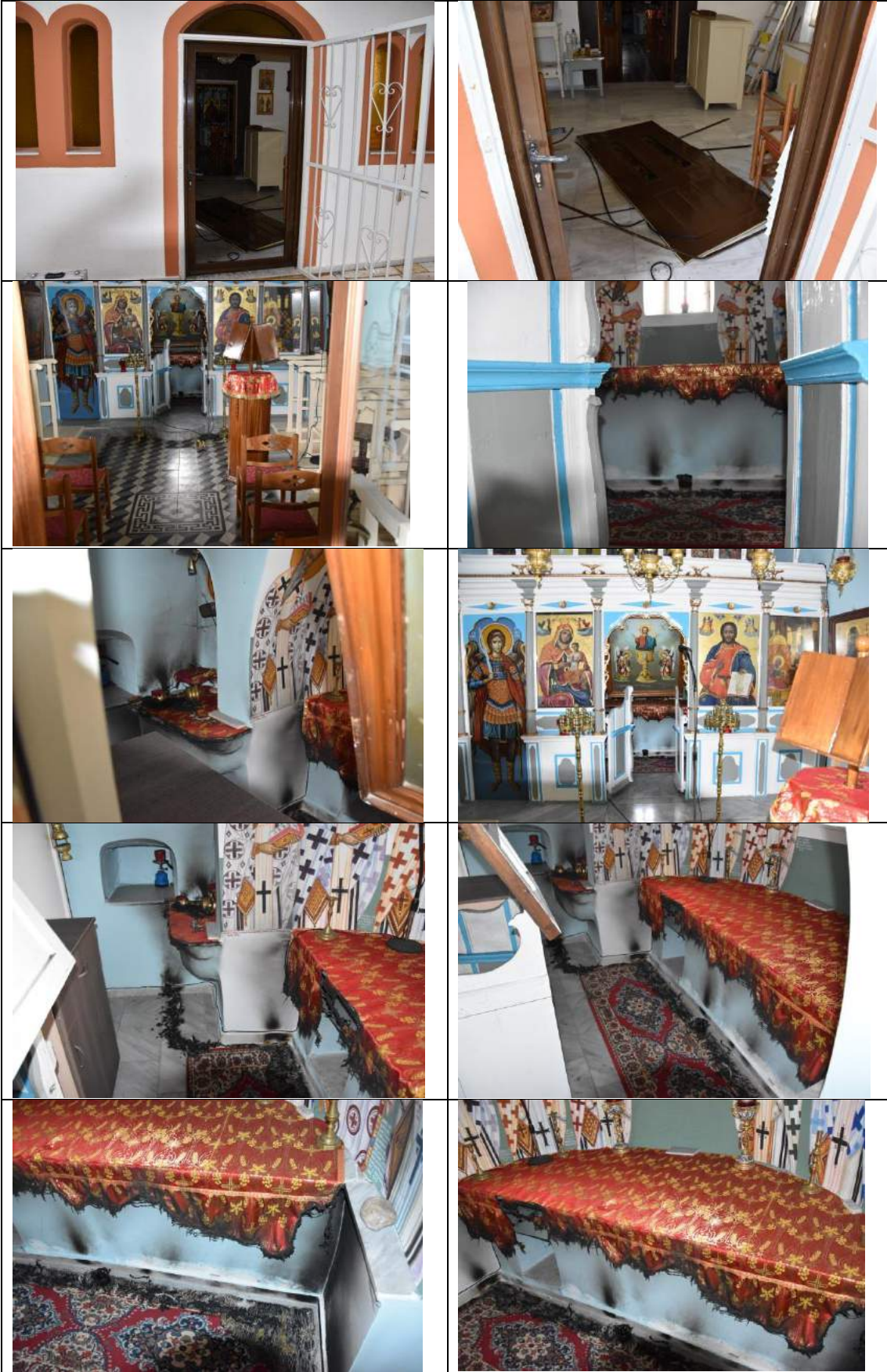
Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Karditsa	Drakotrypa	Between December 1 and 25, 2019

**Incident no 463**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Ossuaries and money stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery	Ioannina	Kosmira	December 26, 2019

**Incident no 464**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Fire set into the chapel and damage caused	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Chios	Chalkeios	December 27/28, 2019
Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)					





**Incident no 465**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Arta	Arta	December 28, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



**Incident no 466**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Metal box was stolen	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Thesprotia	Paramythia	December 28, 2019

**Incident no 467**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Lesvos	Akrasi	Between December 29 and 31, 2019

**Incident no 468**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Anatoli	December 31, 2019

**Incident no 469**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	December 2019

**Incident no 470**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	December 2019

**Incident no 471**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Attempt to break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	December 2019

**Incident no 472**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money and cross)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Heraklion	Pedias	December 2019

**Incident no 473**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Samos	Myloi	December 2019


**Incident no 474**

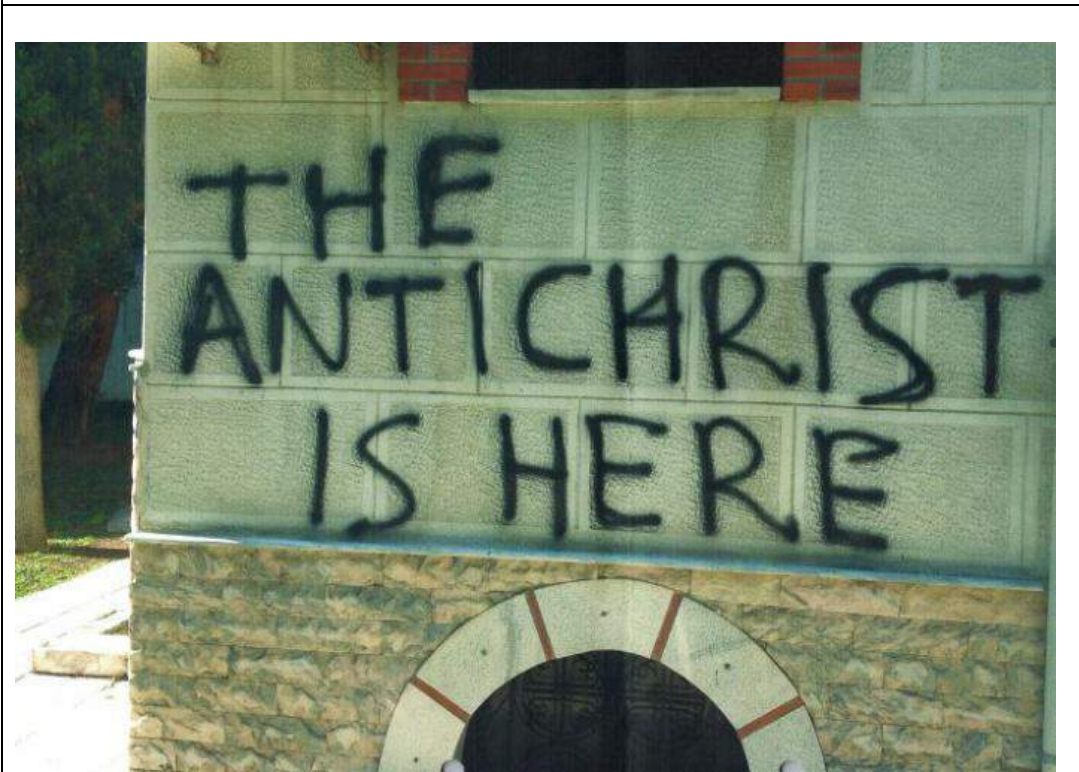
Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Icons were damaged	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Thessaloniki	Scholari	December 2019

**Incident no 475**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Thessaloniki	Kolhiko	December 2019

**Incident no 476**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with slogans	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Volos	Volos	December 2019
Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)					





**Incident no 477**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Athens	2019

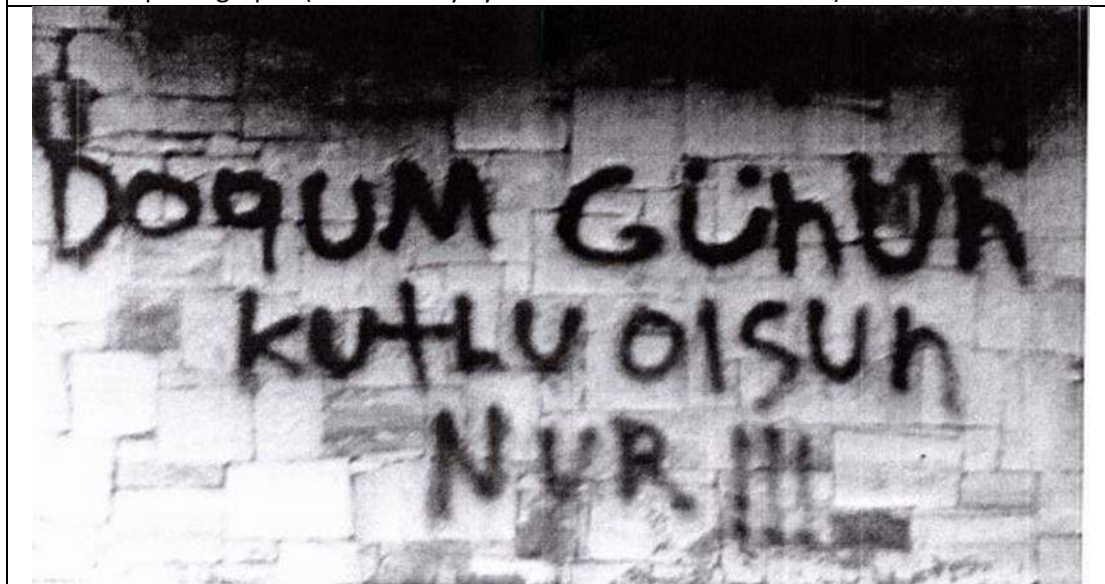
**Incident no 478**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti and outdoor lighting damaged	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Elliniko	2019

**Incident no 479**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with slogans	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Evros	Didymoteicho	2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



**Incident no 480**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icon)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	2019

**Incident no 481**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Metropolis of Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa)





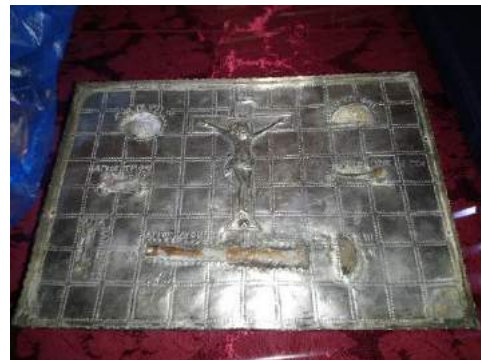
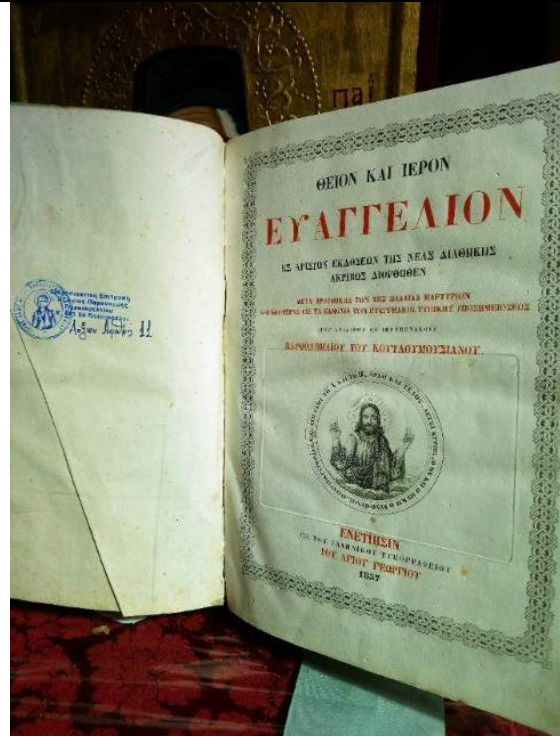
**Incident no 482**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons from 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	2019

**Incident no 483**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (Epitaph, cross, gospel, ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	2019
Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Metropolis of Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa)					





**Incident no 484**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 485**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 486**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 487**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 488**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism, theft	Vandalism (V), Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 489**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism, theft	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 490**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Collection box broken into	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 491**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 492**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Cemetery church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 493**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 494**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 495**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incidents no 496-499 (4 incidents)**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-ins	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incidents no 500-501 (2 incidents)**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Monastery	Dodecanese	Kos	2019

**Incident no 502**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (icons from 19 <sup>th</sup> century and Gospel)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Ioannina	Konitsa	2019



**Incident no 503**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Lesvos	Moria	2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



**Incident no 504**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Chapel	Lesvos	Moria	2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



Other incidents that took place in 2019:

**Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros:**

- Vandalism of archaeological sites and palaiochristian basilicae in Kos town and villages
- Saint Antonios church: vandalism

**Holy Metropolis of Mantinea and Kynouria:**

- Vandalism (window glasses broken and graffiti) at churches

**Holy Metropolis of Samos and Icaria:**

- Vandalism at wayside shrines (Samos town)

**Holy Archdiocese of Crete:**

- Repeated acts of vandalism at a church in Heraklion

**Holy Metropolis of Kastoria:**

- The Metropolis' radio station antennas were vandalized

**Holy Metropolis of Siderokastron:**

- Money stolen from various churches

**Holy Metropolis of Arta:**

- Commemoration monument damaged by drove of cows.

**Halkidiki:**

- Bronze representations were stolen from commemoration monument

**Heraklion:**

- Man holding sledgehammer performs Islamic prayer at the churchyard of Agios Minas. After assaulting bystanders, he was taken away by the police.

Indicative photographs (Source: our files at the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs)





## d. Addendum

### i. Statistical Presentation

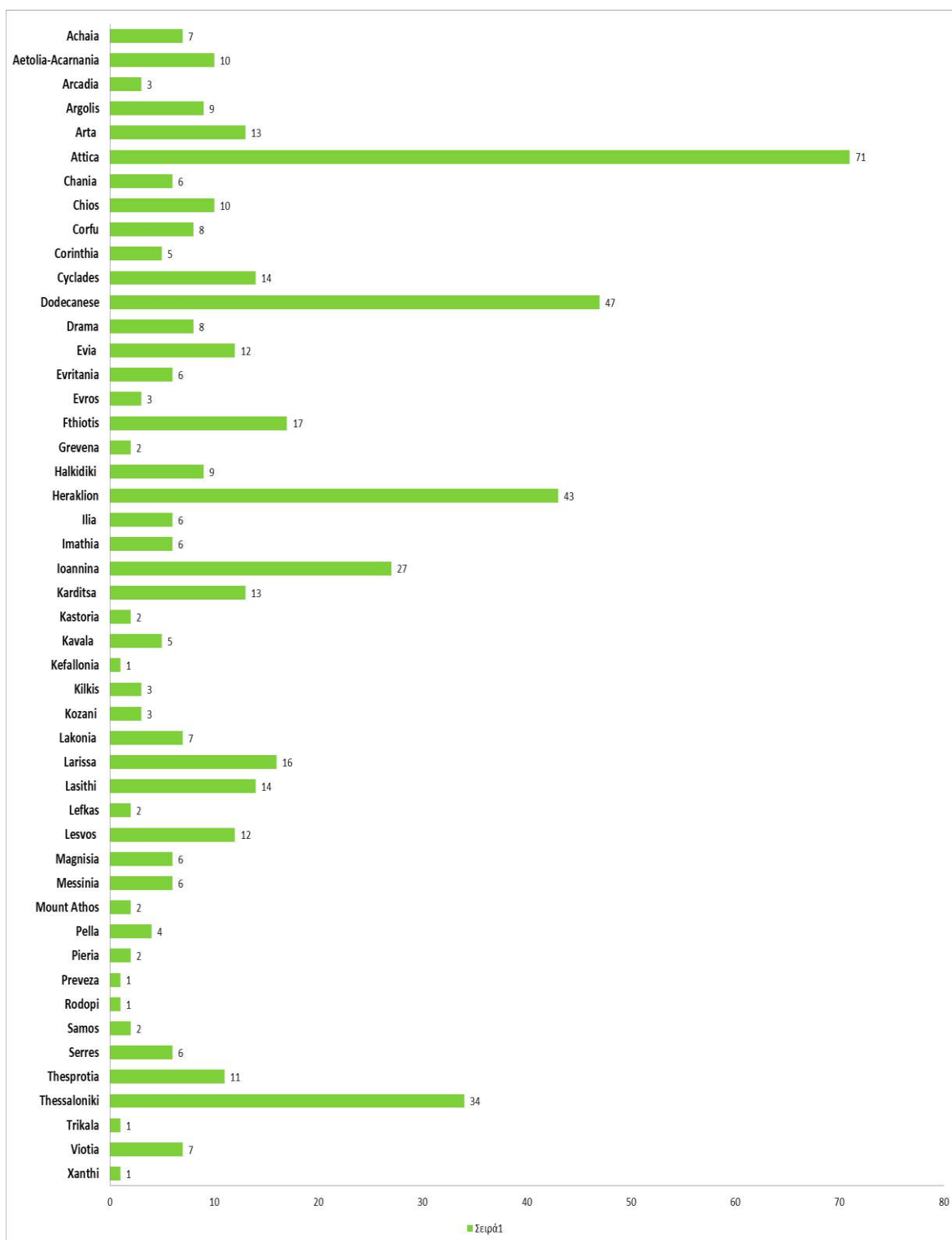


Figure 1: Total number of incidents for year 2019 by region



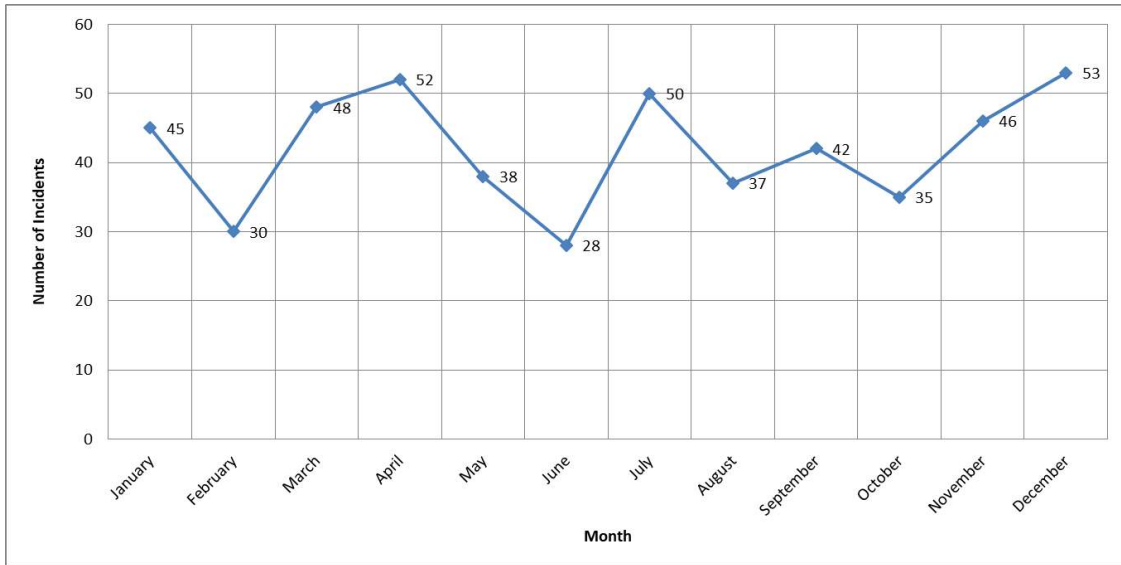


Figure 3: Incidents of year 2019 by month

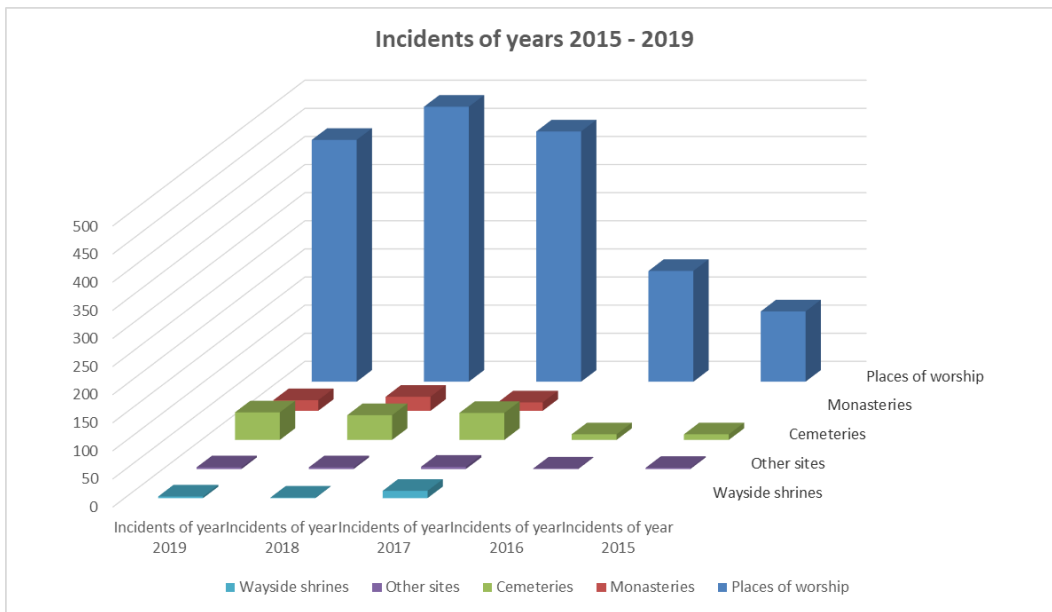


Figure 4: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015-2019 by site

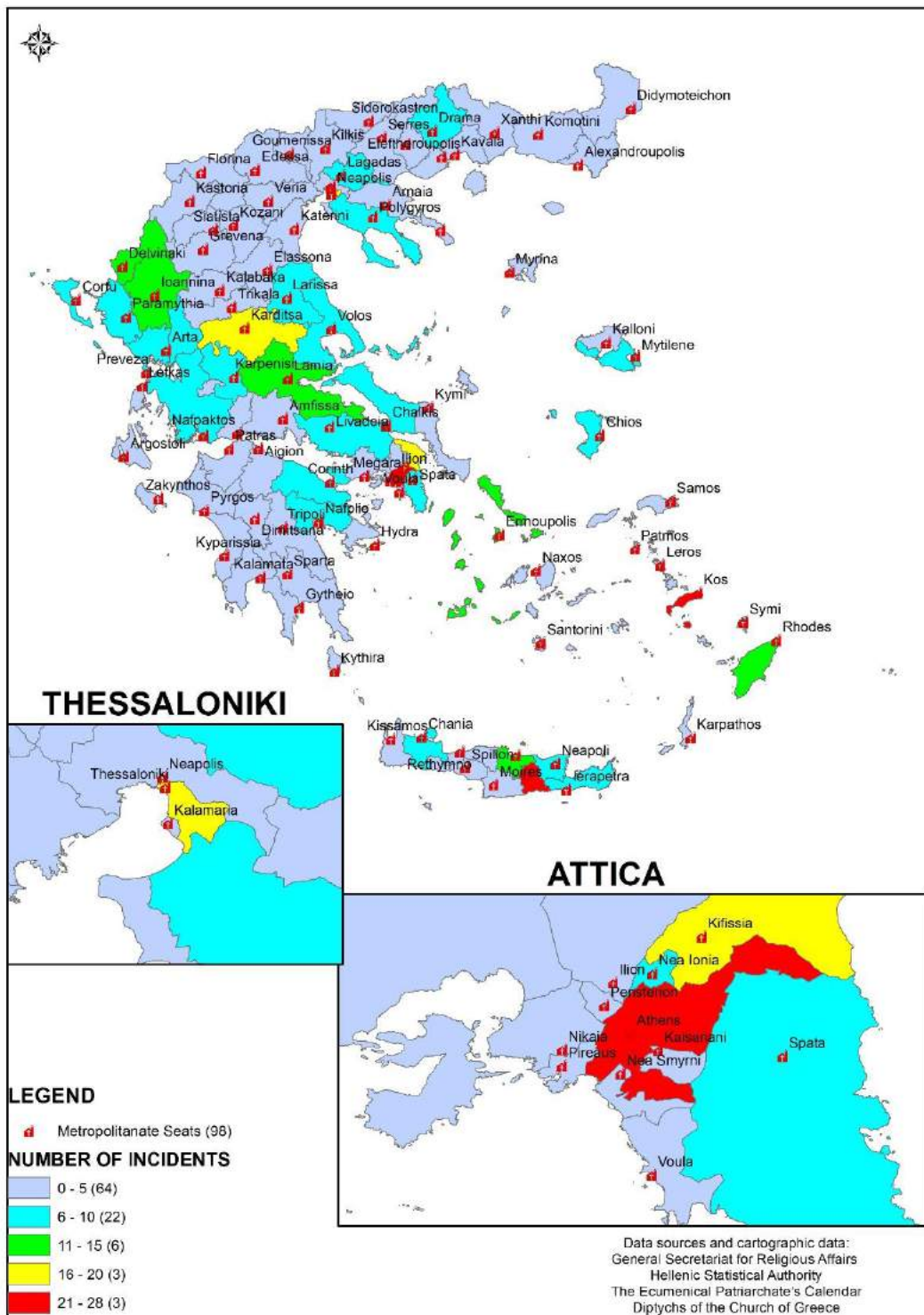


Figure 5: Incidents of year 2019 by Holy Metropolis





### iii. Numerical Data on the Orthodox Church in Greece

<b>CHURCH OF GREECE (TOTAL: 82 Metropolises)</b>		<b>SEAT</b>	<b>N° of PARISHES</b>	<b>N° of MONASTERIES</b>
1	Holy Archdiocese of Athens	Athens	145	7
2	Aitolia 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	Filippioi, 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	14
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	3

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	Monemvasia 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	17	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	14	1	
64	Poliana and Kilkis	Kilkis	120	3	
65	Samos, Ikaria and Korsoi	Samos	117	18	
66	Serrai and Nigrita	Serrai	118	5	
67	Servia and Kozani	Kozani	95	5	
68	Siderokastron	Siderokastron	69	7	
69	Sisanion and Siatista	Siatista	87	11	
70	Stagoi and Meteora	Kalabaka	71	13	
71	Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos	Ermoupolis	129	13	
72	Thera, Amorgos and Nisoi	Thera	33	3	
73	Thessaliotis and Fanariofersala	Karditsa	234	14	
74	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	43	2	
75	Thevai and Levadeia	Levadeia	112	23	
76	Trikki and Stagoi	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	Ydra, Spetsai and Aigina	Ydra	52	12	
81	Zakynthos and Strophades	Zakynthos	61	4	
82	Zichnai and Nevrokopion	Nea Zichni	69	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8.128</b>	<b>559</b>	
<b>CHURCH OF CRETE (TOTAL: 9 Metropolises)</b>			<b>SEAT</b>	<b>N° of PARISHES</b>	<b>N° of MONASTERIES</b>
1	Holy Archdiocese of Crete		Heraklion	127	9
2	Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos		Arkalochori	91	4
3	Gortyna and Arkadia		Moirai	109	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
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>859</b>	<b>60</b>

<b>ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF THE DODECANESE (TOTAL: 5 Metropolises &amp; 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)</b>		<b>SEAT</b>	<b>N° of PARISHES</b>	<b>N° of MONASTERIES</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>172</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL: 97 (96 Metropolises and 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)</b>			<b>9.159</b>	<b>655</b>
			<b>Grand Total of Parish and Monastery Churches: 9.814</b>	

#### iv. Historical religious sites of the Orthodox Church

In Greece a large number of Christian churches of the Byzantine period (330-1453) are preserved dating back to the early Christian period (4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> century), such as the Panagia Acheiropoietos and the Monastery of Latomou in Thessaloniki, as well as the early Byzantine period (between the mid-7<sup>th</sup> and the mid-9<sup>th</sup> centuries), the middle Byzantine period (between the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century and the Conquest of Constantinople by the crusaders in 1204) and the late byzantine period (1204 to the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453). Notable cultural monuments of Christian churches were built in the post-byzantine period from 1453 to 1830, mainly on Crete (before the Ottoman conquest) and on the Ionian islands which were never conquered by the Ottomans.

A significant number of these churches was registered by the competent Ministry of Culture and Sports and is presented on the website "[Odysseus](#)" where there is information available on 350 [Christian places of worship](#) classified as cultural monuments. Additionally, Mount Athos, Meteora, early Byzantine and Byzantine monuments of Thessaloniki, Monastery of Daphni, Monastery of Osios Loukas, Nea Moni at Chios, Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Patmos have been listed on UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and are protected, in accordance with the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage ratified by Greece in 1981.

A large number of Byzantine Christian churches and monasteries in Athens were destroyed and looted especially during the period of the Regency (1833-1835) and subsequently during the reign of Otto. Thus, after the publication of the "Declaration on the Independence of the Greek Church" (**Royal Decree 23-7/1-8-1833**), monasteries (approximately 400) with fewer than six monks<sup>22</sup> were dissolved by a series of decrees and their property was confiscated. **Royal Decree 27-5/9-6-1836** (Official Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic A' 22) stipulates that the property (real estate and movable assets) of the dissolved monasteries shall be divested in order to construct a University; additionally, the ruined churches, even the private ones, including the land, are granted to the municipalities in order to be auctioned and the money raised shall be used for charitable works. This policy which was connected, to a certain extent, with the moving of the State's capital from Nafplio to Athens (Royal Decree 18-30.9.1834, Official Government Gazette A' 36) and the effort to reconstruct it, had devastating consequences on the maintenance of byzantine churches in Athens; most of them were demolished in order for the land to be divested and to the benefit of the urban planning.

The Church of Greece has never received any compensation for the destruction and the confiscation of churches, monasteries and of their property.

#### v. [Article by his Eminence Metropolitan Ignatios of Demetrias and Almyros, on "Defending Humanity" \(Newspaper "Ta Nea" November 9, 2019\)](#)

#### vi. [Statement by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France at the meeting of the World Council of Churches \(WCC\) and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations \(IJIC\) \(Paris, June 26, 2019\).](#)

*"The normalization of hatred: challenges for Jews and Christians today"*

*His Eminence, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France*

*IJIC-WCC meeting*

*Paris, June 2019*

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<sup>22</sup> Troiannos, S. op.cit., § 2.1.4.

*Distinguished guests,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Dear friends,*

*On behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of this joint meeting between the IJCIC and WCC on the crucial topic of hatred.*

*Last May, I accompanied H.A.H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on his visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, in Poland. In the history of humanity, very few places have inspired so much terror, abomination and horror. Auschwitz-Birkenau encapsulates what humankind, moved by pure hatred, can do to dehumanize and desecralize the image of God placed in each and every person.*

*I was profoundly moved by this opportunity to stand at this place where so many died, victims of hatred and a bloody thirst for injustice. The world continues to mourn this disaster, this unspeakable tragedy. While walking on the ground of what is today a memorial, the words of Prophet Jeremiah sprang to mind: "How long will the land mourn and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it?" (Jr 12:4)*

*The Orthodox Church has many historic ties to Judaism and to the Jewish people. During the Second World War, the people of Greece and the Orthodox Church fought for their Jewish brothers and sisters and saved many of them.*

*On July 11, 1942, for example, the German Nazis surrounded the Jews in the city of Thessalonica in northern Greece, in order to send them to the concentration camps. The community paid 2.5 billion drachmas for their freedom, but all they could do was to delay the transfer until the following March. 96% of the members of the Jewish community in Thessalonica, 46,091 people, were sent to Auschwitz. Only 1,950 of them returned to find most of their sixty synagogues destroyed, their cemetery was sacked and their schools dilapidated. Some of the survivors migrated to Israel and the United States. The Jewish community of Thessalonica survived and currently has about 1,000 members and maintains four synagogues. We remember with pride the bold and courageous behavior of the late Metropolitan Gennadios of Thessalonica who repeatedly took initiatives to protect the city's Jewish community.*

*As H.A.H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew also recalled during his last visit to Poland, many stories have been recorded of pure sacrificial love during this horrible time. Among them, he reminded us of Saint Maria of Paris, together with her friends and her son, Yuri. During the Second World War, she was arrested by the Gestapo in France for helping Jews to escape persecution and sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where she was selected for the gas chambers on Holy Saturday, 1945. She is not only a saint of the Orthodox Church but also a Righteous Among the Nations. Her destiny reminds us of the self-sacrificial love that transcends hope itself to become divine.*

*Orthodox Christians stand with sorrow in front of human pain and war. Our faith teaches us that we must not be unfair and irresponsible towards our brethren. As the official document "The Orthodox Church Mission in the Modern World" of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete in 2016 states: "secularism; violence; moral laxity; detrimental phenomena such as the use of addictive substances and other addictions especially in the lives of certain youth; racism; the arms race and wars, as well as the resulting social catastrophes; the oppression of certain social groups, religious communities, and entire peoples; social inequality; the restriction of human rights in the field of freedom of conscience—in particular religious freedom; the misinformation and manipulation of public*

*opinion; economic misery; the disproportionate redistribution of vital resources or complete lack thereof; the hunger of millions of people; forced migration of populations and human trafficking; the refugee crisis; the destruction of the environment; and the unrestrained use of genetic biotechnology and biomedicine at the beginning, duration, and end of human life. These all create infinite anxiety for humanity today”.*

*Unfortunately, even today, extremist groups continue to cultivate anti-Semitism. In recent years, the Jewish community in France has been deeply wounded by several vile attacks and murders, clearly showing that anti-Semitism is still real and very much alive. It is unacceptable for us, as Christian leaders, to look the other way while this vile trend spreads across Europe.*

*In its statement, the European Council recognizes that Jewish communities in various EU countries feel particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks following the increase in violent incidents in recent years. It notes that anti-Semitic hatred remains widespread, as confirmed in the 2018 Anti-Semitism Report of the Fundamental Rights Agency.*

*The declaration calls on the Member States to adopt and implement a holistic strategy to prevent and combat all forms of anti-Semitism in their strategies for the prevention of racism, xenophobia, radicalization and violent extremism. Member States are also invited to step up their efforts to guarantee the safety of Jewish communities and institutions, and Jewish citizens.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Dear friends,*

*Let us reflect on the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: “Darkness can not drive away the darkness. Only the light can do that. Hate can not extinguish hate. Only love can do that.” To fight Anti-Semitism, hatred, and discrimination of all kinds, we all need to be involved. The role of education and family is very important indeed, but religious communities also have a key role to play in eradicating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.*

*The ongoing outburst of religious fundamentalism and terrible acts of violence perpetrated in the name of religion lend credence to modern critiques of religious faith and support the identification of religion with its negative aspects. The truth is that violence is the negation of our fundamental religious beliefs and doctrine. True faith does not release humans from responsibility for the world or the obligation to respect human dignity and struggle for justice and peace. On the contrary, it strengthens or commitment to action and enlarges our witness for freedom and human core values.*

*As Herodotus, the great Greek historian and father of historiography wrote: “Οὐδείς γάρ οὕτω ἀνόητος ἐστὶ ὅστις πόλεμον πρό εἰρήνης αἰρέεται· ἐν μὲν γὰρ τῇ οἱ παῖδες τοὺς πατέρας θάπτουσι, ἐν δὲ τῷ οἱ πατέρες τοὺς παῖδας”, which means: “No one is so foolish as to prefer war to peace. In peace, sons bury their fathers. In war, fathers bury their sons.”*

*Thank you for your attention!»*



vii. Declaration against domestic violence by representatives of the Orthodox Church of Greece and of the Muslim Minority of Thrace (on Thursday November 28, 2019) signed by Metropolitan Athinagoras of Ilion, Acharnai and Petroupolis (President of the Special Holy Synod Committee), Metropolitan Damaskinos of Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli, Metropolitan Pandeileimon of Xanthi and Peritheorion, Metropolitan Anthimos of Alexandroupolis, Traianoupolis and Samothraki, Metropolitan Pandeileimon of Maroneia and Komotini and the Mouftis of the Muslim Minority of Thrace, Moufti of Didymoteicho Osman Hamza, Moufti of Komotini Halil Jihad, Moufti of Xanthi Bilal Karahalil.

viii. [His Eminence Metropolitan Nektarios of Argolis was interviewed on ANT1 channel to comment on "Blasphemy Party" organized on Christmas Eve 2019](#)

ix. [Claim of responsibility by anarchist group](#) - Incident no 53

x. [Claim of responsibility by anarchist group](#) - Incident no 84

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=579242635910070&id=384828568684812](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=579242635910070&id=384828568684812)

## 2. Catholic Church in Greece

### a. Introduction

By the **London Protocol (No. 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 (No.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 (No.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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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

For the year **2019**, **three (3) incidents** have been recorded, as follows:

##### Incident no 1

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in	Break-in (B) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Tinos	April 23, 2019

##### Incident no 2

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Break-in and theft (money and other items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	N. Heraklio	October 27, 2019

##### Incident no 3

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (money)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Cyclades	Mykonos	December 21, 2019

### c. Addendum

#### i. Statistical presentation

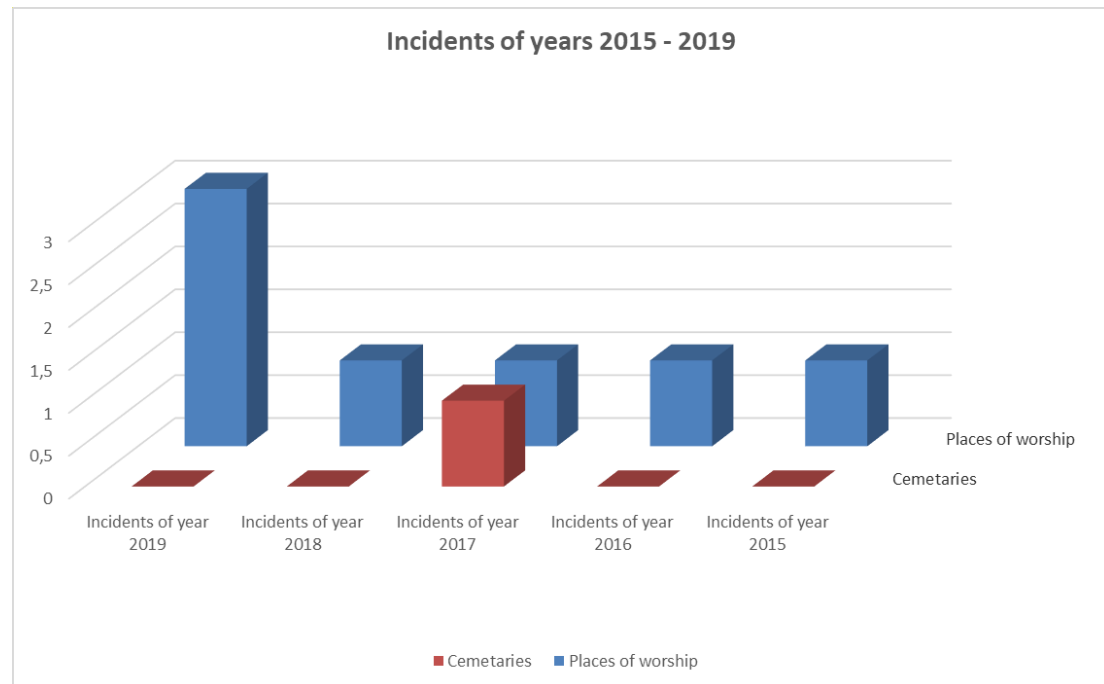


Figure 7: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015-2019 by site

#### 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, Mykonos	28	4
Catholic Archdiocese of Corfu, Zante and Cefalonia	7	5
Catholic Archdiocese of Athens	17	18
Catholic Archdiocese of Rodos	3	3
Catholic Diocese of Syros	15	4
Catholic Diocese of Thira (Santorini)	1	1
Catholic Diocese of Crete	3	2
Catholic Diocese of Chios	1	0
Apostolic Vicariate of Thessalonica	4	8
Exarch of Byzantine Rite	2	2
Ordinariat of Armenian Rite	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>47</b>

### 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**

*Seat in Tinos*

(central and northern Aegean sea. The islands of Naxos, Paros, Antiparos, Koufonisia, Donousa, Sxoinousa, Amorgos, Tinos, Mykonos, Andros and Delos)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Corfu Zante and Cefalonia, Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Corfu*

(northern Greece, The islands of Corfu, Paxoi, Antipaxoi, Lefkada, Ithaki, Kephallonia, Zakynthos and region of Epirus)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Athens, Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Athens*

(Counties of central Greece and Evia and Skyros, Peloponnisos, the islands of Argosaronikos, Kithera and Antikithera)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Rodos, Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Rodos - Apostolic Administrator : Catholic Archbishop of Athens*

(Dodecanese)

**Catholic Diocese of Syros, Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Syros*

The islands of Cyclades: Syros, Gyaros, Kea, Kithnos, Serifos, Sifnos Milos and Kimolos

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

*Seat in Thira*

The islands of Thira, Thirasia, Ios, Anafi, Folegandros and Sikinos

**Catholic Diocese of Crete, Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Chania, Crete - Apostolic Administrator: Catholic Bishop of Syros*

**Catholic Diocese of Chios (Lesbos-Samos), Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Chios - Apostolic Administrator: Catholic Archbishop of Naxos - Tinos*

The islands of Chios, Psara, Oinousses, Lesvos, Lemnos, Samos, Ikaria, Fourni

**Apostolic Vicariate of Thessalonica, Religious Legal Person**

*Seat in Thessalonica - Apostolic Administrator: Catholic Archbishop of Corfu*

Macedonia, Thraki, Thessalia, the islands of northern Sporades (except Skyros), Thasos, 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:

	Legal name	Decision number
1	Metropolis of Attica and Boeotia of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal Person	165/2015, Court of First Instance in Thebes
2	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	Metropolis of Thessaloniki of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal Person	8711/2017, Court of First Instance in Thessaloniki
8	True Orthodox Christians of Oropos and Fyli, Religious Legal Person	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	2699/2019 Court of First Instance in Piraeus

Additionally, religious places (worship places) 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 2020), there are 630 worship places of Christian Religious Communities which include those of the **Anglican Church (5)**, the **Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt (3)**, the **Armenian Orthodox Church (10)**, the **German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece (3)**, the **Greek Evangelical Church (38)**, the **Fellowship of Greek Free Evangelical Churches (50)**, the **Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (2)**, the **Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (7)**, the **Christian Assyrian Church (1)**, the **Armenian Evangelical Church (1)**, the **Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost (91)**, the **Apostolic Church of Pentecost (18)**, the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) (3)**, the **Adventist Church (10)**, the **Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses (100)**, the **True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists) (195)** and other religious groups with a smaller number of adherents.

**Nineteen (19)** requests for a permit to establish and operate a worship place or temple have been filed in **2019**. **Thirteen** out of these were admissible while **eight** were still pending on December 31, 2019, due to insufficient supporting documents.

It is noted that in 2019 four (4) permits to establish and operate a worship place was revoked.

In 2018, two court decisions were issued (number 2699/2019 by the Court of First Instance in Piraeus and number 3353/2019 by the Court of First Instance in Thessaloniki) by which the “Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Nikaia” and the “Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki” were recognized as Religious Legal Persons in non-contentious proceedings under article 3 of Law 4301/2014.

For the year **2019**, incidents against religious sites of the above Christian communities were reported as follows:

#### a. True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

##### Incident no 1

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Piraeus	May 6, 2019

##### Incident no 2

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (ecclesiastical items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Church	Attica	Piraeus	September 25, 2019

### Incident no 3

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Theft (various items)	Theft (T) (Attack against property)	Glebe of All Saints (belonging to Monastery in Fyli, Attika)	Aitolia-Acarnania	Agrinio	December 6, 2019

### b. Jehovah's Christian Witnesses of Greece

#### Incident no 1

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Place of worship (non-official)	Attica	Alimos	January 19, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Jehova's Christian Witnesses of Greece)







**Incident no 2**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Place of worship (non-official)	Attica	Alimos	January 26, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Jehova's Christian Witnesses of Greece)



**Incident no 3**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Entrance door set on	Vandalism (V) (Attack against	Place of worship	Drama	Horisti	December 11, 2019

fire	property)				
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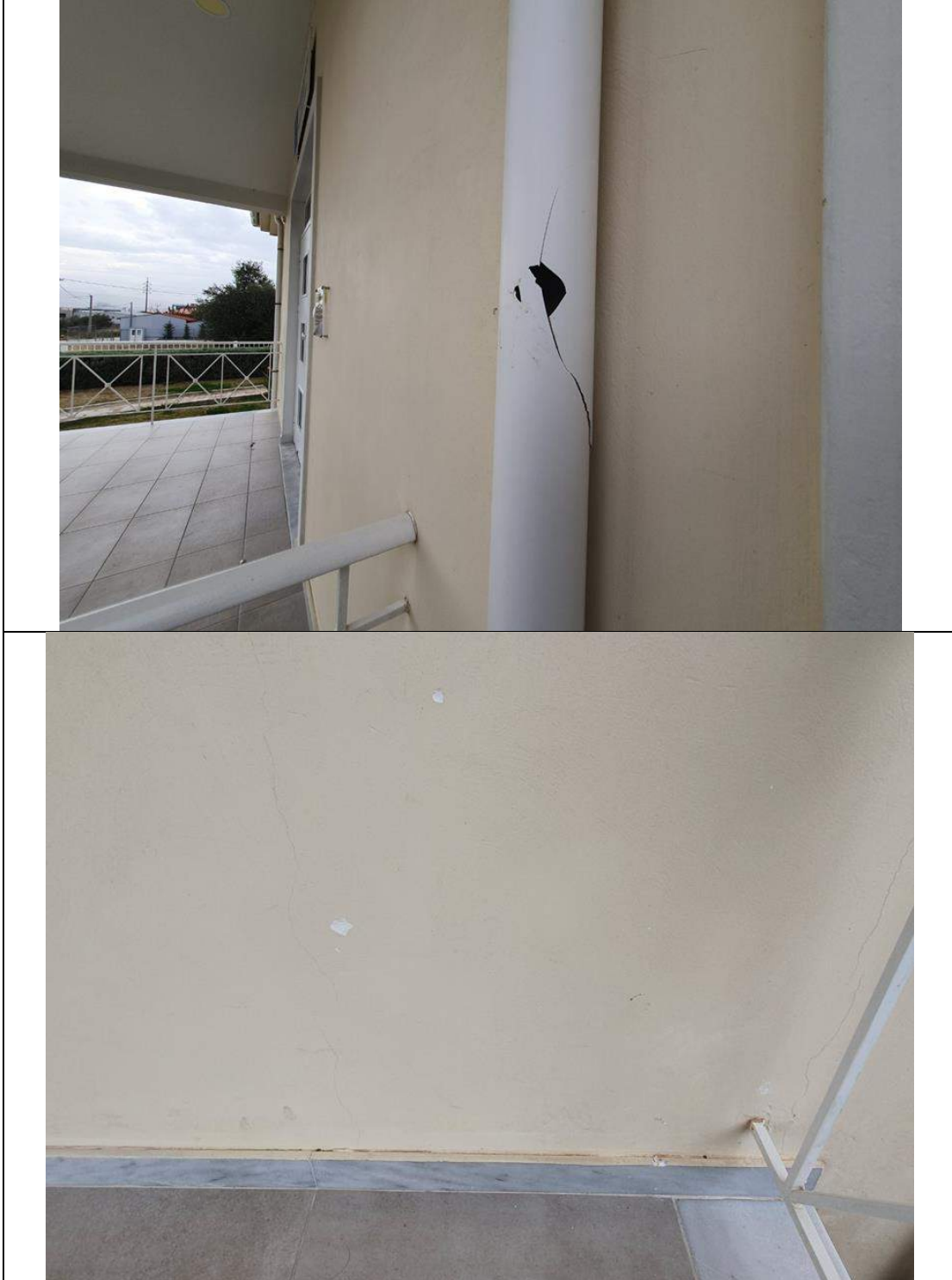
Indicative photographs  
(Source: Jehova's Christian  
Witnesses of Greece)



**Incident no 4**

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with throwing stones	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Place of worship	Attica	Acharnai	December 22, 2019

Indicative photographs (Source: Jehova's Christian Witnesses of Greece)



## 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 Eliezer<sup>23</sup>:

*"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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE – 15<sup>th</sup> 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:

*"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 Greece<sup>24</sup> since it:*

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<sup>23</sup> Eliezer Victor (2017, May 4). The Jewish community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe. European Jewish Press.

<sup>24</sup> 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).

- *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 1970<sup>25</sup> 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 Synagogues operate in Athens, three in Thessaloniki, one in Larissa, one in Volos, one in Ioannina, one in Trikala, one in Chalkis and one in Corfu. Three Synagogues operate in the inactive Jewish communities: one in Rhodes, one in Kavala and one in Veria. In Crete, the only remaining Synagogue is the Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania.

## 2. Legal framework

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”<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> See Moses Konstantinis “[Jewish Communities of Greece after the Holocaust](#)” p. 32

<sup>26</sup> 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”

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 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 27<sup>27</sup> 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, 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 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.

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<sup>27</sup> On January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp of the Nazis was liberated by the soviet army. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution A/RES/60/7, designating January 27<sup>th</sup> 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 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 anti-Semitic crime and organizing a pilot training program for members of public security agencies.

### 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 2019, **five (5) incidents were recorded in total. These acts are manifestly anti-Semitic** 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.

#### Incident no 1

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Inscriptions and marble gravestones destroyed	Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Jewish Cemetery Memorial	Thessaloniki	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	January 25, 2019

Indicative photo (Source: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)



Remarks

[KIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE VANDAL ATTACK AGAINST THE JEWISH MONUMENT IN THE CAMPUS OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY IN THESSALONIKI](#)

### Incident no 2

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Commemorative plaques (Stolpersteine) honoring victims of the Holocaust were vandalized	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Holocaust Memorial	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki, port	April 10, 2019

Indicative photo (Source: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)



### Incident no 3

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Holocaust Memorial honoring Greek Jewish children victims of the Holocaust was	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Holocaust Memorial	Attica	Athens	May 6, 2019



#### Incident no 4

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Fliers were thrown into the former Jewish Primary school where Jewish children take Hebrew lessons on Fridays	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Former Jewish Primary School	Larissa	Larissa	October 11, 2019

#### Incident no 5

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with antisemitic slogans painted on the wall of the Synagogue of Trikala	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Synagogue	Trikala	Trikala	December 31, 2019

Indicative photo (Source: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)

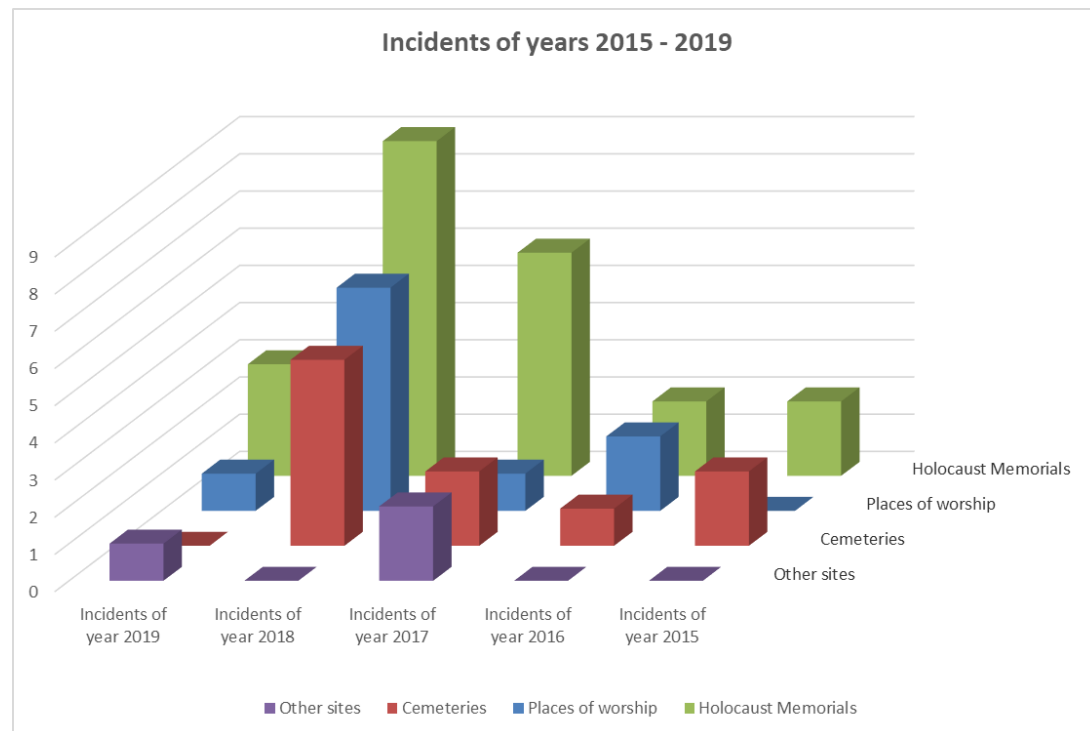


Remarks

Announcement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece on the Antisemitic graffiti at the Synagogue of Trikala  
[https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=861:announcement-for-the-antisemitic-graffiti-at-the-synagogue-of-trikala&catid=9:deltiotypoy&Itemid=32](https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=861:announcement-for-the-antisemitic-graffiti-at-the-synagogue-of-trikala&catid=9:deltiotypoy&Itemid=32)

## 4. Addendum

### a. Statistical presentation



**Figure 8: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015-2019 by site**

### **[b. Communication on adopting the IHRA Definitions of anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial \(November 8, 2019, Hellenic Republic, Office of the Prime Minister\)](#)**

On the eve of the Kristallnacht anniversary (the Night of Broken Glass), one of the most tragic moments in the history of Judaism, Prime-Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met with the President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece Mr. David Saltiel and members of the Board, as well as with the Head of the Greek Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Dr. Efstathios Lianos Liantis, in order to announce the adoption by the Hellenic Republic of the IHRA Working Definitions on anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial.

The Definition of anti-Semitism has been adopted by many countries within and outside the European Union and by the European Parliament which by its relevant resolution calls on the Member States to incorporate it into their national legislation. With today's announcement Greece becomes the first country to adopt the Working Definition of the Holocaust Denial in an act of great historical significance.

The Prime Minister was briefed on the progress of the preparation for the 2021 Greek Presidency of the IHRA which will bring Greece at the forefront of countries that fight anti-Semitism and have a decisive say in drafting and adopting legislative and educational initiatives to combat it.

The Greek Presidency of the IHRA coinciding with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek Revolution, will consist of a set of academic, educational and cultural actions focusing on the

role of education and social media in preserving Holocaust Remembrance and eliminating anti-Semitism, as well as on enhancing the bimillenary history of Greek Jewry. In today's meeting, the Prime Minister entrusted Mr. Panagiotis Pikrammenos, Vice-President of the Government, with the task of coordinating and monitoring this process as well as the task of leading and supervising the process of adopting the Definitions in domestic legislation and education.

#### c. [KIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ANTISEMITIC ATTACKS IN HALLE GERMANY](#)

Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece

Athens, October 10, 2019

"A German neonazi chose the holy day of Yom Kippur, when the Jews all over the world gather and pray in synagogues, to [attack and spread terror and death at the Synagogue of Halle, in Germany, murdering two people and injuring others](#).

The perpetrator's message of hatred and Holocaust denial, 75 years after the Holocaust, indicates that antisemitism in Europe is not part of a tragic past but an existing present manifested in a brutal practice of violence leaving innocent victims.

Europe must protect its Jewish citizens and effectively deal with antisemitism, considering it as a threat against democracy itself, and as violation of fundamental human rights. The attack against the synagogue proves that hate rhetoric swiftly evolves into violence and bloodshed.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), which represents all Jewish Communities in Greece, **thanks the Ministry of Citizen Protection** and especially the **Greek police** department for having timely and effectively taken all necessary measures for the security of all Jewish sites of interest around Greece. We also welcome the immediate **reaction of the Greek Education Minister, Mrs [Niki Kerameus](#)**, who expressed her repugnance for the attack and stressed that ***"this incident reminds us -in the most harsh way- of our duty to continue our struggle against anti-Semitism"***.

KIS expresses the deep sorrow and the condolences of the Greek Jewry to the families of the victims, along with its solidarity towards the Jewish Community of Halle. Terror and fear will not break us. We are here to keep defending the principles of humanism against intolerance and antisemitism."

#### d. [Ανάπτυξη Minister of Education and Religious Affairs Niki Kerameus' post on social media \(October 10, 2019\)](#)

I contacted the President and Secretary-General of the Central Board of Jewish Communities to express my outrage and my condolences over the tragic incident in Germany. This is yet another event to remind us in a most cruel manner of our duty to continue our fight against anti-Semitism".

## 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.

### 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 worship/prayer in Thrace \(mosques, tekke, masjid, jem, cemevi\)”](#) (Online Publication Number 780Γ4653ΠΣ-Z3X).

An explicit reference is made in this circular regarding the obligation to protect the cultural heritage as derived from international conventions<sup>28</sup> and the national regulatory framework<sup>29</sup>. 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 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:

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<sup>28</sup> UNESCO Convention of 1972, Granada Convention of 1985

<sup>29</sup> Constitution of Greece, articles 24 (1) and (6); Law 3018/2002

- 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 107584/01/3-7-2019) 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 Yaylası in Hıllıa, Roussa, Mikro Dereio, Municipality of Soufli, Evros prefecture, on August 2, 3 and 4, 2019, ending on August 9, and to remain in Hıllıa 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.

## 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 in Kos respectively which initially had been set up as "Special Councils" according to the **decree (Ref. 12/2-5-1929)** by the Italian Governor of the Islands of the Aegean<sup>30</sup>. Currently, the Management Boards of the Managing bodies of the Waqf property in Rhodes and Kos are formed of five members and are set up by a decision of the South Aegean Region Administration every two years.

Their members are Greek Muslims, permanent residents of Rhodes or Kos respectively.

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

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<sup>30</sup> See also decree by the Army Commander of the Dodecanese (Ref: 19/29-4-1947) as ratified by Resolution ΑΔ' of the 4<sup>th</sup> Revisionary Hellenic Parliament (Official Government Gazette Α' 262/27-11-1947)

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 and the Eid al-Adha prayer.

By Acts 182953/01/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number Ω5MY46MTΛΗ-ZΦ7), 182982/01/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number 6X1H46MTΛΗ-BT2) και 182990/01/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number Ω27Λ46MTΛΗ-0XN) 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.

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. 176169/01/19-10-2018, Online Publication Number ΩA3Y4653ΠΣ-8B3) 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.

#### **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 past<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>31</sup> Ottoman Architecture in Greece, Collective work, 2009 (Η Οθωμανική Αρχιτεκτονική στην Ελλάδα – Συλλογικό, Δεκέμβριος 2009)

### c. Islamic houses of prayer

For the first time in 2013, applications for a permit to establish and to operate an Islamic worship place were lodged and they were all satisfied, except for those whose supporting documentation was incomplete. In 2019, two applications were filed and satisfied for granting a permit for Islamic houses of prayer («Zia Ul Ummat» (Sunni Muslims) and «Masjid Al Taqwa» (Sunni Muslims). **Currently, by May 2020, the total number of Islamic houses of prayer in Greece, not including Thrace and the Dodacanese, is ten.**

Since 2011, the Greek State grants spaces to Muslims<sup>32</sup> 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) marking the end of Ramadan and Abraham's sacrifice. A letter (August 12, 2019) by the Chairman of the Al-Ansar Association of Greek-Arabs and Immigrants was addressed to the Secretary General for Religious Affairs thanking him and the Hellenic Police for the arrangements made to facilitate the celebration of Eid Al Adha and the security measures taken.

Additionally, a parade is performed annually in Athens by Muslims honoring the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad; 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 Decree **135952/01/11-8-2017** (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies, 401, Online Publication Number 7ΦAB4653ΠΣ-1ΣΘ) the members of the first Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Committee of the Mosque of Athens" were 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 "Committee of the Mosque of Athens"* **151436/01/13-9-2018** was issued providing for, inter alia, the following:

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<sup>32</sup> 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*".

- 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 "Committee of the Mosque of Athens" was published.

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.

Following the expiration of term of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Committee of the Mosque of Athens", the new composition of the Management Board was appointed by Ministerial Decision 109537/Θ1/20 (ΥΟΔΔ 697-ΑΔΑ: 6ΨΞ446ΜΤΛΗ-ΒΝΕ).

The Mosque of Athens begun operating on Monday November 2, 2020, according to the relevant announcement made by the President of the Management Board:

"The Mosque begun 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 Β' 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".

#### 4. Incidents

For the year **2019**, the following **five (5)** incidents have been reported:

##### Incident no 1

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Aggravated damage	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Mosque of Athens	Attica	Athens	April 6, 2019

##### Incident no 2

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Copy of the Koran was damaged	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Mosque	Rodopi	Arisvi	April 15, 2019

##### Incident no 3

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with eggs thrown at the wall of the Mosque and with slogans sprayed	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Mosque	Xanthi	Xanthi	May 18/19, 2019

##### Incident no 4

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Gravestones vandalized with graffiti and broken	Vandalism (V) and Desecration (D) (Attack against property)	Islamic cemeteries	Evros	Alexandroupoli	April 28/29, 2019

#### Incident no 5

Type of act	Classified as	Site	Region	Area	Date
Vandalism with graffiti on the school front gate	Vandalism (V) (Attack against property)	Minority Secondary School of Xanthi	Xanthi	Xanthi	December 5, 2019

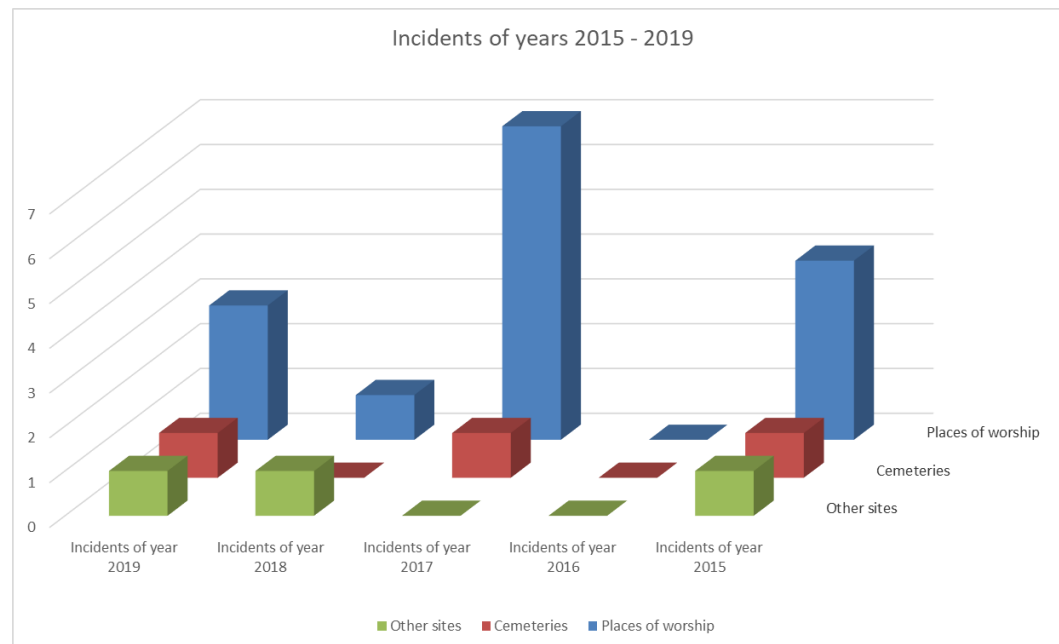
In relation to the graffiti spray-painted on the front gate of the Minority Secondary School of Xanthi, **Secretary General for Religious Affairs G. Kalantzis** condemned this act in his statement as follows:

*“Spray-painting an inappropriate slogan on the front gate of a school is an act of vandalism and disrespect and it is absolutely condemnable. As Orthodox Christians, we know that respecting the other, the one who does not share our ideas or has different characteristics or believes in a different religion or does not want to believe in any religion, is respecting God who created the world and gave us the freedom of choice. Condemning this indecency is both necessary and positive. But we must always be conscious and aware of the degree of seriousness of an incident in order not to go to extremes because then we achieve the opposite of what we intend to. Nor is it wise to instrumentalize such incidents in order to achieve other goals and particularly nationalistic ones. Let us remain focused on safeguarding the wealth of Thrace which consists of its unity in diversity”.*



## 5. Addendum

### a. Statistical presentation



**Figure 9: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015-2019 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 days of Islamic holidays for Minority Schools in addition to the rest of national school holidays.**

### c. Indicative list of Mosques classified as monuments<sup>33</sup>

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 present, works are underway for restoring important monuments, in some cases in collaboration with the Local Government.

The following list (updated in October 2019) 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.

#### **Stereia Ellada**

Athens, Fethiye Mosque (Mosque of the Wheat Bazar)

Athens, Mosque of the Lower Fountain (Tzisdarakis)

Athens, Medresse (Aiolou and Pelopida st.)

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<sup>33</sup> Source: Directorate for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, Ministry of Culture and Sports

Athens, Küçük Mosque, Mousaiou square, Plaka  
Chalkis Emir Zade Mosque and fountain  
Nafpaktos, Fethiye Mosque  
Nafpaktos, Vezir Mosque and ottoman fountains

### **Peloponnese**

Nafplio, Trianon or Old Mosque of the Constitution square  
Nafplio, "Vouleftiko" Mosque  
Nafplio, Medresse  
Nafplio, Catholic church ("Fragoklisia"), Mosque  
Argos, Church of Sts. Constantin and Eleni, Mosque  
Corinth, Akrokorinthos, Mosque  
Corinth, Ancient Corinth, Mausoleum (known as "Tekke")  
Monemvasia, Castle of Monemvasia, Mosque  
Pylos, Niokastro, Mosque (or Church of the Transfiguration of our Savior)

### **Epirus**

Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Mosque  
Ioannina, Castle, İç Kale, Fethiye Mosque  
Ioannina, Medresse Aslan Pasha, Castle  
Ioannina, Cookhouse Aslan Pasha, Castle  
Ioannina, Castle, Library of the Castle  
Ioannina, Kalousiani, Cesme Mosque  
Ioannina, Veli Pasha complex (Mosque, Medresse, cookhouse)  
Arta, Imaret Mosque (Faik Pasha)  
Arta, Feyzullah Mosque  
Konitsa, Kato Konitsa, three turbes

### **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

### **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  
Kavala, Imaret  
Serres, Ahmet Bey Mosque (Agia Sophia)  
Serres, Mustafa Bey Mosque  
Serres, Zincirli Mosque  
Drama, Dikastirion square Mosque

Drama, Mosque Agamemnonos and Armen st.  
Kato Nevrokopi, Exohi, Mosque  
Giannitsa, Mausoleum Gazi Evrenos  
Giannitsa, "Mescit" or Turbes Ahmet Bey  
Giannitsa, Iskender Bey Mosque  
Giannitsa, Ahmet Bey Mosque and baths  
Veria, Orta Mosque  
Veria, Mahmud Çelebi Mosque  
Veria, Musa Çelebi Medresse Mosque  
Veria, Minaret, Old Metropolis  
Edessa, Yeni Mosque  
Edessa, Hünkar Mosque  
Kastoria, Medresse and Library Ahmet Pasha  
Kastoria, Kursum Mosque  
Katerini, Abdullah Pasha Tekke  
Kilkis, Mesia, Sts. Constantin and Eleni Church

### **Thrace**

Xanthi, Genisea, Mustafa Pasha Mosque  
Xanthi, Genisea, Kasaba Mosque  
Xanthi, Selino, Kütüklü Baba Tekke  
Komotini, historical center, Yeni Mosque  
Komotini, Imaret  
Komotini, Eski Mosque  
Komotini, Tekke Pos-Pos  
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  
Lesvos, Mytilene, Kastro, Tekke  
Chios, Metzite Mosque  
Chios, Kara Ali Cemetery  
Chios, Osmaniye Mosque  
Chios, Bajrakli 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  
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, Neratze Mosque Minaret  
Rethymno, Kara Mousha Pasha Mosque  
Rethymno, Valide Sultana Mosque  
Rethymno, Veli Pasha Mosque complex (Tekke, Mosque, Medresse, poorhouse)  
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: **Buddhists** (7 worship places), **Hindus** (3 worship places), **Baha'i** (6 worship places) and **Hellenic Ethnic Religion** (1).

For the year **2019**, no incidents have been reported against sites of other religions.

### III. STATISTICAL PRESENTATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISPLAY

#### A. Statistical presentation of incidents for year 2019 by Religious Community

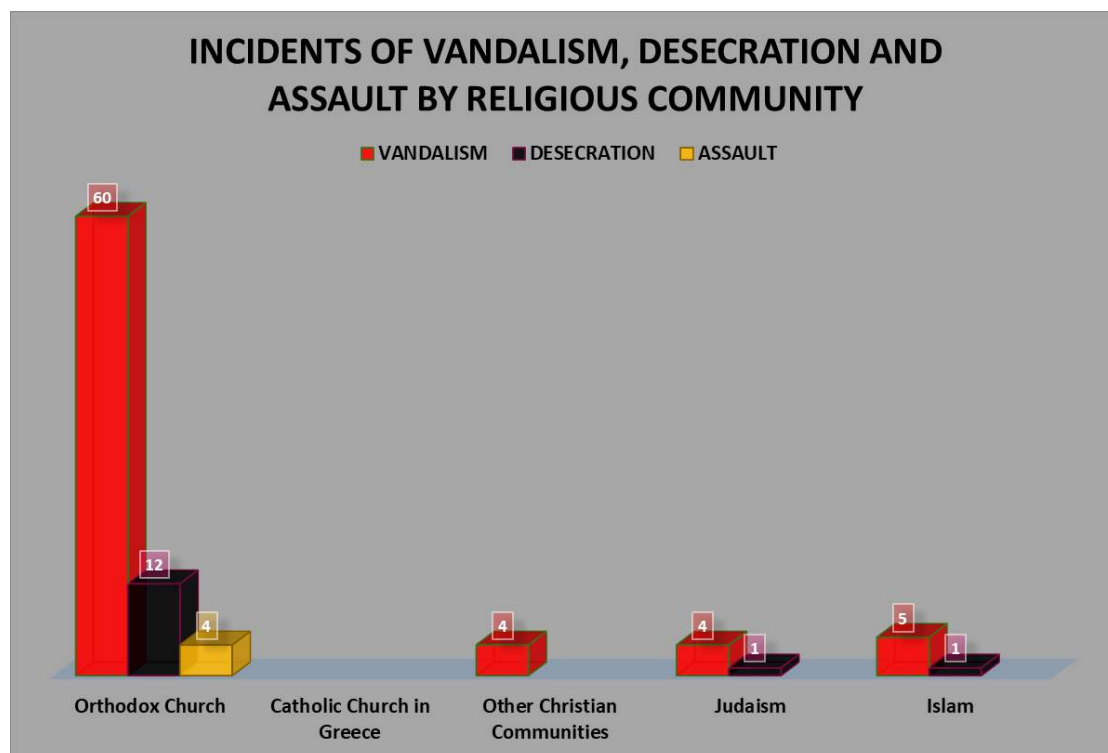


Figure 10: Incidents of Vandalism, Desecration and Assault by religious community

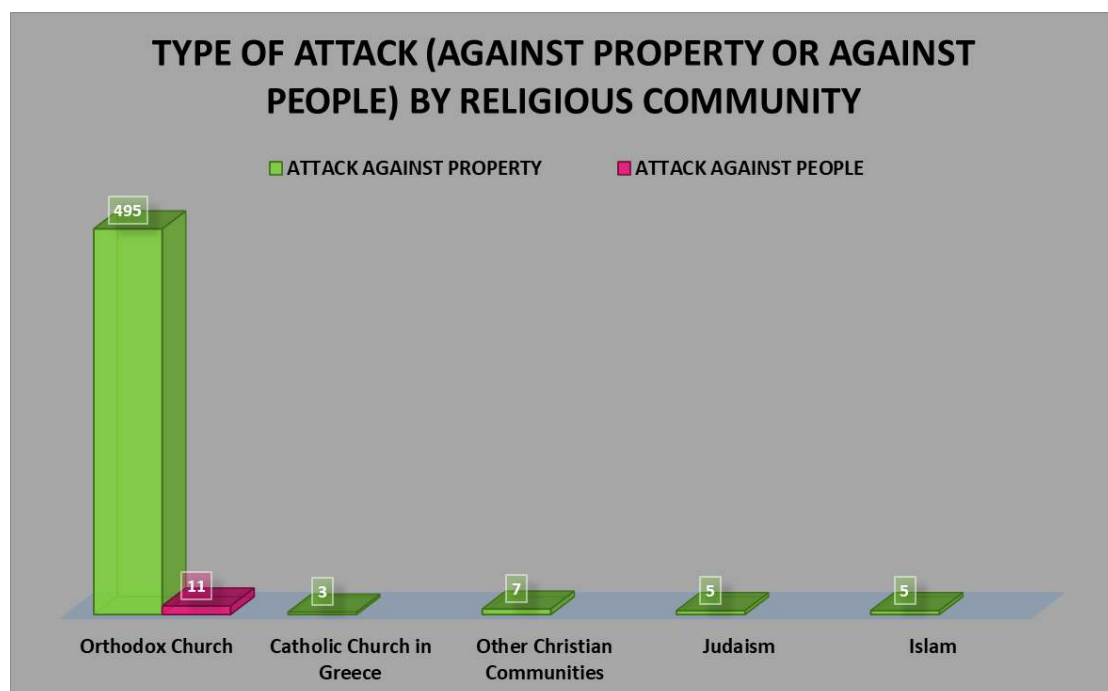
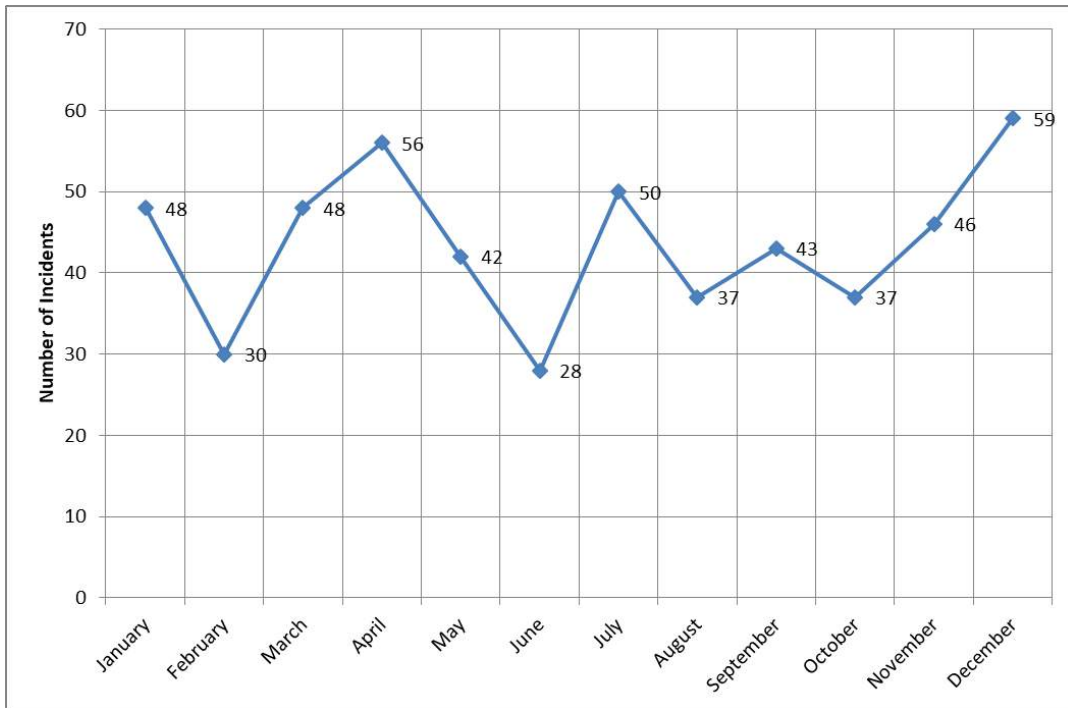
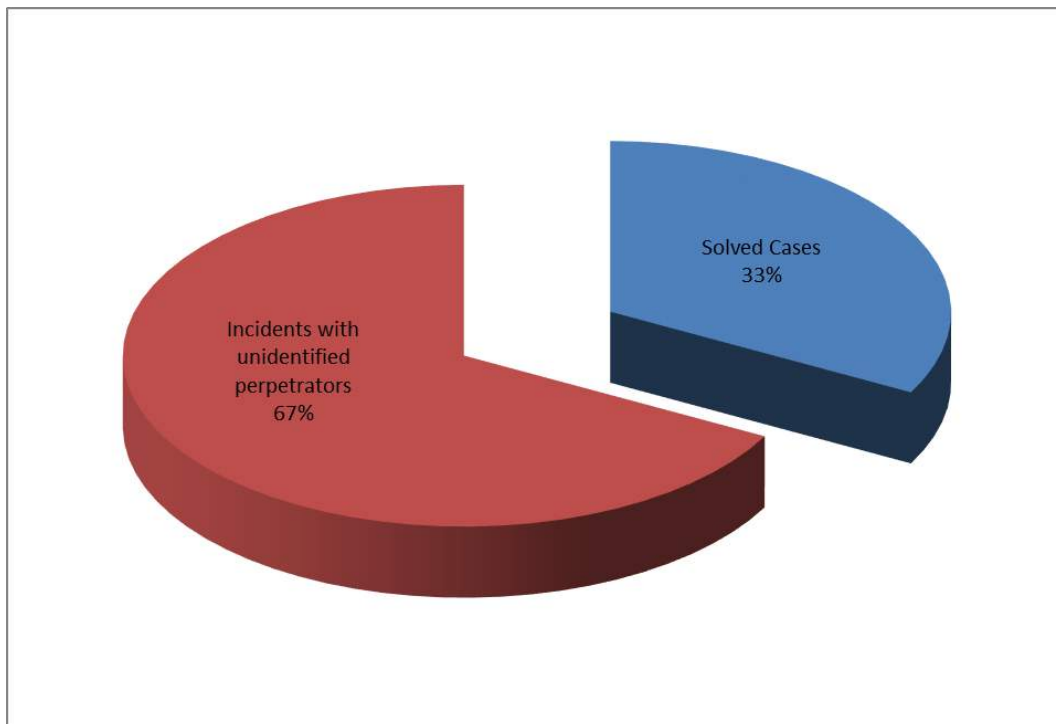


Figure 11: Type of attack (against property or against people) by religious community



**Figure 12: Total number of incidents against all religions by month**



**Figure 13: Solved and unsolved cases of incidents (all religions)**

## B. Geographical display of incidents for year 2019

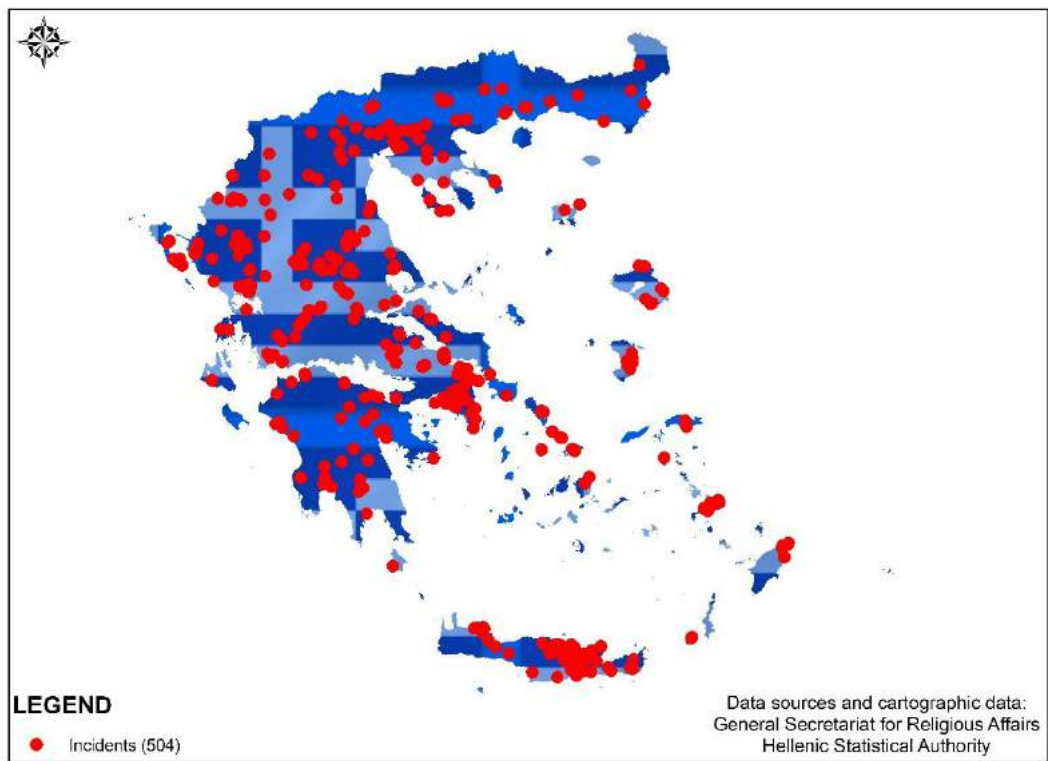


Figure 14: Orthodox Church

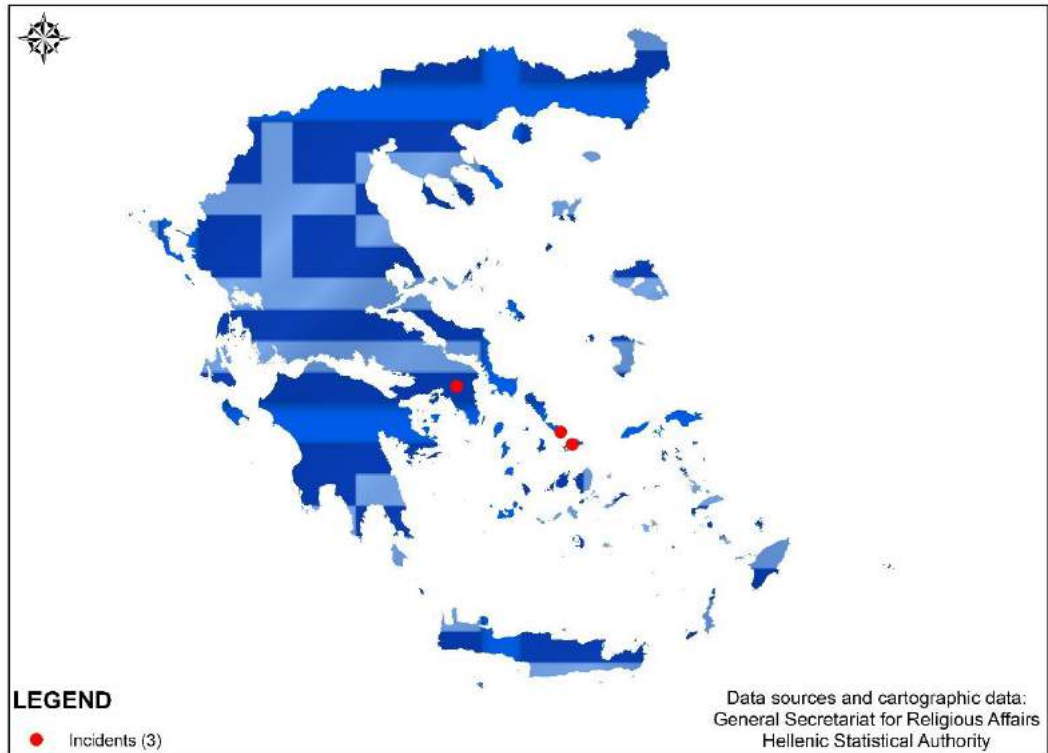
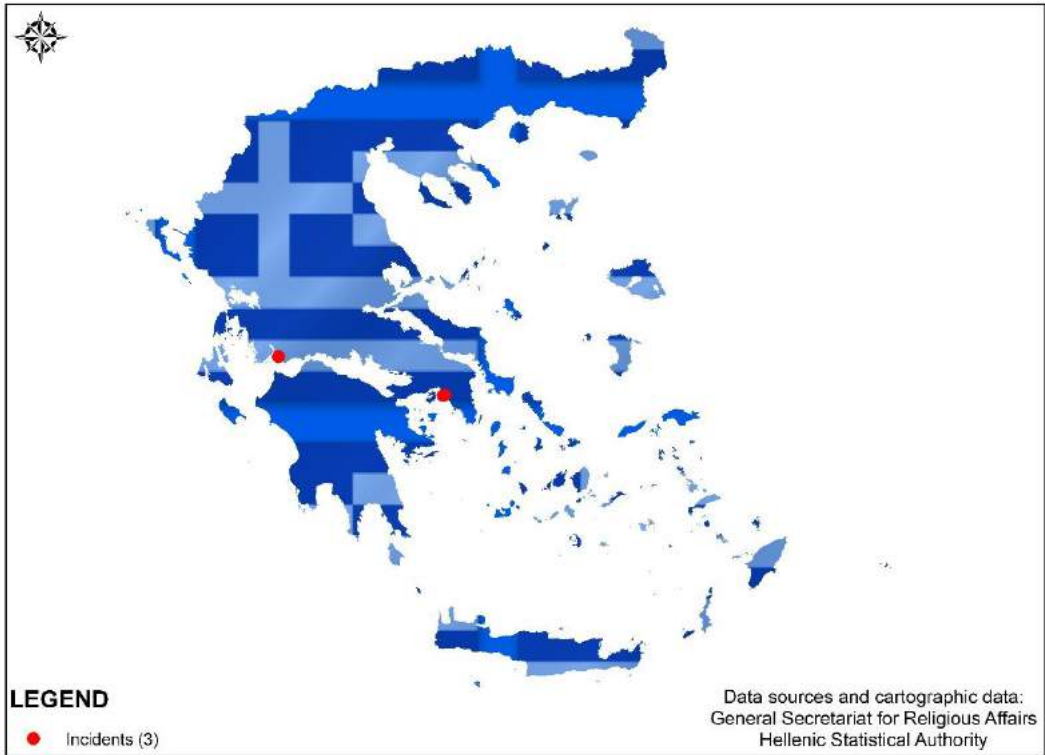
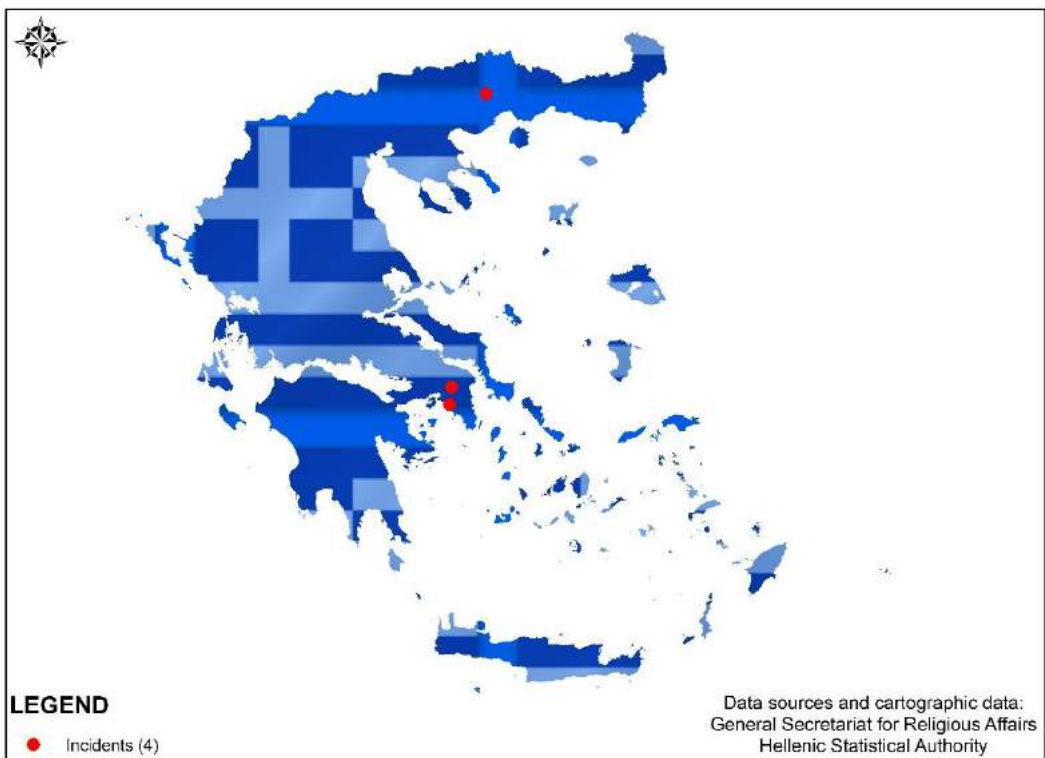


Figure 15: Catholic Church

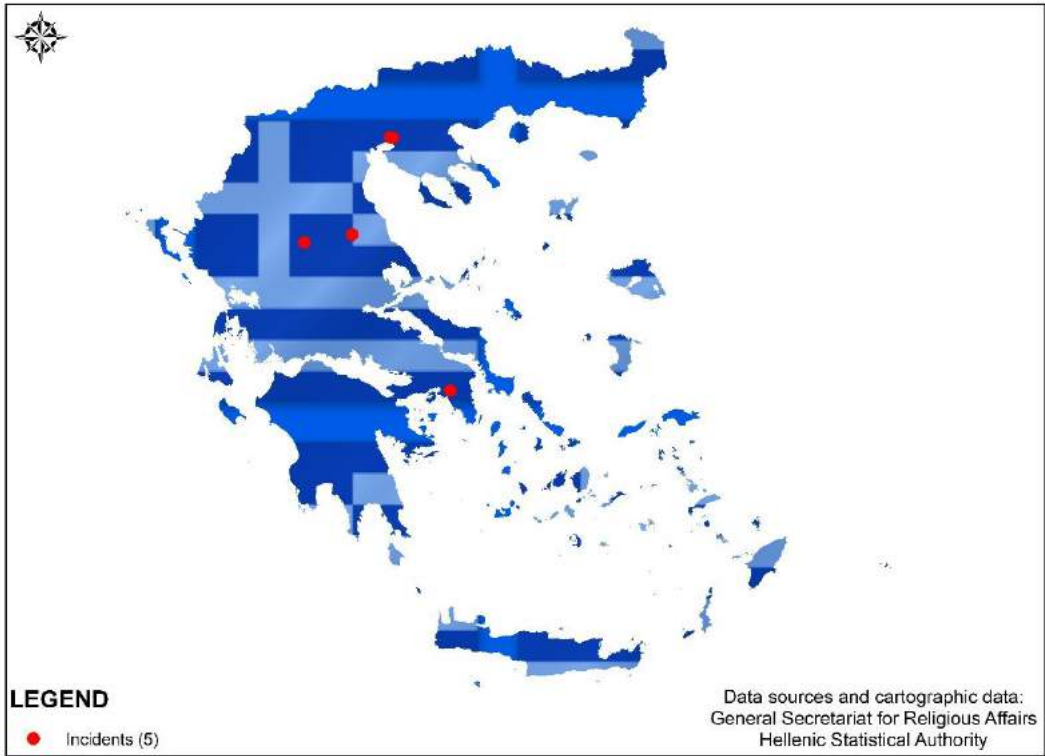




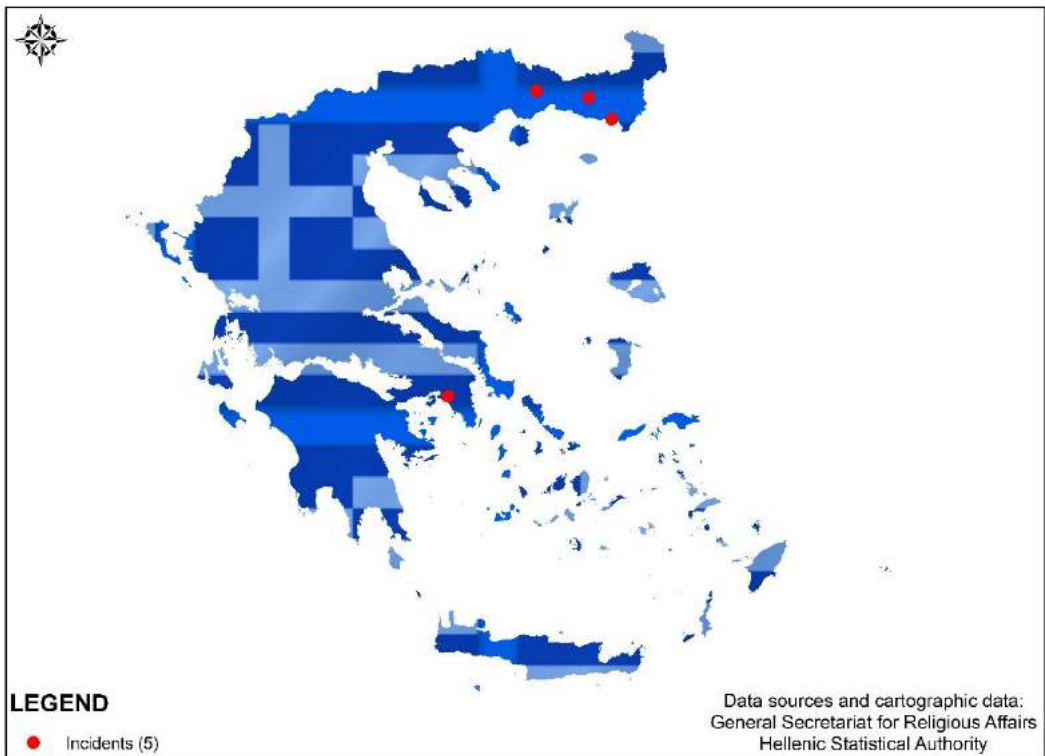
**Figure 16: True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)**



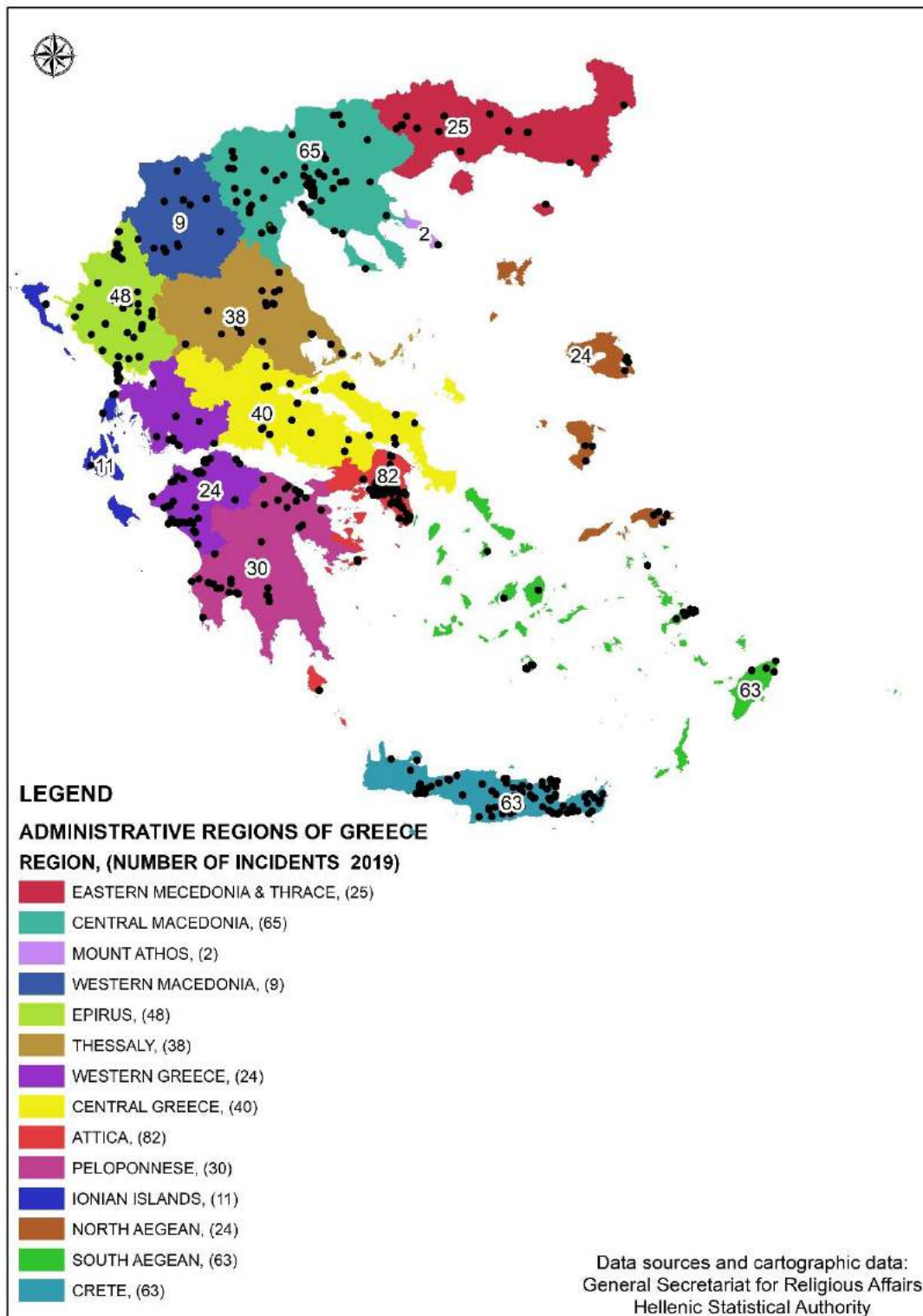
**Figure 17: Jehovah's Christian Witnesses**



**Figure 18: Judaism**



**Figure 19: Islam**



**Figure 20: Geographical display of the total number of incidents against all religions by Administrative Region**

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