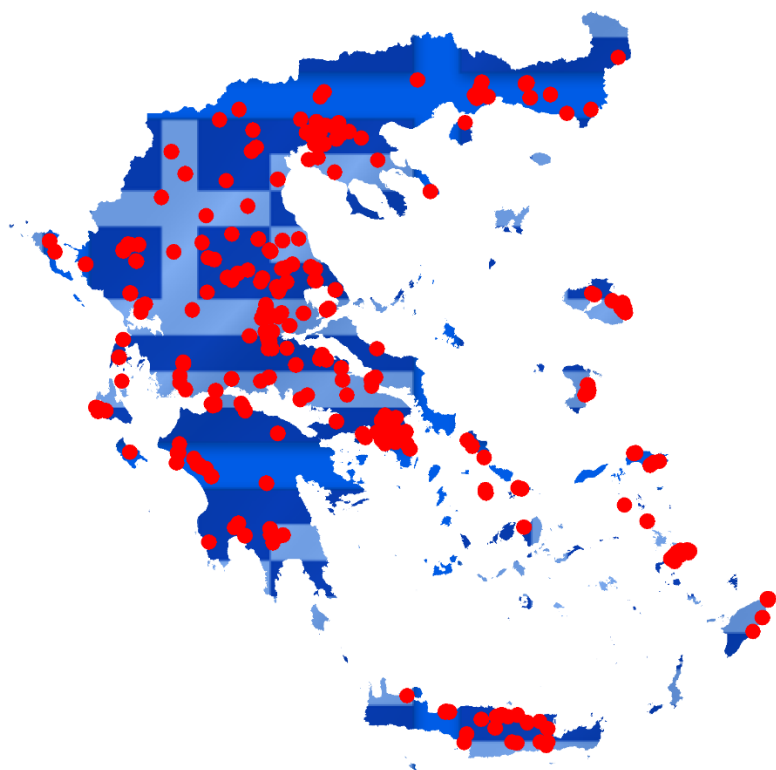




MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND INTERFAITH
RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

ACTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE



REPORT 2020

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

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/997ba529400b4ca69b9f984feeecd179>



Cover page: Geographical display of all incidents presented in the 2020 Report. Original map-layout source: Hellenic Statistical Authority

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

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COURTESY AND NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Translated and adapted by Isidora Prokopiou

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

(Psalm 25,8)

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

(תהלים ח)

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

(Psalm 25,8)

מְגִדְךָ מְסֻכָּן וּמִוְצֵעַ בְּיַתְּךָ מַחֵלְ אֲחַבֵּתִי רִבִּי יָא

(מזמיר 8)

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Foreword

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, since 2015, has been publishing every year a detailed Report on Acts against sites of religious significance in Greece. This is a systematic work that requires attention to detail, cross-checking of data in order to achieve the highest degree of validity and the development of a wide network of cooperation between various State services and religious communities.

The annual publication of these reports provides valid and reliable information on what is actually happening in our country, in terms of acts against sites of religious significance. At the same time, these reports also provide a lot of interesting data on the legal framework in force, as well as on the history of religious communities in Greece.

The Report on Acts against sites of religious significance in the year 2020 is another confirmation of the sincere commitment of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs towards the implementation of the constitutional principle of protecting religious freedom, while it also highlights the constant pursuit of recording reliable data that is accessible to all.

The unprecedented health crisis, due to the pandemic of the COVID-19 coronavirus, is a key event that has also affected religions in a way that it had not happened in the past. An unprecedented situation for the whole world has necessitated unparalleled measures in order to save lives.

The protection of health and the preservation of social cohesion were central political objectives also in the field of religions. A health crisis of this magnitude can only be successfully dealt with only if the institutions function and at the same time each individual does his or her part, consistently and responsibly towards oneself and towards society.

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs has taken the necessary measures to combat the pandemic of coronavirus, with respect to the religious feeling and experience of all Greek citizens, in cooperation with experts and the religious communities concerned. A fundamental parameter was the principle that the measures are taken for all religious communities, with the necessary adjustments to different formal worship rites or to dates of particular religious significance, but always with a general character and universal validity.

The pandemic crisis has tested and is testing, also in the field of religions, institutions, habits and persons. And it is a serious reason for optimism and hope for the future that our country has been able to deal with it successfully through its institutions and the guarantees of its Constitution, with the support of the overwhelming majority of its citizens.

Niki Kerameus

Minister of Education and Religious Affairs

Introductory Note

In 2020, unprecedented measures were taken to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, which on the one hand were absolutely necessary to safeguard the constitutional good of protecting public health, and on the other hand touched the core of the constitutional good of religious freedom. For this reason, the 2020 Report includes a special chapter on measures against the pandemic, both in Greece and in other countries in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

From the data presented in the specific chapter the following can be concluded:

a) Greece moved in a timely and decisive manner by taking a series of measures to deal with the first wave of the pandemic.

(b) the measures for places of worship were taken under the same sanitary conditions as for all other bans in the corresponding period. Therefore, there was no negative or positive discrimination against or in favour of religious citizens or between religious communities.

c) the measures taken by Greece are similar or analogous to measures taken by many other countries, differing mainly in the timing or scope of their implementation.

The Council of State ruled that the anti-pandemic measures against places of worship did not violate the Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights (see Decision 49/30-3-2020).

All religious communities in the country contributed to the effort to deal with the pandemic, but the Orthodox Church inevitably bore a particular burden of responsibility, as Orthodox Christians make up more than 95% of the population. Although in all religious communities there were reactions against the measures by a (larger or smaller) portion of believers who considered that they were proving their faith by not complying with the measures, inevitably once again, because of the population, the largest and most organized reactions occurred within the Orthodox Church. Of course, the phenomenon of understanding the pandemic through conspiracy theories was not exclusively Greek, nor does it only concern those who are religious. Movements of deniers and anti-vaccinationists, i.e. movements against reason and science, appeared in all countries and originated from different starting points of a religious, philosophical, ideological, political or other nature.

The main observation that applies to all religious communities, both in Greece and abroad, is that the religious dimension of the denialist and anti-vaccine movements had as its principal characteristic that deniers and anti-vaccinators of this type presented themselves as the "true" believers, in contrast to the "systemic" expression of the respective religious communities, i.e. the legally recognized leadership of the religious communities, which, in all countries, authored and supported the state policies to deal with the pandemic.

In Greece, the Orthodox Church and especially the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece have been the main victims of the attack of the deniers and anti-vaccinationists, while a methodical attempt has been made to devalue Synodality, a structural characteristic of the Orthodox Church¹.

The main arguments of these irrationalist movements originated and were circulated

¹ For an understanding of Synodality in the Orthodox Church, see. Metropolitan of Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlassios, Hierotheos, "The Regime of the Orthodox Church", *Holy Metropolis of Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios - Church Intervention* («Το πολίτευμα της Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας»), 4 June 2019, <https://www.parembasis.gr/index.php/el/menu-teyxos-274/5779-2019-06-04b>. Accessed 26 December 2021.

primarily through the Internet (websites and social media) and secondarily through specific newspapers known to represent the extreme space. The vast majority of them reproduced (usually, selectively) the stance and statements of the Moscow Patriarchate or its clergy and the sermons of extreme Protestant organizations in the USA.

In the first case, the main objective was the promotion of the Moscow Patriarchate as the only genuine exponent and defender of Orthodoxy, in contrast to the attitude of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece, which "betrayed Orthodoxy" because they "submitted" to the State and "adhered to the measures". After the change of attitude of the Moscow Patriarchate and its full alignment with the (Russian) state policy of dealing with the pandemic that led to the adoption of harsher measures (and even measures concerning the core of Orthodoxy, i.e. the Holy Communion) than those adopted by the Church of Greece, the use of the Moscow Patriarchate's texts almost disappeared without, however, reducing its visibility as a defender of Orthodoxy, unlike the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece, which continued to be accused of "submitting" to the (Greek) state policy of dealing with the pandemic.

In the second case, the arguments were simple translations of texts from extreme Protestant organisations in the USA, where theories about the "dawn of the Antichrist", about the production of vaccines from "unborn children who were murdered", about "changing human DNA" or about "chipping" all human beings in order to "subjugate them to a world power" coexisted. It was not uncommon for these texts or ideas to be attributed to Saints of the Orthodox Church, and especially to Aghios Paisios, instead of to their real authors.

The Orthodox Church, during the period of the pandemic, was simultaneously attacked by both the denialist and anti-vaccine movements and the anti-clericalists. This is why it is of particular value that the Church of Greece, despite any problems, delays or individual disharmonies, played an important role in the protection of public health, proving once again the critical position it holds in the public sphere, as it continues to be a point of reference for the vast majority of Greeks.

The lessons learned from the economic crisis that peaked in 2012, the refugee crisis of 2015 and the most recent pandemic crisis in the field of religion, are common in terms of the potential and the role that religious communities, and in particular the Orthodox Church, are called upon to play during crises so that the nation can successfully deal with them. It is useful to take this aspect into account promptly in crisis response planning.

Georgios Kalantzis

Secretary General for Religious Affairs

Content Summary

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

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

For the year 2020, a total of four hundred and four (404) incidents against religious sites were recorded, which are broken down by religion as follows:

- **Christianity: three hundred eighty five (385) incidents of all kind (vandalism, burglaries, thefts, sacrilege, robberies, explosive devices and other types of desecration).**

In particular there have been:

- **374 incidents against the Greek Orthodox Church, representing 92,57% of the total number of incidents**
- **7 incidents against the Catholic Church, i.e. 1,73% of the total,**
- **4 incidents against the True Orthodox Christians, i.e. 0,99% of the total,**
- **Judaism: 10 incidents of racist/anti-Semitic nature, i.e. 2,48% of the total,**
- **Islam: 9 incidents, i.e. 2,23% of the total.**

No incidents against other religions have been reported.

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

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



I. INTRODUCTION



A. General Secretariat for Religious Affairs

1. Overview

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

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

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

The Political Constitution of Greece adopted by the Third National Assembly at Troezen establishes 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 himself².

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

² Fr Georgios Metallinos. “Ioannis Kapodistrias: Politician and martyr of the Orthodox Church and of Hellenism”. *Ecclesia, Year 85, Volume 8*, August – September 2008, Athens, pp. 606-607. (π. Γεωργίου Μεταλληνού, «Ιωάννης Καποδίστριας (Ο πολιτικός – μάρτυρας της Όρθοδοξίας και του Έλληνισμού)», περιοδικό «ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ», έτος ΠΕ', τ. 8, Αύγουστος-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;
- h. To promote scientific research for expanding knowledge and to publish manuscripts of monasteries which may be valuable to sciences;
- i. To make proposals on the faculty that shall be appointed to teaching positions or to public institutions promoting sciences and the arts.
- j. To supervise the administration and management of property and revenues devoted to education and to care for the erection and maintenance of the buildings necessary for the education of the people and the development of the arts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 1) for Ecclesiastical Matters and 2) for Administration,

The Directorate for the Youth and

The Directorate for Staff, Processing and Archives.

In 1951, by Emergency Law 1671 (A' 33), the Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Education is renamed Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs; this has been the name of the Ministry since 2009³.

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, 1st degree). The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is responsible for implementing the government policies on Religions and for supervising the Directorates under the General Directorate for Religious Affairs, as set out in articles 5, 6 and 7 of Presidential Decree 147/1976. These Directorates along with their staff have been set under the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

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

a) Ecclesiastical Administration

b) Ecclesiastical Education

c) Other Denominations and Religions

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

³ 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).

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:

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

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

2. Regulatory framework in force

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

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

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

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

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs includes two Directorates:

- a. The Directorate for Religious Administration including the Department for Ecclesiastical Administration, the Department for Administrative matters and Register and the Department for Islamic Matters, and
- b. The Directorate for Religious Education including the Department for Ecclesiastical and Religious Education, the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations and the Department for 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 Greece⁴, 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 right⁵. According to the commonly held view, the individual right of religious freedom includes the concept of religious conscience and the freedom of observance⁶.

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

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

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

⁴ See section I.B.2 for the meaning of the term “prevailing religion”.

⁵ Troiannos, S., *Course in Canon Law*, Sakkoulas Publishing House 1984, 2nd edition, §2.1.4 and 2.2.2. (Σπ. Τρωιάννου, *Παραδόσεις Εκκλησιαστικού Δικαίου*, Σάκκουλας 1984, β’ έκδοση, §2.1.4 και 2.2.2.)

⁶ Dagtoglou, P.D., *Constitutional Law- Civil Rights*, §554 Sakkoulas 1991. (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, *Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα*, Σάκκουλας 1991, §554).

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

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

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

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

2. The meaning of the term “prevailing religion”

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

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

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

collective body of exercising religious freedom under all conditions and always by reference to the list of all other constitutional rights...⁷.

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 religion⁸.

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

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

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

⁷ Venizelos E., *Church - State relations as relations regulated by the Constitution*, [In Greek], p. 146 Paratiritis Publishing House, 3rd ed., Thessaloniki 2000. (Ευ. Βενιζέλου, *Οι Σχέσεις Κράτους και Εκκλησίας ως σχέσεις συνταγματικά ρυθμισμένες*, σελ. 146, εκδόσεις Παρατηρητής, εκδ. γ', Θεσσαλονίκη 2000).

⁸ P.D. Dagtoglou, *Constitutional Law- Civil Rights*, §569, Sakkoulas 1991. (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, *Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα*, Σάκκουλας 1991, §569).

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

3. Prohibition of proselytism

In article 13 (2)(3) of the Constitution it is established that proselytism is prohibited. This applies to the prevailing religion and also to any other religion. Even before the adoption of the Constitution and of the Penal Code, a sanction for proselytism was provided for by law⁹.

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 Justice¹⁰ at the time during the debates on Article 13 of the Constitution in force by the fifth Revisional Parliament, the constitutional legislator understood as proselytism only the *"attempt to penetrate the religious conscience of heterodox or persons of different religions by illegal or immoral means, by abusing a relationship of dependence or by promising benefits of any kind"*. Consequently, it appears that the type of proselytism prohibited by the Constitution and subject to criminal sanctions is the attempt to intrude on the religious beliefs of a person by unlawful means, notably inducement or by fraudulent means.

Therefore, on the basis of the above, (a) confessing one's own religious belief in public; (b) persuading with arguments someone to change their religious beliefs; (c) preaching; (d) holding missions to people of a different denomination or religion; (e) publishing, selling and dispatching printed documents; and (f) holding public and/or open speeches with free attendance and departure and a clear indication of any declaration of religion or doctrine for which the dissemination is made, **do not constitute proselytism**¹¹.

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 1st, 2019. By the same law, the previous Penal Code which was in force since January 1st, 1951, was repealed.

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

⁹ Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §596

¹⁰ Chrysogonos C., *Individual and Social rights*, Athens, 2006, p. 281 (Κ. Χ. Χρυσόγονος, *Ατομικά και Κοινωνικά Δικαιώματα*, Νομική Βιβλιοθήκη, 2006, σελ. 281)

¹¹ Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §597

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

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

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

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

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

5. Legal framework on acquiring a permit to build and 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 serving the community life, as well as their annexes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a. Bishopric buildings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)¹² -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

¹² 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".

law in accordance with the provisions of this law. In the provisions of the aforementioned law it is provided for that the religious and ecclesiastical legal persons may establish and operate worship places in their own name (article 9). A permit for establishing and operating a worship place may be issued for religious communities that have not received legal personality as referred to in Law 4301/2014.

In the regulatory framework in force for the construction and authorization of places of worship (temples and houses of prayer) the general regulations of **Emergency Law 1363/1938** (Official Government Gazette A' 305) as amended by the regulations of **Emergency Law 1672/1939** (Official Government Gazette A' 123), of the **Royal Decree of 20-5/2-6-1939** implementing it (Official Government Gazette A' 220) and **article 27 of Law 3467/2006** (Official Government Gazette A' 128) as well as the **joint circular 105456/01/31-8-2021 (Online Publication Number Ψ56646ΜΤΛΗ-ΙΟ9)**, which updated the **joint circulars 69230/A3/6-5-2014 (Online Publication Number ΒΙΦΘ9-Τ0Τ)** and **118939/01/19-7-2016 (Online Publication Number 76774653ΠΣ-5Ω9)**¹³, and also incorporated the circular **128231/01/2-8-2016 (Online Publication Number: ΨΔ014653ΠΣ-ΓΕΙ)** are in force. These regulations do not apply to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ (Church of Greece, Church of Crete, Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos), as foreseen in article 3 of the Constitution, for which specific provisions apply. In particular as concerns building permits for Islamic places of worship and/ or prayer in Thrace (mosques, tekke, masjid, jem, cemevi) the **joint circular 105510/01/31-8-2021 (Online Publication Number: 60X646ΜΤΛΗ-ΟΥ6)**, which replaced the **joint circular 57071/01/3-4-2017 (Online Publication Number: 78ΘΓ4653ΠΣ-Ζ3Χ)** applies.

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

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

¹³ 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.

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).

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 05-03-1995¹⁴).

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.

¹⁴ Published in Journal *Law and Nature* (Νόμος και Φύση), 1995 and can also be found at: <http://www.constitutionalism.gr/manitakis-rotonda/>

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

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

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

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

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

D. Rules on fire safety, i.e. the provisions of **Fire Fighting Regulation 3/2015** (Official Government Gazette B’ 529/2015), **Fire Protection Regulation for buildings, Presidential Decree 71/1988** (Official Government Gazette A’ 32) as well as the **Fire Fighting Regulation 13/2013** (Official Government Gazette B’ 1586) in force. In accordance with the aforementioned legal provisions, designated requirements on fire safety measures must be followed– depending on the date of the application of the building permit and on the number of people gathered- both for the assembly areas for fewer than fifty persons and those for over fifty persons. It is explicitly mentioned that buildings or parts of buildings where people gather for religious events and activities (in accordance with the relevant

regulation of the Building Code) explicitly referring to temples (article 1, Fire Fighting Regulation 3/1981, Official Government Gazette B'20) are included in the abovementioned places. Compliance with the relevant regulations is evidenced by the fire safety certificate issued by the competent firefighting authority.

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

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

Council of State decision 582/2011 on mandatory issuing of VAT identification number held that this obligation: *“... is not contrary to 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 temples or houses of prayer and in general all buildings, new or existing, used for practicing religious beliefs of all religious communities (except for those within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ in Greece as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution). The above concern religious communities organized as legal persons of any formal type, as well as communities remaining informal, with no special legal personality (on the same legal grounds and given the equal enjoyment, by all religious people, of their constitutional rights, as explicitly stipulated by the Constitution and implemented for decades in the Greek national law).

Before the planning authorities issue a permit to **construct** a temple or a worship place of any religious community (except for those within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution), a permit by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is required. Having regard to all the above, the religious community concerned should be addressed to the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs before the issuing of the building permit by the competent building authority in order to request the issuing of the

relevant administrative act by the Directorate of Religious Administration on the 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 morality. 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 initially issued the circular 176169/01/19-10-2018, the provisions of which have now been incorporated into the current joint circular [105456/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: Ψ56646MTAH-IO9\)](#), and, specifically for Muslim places of prayer/worship in Thrace, in the joint circular [105510/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: 60X646MTAH-0Y6\)](#). According to the relevant provisions, all religious communities may request an act of declaratory effect, especially as regards worship places for which no permit has been issued for their establishment and operation. In this way, these worship places will operate legally and their religious ministers will be included in the Register held by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. **The condition to be fulfilled in order to apply for this act is that the worship places have been operating in a constant and uninterrupted manner in this specific building or in part of the building for a long period of time and at least since August 9, 1955, or before, to the present day.**

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

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

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

All places of worship (Churches, Synagogues, Mosques, Houses of Prayer etc.) and their associated annexed buildings, both the ones operating lawfully as well as the unofficial ones (i.e. operating without the relevant 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 2015-2019 has been broadly welcomed by religious communities and has led further expansion with the participation of more religious communities which is particularly significant for extracting primary data, regarding offences against sites of specific religious communities as well as lack of such acts within the reference year.

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

Therefore, by this sixth 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 2020, the data was mostly provided by the official correspondence with the Network participants, Press Releases and Communiqués by the Hellenic Police and news and articles published in the daily press as indexed by the Press Office of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and news published in electronic media.

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

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

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

7. Data on the adoption and implementation of emergency protection measures against COVID-19 in places of worship in Greece and other countries at the beginning of the pandemic

The following are indicative data from various countries regarding:

- (A) the measures for the operation of places of worship to avoid the spread of coronavirus and the date of their implementation; and
 (B) whether the measures in question were taken before, after or at the same time (and by the same decisions) as the coronavirus precautionary measures in places of public assembly.

a. Egypt

A) On March 14, 2020, it was announced that the time of the Friday religious sermon would be limited to only 15 minutes and that the religious celebrations of Israa and Miraj, which traditionally take place before Ramadan, would be cancelled.

On March 21, 2020, a statement was made public by the Supreme Academic Council of Al Azhar University, which allowed the interruption of Friday prayers and other mass prayers. Following this, prayers in mosques and churches of all denominations were stopped, in accordance with a decision by the local religious bodies. It should be noted that the Egyptian Supreme Muftiate (Dar al Ifta) issued a special fatwa declaring it "religiously forbidden" to participate in mass prayers in violation of state directives.

On April 9, 2020, due to the start of the Ramadan celebrations, the Egyptian government relaxed the precautionary measures by reducing the curfew by one hour (21:00-06:00) and allowing shopping centres and shops to operate until 17:00 on weekends. The ban on mass prayers in Islamic mosques, Christian temples and other places of worship remained in force until further notice.

On May 17, 2020, a complete traffic stop was announced for the period 24-29 May, an extension of the curfew, i.e. from 17:00-06:00, mandatory use of masks, in order to restrict traffic during the three-day holiday after the Eid el Fitr (24-26/5/2020). It was announced that all shops and shopping centres, restaurants and entertainment venues will remain closed throughout the period (beyond the festive three-day holiday) until 29/5/2020, with the exception of supermarkets, pharmacies and butchers. The Minister of Waqfs announced that the prayer of the Feast for the End of Ramadan will be allowed to be performed only in one mosque with a small number of believers (employees at the Ministry of Waqfs), which will be broadcast on television media, while other mosques will broadcast prayers over loudspeakers.

B) The first measures to suspend activities to limit the spread of coronavirus to places of public assembly were taken on 9th March 2020.

b. Belgium

A) On March 14, 2020, immediately after the entry into force of the coronavirus restrictive measures, the Catholic Church and other recognised religions suspended services with the participation of believers, while the celebration of certain sacraments would be possible for a limited number of people. Churches, like all places of worship, remained open for individual prayer. The Catholic Church has from the outset expressed its support for the government's decisions to tackle the spread of coronavirus.

In April, in view of the Catholic Easter celebrations, local churches and believers organised prayer groups on social media. During the Orthodox Easter, a few services were celebrated in only three churches behind closed doors. The Metropolitan concerned invited the holy clergy and the believers to pray in their homes.

On May 4, 2020, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Koen Geens, responsible for religious affairs, met with representatives of recognised religions in Belgium (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Jewish and Muslim), who raised the issue of the reopening of places of worship. Mr Geens pointed out that the basic measures banning gatherings were still in force and therefore places of worship would remain open and accessible only for individual prayer with observance of social distancing rules. In particular, up to 10 people in total were allowed to attend services/religious ceremonies broadcast on social media, while a limited number of 15 people were allowed at funerals. Baptisms were allowed with only the religious minister, the baptized, the godfather and the parents present, and for weddings only the religious minister, the bride and groom and a witness were allowed.

As of May 18, 2020, up to 30 people were allowed to attend weddings and funerals, subject to rules of distancing. The holding of a reception after the ceremony was prohibited.

In view of the reopening of places of worship, on the recommendation of the Belgian government, the recognised religious communities of Belgium announced on 14-5-2020 a Protocol on the operation of places of worship and the measures to be applied to combat the pandemic. Doctors were involved in the drafting of the protocol, which was specified for each religious community.

The main measures foreseen in the Protocol were: a) keeping a distance of 1.5 meters

between believers, b) a ratio of one person per 10 sqm with a maximum of 100 believers, c) recommending that believers belonging to vulnerable groups remain in their homes and d) disinfecting surfaces, very good ventilation of the place of worship, etc.

In general, all the recognised religious communities in Belgium, during the restrictive measures, adapted to the difficult situation and fully respected the government decisions and recommendations regarding the operation of their places of worship by showing moderation and understanding and by using new technologies to transmit religious services and maintain contact with believers.

However, the federal government's decision on November 27, 2020 to extend the ban on collective religious ceremonies in places of worship until 15-1-2021 provoked the reactions of representatives of all religions, especially the Roman Catholic Church. The above decision was challenged by an application for interim measures before the Belgian Council of State, initially by representatives of the Jewish religion, alleging a violation of religious freedom. The court partially agreed with the arguments put forward, considering that the total ban is disproportionate and violates religious freedom, calling on the federal government to take measures to remove the violation by 13-12-2020. The government, following discussions with representatives of the recognized religious communities, issued a new Ministerial Decree on 11-12-2020 allowing collective practice of religious worship with a maximum of 15 believers in each religious site.

Against this latest decision of the government, an appeal was again brought to the Council of State, this time by representatives of the Catholic Church, asking for the removal of the restriction on the collective celebration of Christmas and the increase of the number of believers at services. However, the court in its decision of 22-12-2020 rejected this request, stressing the primary importance of the measure for the preservation of public health and underlining that the contested Decree does not contravene religious freedom or the principle of equality or proportionality.

B) Restrictive measures due to coronavirus were generally in force for all types of gatherings from 14th March 2020. The National Security Council assessed the situation every two weeks to consider the possibility of relaxing the measures. Representatives of the recognized religious communities, in their meeting with Mr. Geens on May 4, 2020, requested that the ministerial decrees on places of worship should not fall under the category of socio-cultural activities, but should be listed separately and independently, a request which was granted.

c. France

A) On March 14, 2020, by a decision of the French Minister of Health, ratified by a decree of the French Prime Minister of the same day, the operation of public places (restaurants, cinemas, theatres, event halls, museums, etc.) was banned from 15th March throughout the French territory. Although places of worship were not explicitly mentioned in these texts, the French Prime Minister nevertheless made it clear, at a press conference on the evening of 14th March, that henceforth all religious ceremonies and gatherings of believers within the places of worship must be suspended until further instructions are issued.

On March 23, 2020, a later decree of the French Prime Minister, which established general measures to deal with the pandemic in the context of a health emergency, made explicit reference to places of worship. That decree prohibited gatherings in places of worship except for funeral services, where the number of people present was limited to 20.

In his statements in May, the French Prime Minister expressed understanding for the desire of religious leaders to reopen places of worship as soon as possible, asking for their understanding of the exceptional circumstances of the country, and suggesting that, if the

rate of contagion of the virus allows it, the lifting of restrictions on the virus may be accelerated.

On May 18, 2020, the application of the protection measures against coronavirus in places of worship was still in force, despite the gradual lifting of the restrictive measures, which started on May 11, 2020, and the gradual reopening of commercial outlets.

On the same day, the French Council of State ruled that the universal and absolute ban on the gathering of people within places of worship should be lifted. The Council of State, following appeals by religious organisations and individual believers, recalled that religious freedom is fundamental and includes the right to participate in ceremonies of a collective nature which take place in places of worship. However, it recognised that this freedom must be combined with the protection of public health, which is also a constitutional right. The French Council of State considered that a total and absolute ban on gatherings in places of worship is disproportionate to the objective of protecting public health and therefore constitutes a flagrant infringement of religious freedom and is manifestly unlawful. In its judgment, the Council of State states that it is possible to adopt measures which are less restrictive than those provided for up to the date of its judgment, taking into account the fact that the provisions in force provided for public gatherings in places of public reception not exceeding ten persons. Accordingly, it ordered that, within eight days, the relevant decisions on places of worship be amended, taking measures strictly proportionate to the current health conditions and measures for the gradual lifting of restrictions throughout the country, so as to allow, under certain conditions, gatherings in places of worship as well.

B) Due to the secular nature of the French Republic, the restrictive measures for places of worship were included in the measures for places of public assembly from 14th March 2020.

d. Greece

A) At the appearance of the first domestic cases of Covid-19 coronavirus (according to the data of the National Public Health Organization - E.O.D.Y., the first laboratory-confirmed case in Greece was recorded on February 26, 2020), scientists and the WHO (World Health Organization) concluded that the most appropriate methodology to contain the virus in terms of its impact on the population, its potential for transmission and its general characteristics, was to take early social distancing measures. In Greece, during the period from 25-2-2020 to 5-5-2020 (see Table p. 37), a total of 44 measures were taken: 44 measures restricting free access to places of all kinds, of which 10 measures were local restrictions (in individual schools, or locally determined prohibitions in prefectures), while the remaining 34 measures were of universal application, including the first decision to prohibit access to places of religious services (except in the case of private prayer) and rituals (16.3.2020).

Specifically, in the context of the Joint Ministerial Decision 2867/Y1/16-3-2020 (872 B'), on "*Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the performance of all kinds of services and rituals in religious places of worship for the period from 16.3.2020 to 30.3.2020*", the following measures were taken in terms of compliance with health rules: A) Temporary prohibition of the performance of all kinds of services and rituals in all religious places of worship, without exception, for the period from 16.3.2020 to 30.3.2020 (any kind and any legal, canonical and generally religious status of temples and chapels, houses of prayer, mosques etc) of any denomination and religion, regardless of their size and capacity, over the whole of the Territory, for preventive reasons of public health and for the period from 16.3.2020 to 30.3.2020. Furthermore, for this period of time, the attendance of believers for individual prayer with a short stay in the place of worship, in compliance with the ratio of one person per 10 sqm of surface area and with a minimum distance of two (2)

meters between them was allowed. B) The above prohibitions and obligations applied to Temples as well as to places of worship of all kinds within Monasteries and all types and legal/canonical status of places of residence. C) For the same reason, it was stipulated that the Monasteries and other places of residence within the Territory during the above period of time would not admit the public and the believers on organized or individual pilgrimage visits. D) During the aforementioned period of time, the celebration of the service was allowed exclusively for the purpose of broadcasting by national or local television or radio media, with the presence of the absolutely necessary personnel of the medium.

By Joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ.21285/29.03.2020 (1082 B'), it was decided to extend the validity of the joint decision 2867/Y1/16-3-2020 (B' 872) of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Health until 11.4.2020. At the end of paragraph 6 of the aforementioned joint ministerial decision, a new subparagraph is added as follows: *"The webcast of the service shall be allowed only by the same television or radio medium, in the presence of the personnel who are also in charge of the television or radio broadcast"*.

By Joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ.23093/2020 "Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the performance of all kinds of services and rituals in religious places of worship for the period from 12.4.2020 to 20.4.2020" (1178 B'), the following measures were taken to ensure compliance with health regulations: A) Temporary prohibition of the performance, in the presence of natural persons and without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 2, of all kinds of services, worship meetings, rituals and religious ceremonies of any kind in all places of religious worship (of any kind and of any legal, canonical and generally religious status of temples and chapels, houses of prayer, mosques, synagogues, etc.), without exception, of any denomination for the period from 12.4.2020 to 20.4.2020. B) The above prohibitions and obligations also applied to the temples and places of worship of any kind within Monasteries and any kind and any legal/canonical status of places of residence. C) The devotional life of Monasteries and Retreats may continue, at the discretion of the Abbot or Abbess and with the approval of the local Metropolitan. D) In the event of the celebration of liturgies, devotional assemblies, rituals or any kind of religious ceremonies, these shall be performed exclusively by a religious minister/religious ministers and the necessary auxiliary church officers (such as a chanter, a sexton), the total number of which shall not exceed four (4) for all places of worship, except for the Metropolitan Churches, where the maximum number is set at six (6), and subject to compliance: the ratio of one person per 15 sqm. of surface area and with a minimum distance of two (2) meters between them.

B) From all of the above, in conjunction with the Table (see p. 37) it follows that:

- the above measures were taken under the same health conditions as all other bans during the same period.
- Already from 22-3-2020, the measure of imposing restrictions on the movement of citizens (№ 43 of the Table) had been taken, while exceptional circulation for religious worship was not included in the reasons for lifting the prohibitions.
- The imposition of a temporary prohibition on the operation of businesses and a ban on the operation of courts (measures № 58 and 59 of the Table, p. 37) had already been taken, as measures of absolute and universal prohibition, which completely encompassed the total economic activity and the operation of courts (with the only exception of felonies in flagrante delicto, and the expiry of the maximum eighteen months period of pretrial detention).

During the period between 16-3-2020 and 31-5-2020, 48 Baptisms (performed by religious ministers of the Orthodox Church according to Article 3 of the Constitution) and 35 Marriages (of which 27 were performed by religious ministers of the Orthodox Church

according to Article 3 of the Constitution, 1 by a religious minister of the True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists), 4 by religious ministers of the Muslim minority in Thrace, 1 by a religious minister of the Jehovah's Christian Witnesses and 2 by religious ministers of various Christian denominations].

An application for a stay of execution was submitted to the Council of State against Joint Ministerial Decision 2867/Y1/16.3.2020, which the competent Suspension Committee rejected (**Decision 49/30-3-2020**), on the grounds that (argument 6): *'[...] the restrictive measures contained in the contested joint ministerial decision on public worship with the participation of believers - the status in which the applicants are applying for the present application - were adopted, with the exceptions provided for, for exceptional reasons of public health protection against the risk of spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus. For that reason and taking into account (a) the entirely temporary nature of the restrictive measures adopted by the contested decision and their reasonable duration in view of that and (b) the fact that, as is common knowledge, it does not appear at present that there was a possibility of immediately adopting and applying other measures to effectively safeguard public health [...]'.*

Furthermore, the Council of State by its **Decision 1294/2020** rejected an application for annulment against: a) the aforementioned Joint Ministerial Decision 2867/Y1/16-3-2020 (see measure № 34 of the Table) and b) the Joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ. 21285/28-3-2020, which extended the validity of the previous one until 11-4-2020 and any other relevant act or omission of the Administration.

By the above decision, the Council of State dismissed the application for annulment for lack of a special legal interest and dismissed the proceedings, as the contested regulatory acts had ceased to be in force.

In particular, the Council of State ruled that (argument 8): *"[...] a specific legal interest is not established on account of any damage, whether material or non-material, caused to the applicant, since the remedy of both pecuniary damage and moral damage, since the contested administrative act does not attribute moral damages to the applicant, may be sought and fully restored by bringing appropriate legal proceedings before the competent courts, which shall, in addition, determine the legality of the act or omission alleged to have caused the material damage or moral damage [...]. Nor does the prevention of the future adoption of administrative acts of similar content, which may, moreover, be challenged independently before the competent courts, constitute a special legal interest within the meaning of the foregoing provision [...]. In the light of the foregoing and taking into account the fact that, in view of the regulatory nature of the contested acts, there is no case of moral damages being attributed to the applicants and that any moral damage suffered by them can be fully compensated by bringing an action, the pleas in law put forward by the applicants for the continuation of the proceedings on the ground of a specific legal interest under Article 32 (2) of Presidential Decree 18/1989 are dismissed as unfounded. Accordingly, the proceedings must be set aside as regards the contested acts which have ceased to have effect [...]"*.

On the occasion of the spread of the coronavirus, **His Beatitude Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, Mr. Hieronymos II**, in a message on 20-3-2020, stated that: **"I stay at home because I love the other. I love everyone. I do not stay in because I am afraid, but because I love. Love puts fear away!"**, while stressing that *"we make every home a small church. Because we love God even though we cannot meet Him in His house. Because we love our neighbor. God is everywhere. We meet Him everywhere by our prayer."*¹⁵ Furthermore, on

¹⁵ http://www.ecclesia.gr/epikairota/main_epikairota_next.asp?id=2989 (dd. 29-11-2021)

28-3-2020, in a message to the Greek people, which was broadcast on public television, the Archbishop called on believers to protect the sanctity and continuity not only of their own lives, but also of the lives of their¹⁶ fellow human beings.

In this regard, we also quote the message of **His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew** to the people of the Church on the coronavirus¹⁷ pandemic, dated 18-3-2020: *"Brothers and children in the Lord, From the Phanar, from the heart of the Queen of Cities, from the city of Aghia Sophia, the Great Church, I am communicating with your dear ones, with each and every one of you, on the occasion of the unprecedented circumstances, the ordeal we are going through as the human race, due to the global threat caused by the pandemic of the new coronavirus known as Covid-19. The word of the Church, the Mother Church, cannot be absent. Our word, then, is as we have learned from centuries of experience: Eucharistic, instructive, supportive and consoling. [...] That is why, my children, wherever you live, I paternally urge you to respond with precision and patience to all the difficult, but necessary, measures taken by health services and States. It is all for our protection, for the common good, to limit the spread of the virus. Therefore, our freedom from its suffering depends entirely on our cooperation. Perhaps some of you may have felt that with these drastic measures faith is being undermined or offended. **But what is in danger is not the faith but the faithful, it is not Christ but our Christians, it is not the Theanthropos but we human beings. [...]"***

Key Legislative and Administrative Acts for the protection of public health, between 25th February and 5th May 2020

№	LEGISLATIVE PROVISION	DATE	TITLE	OFFICIAL GOV. GAZETTE
1.	LEGISLATIVE ACT	25.2.2020	"Urgent measures to prevent and limit the spread of coronavirus"	(A' 42)
2.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ. 13530	26/27.2.2020	"Imposition of the preventive measure of temporary suspension of operation of the 105 th Primary School of Thessaloniki on 27.02.2020"	(B' 647)
3.	DECISION OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - MINISTER OF HEALTH Δ1α/ΓΠ.οικ. 13775	27/27.2.2020	"Imposition of the preventive measure of temporary suspension of operation of the 105 th Primary School of Thessaloniki for fourteen days"	(B' 648)
4.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR 13776	27/27.2.2020	"Cancellation of Carnival and Clean Monday events"	(B' 648)
5.	DECISION OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS 13788	27/27.2.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary restraint of pupils of class A' of the 4 th grade of the 105 th Primary School of Thessaloniki, companions, driver of means of transport and teachers of the same class"	(B' 649)

¹⁶ http://www.ecclesia.gr/epikairota/main_epikairota_next.asp?id=2990 (dd. 29-11-2021)

¹⁷ <https://ec-patr.org/minima-pros-to-pliedioma-tis-ekklisias-gia-tin-pandimia/> (date if 29-11-2021)

6.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 14154	28/28.2.2020	"Imposition of the preventive measure of temporary suspension of the Kindergarten "I.M. Karras", the Gymnasium and High School of Athens College and the Gymnasium and High School of Psychiko College on 28.02.2020"	(B' 665)
7.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 14166	28/28.2.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary suspension of the operation of schools in the Prefecture of Attica on 28.02.2020"	(B' 665)
8.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 14243	28/28.2.2020	"Temporary suspension of all organized educational excursions outside Greece"	(B' 666)
9.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 14246	2/2.3.2020	'Imposition of a measure temporarily suspending the operation of certain schools in the country"	(B' 668)
10.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15071	4/4.3.2020	"Imposition of the temporary ban on the operation of theatres, cinemas, sports and artistic events, archaeological sites and museums of the Regional Units of Ilia, Achaia and Zakynthos, for the period from 5.3.2020 to 6.3.2020"	(B' 701)
11.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15072	4/4.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of all school units and all kinds of educational structures, bodies and institutions, public and private, of any type and grade, of the Regional Units of Ilia, Achaia and Zakynthos, for the period from 5.3.2020 to 6.3.2020"	(B' 701)
12.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15534	5/5.3.2020	"Imposition of the temporary ban on the operation of all structures of the University of Crete, located in Rethymnon, for the period from 5.3.2020 to 6.3.2020"	(B' 708)
13.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15906	6/6.3.2020	"Imposition of the temporary ban on the operation of theatres, cinemas, sports and artistic events, archaeological sites and museums of the Regional Units of Ilia, Achaia and Zakynthos, for the period from 7-3-2020 to 18-3-2020, not including the Olympic flame ceremony"	(B' 723)
14.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15910	6/6.3.2020	"Temporary suspension of all organized educational excursions to and from the Regional Units of Achaia, Ilia and Zakynthos, for the period from 7-3-2020 to 20-3-2020"	(B' 724)
15.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF	6/6.3.2020	"Temporary suspension of all	(B' 724)

	EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15911		organized educational excursions outside Greece"	
16.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH, Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15942	6/8.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of all school units and all kinds of educational structures, bodies and institutions, public and private, of any type and grade, of the Regional Units of Ilia, Achaia and Zakynthos, for the period from 9.3.2020 to 18.3.2020, excluding student dormitories"	(B' 725)
17.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15954	8/8.3.2020	"Imposition of measures temporarily prohibiting the presence of the public at sporting events, the operation of conference venues and the operation of Open Centres for the Protection of the Elderly(K.A.Π.Η.)"	(B' 726)
18.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH, Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15956	8/8.3.2020	"Temporary suspension of all organized educational excursions within the country from 9.3.2020 to 22.3.2020"	(B' 727)
19.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH, Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 15958	8/8.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of certain schools, for the period from 9.3.2020 to 23.3.2020"	(B' 728)
20.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 16395	9/9.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of artistic events for the period from 10.3.2020 to 24.3.2020"	(B' 731)
21.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 16397	9/9.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of all types of educational functions with physical presence of the Higher Educational Institutions of the Regional Units of Ilia, Achaia and Zakynthos for the period from 9.3.2020 to 18.3.2020"	(B' 731)
22.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 16398	9/9.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of certain schools, for the period from 10.3.2020 to 24.3.2020"	(B' 731)
23.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS – INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 16837	10/10.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary ban on the operation of sports events and other sports facilities with the presence of more than sixty (60) people in the venue of the sport"	(B' 782)
24.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT – CITIZENS' PROTECTION - EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS -	10/10.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of nurseries and kindergartens, kindergartens, school units, higher educational	(B' 783)

	INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 16838		institutions, foreign language centres, tutorials and all kinds of educational structures, institutions and establishments, public and private, of any type and grade in the country for the period from 11.3.2020 to 24.3.2020"	
25.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS – INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 17733	12/12.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of theatres, cinemas, art venues, entertainment centres, playgrounds, public and private gyms, private schools for learning sports, closed and open swimming pools over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 13.3.2020 to 27.3.2020"	(B' 833)
26.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE - HEALTH - JUSTICE Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 17734	12/12.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary suspension of the operation of all Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices over the whole of the Territory and the National School of Judicial Officers, for the period from 13.3.2020 to 27.3.2020")	(B' 833)
27.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION – LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 18149	13/13.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of certain private businesses, museums, archaeological and historical sites, sports facilities, as well as public gathering places in general, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 14.3.2020 to 27.3.2020"	(B' 855)
28.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 18150	13/13.3.2020	"Temporary suspension of travel and visits of students and teachers and procedure for the prohibition of operation of Greek-language school units and all kinds of educational structures abroad, for the period from 14.3.2020 until 27.3.2020"	(B' 855)
29.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR 18152	14/14.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary ban on the operation of seasonal tourist accommodation from 15.3.2020 to 30.4.2020"	(B' 857)
30.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT – CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH – INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 18159	14/14.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of all organized beaches (public, municipal, private), ski resorts, markets of articles 37 and 38 of Law 4497/2017 (A' 171) and regulation of relevant issues"	(B' 859)
31.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT - MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY	15/15.3.2020	"Imposition of a measure temporarily restricting connections with foreign ports and entry of	(B' 860)

	Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 18170		recreational craft to limit the spread of COVID-19'	
32.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT 18175	15/15.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of the temporary ban on the operation of ski lifts (cable cars) over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 16.3.2020 to 29.3.2020"	(B' 862)
33.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE - HEALTH - JUSTICE Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 18176	15/15.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary suspension of the operation of all Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices over the whole of the Territory and the National School of Judicial Officers, for the period from 16.3.2020 to 27.3.2020"	(B' 864)
34.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH 2867/Y1	16/16.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the performance of all kinds of services and rituals in religious places of worship for the period from 16.3.2020 to 30.3.2020"	(B' 872)
35.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS – HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 19024	17/17.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of private businesses, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 18.3.2020 to 31.3.2020, in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 915)
36.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 19030	17/17.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of prohibition of entry into the country of nationals of third countries other than those of the European Union and the Schengen Agreement in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 916)
37.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 19419	18/18.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of the main hotel accommodation under the name "Youth Hostels", over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 19.3.2020 to 30.4.2020"	(B' 930)
38.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR – MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 19420	18/18.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of prohibition of the operation of training schools for the training of candidates of speedboat pilots, the lifeguard training schools, the businesses providing diving services for recreation, the businesses renting marine recreational equipment, as well as the businesses renting motorboats and speedboats, for the period from 18-	(B' 931)

			3-2020 to 20-4-2020"	
39.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 19421	18/18.3.2020	'Imposition of a measure temporarily restricting the entry of private pleasure boats (yachts) to limit the spread of COVID-19'	(B' 932)
40.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 19738	19/19.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of the paid, unpaid land registry offices, the cadastral offices of Rhodes, Kos - Leros, the cadastral offices of Piraeus, Thessaloniki, as well as the cadastral offices and branches of the Hellenic Cadastre, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 20.3.2020 to 2.4.2020"	(B' 936)
41.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20006	20/20.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of farmers' markets under paragraph 9 of Article 2 of Law 4497/2017 (A' 171) throughout the whole of the Territory, for Saturday 21 March 2020 and their individual operating arrangements from 23.3.2020 to 30.4.2020"	(B' 943)
42.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR – MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20009	20/20.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of partial temporary restriction of the traffic of all types of ships and vessels as well as the departure and arrival of private pleasure boats and commercial tourist vessels in the Greek Territory, in order to limit the spread of the OTVID-19 coronavirus, for the period from 21.3.2020 at 06:00 to 21.4.2020 at 06:00"	(B' 944)
43.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20036	22/22.3.2020	"Imposition of a measure temporarily restricting the movement of citizens to address the risk of spread of COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 986)
44.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20035	22/22.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of tourist accommodation in continuous operation, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 23.3.2020 or 26.3.2020, as the case may be, until 30.4.2020"	(B' 987)
45.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT – MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20042	22/22.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary restriction of connections with Turkey and the United Kingdom to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 989)
46.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF NATIONAL	27/27.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of	(B' 1074)

	DEFENCE - HEALTH - JUSTICE Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 21159		temporary suspension of the operation of all Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices over the whole of the Territory and the National School of Judicial Officers, for the period from 28.3.2020 to 10.4.2020"	
47.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 21170	27/27.3.2020	"Concession of the facilities of all wards, inpatient beds and increased care beds of the 417 Army Equity Fund Hospital (N.I.M.T.S.) to meet public health needs associated with the treatment of coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 1075)
48.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE - HEALTH - JUSTICE 124	20/28.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary, partial suspension of the operation of the Central Office of the Legal Counsel of the State and the restriction of the operation of its service units until 10-04-2020 to deal with the negative consequences of the emergence of the COVID-19 coronavirus and the need to limit its transmission"	(B' 1080)
49.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORT - INTERIOR – INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 21268	28/28.3.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of private businesses and other public gathering places, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 28.3.2020 to 11.4.2020, in order to limit the spread of the COVID19 coronavirus"	(B' 1081)
50.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT – CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 21961	1/1.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of certain farmers' markets of paragraph 9 of article 2 of article 2 of Law 4497/2017 (A' 171), for a period of time from 1.4.2020 to 10.4.2020 for public health precautionary reasons to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 1114)
51.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 21888	1/1.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of compulsory disposal to the public of hotel accommodation to cover the emergency needs of temporary accommodation of a group of persons entering the Territory from countries with high disease transmission, for the period from 22.3.2020 to 9.4.2020 for precautionary public health reasons related to the treatment of the COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 1115)

52.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT – CITIZENS’ PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 22124	1/1.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of paid, unpaid land registry offices, the cadastral offices of Rhodes, Kos-Leros, the cadastral offices of Piraeus, Thessaloniki, as well as the cadastral offices and branches of the Hellenic Cadastre, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 3.4.2020 to 10.4.2020"	(B' 1117)
53.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE - DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS’ PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT - MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 22261	2/2.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary restriction at home on persons entering the country from abroad to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 1127)
54.	DECISION OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 22819	22.3/3.4.2020	"Imposition of laboratory control measures and temporary restriction of a group of persons entering the Territory from a country of high transmission of the disease, for the period from 22.3.2020 to 4.4.2020, for public health precautionary reasons, linked to the treatment of the COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 1166)
55.	DECISION OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 22820	26.3/3.4.2020	"Imposition of laboratory control measures and temporary restriction of a group of persons entering the Territory from a country of high transmission of the disease, for the period from 26.3.2020 to 9.4.2020, for public health precautionary reasons, linked to the treatment of the COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 1166)
56.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 23093	6/6.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the performance of all kinds of services and rituals in religious places of worship for the period from 12.4.2020 to 20.4.2020"	(B' 1178)
57.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS’ PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR 23095	6/6.4.2020	"Imposition of additional restrictive measures in the Municipalities of Mykonos and Thera to address the risk of spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 1179)
58.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT – CITIZENS’ PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 24406	10/10.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of private businesses and other places of public assembly, over the whole of the Territory, for the period of from 12.4.2020 to 27.4.2020, in order to reduce the	(B' 1299)

			spread of COVID-19 coronavirus"	
59.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE - HEALTH - JUSTICE Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 24403	10/11.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary suspension of the operation of all Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices over the whole of the Territory and the National School of Judicial Officers, for the period from 11.4.2020 to 27.4.2020"	(B' 1301)
60.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT – CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH – INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 24404	10/11.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of operation of the paid, unpaid land registry offices, the cadastral offices of Rhodes, Kos - Leros, the cadastral offices of Piraeus, Thessaloniki, as well as the cadastral offices and branches of the Hellenic Cadastre, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 11.4.2020 to 27.4.2020"	(B' 1302)
61.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT – MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 24407	11/11.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary restriction of connections to the islands to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 1302)
62.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 24767	13/13.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of certain farmers' markets in accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 2 of Law 4497/2017 (A' 171), for the period from 13.4.2020 to 22.4.2020, for public health precautionary reasons to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	(B' 1346)
63.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT - MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 25305	14/15.4.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary restriction of connections abroad and entry of recreational craft to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, until 15.5.2020 at 15.00"	(B' 1421)
64.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - MIGRATION AND ASYLUM Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 26340	22/22.4.2020	"Measures against the occurrence and spread of cases of coronavirus COVID-19 in the Kranidi Migrant Accommodation Facility for the period from 22.4.2020 to 5.5.2020"	(B' 1548)
65.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - MIGRATION AND ASYLUM Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 26792	24/25.4.2020	"Taking measures against the emergence and spread of cases of COVID-19 in certain accommodation facilities for third country nationals for the period from 24.4.2020 to 7.5.2020"	(B' 1584)
66.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR - MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY	25/25.4.2020	"Extension of the measure prohibiting the entry and departure of private pleasure and commercial	(B' 1589)

	Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 26803		tourist vessels in the Greek territory, in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19"	
67.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - HEALTH Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 27807	2/2.5.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the performance of services and rituals in religious places of worship and measures to protect public health against the coronavirus COVID-19 in these places for the period from 4.5.2020 to 16.5.2020"	(B' 1643)
68.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - CULTURE AND SPORTS - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 27813	3/3.5.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary prohibition of the operation of certain private businesses and other places of public gathering, over the whole of the Territory, for the period from 4.5.2020 to 10.5.2020, in order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 1644)
69.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE - DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT - CITIZENS' PROTECTION - LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS - HEALTH - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 27815	3/3.5.2020	"Rules of social distancing in private businesses, public services and other places of public gathering throughout the Territory, in order to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus"	(B' 1647)
70.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 27818	3/3.5.2020	"Imposition of the measure of partial temporary restriction of movement of citizens in the Territory, beyond the boundaries of the relevant Region or Regional Unit, to address the risk of spreading the coronavirus COVID-19, from 4.5.2020 at 06:00 to 18.5.2020 at 06:00"	(B' 1648)
71.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR - INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT - MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 27820	3/3.5.2020	"Imposition of the measure of temporary restriction of connections with the islands in order to limit the spreading of the coronavirus COVID-19, from 4.5.2020 at 06.00 until 18.5.2020 at 06.00"	(B' 1649)
72.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION - HEALTH - INTERIOR - MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 27823	3/3.5.2020	"Imposition of the measure of the prohibition of entry and departure of private pleasure and commercial tourist vessels in the Greek Territory, in order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, for the period from 4.5.2020 at 06:00 to 18.5.2020 at 06:00"	(B' 1651)
73.	DECISION OF THE MINISTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT; CITIZENS' PROTECTION; EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS; LABOUR AND SOCIAL	5/5.5.2020.	"Extension of the Joint Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20021/21.3.2020 of the Ministers for Development and Investment, Citizens' Protection,	(B' 1699)

	AFFAIRS; HEALTH; CULTURE AND SPORTS; INTERIOR Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 28237		Education and Religious Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs, Health, Culture and Sports and Interior, as already extended by Joint Decision № Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. 20021/21.3.2020, as already extended by Joint Decision № Δ1α/Γ.Π. οικ. /10.4.2020 (B' 1293) similar decision, until 31.5.2020 and resumption of operation of specific educational structures"	
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e. Spain

A) On March 14, 2020 the operation of places of worship was suspended by Royal Decree 463, Article 11, which declared Spain in a state of emergency and imposed strict restrictions on movement and gatherings of citizens. Places of worship remained open only for individual religious worship, always subject to the safety measures provided for (keeping a safe distance, wearing a mask and washing hands when entering). The various ceremonies of all religious communities took place with the participation of only the designated staff and without the presence of believers.

On April 28, 2020, Spain entered a period of gradual easing of the severe restrictive measures in four phases. The lifting of restrictions on the operation of places of worship was included in the first phase. The de-escalation measures were not applied uniformly throughout the Spanish territory, but per province (50 in total) and on the basis of specific health criteria and indicators.

On May 9, 2020, a relevant decree (SND 399/2020) was published regarding the relaxation measures included in Phase 1, article 9 of which relates to places of worship. Specifically: (a) It is permitted to attend services in places of worship, always and provided that the people who are attending do not exceed one third of the capacity, and in compliance with the general safety and hygiene measures established by the competent authorities. If the maximum capacity is not specified, the following rules may be used to determine it: (a.1) Spaces with individual seats: one person per seat, respecting in any case the safety distance of one metre. (a.2) Places of worship with benches: one person per metre on the bench. (a.3) Places of worship without seats: one person per square metre of the area reserved for believers. For the above calculation, only the space reserved for believers shall be taken into account, excluding corridors, vestibules, offices and toilets, if any. Once the amount of one-third of the maximum capacity has been determined, a safety distance of at least one metre shall be kept between the believers. The maximum capacity shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the place of worship. (b) General use of a mask. (c) Prior to each ceremony, the area or areas to be used shall be disinfected and during the ceremony the objects used shall be disinfected. (d) Entrances and exits shall be arranged so as to avoid crowding of people at entrances and approaches to places of worship. (e) To make available to the public, particularly at entrances for immediate use, packages of antiseptic gel or disinfectants with a virucidal action, which must be approved by the Ministry of Health. (f) The use of holy water or various ablutions using water of Islam, Judaism is not permitted and they must be performed in the homes of the believers. (g) Within the places of worship and if necessary, the distribution of believers in the area or seats may be marked according to the permitted capacity. (h) In cases where believers sit on the floor and enter without footwear, then individual mats shall be used and footwear shall be placed within a closed package and in a designated area. (i) The ceremony should last for the minimum possible time. (j) During the ceremony, the following should be avoided: personal contact while maintaining the one-

meter distance; the distribution of any object, book or pamphlet; the touching or embracing of objects of worship or other frequently used objects; and the participation of choirs.

B) The measures were taken at the same time as the measures on public places and were adopted in the same decisions as the latter.

f. Italy

A) On February 23, 2020 by article 1, par. 2C of legislative decree № 6 "Emergency measures for the containment and management of the emergency epidemiological phenomenon COVID-19" it was decided for the municipalities with high rates of contamination to *"suspend gatherings or any other type of events in public or private places, even if they are gatherings of a cultural, recreational, sporting or religious nature, held in closed areas accessible to the public"*.

Similar provisions were included in subsequent legislative and Prime Ministerial decrees on measures to limit and manage the spread of COVID-19, which gradually banned religious gatherings throughout the Italian territory. At the same time, all religious ceremonies were suspended.

On May 18, 2020, during the second phase of the return to normality, it was decided by decree to lift the ban on religious ceremonies in the presence of believers, under certain security conditions. To this end, security protocols for religious ceremonies were drawn up in cooperation with representatives of the Catholic Church and other religious communities, and they were approved by the special Scientific Technical Committee for the treatment of coronavirus, with the participation of representatives of religious communities. The First Protocol was signed with the Italian Episcopal Synod, and then other protocols were signed respectively by representatives of the Orthodox, Protestant, Evangelical, Anglican, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist communities.

According to these protocols (a) access to places of worship is allowed, avoiding any assembly/gathering at the entrance and exit, (b) the authorised minister by the legal religious body is required to determine the maximum capacity of the place of worship taking into account the minimum mandatory safety distance of one metre, with a maximum capacity of 200 persons, with the exception of Roman Catholic churches, (c) access to the place of worship shall be regulated by personnel wearing a mask, gloves and a badge to identify them, and the possibility of increasing the number of services during the day may be considered; (d) access by believers must be orderly and respecting the distance of at least 1.50 metres between them, and separate entrance and exit must be provided. Doors must remain open during ceremonies; (e) masks are mandatory for all those entering the places of worship; (f) no entry is permitted if the temperature of the persons is equal to or greater than 37.5° C (g) access is not allowed to those who have come into contact with virus positive persons during the previous days (h) antiseptic liquids are necessary at the entrances, (i) the places of worship must be regularly disinfected at the end of each ceremony, (j) at the end of each ceremony, the objects used and the microphones must also be disinfected; (k) the participation of a single musician is permitted, but not a choir; (l) hand hygiene must be observed by the priest, using disposable gloves and a mask covering the nose and mouth, (m) the content of the protocol should be communicated to the believers by any appropriate means; (n) there should be a clearly legible notice at the entrance of the place of worship informing of the maximum number of believers allowed, the prohibition of entry to those with symptoms of influenza or a body temperature above 37.5° C, those who have come into contact with persons positive to the virus and the obligation to keep a distance and to ensure hygiene rules. Finally, where the place of worship does not meet the conditions laid down in the Security Protocol, the religious minister may consider the

possibility of holding a service in an open space, in compliance with the Public Health rules, with a maximum number of 1,000 believers. It should be noted that on this point too, the State's special Protocol with the Catholic Church does not provide for this limitation.

B) The legislative decrees issued to counter the spread of COVID-19 in Italy contain provisions on places of worship and the exercise of religious duties, in the context of the more general prohibitions on places of public assembly.

g. Netherlands

A) In the Netherlands, throughout the pandemic COVID-19 crisis, a matrix of flexible restrictive measures was applied, mainly in the form of recommendations to citizens ("intelligent lockdown"), which started to be gradually eased from 11-5-2020.

After March 15, 2020, a general ban on gatherings of more than 30 people and the recommendation to maintain a safety distance of 1.5 metres also applied to places of worship. The measure also applies to religious or civil weddings and funerals. In practice, many places of worship have at their own initiative suspended their operation for a long period of time for the first time. From 1st July 2020, it is envisaged that it will be possible to hold gatherings of up to 100 people, with a safety distance of 1.5 metres. The use of protective masks during the aforementioned period was not compulsory except on public transport.

It should be noted that the responsibility for taking additional or specialised protection measures against coronavirus has been delegated by the government to local government, which is responsible for developing and implementing relevant protocols by sector or industry (e.g. schools, places of worship, recreational parks, etc.).

B) In particular with regard to places of worship, no targeted measures have been taken in the Netherlands.

h. Russia

A) The Russian Orthodox Church announced on March 17, 2020 that the Services and Sacraments will take place as before, but with all necessary measures, which were specified as follows: (a) disinfection with alcohol of the Spoon (Cochlear) before each person receives Holy Communion; (b) administration of holy water in disposable plastic cups; (c) administration of the bread "antidoron" by the priest with gloves; (d) prohibition of embracing the right hand of priests; (e) disinfection before each embrace of holy icons, crosses and Gospels; (f) disinfection of the font before each use. The measures did not include keeping distances between the believers.

On March 29, 2020, Patriarch Kirill appealed to the believers to refrain from visiting Churches.

The services of Holy Week and Easter, despite the persistent recommendations of Patriarch Kirill for their celebration without the presence of believers, were essentially left to the discretion of the clergy and in many cases the Churches were opened, informally, to all comers. This was mainly done in Monasteries outside of large cities. The case of the most important monastery in the country, Lavra of Aghios Sergius, is characteristic, where the believers entered without heeding the pleas of the monks, with the tragic result that an undetermined number of believers and dozens of monks became ill, many of whom died. The situation developed in such a dramatic way that it was common knowledge that the two groups of the population most at risk and most affected in Russia were the doctors and the clergy.

Faced with this crisis, Patriarch Kirill urged the believers to adapt to the suggestions of the competent health authorities of the State and to refrain from any presence and participation in the services, stressing: "... Do not listen to any more preachings by careless priests. Listen to what your Patriarch has told you today".

Russia's places of worship remained open for individual prayer, however ceremonies are held behind closed doors with only the presence of religious ministers and necessary support staff. The Russian Church decided to keep the churches, in which there was a spread of Covid-19 among the clergy, closed for a sufficient period of time for the clergy as well.

B) The State did not impose prohibitions on the operation of places of worship. The prohibitions, restrictions and preventive measures against coronavirus were taken by the religious communities concerned.

i. Turkey

A) On March 16, 2020, by decision of the Turkish State Agency for Religious Affairs (Diyanet), all mass religious ceremonies in mosques were suspended, which remained open only for individual private prayers. On March 19, 2020, by a later decision of the same agency, the mosques were completely closed to believers. Similar measures were taken for all places of worship.

B) At the same time, other measures were announced to contain the pandemic. After March 12, 2020, the Turkish authorities announced on an almost daily basis specific restrictive measures in individual sectors of activity.



I. INCIDENTS OF YEAR 2020



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

A. Christianity

1. Orthodox Church

a. Introduction

The Orthodox Church in Greece is not a single administrative unit; it consists of ecclesiastical structures sharing a common reference point: their relation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The term “**Orthodox Church in Greece**” designates: a) the **Church of Greece** which is autocephalous and consists of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and eighty one (81) Holy Metropolises, b) the semi-autonomous **Church of Crete**, which, according to the canon law is under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, consisting of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and eight (8) Holy Metropolises, c) the **Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese** (5 Holy Metropolises¹⁸ and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos¹⁹) 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 law²⁰.

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,*

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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)).

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

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

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

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

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 9,822.** Chapels, pilgrimage churches, private churches, cemetery chapels and other religious sites do not factor in this figure.

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

In **2020**, five (5) **Presidential Decrees** were adopted for establishing parishes, two (2) for establishing Monasteries and one (1) for reconstitution of Monasteries in Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece.

c. Incidents

The religious sites of the Orthodox Church for this Report include all types of churches²¹, 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 2020 recorded here are certainly not exhaustive.

For the year **2020**, **three hundred seventy-four (374)** incidents have been recorded.

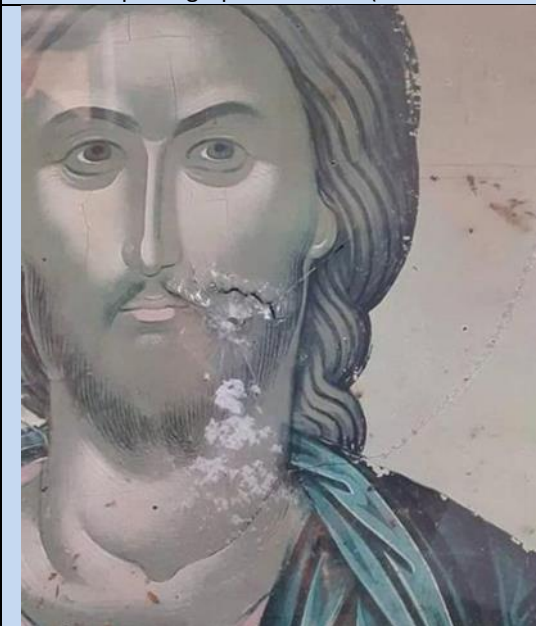

The incidents are presented in summary fact sheets, as follows:

No	1.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Vassilios, Kamara Leros, Dodecanese
Date	1 January 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, breaking of a metal box with donations from believers and removal of about 100€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	2.
Location	Cemetery Church of Panagia Xeriotissa, Lamia, Fthiotida
Date	1/2 January 2020
Brief description	Tearing of the ecclesiastical flag with the double-headed eagle
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	3.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Vassilios, Thassos Port, Kavala
Date	3 January 2020

²¹ 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.

Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main door and damage to 5 icon showcases with a plastic air gun
Perpetrator/s	1 German national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed
Indicative photographic material (Source: service archive)	
	

№	4.
Location	Church of Aghios Loukas, Kifissia, Attica
Date	3 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box with a sharp object and removal of 50€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	5.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Igoumenitsa, Thesprotia
Date	3 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the side entrance of the church, the locks of 3 collection boxes and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	6.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Pella
Date	3 January 2020
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into a collection box and damage
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	7.
Location	Chapel of Archangelos Michail of the Christ Parish in Ierapetra, Lassithi
Date	Between 1 and 5 January 2020

Brief description	Entry without any traces of breaking-in and removal from the Sanctuary of a box with gold votive offerings, a total value of 500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	8.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Avgio, Iliia
Date	5/6 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a charity box, removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	9.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Mili Samos
Date	6 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	10.
Location	Church of Gennisis of Theotokos "Liapyrgoussena", Chalkios Chios
Date	8 January 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators broke the windowpanes of the church, took a wooden cross with the Crucified from the nave, broke it and threw it in the courtyard.
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	11.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Agrinio, Aitoloakarnania
Date	8 January 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators wrote an abusive slogan in black marker on the exterior wall of the church next to the main entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	12.
Location	Chapel of the Parish Church of Prophitis Ilias, Megaplatano Fthiotida
Date	8 January 2020
Brief description	Damage to the collection box in the courtyard of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	13.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphon, Kanalia Magnesia
Date	9 January 2020
Brief description	Entry through the main unsecured door and removal of 2 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	14.
Location	Church of Panagia Disirkia, Kerasia Magnesia
Date	9 January 2020
Brief description	Entry through the main unsecured door and removal of 1 wooden icon of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	15.
Location	Chapel of Panagia, Vounichora, Fokida
Date	9 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and side window and removal of 1 candelabrum, 1 gilded Gospel and 1 censer, a total value of 500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	16.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Kalamavka, Ierapetra, Lassithi
Date	10/11 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the Parish office and removal of a sum of 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	17.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Thessaloniki
Date	12 January 2020
Brief description	Vandalism of the Chapel in the courtyard of the Church. Spray-painted insulting slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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



No	18.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Panagia Dexia, Kamara, Thessaloniki
Date	13 January 2020
Brief description	Damage to icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	19. (See also incident 32)
Location	Church of Theou Sophias, Vrahasi, Lassithi
Date	14 January 2020
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the main door of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	20.
Location	Wayside shrine on the Mvtilene-Panagiouda highway, Lesvos
Date	15 January 2020
Brief description	Damage caused to a wayside shrine dedicated to the memory of a road accident victim
Perpetrator/s	1 Afghan national
Police/procedural actions	The offender was arrested - A dossier was formed for violation of Article 382 of the Penal Code "Aggravated cases of damage"

No	21.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Amaliada, Ilia
Date	16 January 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church, breaking-into the collection box and removal of approximately 1,300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	22.
Location	Monastery of Gennisis of Theotokos, Panorama Thessaloniki
Date	18 January 2020
Brief description	The entry lock mechanism was broken-into. Exploration of all the spaces, without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	23.
Location	Church of Aghios Eleftherios, Maroussi, Attica
Date	21 January 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered the church, removed the bronze cases from the candelabra and damaged them
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	24.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Athens
Date	21 January 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator broke two small parts of the glass panes of the entrance doors with the use of a stick

Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	25.
Location	Chapel of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Moria Lesvos
Date	21 January 2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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





No	26. (See also incident 27)
Location	Church of Panagia Faneromeni, Tyrnavos Larissa
Date	21 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the central door of the church and removal from the collection box of the amount of 1,500€, according to the estimations of the priest
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	27. (See also incident 26)
Location	Church of Aghia Lavra, Tyrnavos Larissa
Date	21/22 January 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	28.
Location	Chapel of Koimissis of Theotokos, on the national road Martinos - Larymna, Fthiotida
Date	22 January 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, breaking-into a safe and removal of about 40€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	29.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Varia Lesvos
Date	Between 14 and 23 January 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, breaking-into a collection box and removal of a sum of approximately 50€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	30.
Location	Church of Aghios Vissarion, Kalambaka, Trikala
Date	23 January 2020
Brief description	A woman removed 200€ from a wallet in a handbag from a person attending the church
Perpetrator/s	1 national

Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed
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№	31.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Eleoussa, Thebes, Boeotia
Date	23 January 2020
Brief description	Damage outside and inside the chapel (window railings and a door were broken)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	32. (See also incident 19)
Location	Church of Theou Sophias, Vrahasi, Lassithi
Date	24 January 2020
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the main door of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

№	33.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Linaria, Ancient Olympia, Ilia
Date	Between 19 and 25 January 2020
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

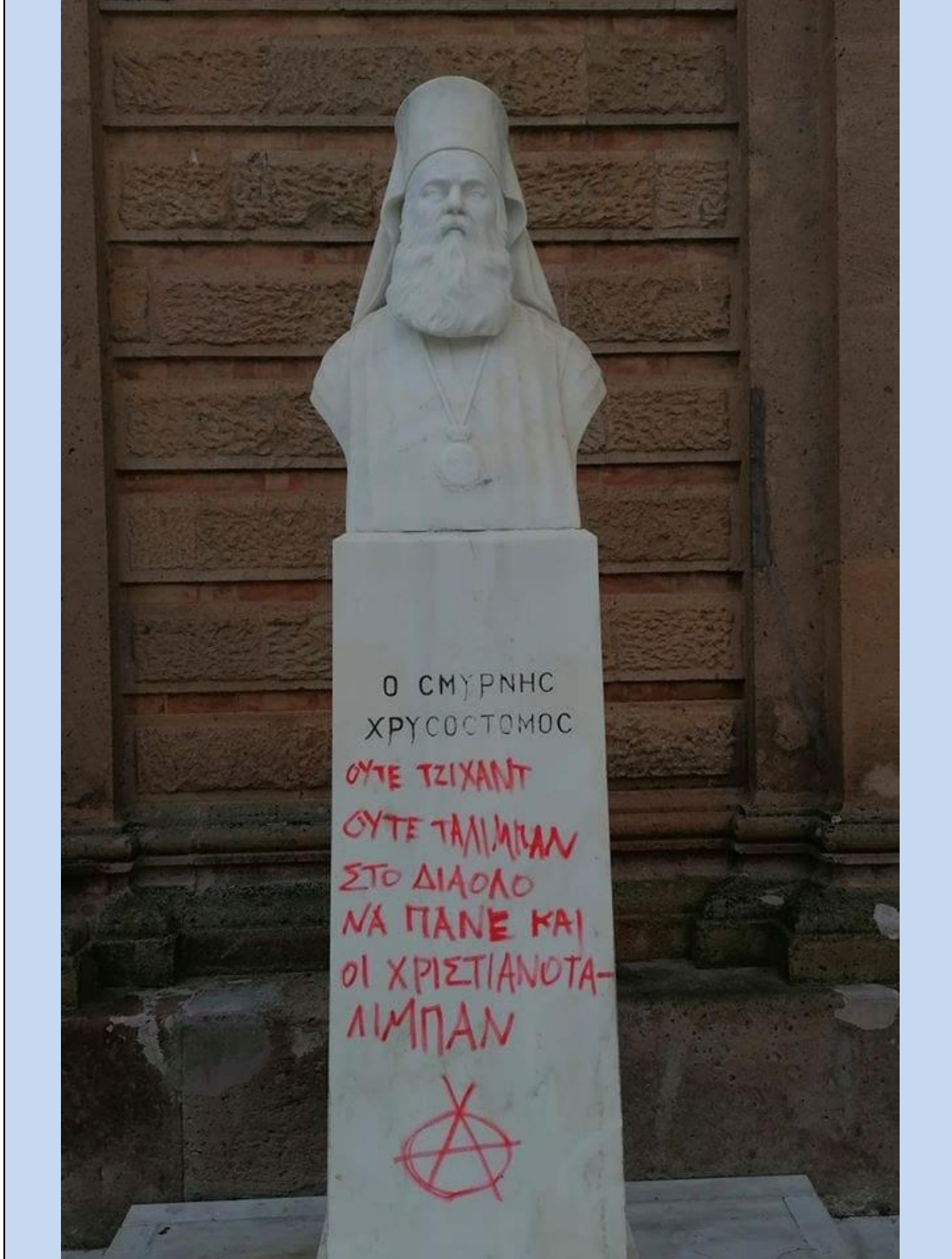
№	34.
Location	Church of the Issodia of Theotokos, Mochos, Heraklion, Crete
Date	26/27 January 2020
Brief description	Break-in, breaking into a safe and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	35.
Location	Monastery of Taxiarches, Neraida, Fthiotida
Date	Between 29 October 2019 and 29 January 2020
Brief description	Damage to a fireplace in an old cell through a hole made by using digging tools
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	36.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Exo Lakonia, Lassithi
Date	Between 27 and 29 January 2020
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	37.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Kalamavka, Ierapetra, Lassithi
Date	29/30 January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a door and removal of 150€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	38. (See also Addendum)
Location	Church of Aghios Therapontas of Mytilene, Lesvos
Date	30 January 2020
Brief description	Vandalism of the bust of Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Smyrna in the courtyard of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
Comments	According to information from the Metropolis of Mytilene, busts are often desecrated or flags are torn in the courtyard of the church, usually after protests by groups of anarchists
Indicative photographic material (Source: Romfea.gr , approval to reprint)	



No	39.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Polycarpus, Menemeni, Thessaloniki
Date	31 January 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator attempted to break-into the collection box, he was noticed by a witness who alerted the police
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	40.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Kalamiotissa, Panagia Kalamiotissa Boeotia
Date	January 2020
Brief description	Theft of bells
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was lodged

No	41.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Arvanitsa, Boeotia
Date	January 2020
Brief description	Theft of bells
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was lodged

No	42.
Location	Church of Evangelismos of Theotokos of Asfendiou, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the office and the doors, destruction of a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	43.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Antimachia Kos, Dodecanese
Date	January 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	44.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Vardates, Fthiotida
Date	Between 26 January and 1 February 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the window. Breaking-into the collection box and removal of the amount of 40€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	45.
Location	Aghios Andreas Cemetery Church, Skafidia, Ilia
Date	1 February 2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	46.
Location	Church of Agioi Anargyroi, Spata, Attica
Date	2 February 2020
Brief description	Removal of a collection box with 300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	47.
Location	Cemetery, Dokos Chalkida, Evia
Date	5/6 February 2020
Brief description	Theft of numerous copper and bronze items, damage to foreign property of an undetermined economic value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	48.
Location	Private Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Kalathos, Rhodes, Dodecanese
Date	Between 2 and 8 February 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main door, nothing removed
Perpetrator/s	4 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	49.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Fanourios, Church of Aghios Polycarpus, Botanikos, Athens
Date	9 February 2020
Brief description	Occupation and vandalism of the chapel, theft of old items, damage to the Holy Altar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	50.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Ekaterini, Moria Lesvos
Date	9 February 2020
Brief description	Almost total destruction
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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





No	51.
Location	Church of Anastassis of Christ, Spata, Attica
Date	10 February 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator broke a window, but left due to an alarm activation
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	52.
Location	Church of Aghios Polycarpus, Botanikos, Athens
Date	10 February 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator caused damage to a door of the church
Perpetrator/s	1 Somali national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	53.
Location	Church of Yperaghia Theotokos of Typaldata, Chavdata, Lixouri, Kefalonia
Date	10 February 2020
Brief description	Fire due to an undetermined cause in the church resulting in its total destruction
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation by the Fire Service of Lixouri

No	54.
Location	Private Church within a hotel unit, Kolymbia, Rhodes, Dodecanese
Date	11/12 February 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and removal of 200€ from the collection box, 1 TV and various other objects, worth approximately 1,200€
Perpetrator/s	4 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	55.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Antonios, Chimadi Tempi, Larissa
Date	Between 1 January and 13 February 2020

Brief description	Removal of 9 icons of indeterminate monetary value from the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	56.
Location	Chapel of Gennissis of Theotokos, Vounoplugia, Ioannina
Date	12/13 February 2020
Brief description	Two wooden doors and glass panes were broken. Breaking-into a lock of the Blessed Virgin Mary's icon showcase and removal of gold votive offerings, a total value of 1,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	57.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Thessaloniki
Date	13 February 2020
Brief description	Attempt to break-into an iron door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	58.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Igoumenitsa, Thesprotia
Date	13 February 2020
Brief description	A side door was broken, breaking-into 3 collection boxes and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	59.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Sikies, Thessaloniki
Date	13 February 2020
Brief description	Black paint thrown on the wall and the side door of the church, leaflets with insulting slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

№	60.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Sapsila Patmos, Dodecanese
Date	15 February 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church through an unsecured door, breaking-into the collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	61.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Nea Philadelphia, Attica
Date	17 February 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church by breaking-into a window. Damage to 1 wooden seat, icons of Saints, the glass pane of the Blessed Virgin Mary's icon showcase and removal of all its votive offerings. Breaking-into the lock of the charity box and removal of 25€

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	62.
Location	Private Church of Archangelos Michael, Rhodes, Dodecanese Greece
Date	17 February 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured entrance, breaking-into the collection box and removal of 10€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	63.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Ano Poli of Thessaloniki
Date	17 February 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators painted with black paint the two icons of the Taxiarches at the main entrance of the church, the Chapel of Aghios Nektarios at the back of the church, the stairs entering the church from the back east entrance and the holy water font in the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

№	64.
Location	Cemetery Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Kyparissi, Fthiotida
Date	Between 15 and 18 February 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, breaking-into a collection box and removal of 60 €
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	65.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Kyprianos, Dekarcho, Xanthi
Date	18 February 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the front door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	66.
Location	Metropolis of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki
Date	19 February 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators were caught in the act committing damage to foreign property, throwing bottles with red and black paint, writing slogans and dropping printed propaganda material
Perpetrator/s	7 nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators arrested and 4 identified - A dossier was formed

№	67.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon of the Nursing Home in Lamia, Fthiotida
Date	20 February 2020

Brief description	The perpetrator entered the church through the open entrance and broke a showcase
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	68.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vageniti, Ioannina
Date	20 February 2020
Brief description	Break-in and removal of 40€ in coins and some bottles of Mavrodaphne wine worth about 50€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	69.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Polylofo,
Date	20 February 2020
Brief description	Break-in and removal of the amount of 40€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	70.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Polylofo, Ioannina
Date	20 February 2020
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	71.
Location	Cemetery, Kato Tithorea, Fthiotida
Date	21 February 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators entered the Cemetery and removed 20 flower boxes and 20 vigil lamps from graves, a total value of 1,500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	72.
Location	Cemetery Church of Michael and Gabriel, Neochori, Fthiotida
Date	Between 15 and 22 February 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of 2 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	73.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Athanassios, Didymoteicho, Evros
Date	23 February 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators broke the central wooden door of the church, but they did not manage to enter, because the alarm was activated
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	74.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Messochori, Fthiotida
Date	Between 22 and 25 February 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the left entrance of the church causing serious material damage. Breaking-into the collection box and removal of 200€. Damage amounting to approximately €500
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	75.
Location	Church of Gennissis of Theotokos, Thesprotiko, Preveza
Date	28 February 2020
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	76.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Thesprotiko, Preveza
Date	28 February 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance, breaking-into the collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	77.
Location	Chapel, Facilities of the former "ΣΕΒΑΘ" factory, Xanthi
Date	28 February 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the front door, vandalism of portable holy icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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



No	78.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Skoura, Laconia
Date	February 2020
Brief description	Destruction of a door and theft of a reliquary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	79.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Antimachia Kos, Dodecanese
Date	February 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint


No	80.
Location	Fellos Cemetery, Andros, Cyclades
Date	Between 17 December 2019 and 1 st March 2020
Brief description	Damage to a marble tomb and removal of 2 marble vases on the aforementioned tomb
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed


No	81.
Location	Church of Metamorfosis Sotiros, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	3 March 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators broke the door of the main entrance of the church with a large stone, but did not manage to enter
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and one of them was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	82.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nektarios, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	3 March 2020
Brief description	Entry by breaking a door with an iron, destruction of the marble-made collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and one of them was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	83.
Location	Church of Panagia Gorgoepikoou, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	3 March 2020
Brief description	Break-in and damage to the collection box without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified and one of them was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	84.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Moria Lesvos
Date	3 March 2020
Brief description	Vandalism

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

№	85.
Location	Cemetery, Moria Lesvos
Date	3 March 2020
Brief description	Family graves were opened and the bones of the dead were thrown out. Crosses and candles were destroyed
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	86.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Vlachia, Evia
Date	Between 3 February and 4 March 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft. Damage of a total value of 100€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	87.
Location	Church of Gennisis of Christ, Peania, Attica
Date	6 March 2020
Brief description	Removal of copper external piping of an air conditioning unit (4 m. length)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	88.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Apollonia, Thessaloniki
Date	8 March 2020
Brief description	The office window of the church was broken-into. The main door of the storage room in the church yard was also broken-into. Nothing was missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	89.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Anogia, Rethymnon
Date	8/9 March 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, removal of votive offerings of an undetermined value, attempted breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	90.
Location	Cemetery Church, Madouki, Corfu
Date	10 March 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator broke-into the side door of the church and removed objects of a total value of 550€ which were found in his possession
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	91.
Location	Stavros, Apeli, Mytilene, Lesvos
Date	11 March 2020
Brief description	Damage to the Cross and flag at the site by writing slogans in red paint
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A criminal complaint was filed against unidentified perpetrator/s, for violation of article 378 of the Penal Code "Damage to foreign property". Preliminary investigation

№	92.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Nea Magnesia, Thessaloniki
Date	11 March 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke a glass pane of a side window of the church, entered and removed the votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	93.
Location	Church of Aghios Dionysios Areopaghitis, Athens
Date	11 March 2020
Brief description	Damage to the masonry and bulletin boards of the church with spray, painting of slogans and inappropriate images
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	94.
Location	Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Goritsa, Laconia
Date	11 March 2020
Brief description	Destruction of a door, desecration of the church, Holy Relics and Holy vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	95.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Neo Perivoli Larissa
Date	12/13 March 2020
Brief description	Removal of 11 holy icons from the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	96.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Antonios, Kokkinogi Elassona, Larissa
Date	12/13 March 2020
Brief description	Illegal excavation within the Monastery in order to discover or find ancient coins and pounds
Perpetrator/s	6 nationals and 1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

№	97.
Location	Church of Aghia Fotini, Koumpes Rethymnon
Date	14/15 March 2020

Brief description	Violation of a window and removal of 30€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 Polish national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

№	98.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Thessaloniki
Date	17 March 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators set fire using flammable liquid at the entrance of the church, resulting in the burning of the doormat and traces on the floor
Perpetrator/s	3
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	99.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Timios Stavros Rethymnon
Date	17 March 2020
Brief description	Removal of an undetermined sum of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 Polish national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

№	100.
Location	Metropolitan Palace of Veroia, Veroia, Imathia
Date	17 March 2020
Brief description	Break-in, theft of a safe and other damage
Perpetrator/s	5
Police/procedural actions	Perpetrators arrested

№	101.
Location	Palace of the Metropolis of Messogaia and Lavreotiki, Spata, Attica
Date	17 March 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator threw eggs and yoghurt, as well as green paint at the entrance of the Palace. Damage to the entrance door and the wall
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	102.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Perivolia, Rethymnon
Date	17/18 March 2020
Brief description	A door was broken. Removal of 20€ from the collection box and 1 gold ring from a cabinet
Perpetrator/s	1 Polish national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

№	103.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Episkopiko Ioannina
Date	Between 15 and 19 March 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance of the church and removal of approximately 100€ from 3 secured collection boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	104.
Location	Chapel of Epirotes Aghioi, Episkopiko Ioannina
Date	Between 15 and 19 March 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the central door of the chapel and removal of approximately 10€ from a secured collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	105.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Perivolia Rethymnon
Date	Between 16 and 19 March 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the office of the church and removal of 1,500€
Perpetrator/s	1 Polish national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	106.
Location	Church of Panagia Kosmosoteira, Feres Alexandroupolis.
Date	18/19 March 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the church by breaking-into the main door and removed a safe of 1,000€ worth which was placed under the collection box and contained about 800€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	107.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nektarios, Maroussi, Attica
Date	Between 13 and 20 March 2020
Brief description	Entry by cutting off a railing and a window pane. All the spaces were searched and the Holy Gospel, a pair of tongs, the Holy Lance, chalices and candles were removed. Breaking-into a collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	108.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Vasiloudi Thessaloniki
Date	21 March 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a side entrance of the church and removal of sacred silver vessels (Holy Chalice and Holy Disc), an estimated value of 2,500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	109.
Location	Church of Panagouda, Thessaloniki
Date	23 March 2020

Brief description	The perpetrator removed money from a collection box using a wire. Police officers went to the spot and found in his possession 150€, which had been taken from the above collection box. The amount was returned to the church.
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	110.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Atalanti, Fthiotida
Date	23 March 2020
Brief description	Removal of a protective metal lath from the south iron door of the church office. Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

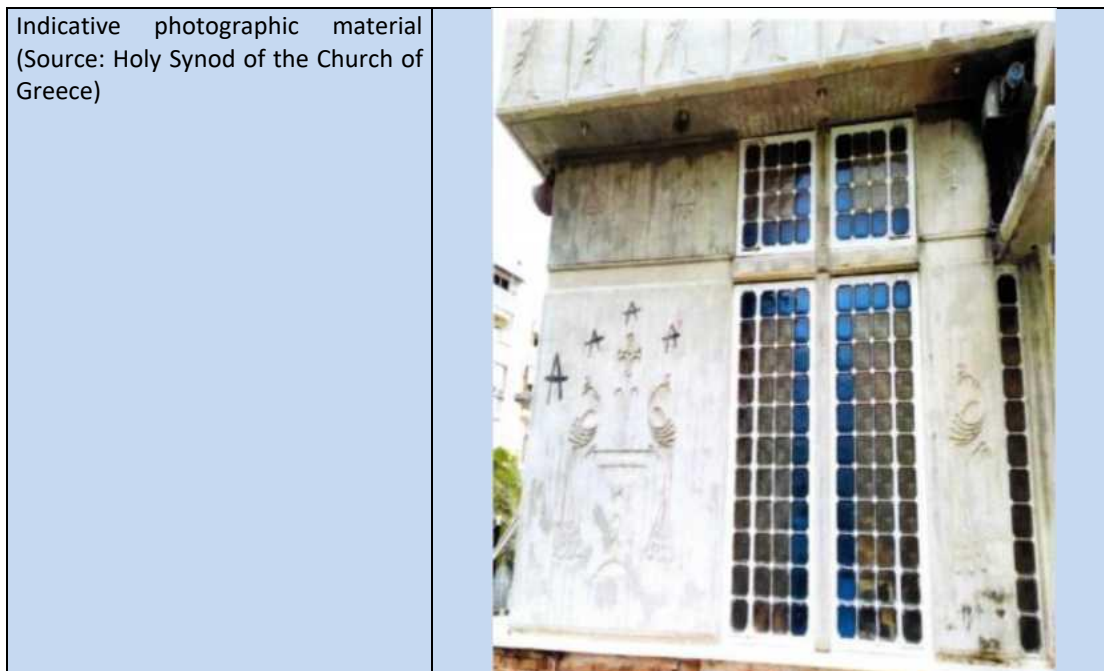
№	111.
Location	Church of Gennissis of Theotokos, Kardamena Kos,
Date	29 March 2020
Brief description	Break-in, theft of a collection box and candlesticks
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	112.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Scholari, Thessaloniki
Date	March 2020
Brief description	Damage to the icons of the Chapel of Aghios Georgios and general damage caused
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

№	113.
Location	Church of Evangelismos of Theotokos Asfendiou, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	March 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the doors and the office, destruction of the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	114.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Pyli, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	March 2020
Brief description	Destruction of a window due to attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	115.
Location	Church of Estavromenos, Kolokyntou, Athens
Date	3 April 2020
Brief description	Damage to masonry from painting slogans with spray
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None




No	116.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Chania, Crete
Date	4 April 2020
Brief description	Inscription of slogans on the exterior masonry of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No criminal complaint was lodged

No	117.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Artemis, Attica
Date	5 April 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator broke a window, but was noticed and left
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	118.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Faneromeni, Dionysos, Attica
Date	5 April 2020
Brief description	Removal of a reliquary made of precious metals containing part of the relic of a Saint, 2 gold watches and the sum of 120€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	119.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Gounari, Laconia
Date	6 April 2020
Brief description	Destruction of electrical and air-conditioning equipment
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	120.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Raphael, Moria Lesvos
Date	6 April 2020

Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	
	

No	121.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Triglia, Halkidiki
Date	7 April 2020
Brief description	Removal of objects of religious worship
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	122.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassilios, Exarchia, Athens
Date	7 April 2020
Brief description	Writing of blasphemous slogans with black spray-paint on the side entrance, the marble notice board, the staircase and the north exterior masonry of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Church of Aghios Vassilios)	





No	123.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Triada, Efkarpia, Thessaloniki
Date	13 April 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator entered the courtyard, probably by jumping over the fence wall, as there are no signs of forced entry at the front door of the monastery. He then entered the church through an unsecured window and removed from the Sanctuary 1 gold-plated pendant cross with a chain and from the sacristy 1 brass table sanctification cross
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	124.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Athanassios, Stavros, Fthiotida
Date	13 April 2020
Brief description	The Sanctuary was burnt and destroyed, oil was poured on the icons and the floor, so that the whole church was burnt

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Intervention by the Fire Service

№	125.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Ekaterini, Moria Lesvos
Date	14 April 2020
Brief description	Almost total destruction
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	126.
Location	Petraki Monastery, Building of the Synod of the Church of Greece, Athens
Date	17 April 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator, after jumping over the metal fence of the Monastery where the building of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece is located, entered the courtyard and placed an Improvised Explosive Device at the rear door of the Holy Synod (consisting of a travel suitcase, containing a thirteen-kilo bottle of Liquefied Petroleum Gas), set fire to the device and fled in an unknown direction. The above-mentioned mechanism did not explode, but pollution was caused by the flame in the door of the building and was discovered on 21-04-2020 at noon by the gardener
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
Comments	Statement by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Mrs Niki Kerameus: "We strongly condemn the attempted arson of the Palace of the Holy Synod. It is a divisive and provocative act that offends the religious sentiment of our people. We stand with the Church, as we do with every religious community that is subjected to such attacks. We remain united and rallied in our common effort, isolating violence and extremism."

№	127.
Location	Church of Anastassis of Christ, Kalamata, Messinia
Date	18 April 2020
Brief description	An attempt to break the north door of the church using pieces of cement from an adjacent building, during the celebration of the services of Pannychis and Anastassis, by protesters against the prohibition to enter the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
Indicative photographic material (Source: Metropolis of Messinia)	



No	128.
Location	Church of Analipsis Kiriou, Neos Kosmos, Attica
Date	18/19 April 2020
Brief description	At 23:58 about one hundred (100) people, who were on Lagoumitzi Street at the height of Thymocharous Street, near the church, activated and threw a number of Improvised Explosive Devices, firecrackers and marine flares, against a group of the Crime Prevention and Suppression Unit, which had made a barrier. To repel the attack, the above-mentioned group used chemical and flash bangs. The attack did not result in injury. Damage caused to the road surface in the form of pollution
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	129.
Location	Church of Aghios Alexandros, Kalamaria, Thessaloniki
Date	23 April 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke-into the main entrance of the church, entered the narthex and after destroying the wooden collection box, they removed a metal safe, which was screwed to the wooden collection box and contained approximately 50 - 60€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	130.
Location	Kathisma of Aghios Triphonas, Monastery of Aghios Pavlos, Mount Athos, Chalkidiki
Date	Between 14 February and 23 April 2020
Brief description	Removal from the reliquary of the Holy Altar of the relic of Aghios Triphonas, i.e. a bone about 6-7 cm long
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	131.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Vournika, Lefkada
Date	24 April 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church through a broken window and a protective railing. Nothing was removed
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	132.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Zacharias, Prophitis Zacharias, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	25 April 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators broke-in through the side door of a warehouse adjacent to the chapel and removed 1 power generator and 3 led floodlights
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	133.
Location	"The Shelter of Love", a charity structure (restaurant) of the Metropolis of Kalavryta and Aigialia, Aigio Achaia
Date	25/26 April 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the main door of the restaurant and removal from the freezers of all frozen meat and cooked food (undetermined value)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	134.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kypseli, Athens
Date	27 April 2020
Brief description	Inscription of abusive slogans on the north and east side, the staircase and southwest of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Complaint
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Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	135.
Location	Church of Aghia Irini, Argyroupoli, Attica
Date	27 April 2020
Brief description	The Cross in the churchyard was broken
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Data not available
Comments	<p>According to the post of Mr. Yiannis Konstantatos, Mayor of Elliniko-Argyroupoli on 26-4-2020 on social media: “I personally pledge that the Cross will be placed again in Aghia Irini. All the Argyropolitans for many, many years when they climbed our mountain in the chapel of Aghia Irini they could see the big Cross that our beloved priest Father Dimitrios Natsis had placed. A few days ago it was broken by vandals and I am not commenting on their act any further because I will get carried away in my characterizations. I personally pledge that the Cross will be re-installed in Aghia Irini. Those who don't like it should know that we</p>

don't like them and every time they break it, we will be fixing it again and again, until we catch them!"

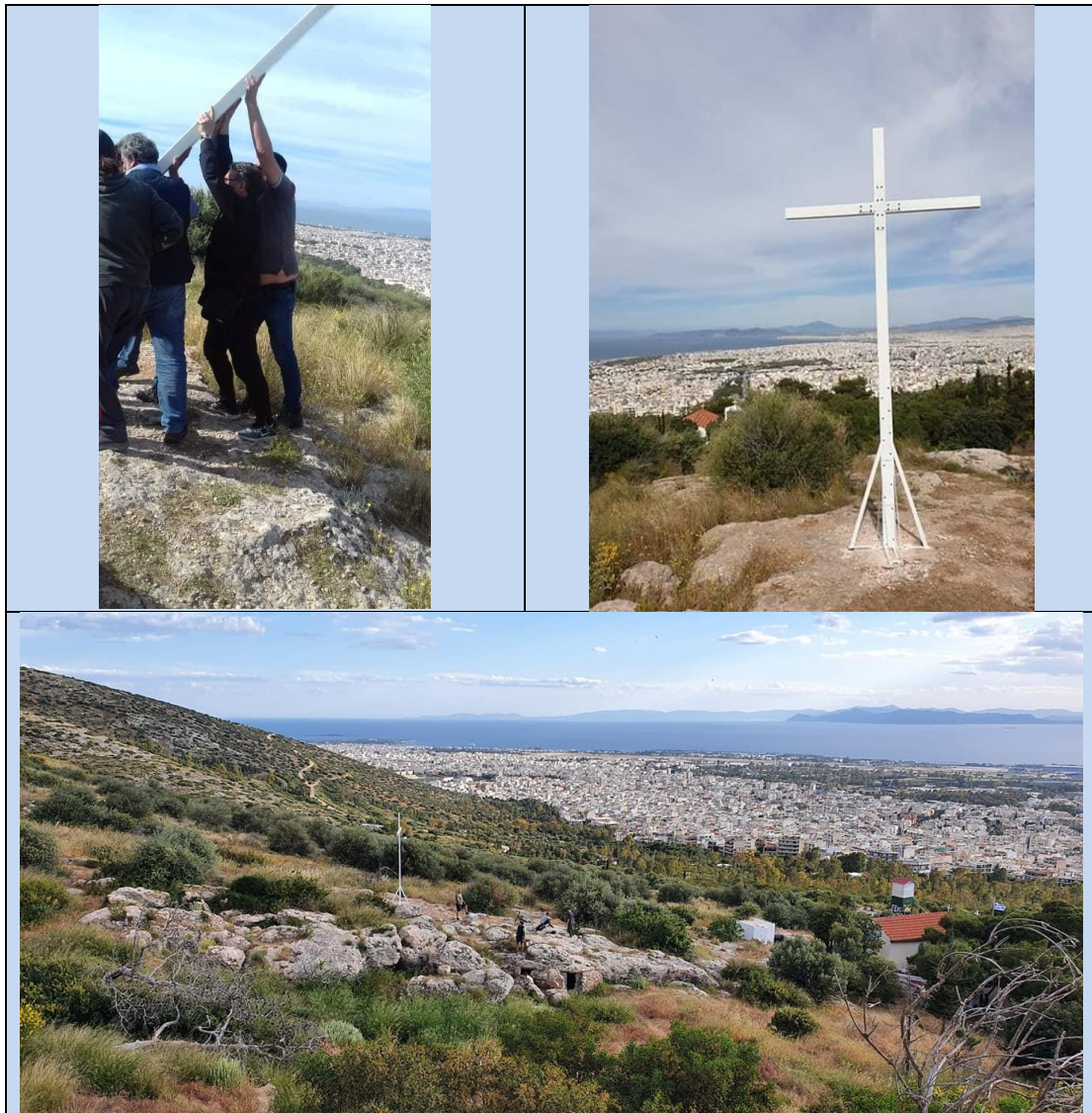
Moreover, according to his post on 3-5-2020:

"The Cross was re-installed at Aghia Irini. As I had promised our technical crew re-installed the Cross that recently some people had desecrated and broke at Aghia Irini. No one has the right to desecrate the holy and sacred places of our land.

I would like to thank the employees of the technical crew and my colleagues Deputy Mayor Thodoris Chaftis, Georgios Tsomokos and Anastasia Stoliga for their valuable help".

Indicative photographic material (Source: posts of the Mayor of Elliniko - Argyroupoli, Mr. Yannis Konstantatos in a social network)





No	136.
Location	Church of Genissis of Theotokos, Lagoudi Kos, Dodecanese
Brief description	The main entrance was broken-into
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	137.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi Linopotiou, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	April 2020
Brief description	The main entrance was broken-into
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	138.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Antimachia Kos, Dodecanese
Date	April 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	139.
Location	Church, Alepochori Villia, Attica
Date	Between 12 April and 2 May 2020
Brief description	Attempted break-in and removal of the collection box possibly with a cutting tool
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	140.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Keramidou, Moria Lesvos
Date	6/7 May 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators removed 50€ from the collection box and caused damage to 15 icons of Saints and 2 hagiographies, a total value of 5,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

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





No	141.
Location	Private Church, Vigla Pamphila, Lesvos
Date	Between 10 April and 9 May 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered a country house and removed various items. Then he entered the church located within the enclosed area of the above house, broke-into the side window and the main entrance, caused damage to the Altar, as well as to the whole church and removed 4 wooden carved icons, a total value of 1,200€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	142.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Dimitrios, Kypseli, Athens
Date	9 May 2020
Brief description	Coloured glass panes of the iron main entrance were broken, an inscription of insulting slogans on the masonry
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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



No	143.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Neapolis, Thessaloniki
Date	11 May 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator removed from an icon located in the chapel on the left side of the church, the middle silver candelabra, an estimated value of 3,000€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	144.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Laggoura Patras, Achaia
Date	12 May 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator pretending to be a believer had entered the church and hidden inside. At 20:10, the vicar, after securing the entrance doors and before leaving, went to the back and opened the basement door. There he saw the perpetrator, who had thrown the collection box on the floor, had turned it over and was removing the money from it
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	145.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis, Moria, Lesvos
Date	12 May 2020
Brief Description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint



No	146.
Location	Chapel of Pammeghistoi Taxiarches, Moria Lesvos
Date	12 May 2020
Brief description	Damage

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	147.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Ekaterini, Moria Lesvos
Date	12 May 2020
Brief description	Almost total destruction
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	148.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Moria Lesvos
Date	12 May 2020
Brief description	Vandalism of the chapel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	149.
Location	Cemetery, Moria Lesvos
Date	12 May 2020
Brief description	Family graves were opened and the bones of the dead were thrown out. Crosses and candles were destroyed
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	150.
Location	Private Church of Aghia Eleoussa, Messokampos, Samos
Date	15 May 2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	151.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sernikaki, Fokida
Date	15 May 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke-in through the door of the auxiliary room alongside the church, entered and removed 1 baptismal font, 2 plastic containers with oil and 3 carpets, a total value of 1,500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	152.
Location	Monastery Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Panagia Laodighitria, Thessaloniki
Date	17 May 2020
Brief description	About 40 people, without visible insignia, were spotted on Olympiad Street. They fled when the police forces arrived and some of them threw stones at the front side of the church, causing the shattering of 3 glass panes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	153.
Location	Monument to the Genocide of the Pontian Hellenism, near the Church of Aghia Anastassia Romeas, Arnissa, Pella
Date	Between 17 and 19 May 2020
Brief description	Writing slogans with red spray-paint on the pavement in front of the monument
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	154.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Apollonia, Thessaloniki
Date	19 May 2020
Brief description	Violation of a church window, breaking of the protective glass of the icon of Aghios Georgios and removal of votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	155.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Triada, Gerakli, Fthiotida
Date	19 May 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered through an unsecured door and removed an iron collection box with about 80€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	156.
Location	Church of Hossia Xeni and Aghios Nektarios, Charilaou - Thessaloniki
Date	20 May 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the church, which was open to believers, and without being noticed, he removed from a sacristy inside the Holy Altar 1 silver Holy Chalice and 1 silver Holy Disc. The total value of the objects amounts to 4,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	157.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Old Town of Rethymnon
Date	20 May 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into a wooden collection box containing approximately 500€ using a sharp object
Perpetrator/s	2 Bulgarian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	158.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakim and Anna of Aghios Nektarios Parish Church, Alexandroupoli, Evros
Date	20 May 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the collection box without managing to remove money, caused a disturbance and threw candles on the floor
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	159.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Kosmas of Aetolia, Anavrito, Kilkis
Date	21 May 2020
Brief description	Removal of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	160.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nektarios, Eptalofos, Kilkis
Date	21 May 2020
Brief description	Removal of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	161.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Sikies, Thessaloniki
Date	23 May 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church without any traces of break-in and removal of 8 silver candelabra of the temple and 6 silver candelabra of the shrine. Removal of 200€ from a box inside the Sanctuary. The total value of the above stolen goods is estimated at approximately 30,000€. Damage to a silver reliquary on the Holy Altar
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	162.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Patras, Achaia
Date	Between 23 and 25 May 2020
Brief description	Entry by breaking-into the lock of a side door and removal from the Sanctuary of the sheet with which the Crucified was wrapped, worth 10€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	163.
Location	Aghios Athanassios Cemetery Church, Elliniko, Farsala,
Date	28 May 2020
Brief description	Theft of 3 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed


No	164.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassilios, Megali Panagia of Halkidiki
Date	29 May 2020
Brief description	Removal of objects of religious worship
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Perpetrator arrested - A dossier was formed

No	165.
Location	Church of Aghios Christophoros, Vathi Avlida, Evia
Date	29/30 May 2020

Brief description	Removal of an external air-conditioning unit, weighing 400 kg, a value of approximately 2,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	166.
Location	Church of Aghios Minas, Lefkada
Date	30 May 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators burned part of the Greek flag and damaged the Byzantine flag which was placed on a pole outside the church
Perpetrator/s	5 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

№	167.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Spyridon and Aghia Marina, Daskalio Keratea, Attica
Date	Between 29 and 31 May 2020
Brief description	Removal of an icon of Aghios Spyridon worth 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	168.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Silas, Moria Lesvos
Date	31 May 2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/legal actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

№	169.
Location	Church of Timios Stavros Estavromenos, Heraklion Crete
Date	May 2020
Brief description	Writing slogans on the collection boxes in the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

№	170.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Stavros Karditsa
Date	May 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the door and the collection box, theft of about 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	None
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№	171.
Location	Cemetery, Nymphopetra Thessaloniki
Date	May 2020
Brief description	Damage to marbles, theft of candles
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	172.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios Arma, Antimachia Kos,
Date	May 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the window, breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	173.
Location	Palace of the Metropolis of Messogaia and Lavreotiki, Spata
Date	1 June 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator wearing a wig and a surgical-type mask, approached the entrance on foot, placed and activated an improvised explosive device, causing a small fire
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	174.
Location	Chapel of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Moria Lesvos
Date	3 June 2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	175.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Irini, Avra Farsala, Larissa
Date	3/4 June 2020
Brief description	Theft of 2 metal candelabra and 1 metallic candle holder
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	176.
Location	Pantanassa Church, Patras, Achaia
Date	4 June 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the church, which was open for prayer, and removed 1 gilded icon at the bottom of which there was an attached wooden cabinet containing the sum of 5€. Then, the above icon was found by residents outside an apartment building. The cabinet had been broken-into, the small amount of money was missing
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	177.
Location	Monastery Limonos, Kalloni, Lesvos

Date	7 June 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a collection box and removal of approximately €500
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	One of the perpetrators was identified - A dossier was formed

No	178.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Varnakova, Fokida
Date	14 June 2020
Brief description	Fire and destruction of the major building (Katholikon) of the Monastery and the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed by the Investigator of the Fire Department of Nafpaktos. The new church of Zoodochos Pigi was completely destroyed by the fire and its roof collapsed. The fire also destroyed everything inside the church: holy items, vestments, icons, books, frescoes, precious votive offerings of believers, money, furniture. From the information gathered by the nuns it is said that the holy icon of Panagia Varnakova was destroyed. It was of priceless religious value, the remains of the icon were found burnt. Also, the exhibition area with the exhibits of the Monastery, which was located in the narthex of the church, was also burnt/destroyed. Some damage was also sustained to the Monastery's elevator. The fire was extinguished by the Nafpaktos Fire Department with the assistance of neighboring Fire Services, with 9 vehicles and 18 firefighters of the Municipality of Dorida and a private water carrier. The file was submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office
Comments	<p>Statement of the Metropolitan of Fokida Mr.Theoktistos:</p> <p><i>"The Holy Metropolis of Fokida today mourns! It stands shocked and tearful before the unspeakable tragedy, in soul and heart, before the tragic holocaust of the Katholikon of the Holy Monastery of the Theotokos, the so-called Varnakova, and especially before the total destruction of Her miraculous icon.</i></p> <p><i>In continuation of the fiery nightmare that occurred three years ago, a new fire struck the Holy Monastery on the evening of June 14, 2020.</i></p> <p><i>The Monastery of Panagia Varnakova - one of the five oldest in Greece, the Aghia Lavra of Roumeli, has a long history since 1071, with Saint Arsenios the Varnakovite and two Komnenoi as its first founders!</i></p> <p><i>Throughout the centuries, the Monastery has not only been proud of the imperial origin of its first founders, the magnificent mosaic floors of the Katholikon, the rare library archive with the famous "chrysovoula", but mostly of the miraculous icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Megalomata Panagia, Yatrissa, whose loving gaze turned and watched Her children wherever they walked, healing at the same time in their souls and bodies "many passions and afflictions".</i></p> <p><i>The visible crack along Her face was made at the same</i></p>

time as the torpedoing of the Greek Warship "Elli" in Tinos on 15 August 1940 and reveals Her great protection of the nation.

On the occasion of the sad times that our local Church is experiencing, kneeling in our prayers, we declare our Holy Metropolis in general mourning until 14.8.2020, sympathizing with the cruel ordeal of the suffering Holy Brotherhood of the nuns.

And we invite the believers to become co-participants of faith and love through intensive prayer, sincere repentance and heartbreak, so that the God of supplication, mercy and charity may prevent any further sadness, danger, need and mourning from our entire nation.

*The Metropolitan
Theoktistos of Fokida"*

[For this incident a letter of support was sent by the Ecumenical Patriarch Mr. Bartholomew](#) (See Addendum)

Indicative photographic material (Source: Metropolis of Fokida)







No	179.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios and Aghioi Anargyroi, Diavata, Thessaloniki
Date	18 June 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main entrance and removal of sacred vessels, a total value of approximately 3,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	180.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Marina, Sapes Rodopi

Date	19 June 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the unsecured chapel and attempted to remove the built-in collection box, knocking down the wall surrounding it with sharp objects. The act was noticed by an eyewitness and the perpetrator fled
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	181.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Polichni, Thessaloniki
Date	19 June 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator, entered the courtyard of the Metochion, probably by climbing, and then, through an unsecured entrance got inside the Church, from where he removed 2 silver sacred vessels and 10 silver candelabra. The monetary value of the stolen items amounts to 7,000€. In addition, the perpetrator broke-into and removed a small amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	182.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Saranda Ekklissies of Thessaloniki
Date	19 June 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered in the Sanctuary and removed 1 silver Chalice, 1 Disk and 1 Asterisk (worth approximately 6,000€), 1 silver paten (worth approximately 1,500€), and 2 silver Chalices of the 18th and 19th century respectively of an undetermined value
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	183.
Location	Monastery of Aghioi Apostoloi Kyrillos and Methodios, Trilofos, Thessaloniki
Date	19 June 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke a window of the building, entered and searched all the premises without removing anything. They caused damage to a room entrance, broke a window and destroyed an external alarm unit which they placed in a bucket of water
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	184.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Thessaloniki
Date	20 June 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator entered the Sanctuary by climbing up the right side of the iconostasis as the door of the Sanctuary was locked. After messing up the premises, he removed 5 sacred vessels and broke 1 Holy Chalice, of a total value of approximately 4,000€. Then, the sacristan, noticing the presence of someone in the Sanctuary, unlocked the left door, from where the perpetrator fled

Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	185.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Lagadas, Thessaloniki
Date	20 June 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	186.
Location	Panagouda Church, Thessaloniki
Date	20 June 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from the collection box. The perpetrator was noticed by the chaplain via closed-circuit television
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	A recommendation was made

№	187.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos and Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Vasiloudi, Thessaloniki
Date	21 June 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator remained in the Church after the end of the Divine Liturgy. After the church was locked, he removed 8 silver candelabra of a total value of 8,000€ and 1 silver cross of a value of 470€. Attempt to break-into the collection box without result. Escape through a window
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	188.
Location	Church of Apostolos Pavlos, Messolonghi, Aitolokarnania
Date	23 June 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the railing of the office window of the church, breakage of a window pane and entry into the office. Search of the premises, breaking-into a wooden office drawer and removal of about 300€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	189.
Location	Aghios Dionissios Church, Acharnes, Attica
Date	25 June 2020
Brief description	Attempt to remove the Holy Chalice from the Sanctuary. The perpetrator was immobilized outside the church. The perpetrator fled
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	190.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Sikies, Thessaloniki
Date	25 June 2020

Brief description	Entry into the church without obvious signs of break-in and removal from the Sanctuary of 5 sacred vessels, a total estimated value of approximately 2,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	191.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Kato Gouves Hersonissos, Heraklion, Heraklion
Date	26 June 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the external lock of the collection box, removal of 50€ in coins and damage to the collection box worth 25€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	192.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Anatoli Ierapetra, Lassithi
Date	27 June 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and removal of 9€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	193.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Kipseli Athens, Attica
Date	27 June 2020
Brief description	The offenders did not allow the priest to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, interrupting him with shouts, as they did not accept him as the priest of the church
Perpetrator/s	14
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

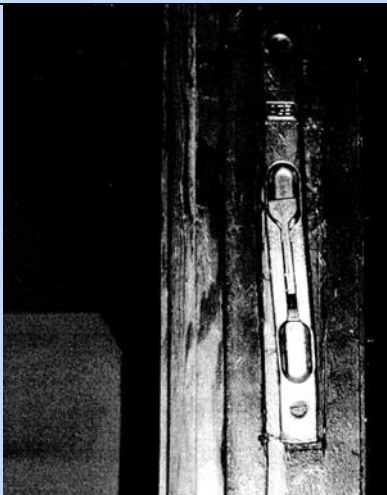
№	194.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Messolouri, Grevena
Date	29 June 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a collection box and removal of €24 in coins
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

№	195.
Location	Private Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Chalkios, Chios
Date	29 June 2020
Brief description	Break-in, theft of bread, oil and various household items
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	196.
Location	Church of Prophitis Elias, Thessaloniki
Date	June 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance of the Chapel of Aghios Nicodimos
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	197.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Pelekiti, Karitsa Dolopon, Karditsa
Date	1 July 2020
Brief description	Alarm deactivation, closed-circuit camera surveillance wiring cut off and break-in. Subsequently, breaking-into 2 collection boxes and removal of approximately 1,500€ in coins and banknotes. Also, breaking-into cells outside the Monastery and removing 8 keys to the collection boxes from a basement room. The total cost of damage estimated at 4.600€
Perpetrator/s	1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	198.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Toumba, Thessaloniki
Date	4 July 2020
Brief description	An unidentified woman entered the church to pray and about five minutes later she left the premises. Then it was noticed that an icon was missing. Through a closed-circuit recorder it was proven that the above-mentioned woman removed the icon of "Panagia Glykofilousa" dating since 1971
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	199.
Location	Church of Ypsossis of Timios Stavros, Lofiskos Thessaloniki
Date	6 July 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

No	200.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Vounoplaga, Ioannina
Date	6 July 2020
Brief description	Break-in and removal of the sum of 30€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	201.
Location	Cemetery of Aghios Georgios in Fthiotida
Date	9 July 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered the Cemetery and removed 58 metal candles from graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	202.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Aghios Polycarpus, Chalkios, Chios
Date	10 July 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance, theft of oil, sacred covers, table and chairs, other objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	203.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Platanitis, Aitolokarnania
Date	16 July 2020
Brief description	Break-in through a window and removal of a relic (bone fragment) of Aghios Nektarios
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	204.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Aghia Paraskevi, Rethymnon
Date	19 July 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of 50€ from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	205.
Location	Church of Panagia, Aghia Paraskevi Rethymnon
Date	19 July 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of 50€ from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	206.
Location	Church of Panagia Kritsilariotissa, Myra Larissa
Date	20 July 2020
Brief description	Theft of 2 crosses with chains
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	207.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Ioannis Theologos, Polihni Thessaloniki
Date	20 July 2020

Brief description	The perpetrator removed 1 icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary and left with a private vehicle. He was noticed by a passer-by who informed the police. The perpetrator was located and immobilized. In a subsequent check of the vehicle in question, the above icon was found and additionally 12 other icons, the origin of which has not yet been ascertained
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	208.
Location	Church of Ypsossis of Timios Stavros, Xerokampi, Laconia
Date	22 July 2020
Brief description	Removal of a window, theft of 7 candelabra, 2 candle holders, 2 candlesticks, incense boats, candles, flowerpots
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	209.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Xirochori, Thessaloniki
Date	22/23 July 2020
Brief description	Break-in and entry through a window, removal of 2 sets of silvered chalices from the Sanctuary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation


№	210.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Panteleimon, Marathi, Mykonos,
Date	Between August 2019 and 24 July 2020
Brief description	Entry without any traces of break-in and removal of a showcase with votive offerings, some of them dating back to the 17th and 18th century, since the construction and operation of the Monastery
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	211.
Location	Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Glyfada, Attica
Date	24 July 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator removed various ecclesiastical items worth 5,500€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	212.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Megalovryso Aghias, Larissa
Date	Between 23 and 25 July 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators removed 2 wooden doors of the nave of the church, 3 bronze candlesticks, 1 wooden candle holder and 1 wooden lectern
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	213.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Chrysostomos, Glyfada, Attica
Date	25 July 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator removed a laptop and various documents
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	214.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Kastraki, Farsala, Larissa
Date	26 July 2020
Brief description	Theft of 2 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	215.
Location	Church of Gennissis of Theotokos, Kalogeriko, Arta
Date	26 July 2020
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the south door of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

No	216.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Selinoundas, Achaia
Date	Between 25 and 27 July 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke-into the main door with a metal object, entered and removed 30€ from the collection box. They also broke glass panes and broke-into the lock of another entrance. The value of the damage amounts to approximately 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	217.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ligiades, Ioannina
Date	27 July 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke-into the lock of the main door, entered and removed the collection box. They then broke-into the 2 locks of the collection box and removed approximately 300€. Finally, they threw the collection box into the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	218.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kato Halika, Lesvos
Date	27 July 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and entry to the nave. Breaking-into the collection box and removal of 60€. During the escape, damage to 2 windows
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	219.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Dafni, Attica
Date	29 July 2020
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, theft of three silver vigil oil lamps from the Chapel of Evressis
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	220.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Itea, Karditsa
Date	29/30 July 2020
Brief description	Destruction of 2 drawers of the collection box and theft of 2 pendant crosses
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	221.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Mavrokampia, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	July 2020
Brief description	Break-in through a door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	222.
Location	Church of Asomatos Asfendiou, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	July 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance, total destruction of a side door, destruction of a collection box and theft of votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	223.
Location	Church of Ypsossis of Timios Stavros, Kypseli, Attica
Date	2 August 2020
Brief description	Theft of the Sanctification Cross and the Blessing Cross from the Holy Altar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	224.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Minas, Heraklion, Crete
Date	2 August 2020
Brief description	Broken glasspanes in the narthex

Perpetrator/s	1 Algerian national
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	225.
Location	Platanos Cemetery of Ancient Olympia, Ilia
Date	4/5 August 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators removed brass items (candles, censers and vases) from about 50 graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	226.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Zoodochos Ioannina
Date	5/6 August 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered the narthex of the church through an unsecured door, broke-into three locks of the collection boxes, removed about 200€ and left
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	227.
Location	Church of Neomartyr Michael, Granitsa Evrytania
Date	6 August 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and removal of 300€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	228.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Nea Magnesia, Thessaloniki
Date	8 August 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church through a broken glasspane. Broken glass of an icon and removal of 6 gold votive offerings, an estimated value of 1,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	229.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Anavra Almyrou, Magnesia
Date	8 August 2020
Brief description	Break-in and removal of 2 iconographed parts of the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	230.
Location	Monastery of Metamorphosis Sotiros, Aleospita, Fthiotida
Date	8 August 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the Monastery and removed about 70€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

No	231.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kalovatos Artas
Date	8/9 August 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into through the main entrance, breaking-into the showcases and cabinets and removing sacred vessels and 1 bag for collecting used candles. The above stolen goods have an estimated value of 100-150€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	232.
Location	Church of Aghia Ekaterini, Xylades Farsala, Larissa
Date	9 August 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and theft of 1 icon and an undetermined amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	233.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Athanassios, Nea Makrissi, Fthiotida
Date	9 August 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of 13 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	234.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Manna Xylokastro,
Date	10 August 2020
Brief description	Entry by breaking-into the main entrance and removal of 2 candelabras and 1 bell of unspecified value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed


No	235.
Location	Church of Aghios Christophoros, Dipotamos, Trikala
Date	10/11 August 2020
Brief description	Break-in and removal of 150€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	236.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Arrios Kalamata, Messinia
Date	12 August 2020
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	237.
Location	Church of Panagouda, Thessaloniki
Date	12 August 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from the collection box. The perpetrator was noticed by the chaplain via closed-circuit television

Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	A recommendation was made

№	238.
Location	Church of Panagia Sgrapa, Eleofyto, Messinia
Date	13 August 2020
Brief description	Removal of a collection box with an undetermined amount of money from the porch of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	239.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassilios, Rouf, Athens
Date	13 August 2020
Brief description	Damage to an air-conditioning unit due to attempted theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

№	240.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Rhodes, Dodecanese
Date	15 August 2020
Brief description	Broken glasspane of the main entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	241.
Location	Cemetery - Ossuary of Aghios Nikolaos Church, Dimitra, Grevena
Date	17 August 2020
Brief description	Removal of 20 brass oil lamps
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	242.
Location	Monastery of Genethlia of Theotokos (Pelagia), Akraifnio, Boeotia
Date	19 August 2020

Brief description	A perpetrator broke the wire fence of the Monastery, entered the premises and removed 3 radiators, non-functional (to be withdrawn)
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	243.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Fanourios, Vouzi, Fthiotida
Date	19 August 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of 1 Holy Gospel, 1 paten and 2 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	244. (See also incident 344)
Location	Church of Aghia Irini Chrysovalantou, Vathylakkos, Kozani
Date	20 August 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box. The theft was noticed by the vicar, after monitoring the records, whereupon he identified the perpetrator
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	245.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Triada and Aghios Nektarios, Glyfada, Attica
Date	24 August 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator removed from the church various items of 4,000€ worth
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

№	246.
Location	Cathedral of Koimissis of Theotokos Faneromeni, Cholargos, Attica
Date	25 August 2020
Brief description	Graffiti in the courtyard of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	247.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Pagrati Lamia, Fthiotida
Date	25 August 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered the church and removed from the iconostasis 1 icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which contained 1 gold chain with a cross using the method of distraction theft
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

№	248.
Location	Cemetery Pournariou in Ancient Olympia, Ilia
Date	26 August 2020

Brief description	Removal of brass items (candles, censers and vases) from about 50 graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

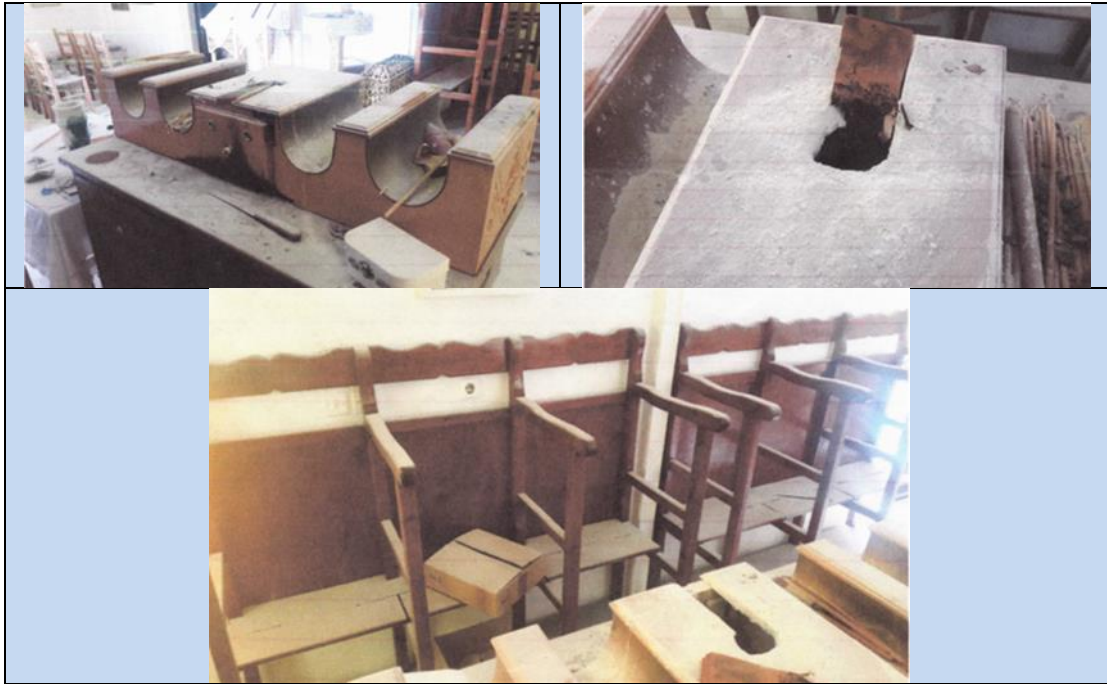
№	249.
Location	Herakleia Cemetery of Ancient Olympia, Ilia
Date	26 August 2020
Brief description	Removal of brass items (candles, censers and vases) from about 150 graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	250.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Makrochori Imathia
Date	28/29 August 2020
Brief description	Broken window, breaking-into the collection box, and removal of the iron box containing the money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	251.
Location	Church of Aghios Timotheos and Mavra, Ilioupoli, Attica
Date	30 August 2020
Brief description	Theft of a silver Holy Chalice of about 500€ worth from the Chapel of Aghia Euphemia
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	252.
Location	Cemetery Dafnon, Heraklion, Crete
Date	31 August 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator was caught removing bronze candle holders from graves
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	253.
Location	Church of Metamorphosis Sotiros, Naxos Chora, Cyclades
Date	31 August 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, breaking-into a collection box and removal of a small amount of money. During the investigation, traces of fire were found on the wooden surfaces of the collection box and the candelabra. Material (dust) from the use of a fire extinguisher were found in the nave. Damages amount to about 350€
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	254.
Location	Church of Timios Stavros Estavromenos, Heraklion, Crete
Date	August 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator placed a cardboard note at the entrance with the phrase "Allah is great"
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	Complaint to the Police - Recommendation to the offender

No	255.
Location	Church of Aghia Ekaterini, Garipa Heraklion, Crete
Date	August 2020
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	256.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Thessaloniki
Date	August 2020
Brief description	Theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	3 foreigners
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	257.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Aghios Stefanos Mykonos, Cyclades
Date	Between 29 August and 5 September 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the church through an unsecured door, cut the lock of the basement door and opened the ossuary where 5 chests containing bones of the victim's ancestors were stored, without removing anything. He also forced open, possibly with a sharp object, the door of an ancillary space near the church, without removing anything.
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
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№	258.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Kato Pteri, Achaia
Date	5 September 2020
Brief description	Entry by breaking-into through the central iron door. Removal of about 100€ from the collection box and a votive offering from the icon of Aghios Andreas
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	259.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Mendenitsa, Fthiotida
Date	5 September 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the central entrance of the church and removal of drawers from the collection box, which contained about 350€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	260.
Location	Church of Aghia Kyriaki, Nea Michaniona, Thessaloniki
Date	8 September 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered a shrine near the church which was open to believers and removed 3 icons of a total value of 2,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	261.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Diasella, Ilia
Date	8 September 2020
Brief description	Break-in, theft of a box with a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	262.
Location	Church of Panagouda, Thessaloniki
Date	10 September 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from the collection box. The perpetrator was noticed by the chaplain via closed-circuit television
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	A recommendation was made

№	263.
Location	Church of Timios Stavros Estavromenos, Heraklion, Crete
Date	Between 12 and 15 September 2020
Brief description	Theft of a Church Councillor's mobile phone from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	Complaint - The perpetrator was handed over to the Police

No	264.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Pallini, Attica
Date	16 September 2020
Brief description	Break-in and entry, possibly with a crowbar, and an unsuccessful attempt to break-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	265.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Nea Petra Rodopi
Date	17/18 September 2020
Brief description	Entry through a window by breaking the guard rail without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	266.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ano Syros, Syros
Date	20 September 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator attempted to take money from the collection box, damage
Perpetrator/s	1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	267.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Antonios, Ano Syros, Syros
Date	20 September 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator removed 20€ from the collection box, damage
Perpetrator/s	1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	268.
Location	Church of Konstantinos and Eleni, Vrynaina, Magnesia
Date	21 September 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator removed an exterior railing, broke a window and entered the church. He removed a total of 60 items, which were intended or dedicated to religious worship (Holy Gospel, sacred vessels and votive offerings). He then handed them over to 2 other perpetrators, both of whom run jewellery shops in the town of Almyros
Perpetrator/s	3 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were identified - A dossier was formed

No	269.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Antonios, Kokkinogi Elassonas, Larissa
Date	23 September 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the lock of the central entrance of the church, theft of 2 Holy Gospels and 2 reliquaries
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	270.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Batsi Andros, Cyclades
Date	23 September 2020

Brief description	An unidentified person informed the competent police station by phone about a person with a torch inside the church. Police officers went to the spot. A perimeter check of the church was conducted and two broken glasspanes were found in one of the windows. The perpetrator was found a short distance away and inside his backpack there were: 56,57€, 1 metal cutter, 2 screwdrivers, 1 flashlight, 1 disposable rubber glove
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	271.
Location	Church of Aghia Sophia, Mantzavinata, Lixouri, Kefalonia
Date	25 September 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the door of the church and chapel and removal of a sum of about 400€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	272. (See also incident 288)
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Thissio, Athens
Date	Between 20 and 26 September 2020
Brief description	Theft of copper tubes, other components, damage to air-conditioning units
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

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



No	273.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nektarios of the Monastery of Koimissis of Theotokos, Koronatos, Kefalonia
Date	26 September 2020
Brief description	Break-in and entry through the north door of the church, destruction and theft of a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	274.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Spartila, Corfu

Date	26/27 September 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance and removal of approximately 300€, 2 gold rings and 1 pair of gold earrings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	275.
Location	Church of Aghios Vlassios, Spartila, Corfu
Date	26/27 September 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance and removal of approximately 45€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	276.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Katerini, Pieria
Date	27 September 2020
Brief description	Theft of an undetermined amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	277.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Kottes Pelion, Magnesia
Date	28 September 2020
Brief description	Theft of 3 portable wooden icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	278.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Varvara, Toumba, Thessaloniki
Date	29 September 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator was caught by police officers removing money from the collection box using a metal bar, properly designed for the removal of coins and banknotes. During the police check the amount of 408,62€ was found in his possession
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	279.
Location	Church of Timia Zoni, Pezoula, Xanthi
Date	29 September 2020
Brief description	Attempted break-in, cutting off alarm cables
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	280.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Raphael, Karditsomagoula, Karditsa
Date	September 2020
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	None
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№	281.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Konstantinos, Chora of Samos
Date	September 2020
Brief description	Damage to the masonry, litter in the courtyard and around the chapel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint


№	282.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	September 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into and destruction of the shrine in front of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	283.
Location	Church of Asomatos Asfendiou, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	September 2020
Brief description	Break-in through the main door, total destruction of a side door, destruction of a collection box and theft of votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	284.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Kalloni Lesvos
Date	1 October 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and conviction of the perpetrator

№	285.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Trikeri, Magnesia
Date	2 October 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church while it was open and unsuccessful attempt to break-into the collection box with a screwdriver
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	286.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakim and Anna of the Church of Aghios Nektarios, Alexandroupoli, Evros
Date	2 October 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box of the chapel, removal of a sum of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	
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No	287.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Ermoupoli, Syros
Date	3 October 2020
Brief description	Removal of a small amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	288. (See also incident 272)
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Thissio, Athens
Date	4/5 October 2020
Brief description	Theft of copper tubes, other components and damage to air-conditioning units
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed


No	289.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Acharnes, Attica
Date	8 October 2020
Brief description	Entry into the chapel, violation of a collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	290.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Afetes Magnesia
Date	8 October 2020
Brief description	Entry into the church by breaking-into an external wooden door and removal of 11 icons from the wooden iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	291.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Oiti, Fthiotida
Date	9 October 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of the 2 wooden carved bema doors of the Beautiful Gate, 1 old wooden cross and 13 icons from the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	292.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Pidima, Messinia
Date	12 October 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator entered through the tiled roof, causing damage, and removed an undetermined amount of money from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

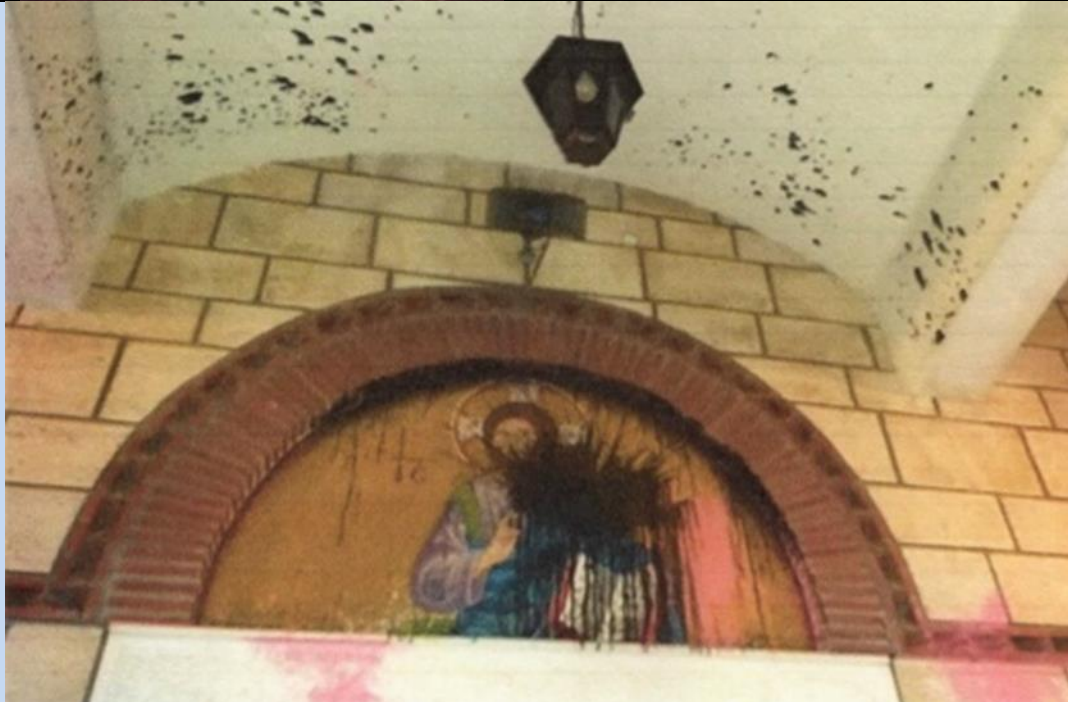
No	293.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Alexandroupoli, Evros
Date	13 October 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators desecrated the marble stairs of the main entrance of the church and knocked-over the waste containers
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	294.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakim and Anna of the Church of Aghios Nektarios, Alexandroupoli, Evros
Date	13 October 2020
Brief description	Broken glasspanes of the door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

No	295.
Location	Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Aliakmonas Voiou, Kozani
Date	17 October 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators entered the church by unlocking the main door with the entrance key and removed from the iconostasis 3 wooden icons which are subject to the "Law on Antiquities"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	296.
Location	Church of Petros and Pavlos, Lefki, Xanthi
Date	17 October 2020
Brief description	Break-in and destruction of the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	297.
Location	Church of Aghios Eleftherios, Halandri, Attica
Date	17/18 October 2020
Brief description	Damage to the facade by paint splashing on the entrance, the staircase, the carpet and the mosaic outside the church and spray-painting of slogans on the masonry of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	298.
Location	Church of Aghios Eleftherios Acharnon, Athens
Date	18 October 2020
Brief description	Damage from paint splashing on the entrance, the mosaics and the steps of the church. Inscription of slogans on the back of the Sanctuary and alongside the church
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Romfea.gr - Approval to reprint)	



No	299.
Location	Church of Panagia Myrtidiotissa, Alimos, Attica
Date	20 October 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators caused damage and wrote slogans on the floor of the church's facade
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	300.
Location	Church of Issodia of Theotokos, Giannissaio Korthi, Andros, Cyclades
Date	23/24 October 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke-into three doors of the church and removed about 30€ from the collection box. The damage to the doors and the collection box amounts to €500
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	301.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Prokopata, Argostoli, Kefalonia
Date	24 October 2020
Brief description	Entry from an unsecured door and theft of the votive icon of Aghia Varvara
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	302.
Location	Chapel of the Cemetery of Aghios Nikolaos Church, Kalliroi, Trikala
Date	Between 22 and 25 October 2020
Brief description	Break-in and removal of 8 icons from the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	303.
Location	Cemetery of Aghios Petros, Karatoula, Ilia
Date	25 October 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators removed metal vases, candles and censers from about 100 graves, while in some of them they removed the metal frames of the photos of the deceased. The cost of the removed objects amounts, according to the vicar, to approximately 2,500€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	304.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Dimitrios, Spata, Attica
Date	26 October 2020
Brief description	Removal of a gilded box containing a fragment of the Holy Relic of Aghios Dimitrios
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	305.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Rigaiio Farsala,
Date	26/27 October 2020
Brief description	Theft of microphone equipment, damage to the side door of the Sanctuary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	306.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Verdikoussa, Larissa
Date	29/30 October 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the lock of the main entrance, removal of the sum of 1,000€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	307.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Daphne, Attica
Date	31 October 2020
Brief description	Damage to masonry, spray-painting slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	308.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	October 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into and destruction of the shrine in front of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	309.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Selinia, Salamina
Date	3 November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a door and theft of 5 gold-plated pectoral crosses
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	310.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Athanassios, Skamnos, Fthiotida
Date	3 November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a central door and removal of 2 icons from the iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	311.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Porto Rafti, Attica
Date	4 November 2020
Brief description	Removal of 20€ from the charity fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	312.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, General Hospital of Laconia, Sparta, Laconia
Date	4 November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into an auxiliary door and window, breaking-into the collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	313.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Niki Larissa
Date	4 November 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators removed 1 silver reliquary with relics and cloths of Aghios Nektarios
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	314.
Location	Church of Aghios Eleftherios, Chalandri Attica
Date	9/10 November 2020
Brief description	Spray damage to the masonry and marble of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	315.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Markos Karditsa
Date	10/11 November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a western door and theft of 1copper baptismal font worth 1,800€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	316.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Porto Rafti, Attica
Date	14 November 2020
Brief description	Removal of a window railing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	317.
Location	Church of Theia Analipsis, Katerini, Pieria
Date	15 November 2020
Brief description	Removal of an undetermined amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	318.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Salamina Hill (Koulouri), Salamina
Date	17 November 2020
Brief description	Break-in, vandalism and writing of indecent expressions on the exterior walls
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	319.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Agrinio,
Date	19 November 2020

Brief description	Break-in and entry, a broken window pane in the Sanctuary, breaking-into locked cabinets, complete destruction of the collection box and removal of about 200€ from it. The total damage amounts to approximately 2,500€
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified and arrested - A dossier was formed

№	320.
Location	Chapel of Panagouda Church, Thessaloniki
Date	20 November 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator entered the chapel and dismantled the candlestick trying to remove it. The priest heard the noise, went immediately to the spot and prevented the perpetrator from completing his act. The perpetrator insulted and spit on him. Then, he hit him in the face, causing him to bleed from the lips with a bag he was holding with a metal object in it
Perpetrator/s	1 Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	321.
Location	Church of Koimissis of Theotokos, Stavrodromi Pellas
Date	21 November 2020
Brief description	Removal of 500€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	322.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Palaio Olvio, Xanthi
Date	21 November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a window and removal of 300€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	323.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Porto Rafti, Attica
Date	23 November 2020
Brief description	Removal of 200€ from the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	324.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nektarios Church, Trikala
Date	25 November 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator removed votive offerings and prayer ropes from the chapel which was open to believers
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	325.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghioi Minas, Victor and Vikentios, Chios
Date	25 November 2020

Brief description	Fire at the north door of the Sanctuary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	326.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Academy, Athens
Date	27/28 November 2020
Brief description	Spray-painting of slogans on the central facade of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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



№	327.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Workers' Residences of Arta, Arta
Date	28/29 November 2020
Brief description	Entry by breaking a protective window railing and window pane, breaking-into the collection box and the charity box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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



№	328.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Pigi Lesvos
Date	28/29 November 2020
Brief description	Break-in and entry through the main door and removal of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	2 nationals

Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed
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№	329.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Frantzis, Fthiotida
Date	30 November 2020
Brief description	Break-in and entry through the main door. Removal of 1 candelabra of an undetermined value and 1 generator worth approximately 300€. Breaking-into the collection box and broken vigil lamps made of glass
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	330.
Location	Church of Timios Stavros, Lagouta, Heraklion, Crete
Date	November 2020
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	331.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi, Kardamena Kos, Dodecanese
Date	November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	332.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Kardamena, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	November 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	333.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Kioni, Ithaca
Date	Between 10 November and 2 December 2020
Brief description	Break-in, searching the premises, damage to the door and windows. Nothing removed
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	334.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Volos, Magnesia
Date	2 December 2020
Brief description	Around 6:00 am a fire broke out in a Nativity Scene that had been set by the Municipality of Volos in the courtyard of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Comments:

Statement by the Mayor of Volos Mr. Achilles Beos:

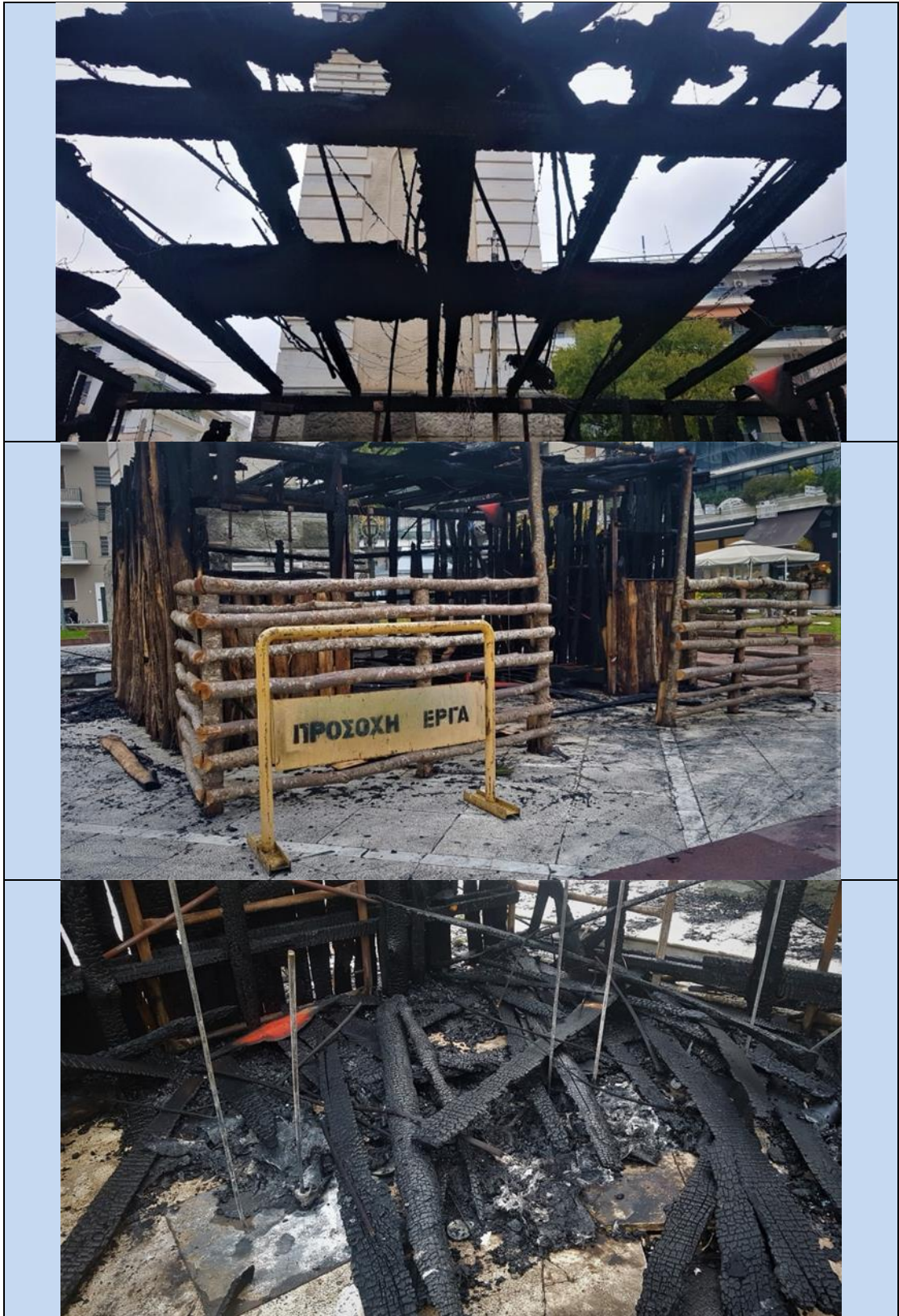
"In an extremely provocative and anti-social manifestation of violence, a group of troublemakers who have been plaguing our society for years, vandalizing and destroying the property of the Municipality and the citizens and insulting symbols and values, and thus showing their truly fascist face, proceeded today at dawn to burn the Nativity Scene in the courtyard of Aghios Nikolaos.

Hiding behind supposedly progressive views and having the cover of party groups of a specific political area, they abolish in practice any concept of legitimacy and act with their hatred towards society and its institutions.

The Nativity Scene will of course be rebuilt and offered for the joy of our young citizens, but the sacrilegious and obscene act of these people known as "bahalakides"(agitators) remains and requires the competent authorities to identify and punish them, putting an end to the "progressive" bullying, a despicable form of fascism."

Indicative photographic material (Source: Municipality of Volos)







№	335.
Location	Church of Panagia Myrtidiotissa, Amaliada, Ilia
Date	4 December 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator removed the amount of 500€ and an invoice book from the priest using the method of distraction theft
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	336.
Location	Chapel of Prophitis Ilias, Ambelia, Farsala, Larissa
Date	4 December 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance, removal of 2 icons from the iconostasis, an hagiography of the Pantocrator on canvas from the roof of the church, the Crucified Christ from the Cross and a Gospel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	337.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Melittaia, Fthiotida
Date	Between 3 and 6 December 2020
Brief description	Theft of 4 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	338.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Palaio Karlovasi, Samos
Date	6 December 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

№	339.
Location	Chapel of the Monastery of Aghia Eleoussa, Kleisoura, Messolonghi, Aitolokarnania
Date	6 December 2020

Brief description	Removal of an undetermined amount of money from a collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	340.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Athanassios, Melittaia, Fthiotida
Date	7 December 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and theft of 4 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	341.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Karlovassi, Samos
Date	9 December 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	342.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Aitoliko, Aitoloakarnania
Date	9 December 2020
Brief description	Attempt to break-into a collection box using a metal tool
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified and arrested - A dossier was formed

№	343.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Gregorios E', Politeia, Kifissia, Attica
Date	Between 2 October and 11 December 2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed for violation of Article 378 of the Penal Code "Damage to property of others"

№	344. (See also incident 244)
Location	Church of Aghia Irini Chrysovalantou, Vathylakkos, Kozani
Date	12 December 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a collection box. The theft was noticed by the vicar who monitored the surveillance video and identified the perpetrator
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed

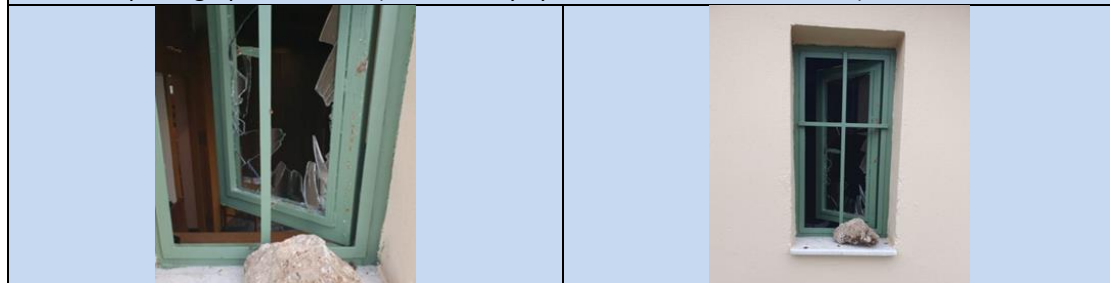
№	345.
Location	Church of Analipsis Kyriou, Vrillissia, Attica
Date	13 December 2020
Brief description	Damage to the drainpipe and spray-painted slogans on the marble wall
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	346.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Makrolivado, Fthiotida
Date	14 December 2020
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and removal of 2 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	347.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Alimos Attica
Date	14 December 2020
Brief description	Broken window pane
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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



No	348.
Location	Cemetery of Gazi, Heraklion, Crete
Date	Between 12 and 15 December 2020
Brief description	Broken marble tomb plates
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	349.
Location	Church of Treis Ierarches, Petralona, Attica
Date	17 December 2020
Brief description	Break-in and entry through the main entrance. Nothing was removed
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	350.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Koropi, Attica
Date	19/20 December 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators broke-into the main entrance, cut the side part of the collection box, which was empty, and left without removing anything
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	351.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Skoulikado, Zakynthos
Date	20 December 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators broke-into the main entrance using a crowbar and removed votive offerings of about 5,000€ worth
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	352.
Location	Church of Panagouda, Thessaloniki
Date	20 December 2020
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from the collection box. The perpetrator was noticed by the chaplain and the commissioner of the church via closed-circuit television
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	A recommendation was made

No	353. (See also incident 355)
Location	Church of Pammeghistoi Taxiarches, Ano Poli Thessaloniki
Date	23 December 2020
Brief description	Spray-painted graffiti on the external chapel of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	354.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Fanourios, Neapoli, Thessaloniki
Date	25 December 2020
Brief description	The perpetrator tried to break-into the collection box with burglary tools, but did not complete the act, as he was arrested
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	355. (See also incident 353)
Location	Church of Pammeghistoi Taxiarches, Ano Poli Thessaloniki
Date	30 December 2020

Brief description	After the repairs/painting, new damage was caused (spray-graffiti) to the chapel of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	356.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Assomatos, Paradisi Kos, Dodecanese
Date	December 2020
Brief description	Destruction of the fence
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	357.
Location	Church of Prophitis Ilias, Ano Poli Thessaloniki
Date	2020
Brief description	Spray-painting of slogans in black on exterior walls
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	358.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Panagia Dexia, Kamara, Thessaloniki
Date	2020
Brief description	Repeated cause of damage (broken vigil lamp, burning and desecration of the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, broken marble surface above the collection box and removal of money)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	359.
Location	Church of Panagouda, Thessaloniki
Date	2020
Brief description	Damage to the north exterior masonry with graffiti
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	360.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Moria Lesvos
Date	2020
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
Indicative photographic material (Source: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	





No	361.
Location	Church of Aghios Markos, Vrondados, Chios
Date	2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a box in the Shrine
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	362.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Ekaterini, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Breaking-into and destruction of the main entrance, theft and damage to the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	363.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Paradisi Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Damage to doors due to attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	364.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Paradisi, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Vandalism, damage to the doors of the church and the adjacent ancillary area due to an attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	365.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios of Karydia, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Theft of a water pump motor
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	366.
Location	Church of Theia Analipsis Kyriou, Zipari, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Breaking-into the main entrance and the collection box of the church repeatedly
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	367.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Klavdia, Pyli, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Vandalism to the mosaic icon of the monument
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	368. - 370. (three incidents)
Location	Monastery of Panagia Kastrianon, Paleo Pyli, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Theft. Destruction and damage to the marbles, destruction of the doors of the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	371.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Palaio Pyli, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Destruction of the doors of the monument repeatedly
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	372. - 374. (three incidents)
Location	Church of Assomatos, Palaio Pyli, Kos, Dodecanese
Date	2020
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

In addition to the above, the following incidents that took place during 2020 were brought to the attention of the Service:

Metropolis of Mantinea and Kynouria:

Glass panes broken and inscription of various slogans (graffiti) in churches of the Metropolis.

Metropolis of Mytilene, Eressos and Plomari

The priest of the Church of Aghios Nikolaos of Moria submitted a complaint against unidentified perpetrators, who, having an obvious racist motive, caused damage to chapels located in the wider area of Moria and under the administrative supervision of the above church during the period November 2019 - May 2020. On 18-06-2020 a criminal prosecution was brought by the Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Mytilene and on 24-09-2020 the case was put on file under unidentified perpetrators.

Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros:

Desecration of archaeological sites of palaiochristian basilicae in the town and villages of Kos.

Holy Archdiocese of Crete:

Church of Koimissis of Theotokos "Panagitsa" Heraklion: throughout the year 2020 during the non-quarantine period (with the exception of nights when it rains or the weather is very cold), unidentified young people, Greeks and foreigners, at least 5 in each case:

- 1) They deliberately and excessively damage yards, entrances, porches and walls.
- 2) They break windows, cause significant damage to the marble of the stairs, the exterior handrails, and draw graffiti with indelible spray paint on doors and walls.

The following actions were taken by the Archdiocese:

- 1) Telephone contact with the Police Authorities to make checks and recommendations.
- 2) In previous years, the 4th Municipal Community of Heraklion and the Municipal Council of Heraklion had been informed, as well as the Police Director, who promised more regular policing of the area, especially during the night hours, since the aforementioned damage and other morally reprehensible acts were occurring on the porch of the Church.
- 3) Presentation of the topic to a local TV station, with footage from the site.

Kalloni Trizinia (Regional Unit of the Islands)

Throughout 2020 small amounts of money was stolen in the Chapels of the parish Church of Zoodochos Pigi.

d. Addendum

i. Statistical presentation

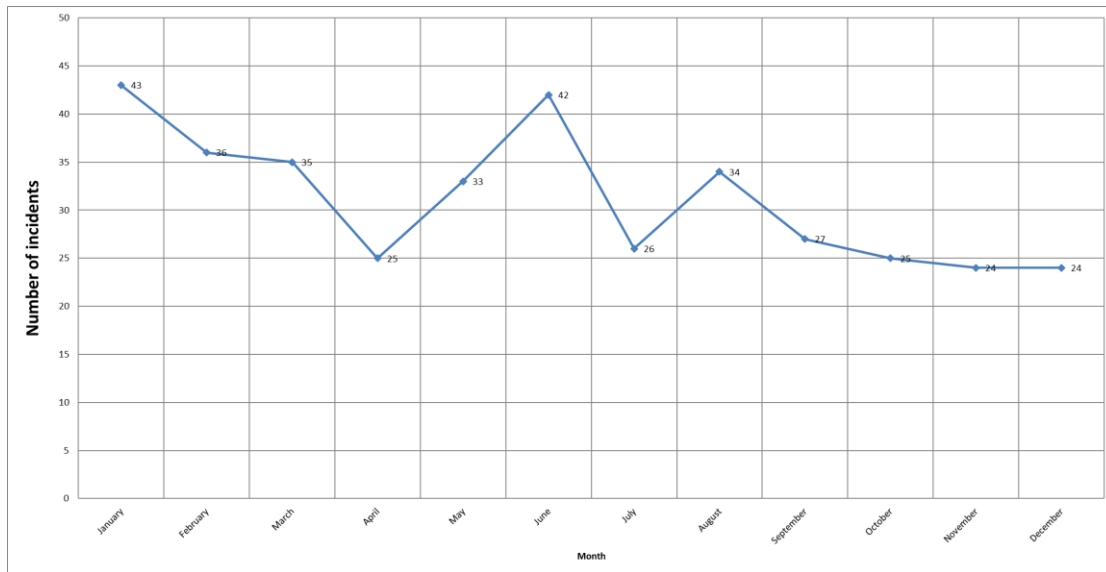


Figure 1: Incidents of year 2020 by month

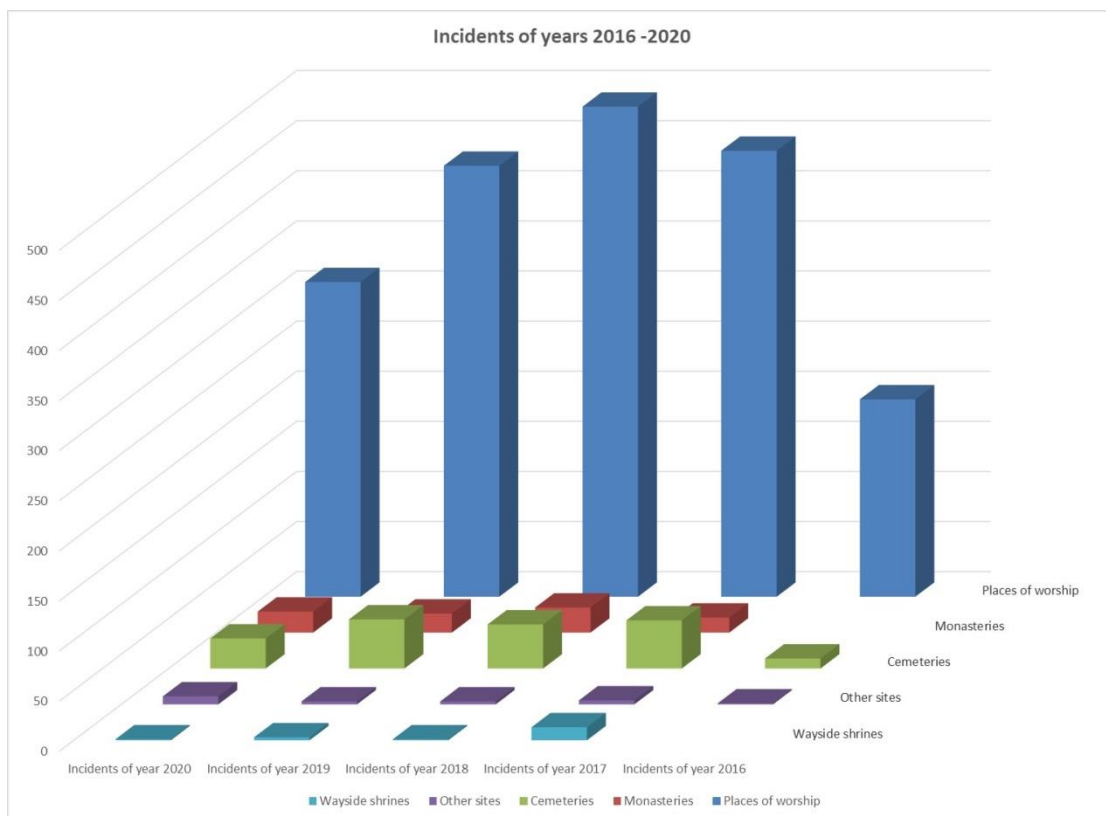


Figure 2: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2016-2020, by site

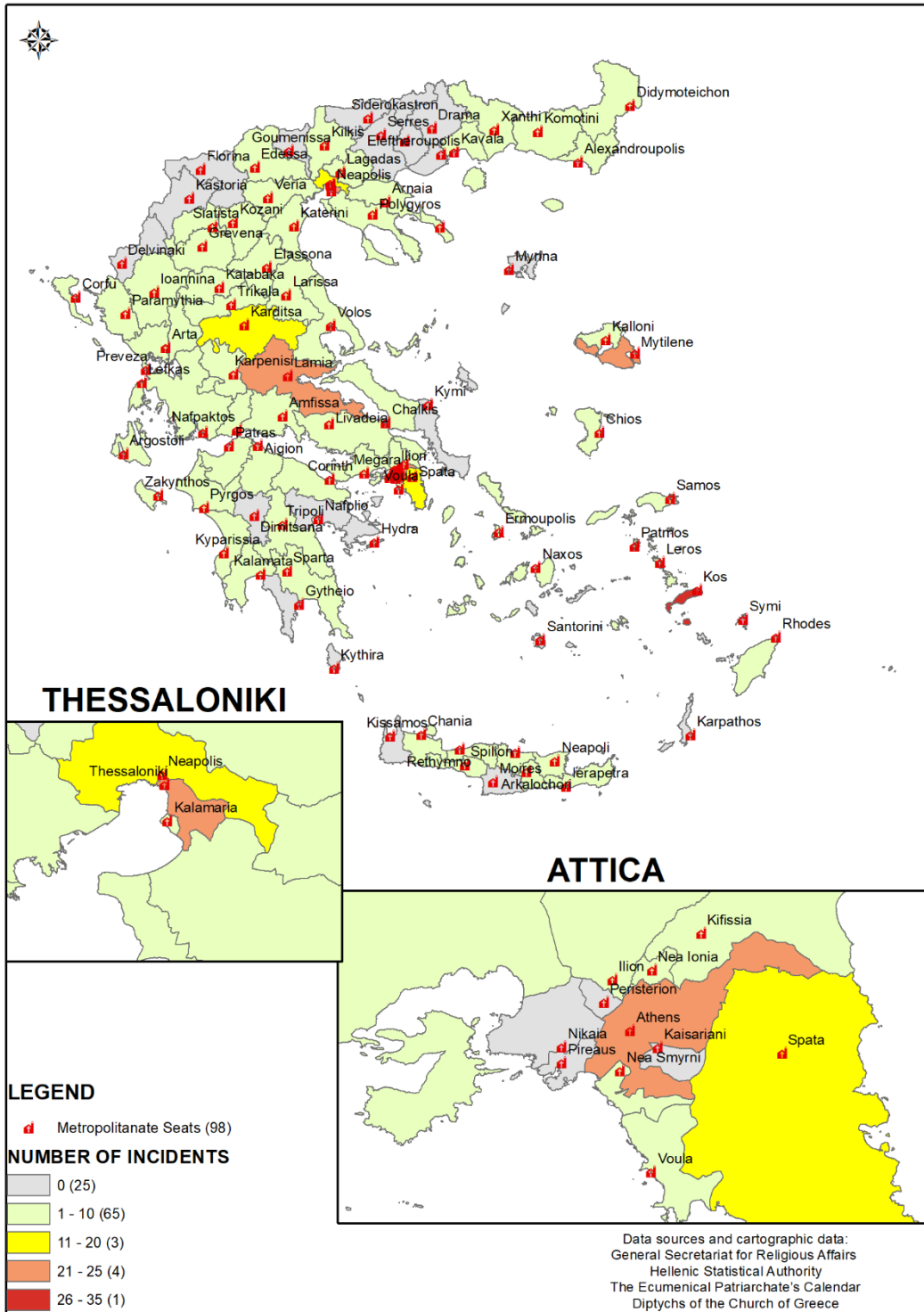
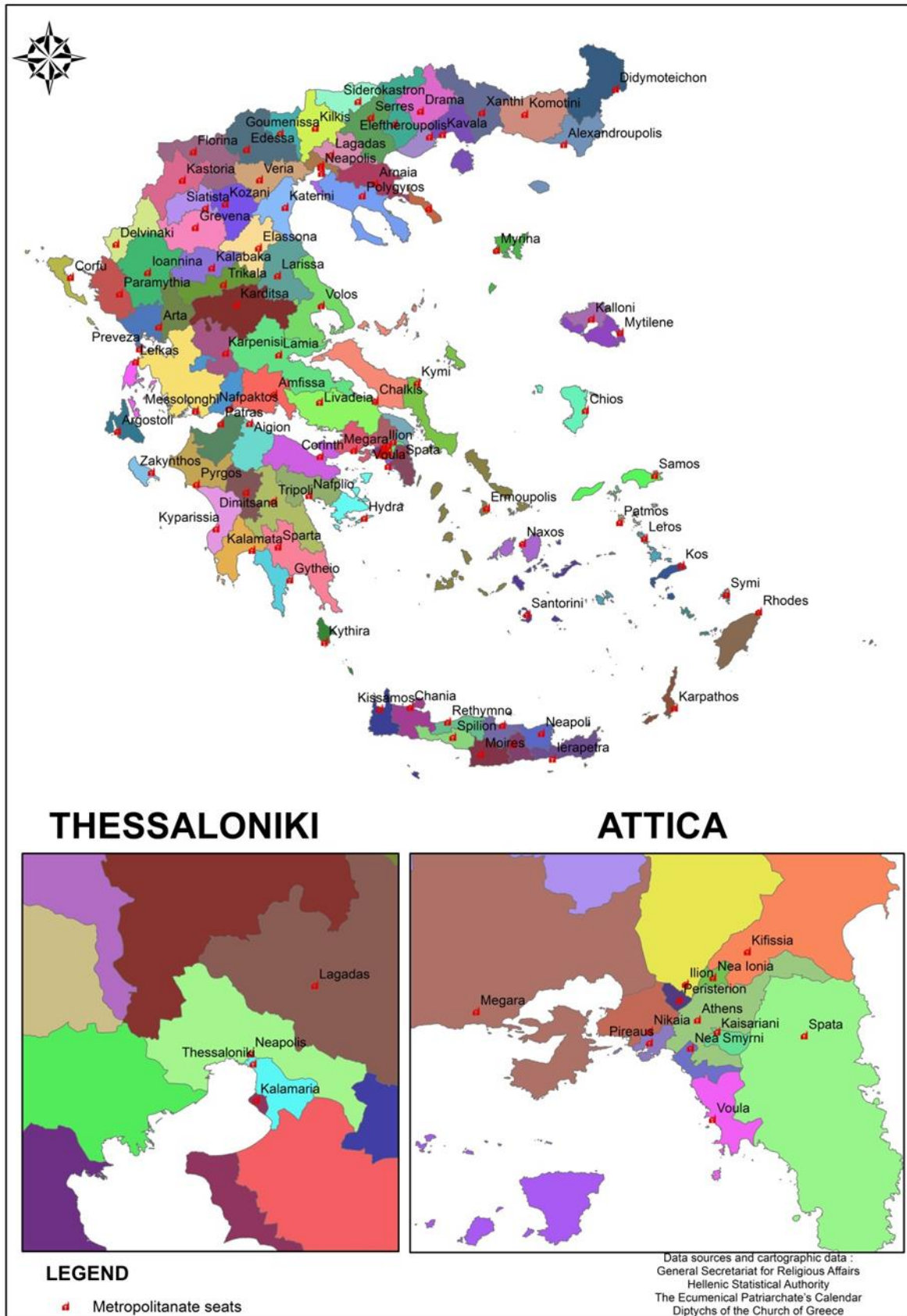


Figure 3: Incidents of year 2020 by Holy Metropolis

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



iii. Numerical Data on the Orthodox Church in Greece

CHURCH OF GREECE (TOTAL: 82 Metropolises)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Athens	Athens	145	7
2	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	15
22	Goumenissa, Axiopolis and Polykastron	Goumenissa	48	2
23	Grevena	Grevena	97	1
24	Ierissos, Aghion Oros and Ardamerion	Arnaia	52	3
25	Ilion, Acharnai and Petroupolis	Ilion	47	3
26	Ioannina	Ioannina	249	11
27	Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos	Kaisariani	9	3
28	Kalavryta and Aigialeia	Aigion	162	14
29	Karpenision	Karpenision	97	4

30	Karystia and Skyros	Kymi	95	5
31	Kassandreia	Polygyros	79	6
32	Kastoria	Kastoria	123	8
33	Kefalinia	Argostoli	153	7
34	Kerkyra, Paxoi and Diapontioi Nisoï	Kerkyra	183	17
35	Kifisia, Amarousio and Oropos	Kifisia	63	11
36	Kitros, Katerini and Platamon	Katerini	84	6
37	Korinthos, Sikion, Zemenon, Tarsos and Polyfengos	Korinthos	164	17
38	Kythira and Antikythira	Chora of Kythira	31	1
39	Lagadas, Liti and Rentina	Lagadas	61	6
40	Larissa and Tyrnavos	Larissa	119	6
41	Lefkas and Ithaki	Lefkas	66	4
42	Lemnos and Aghios Ephstratios	Myrina, Lemnos	37	0
43	Mani	Gytheion	114	5
44	Mantineia and Kynouria	Tripoli	157	13
45	Maroneia and Komotini	Komotini	71	4
46	Megara and Salamis	Megara	32	15
47	Mesogaia and Lavreotiki	Spata	64	8
48	Messinia	Kalamata	224	9
49	Methymna	Kalloni, Lesvos	37	3
50	Monemvassia and Sparta	Sparta	142	7
51	Mytilini, Eressos and Plomarion	Mytilini	72	4
52	Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios	Nafpaktos	94	2
53	Nea Ionia, Philadelphia, Heraklion and Chalkidon	Nea Ionia	22	2
54	Nea Krini and Kalamaria	Kalamaria	18	0
55	Nea Smyrni	Nea Smyrni	19	0
56	Neapolis and Stavroupolis	Neapolis	54	3
57	Nikaia	Nikaia	40	1
58	Nikopolis and Preveza	Preveza	131	4
59	Paramythia, Philiata, Geromerion and Parga	Paramythia	150	3
60	Paronaxia	Naxos	44	4
61	Patrai	Patrai	189	9

62	Piraeus	Piraeus	30	1
63	Peristerion	Peristerion	18	1
64	Poliana and Kilkis	Kilkis	120	3
65	Samos, Ikaria and Korsoi	Samos	117	18
66	Serrai and Nigrita	Serrai	118	5
67	Servia and Kozani	Kozani	96	5
68	Siderokastron	Siderokastron	69	7
69	Sisanion and Siatista	Siatista	87	11
70	Stagoi and Meteora	Kalabaka	71	14
71	Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos	Ermoupolis	129	13
72	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, Gardiki and Pyli	Trikala	128	5
77	Triphylia and Olympia	Kyparissia	159	6
78	Veria, Naousa and Kampania	Veria	110	8
79	Xanthi and Peritheorion	Xanthi	86	4
80	Ydra, Spetsai and Aigina	Ydra	52	12
81	Zakynthos and Strophades	Zakynthos	61	4
82	Zichnai and Nevrokopion	Nea Zichni	69	5
TOTAL			8.133	562
CHURCH OF CRETE		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
(TOTAL: 9 Metropolises)				
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
TOTAL			859	60

ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF THE DODECANESE (TOTAL: 5 Metropolises & 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Karpathos and Kasos	Apereion, Karpathos	20	4
2	Kos and Nisyros	Kos	24	7
3	Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea	Leros	36	7
4	Rhodes	Rhodes	64	9
5	Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	Symi	18	5
6	Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	Patmos	10	4
TOTAL			172	36
GRAND TOTAL: 97 (96 Metropolises and 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)			9.164	658
			Grand Total of Parish and Monastery Churches: 9.822	

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 (4th -7th century), such as the Panagia Acheiropoietos and the Monastery of Latomou in Thessaloniki, as well as the early Byzantine period (between the mid-7th and the mid-9th centuries), the middle Byzantine period (between the mid-9th 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 monks²² 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

²² Troiannos, S. op.cit., § 2.1.4.

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. Online seminar on interfaith dialogue between Orthodoxy - Islam on the subject: "Religion and Health" (concentrating on the issues that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic) 7 September 2020

According to a statement of the Academy of Theological Studies of Volos:

"An online seminar was held on September 7, 2020, in the framework of the interfaith dialogue between Orthodox Christianity and Islam, on the initiative of the Educational Department of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the *Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs*, and the *Academy of Theological Studies of Volos*. The seminar, which had the character of a pre-conference meeting of a planned interfaith conference in Tehran, which could not take place due to the spread of the coronavirus, was introduced by Dr. Mahdi Komi, Educational Counsellor of the Iranian Embassy in Athens.

Then, His Eminence Metropolitan Ignatios of Demetrias addressed the event, stressing the essential need for a deeper ecumenical dialogue between the various religious communities in order to overcome fanaticism and intolerance, especially in the difficult conditions of a pandemic.

The President of the Center for Interfaith Dialogue and Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Tashiri, who also moderated the discussion, presented his views on the organized efforts of the Iranian State in dealing with the pandemic.

This was followed by a presentation by the Deputy Director of the Academy of Theological Studies of Volos and Lecturer of the Hellenic Open University, Mr. Nikolaos Asproulis, entitled, "The Orthodox Church and the challenge of the new coronavirus COVID-19", in which the need for the Orthodox Church and theology to seek the necessary criteria of hermeneutical access to the rich tradition for the emergence of specific proposals in the effort to address COVID-19 was emphasized.

The Coordinator of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Network for Pastoral Ministry in Health, Fr. Stavros Kofinas, in his presentation, entitled "Including a 'forgotten dimension' of health in healing: the Orthodox concept of spirituality that revitalizes", underlined the dimension of spirituality in human religious consciousness, an element that completes man as an existential entity, especially in difficult times.

Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at the University of Qom (Iran), Seyyed Hassan Eslami Ardakani, with his presentation, "Health and Integration, an Islamic approach", presented the fundamental principles of Islam, regarding nutrition and spoke about the deep relationship between religion and health.

Finally, Dr. Niknam, Professor of Medicine at the University of Tehran, detailed his views on the mutual relationship between religion and science in his presentation, "Religion and

Science go hand in hand in dealing with COVID-19".

Interfaith meetings such as this one promote cooperation between religious communities, in a spirit of cooperation, mutual respect and understanding, against all kinds of religious intolerance. The COVID-19 pandemic, moreover, highlighted the global scale of the phenomenon and called for the need for universal solidarity. The seminar on interfaith dialogue raised topical issues and raised questions and concerns, highlighting the spiritual dimension of man's religious consciousness".

Also, in July 2020, the Academy of Theological Studies of Volos published a collective volume entitled: «[Καιρός του ποιήσαι: Η Ορθοδοξία ενώπιον της πανδημίας του κορωνοϊού](#)» **(Time to act. Orthodoxy confronted with the coronavirus pandemic)**

According to the relevant statement, "The 24 papers of this collective work deal with both the theological aspects of the whole topic and the pastoral issues that have arisen, and most of them come from the Public Orthodoxy blog curated by the Center for Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University in New York.

Despite all kinds of national enclosure and the erection of walls, the coronavirus pandemic has shown that borders are nothing but human inventions, which in the end cannot protect us from a real enemy that threatens human life itself. What role has religious faith, the Christian Churches, the Orthodox Church in particular, played or can play in the face of this ominous reality? The book delivers not only a series of sober approaches to the dysfunctional situation that has arisen, expressed precisely at the height of the pandemic crisis, but also a kind of first account of the events and the attitudes adopted. The coronavirus crisis, with the challenges it posed at all levels, ultimately highlighted the theological and pastoral problems of many local Orthodox Churches, but above all it made evident the need to search for hermeneutical criteria on the basis of which theology will be able to evaluate, assess and interpret the present situation".

vi. The Ethno-Martyr Aghios Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Smyrna (see incident 38)

On January 30, 2020 the bust of the National Martyr Aghios Chrysostomos of Smyrna, which is located in the courtyard of the Church of Aghios Therapon of Mytilene in Lesbos, was vandalized. Specifically, unidentified persons wrote in red the phrase: "NO JIHAD, NO TALIBAN, GO TO HELL CHRISTIAN-TALIBAN", as well as the symbol of anarchy. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident as, according to the Metropolis of Mytilene, busts are often desecrated or flags are torn in the courtyard of the Church, usually after protests by groups of anarchists.

However, in order to understand the extent of the desecration and insult to the Asia Minor and Pontian Hellenism, which suffered genocide during the period 1914-1923, some biographical data and the description of the martyrdom of Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Smyrna are given below.

Chrysostomos (Kalafatis) was born in Triglia of Propontis in 1867 and studied at the Theological School of Chalki. From 1902 to 1910 he served as Metropolitan of Drama. He fought to strengthen the national sentiment of the Greeks and to counter the attacks against the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the region, which annoyed the High Gate, which succeeded in recalling him twice from that Metropolis, until his transfer to the Metropolis of Smyrna (11-3-1910).

As Metropolitan of Smyrna, he continued his efforts for the preservation of the Nation, a fact that alarmed the Turkish authorities, who managed to remove him from this Metropolis from 1914 to 1918.

During the period of the Greek administration of Smyrna (1919-1922), he acted as the undisputed national leader of the Hellenism of Asia Minor and as the inspired leader of the "Asia Minor Defence" for the creation of an autonomous state in case of the withdrawal of the Greek army. After the collapse of the Asia Minor front (August 1922) and the Turkish invasion of Smyrna, he refused to abandon his flock, despite pressure from the consuls of England and France. He responded to persistent appeals to leave in order to save himself: *"It is the tradition of the Greek clergy, and the duty of a good pastor, to remain with his flock."*

On Saturday, August 27, 1922, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Smyrna celebrated his last Divine Liturgy in the crowded Metropolitan Church of Aghia Fotini, while in the afternoon of the same day he was arrested and taken to the Turkish Military Governor of the city, Nureddin Pasha. The latter, after beating him up, handed him over to the angry Turkish mob outside the Governorate, who dragged him through the streets of Smyrna on Saturday night and slaughtered him.

We quote, in this regard, the shocking description of the martyrdom and death of Chrysostomos, through the testimony of the academic Georgios Mylonas in his speech at the Academy of Athens, on 14-12-1982, on the 60th anniversary of the Asia Minor catastrophe:

"You will allow me to end my speech with a personal testimony, which I am confessing for the first time. During the last days of September 1922 a group of students of the International College of Smyrna and I found ourselves imprisoned in a horrible basement, in one of the dungeons of the Smyrna Governorate. In it were suffocatingly crammed Greek Christian prisoners, presumably people who were being sent forward for death. In the evening hours, guards led by a Cretan Turk were escorting victims who were probably condemned to be killed. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the last day of that sad September, that same Cretan Turk ordered me to follow him into the courtyard. You are a teacher, he asks me. "I had that honour," I reply. "And the others who were with you are students?" - "Yes," I say. "Quickly gather them up and bring them here." - "Come with me outside," I say to my companions. "It seems that our time has come. Come forward with courage." What was our surprise when we heard the Cretan Turk say: "I will not kill you, I will save you. Tonight all those in the dungeon will be killed, because they have brought others whom we have no room to keep. I will save you today, because I hope that this will help me to forget a terrible scene that my eyes have seen, a scene in which I took part." He continued, "I watched the cleaving of your Despot. I was with those who blinded him, who plucked out his eyes and soaked in blood, dragged him by his beard and hair through the alleys of the Turkish quarter, beat him, cursed him and cut him up. I was deeply impressed and his attitude remains unforgettable. To the tortures he was subjected to, he did not respond with shouts, with pleas, with curses.

His face was pale, covered with the blood of his eyes, turned towards Heaven. He kept whispering something that could not be heard unless you were close to him. Do you know, teacher, what he was saying?"-"Yes, I do," I answered him. "He was saying: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." - "I don't understand you, teacher, but it doesn't matter. From time to time, when he could, he would somehow raise his right hand and bless his persecutors. One of my patriots recognized the gesture of blessing, he was enraged, infuriated, and with his terrible knife cut off both of the Despot's hands. He collapsed on the gory earth with a sigh that seemed to be a sigh of relief rather than of pain. So sorry was I then for him that with two bullets in the head I finished him off. This is my story. Now that I've told it to you, I hope I can rest easy. That's why I saved your life." "And where was he buried?" I asked anxiously. "No one knows where they threw his dismembered body."

The martyrdom of the Hierarch was commented on by both the Greek and the international press of the time.

The Ethno-Martyr Chrysostomos of Smyrna was included in the canon of the Orthodox Church and his memory is celebrated on the Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September), along with the Martyrs Metropolitan Ambrosios of Moschonissia, Gregorios of Kydonia, Procopios of Iconio, Euthymios Zilon and the other Clergy and Laity who were martyred during the Asia Minor Catastrophe²³.

After the tragic end of the Ethno- Martyr Chrysostomos, the Metropolis of Smyrna remained in a state of widowhood for 94 years, until the enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Bartholomew of Smyrna (Samaras) in 2016.

In 2000, the three-volume edition of "The Archive of the Ethno-Martyr Chrysostomos of Smyrna" was published by the "National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation".

²³ According to the circular of the Synod of the Church of Greece № 2556/5-7-1993.

2. Catholic Church in Greece

a. Introduction

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

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

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

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

Following the introduction of the Civil Code in 1946, the question which emerged concerning the legal personality of the Catholic Church and of its establishments in Greece, was solved by **article 13 of Law 4301/2014**. According to this, the Catholic Church in Greece is recognized as Ecclesiastical Legal Person governed by Private Law and the religious

communities (Dioceses, Parishes, Monasteries) inextricably linked to it are recognized as Religious Legal Persons governed by Private Law and amount to 227 in total. Among those, there are 82 Parishes and 47 Monasteries (see Addendum, Table ii).

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

b. Incidents

For the year **2020**, **seven (7)** incidents have been recorded, as follows:

No	1. - 2. (two incidents)
Location	Church of Metastassis of Theotokos, Manna Syros, Cyclades
Date	Between July and December 2020
Brief description	Damage to locks and door frames, broken glasspanes and breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 foreigner
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	3. - 4. (two incidents)
Location	Church of Panagia Karmilou at the Catholic Cemetery of Ermoupolis, Syros, Cyclades
Date	Between July and December 2020
Brief description	Damage to locks and door frames, broken glasspanes and breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 national and 1 foreigner
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	5.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ano Syros, Cyclades
Date	20 September 2020
Brief description	Attempted breaking-into the collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Data not available

No	6.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Ano Syros, Cyclades
Date	20 September 2020
Brief description	Breaking-into a collection box and removal of an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	7.
Location	Church of Aghios Sevastianos, Ano Syros, Cyclades
Date	20 September 2020
Brief description	A suspect was seen leaving the church but did not cause any damage as the collection box was unlocked
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Data not available

c. Addendum

i. Statistical presentation

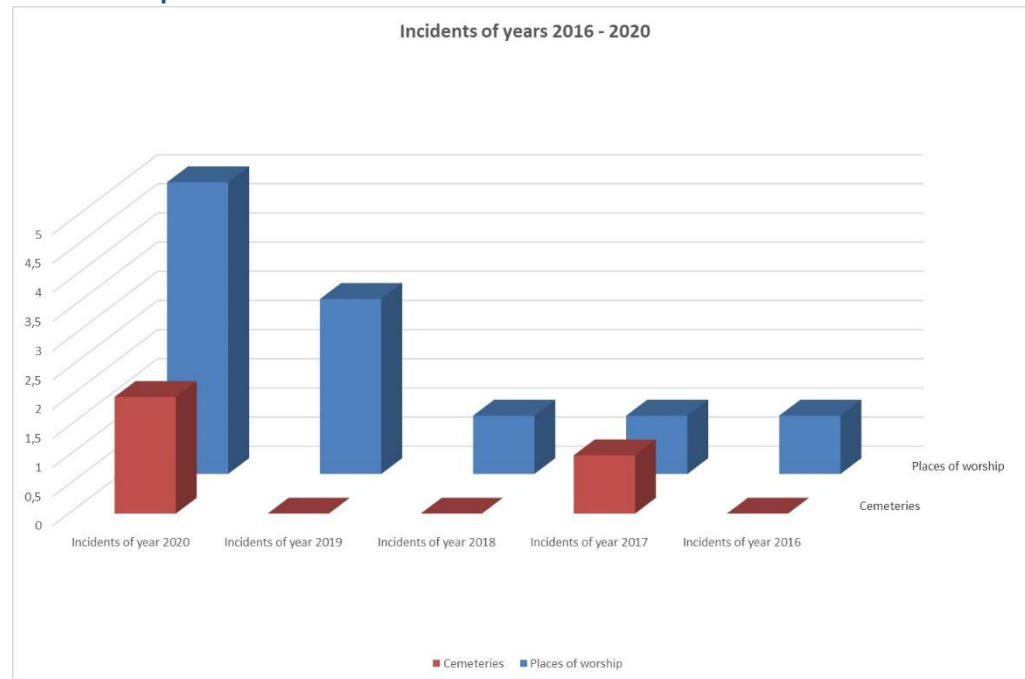


Figure 4: Comparative presentation of incidents 2016-2020, by site

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

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

iii. Catholic Dioceses in Greece

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



Catholic Archdiocese of Naxos - Tinos - Andros- Mykonos, Religious Legal Person

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, Zakynthos and Kefalonia, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Corfu

(Northern Greece, The islands of Corfu, Paxoi, Antipaxoi, Lefkada, Ithaki, Kefhalonia, 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, Kythera and Antikythera)

Catholic Archdiocese of Rhodes, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Rhodes - Apostolic Administrator : Catholic Archbishop of Athens

(Dodecanese)

Catholic Diocese of Syros, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Syros

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

Catholic Diocese of Thira (Santorini), Religious Legal Person

Seat in Thira

The islands of Thira, Thirassia, 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 Thessaloniki, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Thessaloniki - Apostolic Administrator: Catholic Archbishop of Corfu

Macedonia, Thraki, Thessalia, the islands of northern Sporades (except Skyros), Thassos, Samothraki

Exarch of Byzantine Rite, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Athens

Ordinariat of Armenian Rite, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Athens

3. Other Christian Religious Communities

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

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

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

No	Legal name	Decision number
1	Metropolis of Attica and Boetia 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	Metropolis of Oropos and Fyli of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, 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	3353/2019, Court of First Instance in Thessaloniki
11	Charismatic Christian Church, Religious Legal Person	738/2020, Court of First Instance in Athens
12	Metropolis of Talantio and Lokrida of the Old Calendar, Exarchate of Continental Greece, Religious	113/2021, Court of First Instance in Lamia

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 October 2021), there are 634 worship places of Christian Religious Communities which include those of the **Anglican Church (4)**, the **Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt (4)**, the **Armenian Orthodox Church (9)**, the **German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece (3)**, the **Greek Evangelical Church (38)**, the **Fellowship of Greek Free Evangelical Churches (48)**, the **Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (2)**, the **Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (8)**, the **Christian Assyrian Church (1)**, the **Armenian Evangelical Church (1)**, the **Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost (91)**, the **Apostolic Church of Pentecost (17)**, the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) (3)**, the **Adventist Church (10)**, the **Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses (103)**, the **True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists) (196)** and other religious groups with a smaller number of adherents.

Twelve (12) requests for a permit to establish and operate a worship place or temple have been filed in **2020**. **Seven (7)** out of these were admissible while **five (5)** were still pending on December 31, 2020, due to insufficient supporting documents.

It is noted that in 2020 four (1) permit to establish and operate a worship place was revoked.

In 2020, a court decision was issued (number 738/2020 by the Court of First Instance in Athens by which the “Charismatic Christian Church” was recognized as Religious Legal Person in non-contentious proceedings under article 3 of Law 4301/2014.

For the year **2020**, incidents against religious sites of the above Christian communities were reported as follows:

True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

No	1.
Location	Monastery of Koimissis of Theotokos, Thrakomakedones, Attica
Date	10/11 July 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators entered the church and removed a 100-year-old icon of Aghios Minas and the Holy Gospel from the Altar. In addition, they broke-into a cabinet and removed the Holy Antimension and a Cross
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	2.
Location	Monastery of Aghioi Apostoloi, Filyro, Thessaloniki
Date	13 July 2020

Brief description	Perpetrators broke a window pane, entered the monastery and removed 2 lawnmowers, 10 brass tools for depositing candles, 30€ and various keys from the warehouse, while they caused damage to the main entrance and the window of the warehouse. They also broke-into the lock of the wall of the church of Aghioi Apostoloi, entered through a window and removed 130€. Finally, they broke a window of the Church of Metamorphosis Sotiros and removed several keys and electric tools, and damaged the main entrance. The total value of the damage amounts to approximately 5,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	3.
Location	Church of Evangelismos of Theotokos, Chalkida, Evia
Date	10/11 November 2020
Brief description	Entry through a window above the main entrance, searching of all the spaces and removal from the Sanctuary of 2 gold crosses, 1 gold myrrh container and 1 silver plate - base with twelve relics of Saints. Unsuccessful attempt to break-into the collection box, removal of a charity box with an undetermined amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

№	4.
Location	Monastery of Zoodochos Pigi, Ano Sychaina, Patras, Achaia
Date	15 December 2020
Brief description	The perpetrators climbed the fence of the Monastery, entered the courtyard, used an agricultural tool they found in the area to break the metal door leading to the Sanctuary of the church, removed the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the iconostasis and took the votive offerings of a total value of 5,000€
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

B. Judaism

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eleven (11) Synagogues operate currently in the active Jewish communities for the religious needs of their members. Two (2) Synagogues operate in Athens, three (3) in Thessaloniki, one (1) in Larissa, one (1) in Volos, one (1) in Ioannina, one (1) in Trikala, one (1) in Chalkis and one (1) in Corfu. Three (3) Synagogues operate in the inactive Jewish communities: one (1) in Rhodes, one (1) in Kavala and one (1) in Veria. In Crete, the only remaining Synagogue is the Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania.

2. Legal framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Greece, 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.

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

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

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 2020, **ten (10) 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.

No	1.
Location	Holocaust Memorial, Trikala
Date	2 January 2020
Brief description	Vandalism of the Monument. Destruction of part of the fence and detachment of the Star of David
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
Comments	Statement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece

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



No	2.
Location	Jewish Cemetery, Larissa, Greece
Date	2 April 2020
Brief description	Graffiti on the exterior wall of the main entrance with a religious symbol and the initials of the German SPD party
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
Indicative photographic material (Source: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)	



No	3.
Location	Holocaust Memorial, Kastoria, Greece
Date	4 August 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator was caught causing damage to the Marble Column of the Monument, by painting the facade of the Monument with black spray-paint
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	4.
Location	Jewish Cemetery of Athens
Date	5 October 2020
Brief description	Vandalism of the exterior walls with the slogans "JUDEN RAUS" and "SS"
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed
Comments	Statement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece

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



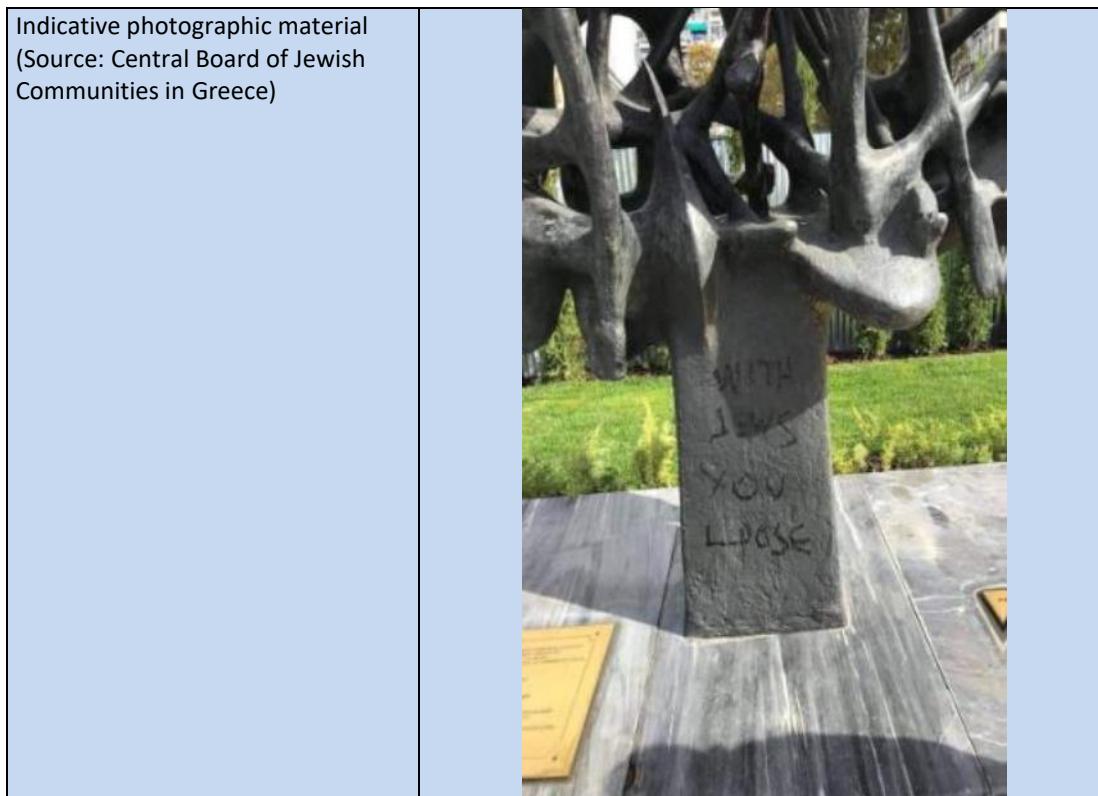
No	5.
Location	Jewish Cemetery of Thessaloniki
Date	10 October 2020
Brief description	Vandalism with the slogan "Death to Israel" on the exterior wall of the Monument dedicated to the Jews who died in the 1940-1941 War, located inside the Jewish Cemetery of Thessaloniki
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A complaint has been submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Thessaloniki
Indicative photographic material (Source: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece)	

No	6.
Location	Jewish Cemetery of Rhodes
Date	11 October 2020
Brief description	Desecration (breakage) of four tombstones
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

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



No	7.
Location	Holocaust Memorial, Thessaloniki, Greece
Date	16 October 2020
Brief description	Vandalism with the slogan " <i>With Jews you lose</i> " on the facade of the Monument
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A complaint was submitted to the Prosecutor's Office in Thessaloniki
Comments	Statement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece Statement by the Jewish Community in Thessaloniki Statement by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs



No	8. (See also incident 9)
Location	Synagogue of Larissa
Date	3 December 2020
Brief description	Vandalism with graffiti with religious symbols on the external facade of the Synagogue
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested
Comments	<p>Statement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece</p> <p><i>"The recent vandalism of Jewish holy places in Larissa, which took place on 3.12.2020, exudes religious fanaticism and intolerance.</i></p> <p><i>Using religious symbols, the sacrilegious offenders imprinted their anti-Jewish hatred on the external facade of the Larissa Synagogue, as well as on the Holocaust Memorial, expressing their disdain for the sanctity of these sites and trampling on the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.</i></p> <p><i>Greek Jewry condemns these heinous acts. We demand that the competent authorities identify and arrest the perpetrators and bring them to justice.</i></p> <p><i>We recall the statement made by the Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Margaritis Schinas, just two days ago: "Europe stands firmly against any form of anti-Semitism. Jewish life is and always will be part of European societies, as well as our way of life." No tolerance for bigotry, intolerance and anti-Semitism. "</i></p> <p><i>Athens, 4 December 2020</i></p> <p>CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE</p>

[Statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs](#)

"The desecration of the Holocaust Monument and the Synagogue in Larissa is certainly a condemnable act. It is a very positive fact that the Hellenic Police seem to have found the perpetrator. However, the fact that the perpetrator used the symbol of the Holy Cross in order to desecrate the Monument and the Synagogue is extremely sad. It is a double desecration, therefore it is highly encouraging that the Metropolitan Church of Larissa condemned in the most unequivocal way this hideous action. Religious hatred has no place in a contemporary democratic society."

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



No	9. (See also incident 8)
Location	Monument of Jewish Martyrs of the Holocaust
Date	3 December 2020
Brief description	Vandalism with graffiti with religious symbols on the external facade of the Synagogue
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

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



No	10.
Location	Holocaust Monument of Drama
Date	28/29 December 2020
Brief description	Desecration of the Monument with religious symbols (graffiti with black spray paint) on its upper part. Part of the marble base of the Monument was broken. Similar graffiti was also made on the tobacco warehouse, next to the memorial plaque stating that Jews were held there before being deported to the death camps
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified - A dossier was formed
Comments	<p>Announcement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece</p> <p><i>"The Holocaust Monument of Drama was desecrated on the evening of 28th to 29th December 2020 with graffiti made by vandal fanatics, with black spray paint depicting religious symbols on its upper part, while they broke a piece of marble at the base of the Monument.</i></p> <p><i>Similar graffiti was also painted on the nearby tobacco warehouse where, on 3.3.1943, the Bulgarian occupying forces arrested and imprisoned the Jews of the city before deporting them to the Nazi extermination camps.</i></p> <p><i>The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, in a letter to the Police Directorate of Drama, requested the arrest of the perpetrators, while addressing the Municipality of Drama, asked for the restoration of the damages caused to the Monument, as well as the condemnation of the vandalism that offends the history and culture of the city.</i></p> <p><i>The Greek Jewry with repulsion and sorrow strongly condemns the continuation of anti-Semitic attacks that derive from any kind of fanaticism and encourage</i></p>

intolerance.

We wish the New Year to be a year of peace and prosperity, in which such phenomena will permanently and irrevocably stop."

Athens, 30 December 2020

CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE

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



4. Addendum

a. Statistical presentation

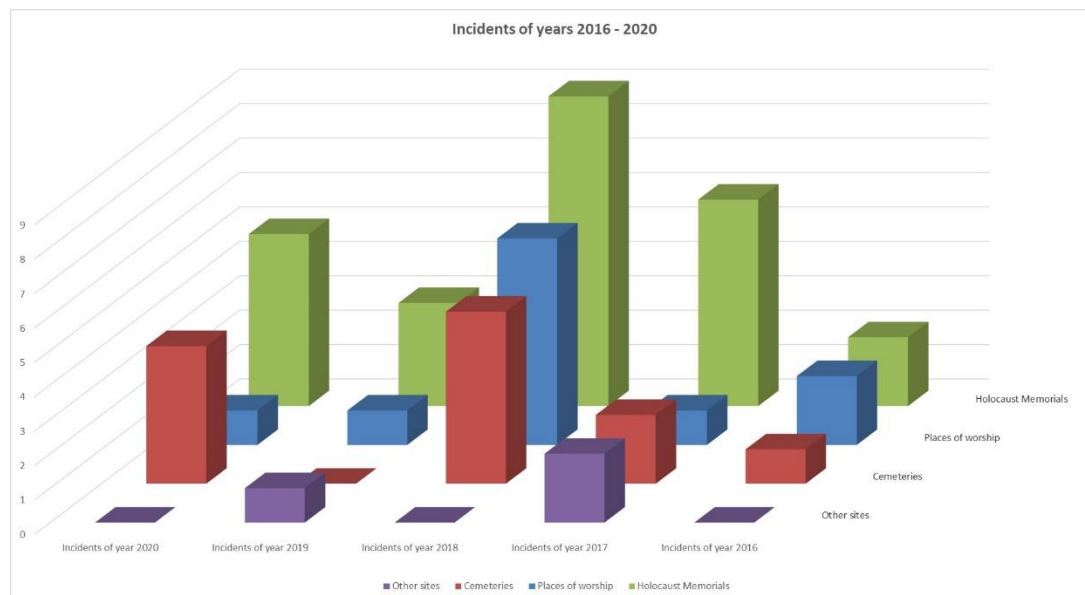


Figure 5: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015-2020 by site

[b. Press Release by the Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tyrnavos for the desecration of the Monument of the Jewish Martyrs of the Holocaust and the building of the Jewish Community in Larissa \(incidents 8-9\)](#)

PRESS RELEASE - 4 December 2020

“After the announcement of the desecration of the Monument of the Jewish Martyrs of the Holocaust and the building of the Jewish Community in Larissa by an unidentified activist dressed in black, His Eminence Metropolitan of Larissa and Tyrnavos, Mr. Ieronymos expresses his deep regrets for this despicable event and condemns this along with every kind of action which offend the religious sentiment and provoke confrontation between Religions. Especially in Larissa, the long-standing solidarity between Orthodox and Israelis in times of peace and in common historical adventures, especially during the German occupation, when in various ways the population of our region rushed to protect and help our fellow Israeli citizens, have forged indissoluble ties, which cannot be broken by the isolated action of an unidentified person in our city and certainly unrelated to our local Church. We pray that people will understand that with such incidents of desecration and sacrilege, the message of the Gospel of love and the peace of God on earth is nullified.

BY THE HOLY METROPOLIS”

[c. Statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs Mr. George Kalantzis regarding the front page headlines of the Greek newspaper “Makeleio” \(10-11-2020\)](#)

“Let each one of us, who belong to the majority, ask ourselves how we would feel if we lived in a country where Orthodox Christians were 0.05% of the total population and read headlines like these on news stands:

- *"A Christian Orthodox vet will stick the needle in us! Nightmare arrests in 'chambers - camps' like cattle"*
- *"A tough Christian Orthodox head of a company of "crows" who have taken over the liquidation of the red loans of the poor. The President of the Orthodox Community pretends to be our friend and sneaks our money out from the back door."*

Today, our fellow Greek citizens of Jewish religion read the front page headline about the "Jewish vet" who "will stick the needle in us" accompanied by a photo of Mengele. Three years ago they had read the headline about the "Tough Jewish head of a crow company" (for which the newspaper "Makeleio" was convicted in October 2020 for "insult and deliberate contribution to the reproduction of hate speech against Jews" by the Court of First Instance in Athens).

These - and many other similar headlines in the same newspaper - deliberately foster the most vulgar anti-Semitism, reminiscent of the Middle Ages when Jews were held responsible for every disaster, disease or defeat. It was then that initiated the road that ended in Auschwitz.

At a time when the health of billions of people and global economic growth depends on the existence of a vaccine against COVID-19, it is an honour and a source of pride for our country that a Greek - in whichever God he believes or does not believe in - is in such a responsible position and has made a significant contribution to solving the unprecedented health crisis.

It is no coincidence that the domestic deniers of common sense and science have also targeted His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch and His Beatitude the Archbishop of Athens, as is evident from repeated slanderous and outrageously false publications."

d. Letter of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. George Kalantzis, to the local Cretan newspaper "Chaniotika Nea", regarding the Etz Hayyim Synagogue (Tuesday 29 December 2020, pg. 25)

"Mr. Director,

on your newspaper's website an article was published on 20/12/2020 entitled "The struggle continues for Kastelli Hill" where extracts from a statement of the "Initiative against the hotelization of monuments on Kastelli Hill" were published. Among them, there is the following: "We will also inform the competent Israeli authorities in Greece and the bodies of Greek-Israeli cooperation about the attempted occupation of the city's monuments by a company of Israeli interests, reminding them that the society of Chania not only respected the "Synagogue" but contributed decisively to its restoration and operation".

Regarding the aforementioned respect towards the Etz Hayyim Synagogue (synagogues have a name, they are not anonymous), it is true that it was not trampled upon so as to be turned into something else or torn down. But what is even truer is that real respect was manifested by its restoration and reopening, which is mainly due to one man, the late Nikos Stavroulakis.

The Etz Hayyim Synagogue is a Greek Synagogue and, at the same time, a Greek monument. It is neither owned by nor associated with either "Israeli investors" or "Israeli authorities". Therefore, when the authors of the "Initiative" statement write about informing the "Israeli authorities" or "Israeli investors", in reality - and regardless of their intentions - they are in fact cultivating an implicit anti-Semitism and, at the same time, they are targeting the Etz Hayyim Synagogue.

Let's ask some simple questions to understand where the "Initiative" is leading to. If the "Israeli investors" persist with their plans, will the society of Chania stop respecting the Synagogue? And what does this mean? Is it not an implicit but clear threat? Why will the

"Israeli authorities" be informed if the Synagogue does not belong to Israel? If in the future Greek-Israeli relations change for the worse, should the Synagogue cease to exist?

The Etz Hayyim Synagogue, like the Monument of the memory for the SS Tanais, is neither a means of negotiation - much less blackmail - nor a means of pressure, nor a way of positively enhancing the country's international image or its relations with Israel. If that is how one treats them, then one is disrespecting our dead, disrespecting our history, disrespecting our homeland.

The Etz Hayyim Synagogue belongs to the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, not to Israel. It is one of the reasons why the people of Chania are proud of their beautiful city. It is theirs as is the Orthodox Holy Cathedral of Issodia of Theotokos and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Koimissis of Theotokos. And we protect, enhance and love what is ours. We do not give them away to anyone and we do not negotiate with anyone.

Dear Mr. Director,

On the occasion of our communication, please accept my warmest wishes for the Twelve Days of Christmas that we are going through.

The Secretary General for Religious Affairs

Georgios Kalantzis"



ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΥΒΕΡΝΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

ΑΡΙΘ. 101

1890 Έν' Αθήναις τῇ 4 Μαΐου

ΜΕΡΟΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΝ

ΣΥΝΟΨΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΜΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΩΝ

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΤΡΙΤΟΝ
ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΟΝ

Περὶ ἐγκρίσεως τοῦ καταστατικοῦ τῆς ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἰσραηλιτικῆς Ἀδελφότητος..... 1

Περὶ χορηγίας ἀναπληρωμ. πιστώσεως δραχ. 3063,87 ἐπὶ τοῦ προϋπολογισμοῦ τοῦ ἔτους 1890 τοῦ ἐν Ἀθῆναις γεωργ. σχολείου.....

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΟΝ

Ἄγγελλαι ἀπορῶσαι τὴν δημοσίαν ὑπηρεσίαν.

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΤΡΙΤΟΝ
ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΟΝ

Περὶ ἐγκρίσεως τοῦ καταστατικοῦ τῆς ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἰσραηλιτικῆς Ἀδελφότητος.

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ Α'

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ

Προτάσει τοῦ Ἡμετέρου ἐπὶ τῶν Ἐσωτερικῶν Ὑπουργοῦ, ἐγκρίνομεν τὸ ἀπὸ 2 Φεβρουαρίου ε. ἔ. καταστατικὸν ἐξ ἄρθρων 22 τῆς ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἰσραηλιτικῆς Ἀδελφότητος», διατάσσομεν δ' ἵνα ἐντὸς τῆς α' τριμηνίας ἐκάστου ἔτους ὑποβάλληται τῷ Ὑπουργεῖῳ τῶν Ἐσωτερικῶν ἢ διὰ τὸ προηγούμενον ἔτος λογοδοσία τῆς ἀδελφότητος, ἐπιφυλασσόμενοι ν' ἀνακαλέσωμεν τὴν ἐγκρίσιν Ἡμῶν ἐν περιπτώσει παραβάσεως ἢ μὴ ἐκτελέσεως ὅρου τινὸς τοῦ ἐγκρινόμενου καταστατικοῦ ἢ μὴ ἐγκαίρου ὑποβολῆς λογοδοσίας τινός.

Ὁ αὐτὸς Ὑπουργὸς ἐκτελέσει τὸ παρὸν διάταγμα, δημοσιευθὸς μετὰ τῆς Ἐφημερίδος τῆς Κυβερνήσεως μετὰ τοῦ ἐγκρινόμενου καταστατικοῦ.

Ἐν Ἀθήναις τῇ 30 Ἀπριλίου 1890.

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ

Ὁ Ὑπουργὸς τῶν Ἐσωτερικῶν
Σ. ΔΡΑΓΟΥΜΗΣ

ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΤΙΚΟΝ

ΤΗΣ ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ

ΙΣΡΑΗΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΟΣ.

Ἐν Ἀθήναις σήμερον τὴν 2αν Φεβρουαρίου 1890, οἱ κάτωθι ὑπογεγραμμένοι Ἰσραηλιταί, κάτοικοι Ἀθηνῶν, συνιστῶμεν κοινότητα πρὸς νόμιμον ὑπόστασιν καὶ ἐκπροσώπησιν καὶ ἵνα ἐν πνεύματι ἀδελφότητος καὶ ἀμοιβαίας συνεννοήσεως καὶ συναγωγῆς ἐπιδιωχθῇ ἡ ἐκτέλεσις ἔργων κοινωφελῶν, ἀναφερομένων εἰς τὰς ἀνάγκας τὰς τε κοινωνικὰς ἐν γένει καὶ θρησκευτικὰς, οἷον οἰκοδομῆς Συναγωγῆς, Σχολείου κλπ., καὶ ἡ κατὰ τὸ ἐνὸν τῶν δυσπραγούντων ὑποστήριξις καὶ περίθαλψις.

Ἄρθρ. 1. Ἡ ἀδελφότης γνωρίζεται ὑπὸ τὸ ὄνομα « Ἰσραηλιτικῆς Ἀδελφότητος Ἀθηνῶν » ἔχει δὲ σφραγίδα, ἔχουσαν ἐν τῷ κέντρῳ πένταλφον.

Ἄρθρ. 2. Τὰ τῆς ἀδελφότητος διέπει τριμελής ἐπιτροπὴ, ἀποτελουμένη ἀπὸ προέδρου, ταμίαν καὶ γραμματέα, κατὰ τριετίαν ὑπὸ τῆς συνελεύσεως τῶν μελῶν ἐκλεγομένη δι' ἀπολύτου πλειοψηφίας τῶν παρευρισκομένων μελῶν καὶ διὰ μυστικῆς ψηφοφορίας. Ἐν πάσῃ περιπτώσει, ἵνα ἡ συνέλευσις θεωρηθῇ ἐν ἀπαρτίᾳ καὶ ἀπορασίῳ, δεῖον γὰρ παρίστανται τὰ ἡμίση τοῦλάχιστον τῶν μελῶν πλέον ἐνάς.

Ἄρθρ. 3. Αἱ ἐκλογαὶ ἐνεργοῦνται τὴν πρώτην Κυριακὴν τοῦ Φεβρουαρίου. Μὴ καταρτισθείσης ἀπαρτίας, καλοῦνται τὰ μέλη διὰ τὴν ἐπομένην Κυριακὴν. Ἄν καὶ κατὰ ταύτην μὴ κατορθωθῇ ἀπαρτία, τότε καλοῦνται

πάλιν διὰ τὴν ἀμέσως ἐπομένην Κυριακὴν καὶ τότε ἡ συνέλευσις θεωρεῖται ἐν ἀπαρτίᾳ καὶ ἐν τῷ 1/3 τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τῶν μελῶν παρίσταται.

Ἄρθρ. 4. Ἡ τριμελής αὐτὴ ἐπιτροπὴ μεριμνᾷ περὶ τῶν τῆς ἀδελφότητος, ἀντιπροσωπεύουσα ταύτην καθ' ὅλας τὰς νομικὰς καὶ κοινωνικὰς αὐτῆς σφίσεις ἐνώπιον παντὸς καὶ πάσης ἀρχῆς δικαστικῆς τε καὶ διοικητικῆς.

Ἄρθρ. 5. Ἴνα ἀπορασίῃ ἡ ἐπιτροπὴ, δεῖον νὰ παρίστανται καὶ τὰ τρία μέλη. Αἱ ἀποφάσεις λαμβάνονται κατὰ πλειοψηφίαν.

Ἄρθρ. 6. Κωλυόμενον τὸν πρόεδρον ἢ ἀπουσιάζοντα ἀντικαθιστᾷ τὸ προσβύτερον τῶν μελῶν τῆς ἀδελφότητος. Τὸν γραμματεῖα δὲ ἡ ταμίαν ὁ ἐκαστοτε ραββίνος καὶ τοῦτο μόνον διὰ τὰς συνεδριάσεις τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς, ἵνα θεωρητῆται αὐτὴ ἐν ἀπαρτίᾳ. Ἐν περιπτώσει δὲ θανάτου ἢ παραίτησως μέλους τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς, ἡ ἀδελφότης συνέχεται καὶ προβαίνει εἰς νέαν ἐκλογὴν.

Ἄρθρ. 7. Πᾶν ἔγγραφον πρὸς ἀρχὴν ὑπογράφεται ὑφ' ὅλης τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς ἢ ἀλληλογραφία δὲ ὑπὸ τοῦ προέδρου καὶ τοῦ γραμματεῖως.

Ἄρθρ. 8. Ἡ ἐπιτροπὴ συνέχεται τὴν πρώτην Δευτέραν ἐκαστοῦ μηνὸς καὶ ὁσάκις ὁ πρόεδρος ἤθελε κρίνει τοῦτο ἀναγκαῖον.

Ἄρθρ. 9. Ὁ ραββίνος τῆς ἀδελφότητος καλεῖται ὑπὸ τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς πρὸς παροχὴν πληροφοριῶν. Εἰς τὰς συνεδριάσεις δὲ λαμβάνει μέρος μόνον ὡς ἀναπληρωτῆς τοῦ ταμίαι ἢ γραμματεῖως.

Ἄρθρ. 10. Ἐκ τῶν χρημάτων τῆς ἀδελφότητος ὁ ταμίαι κρατεῖ εἰς χεῖρας του μόνον δραχμὰς ἑκατὸν (ἀριθ. 100). Ὅταν αἱ εἰσπράξεις ὑπερβῶσι τὸ ποσὸν τοῦτο, ὀφείλει ἐπὶ τόκῳ νὰ καταθέσῃ εἰς τράπεζαν ἢ ἀγοράσῃ ἀσφαλῆ ποκοφόρον ὁμολογίαν, κατατεθεισομένην ἐπίσης ἐν μιᾷ τῶν τραπεζῶν, ἐκ συνεννοήσεως μετὰ τῶν λοιπῶν μελῶν.

Ἄρθρ. 11. Ὁ ταμίαι κατὰ ἐξάμηνον λογοδοτεῖ ἐνώπιον τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς. Πάντοτε δὲ ὁ πρόεδρος μετὰ τοῦ γραμματεῖως ἔχει δικαίωμα ἐξελέγχεως τοῦ ταμίαιου.

Ἄρθρ. 12. Αἱ δαπάναι ἐν γένει διὰ τὰς ἀνάγκας τῆς ἀδελφότητος καὶ αἱ ἀγαθοεργίαι καὶ εἰσφοραὶ εἰς φιλανθρωπικὰ καταστήματα ἀποφασίζονται ὑπὸ τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς. Ἐν κατεπιγούσῃ περιστάσει ὁ πρόεδρος ἔχει τὸ δικαίωμα ἕνεκ ἀποφάσεως νὰ δαπανήσῃ εἰς ἀγαθοεργίαν μέχρι τοῦ ποσοῦ τῶν δραχμῶν 25. Ὅφείλει ὁμῶς νὰ δικαιολογήσῃ εἰς πρώτην τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς συνεδρίασιν τὴν δαπάνην, καὶ, ἐν αὐτῇ μὴ ἐγκριθῆ, καταλογίζεται εἰς ἄρας του.

Ἄρθρ. 13. Ἐντὸς τοῦ μηνὸς Ἰανουαρίου ἐκαστοῦ ἔτους ὁ πρόεδρος ὀφείλει νὰ καλέσῃ εἰς συνέλευσιν τὴν ἀδελφότητα καὶ ἐνώπιον ταύτης ἡ ἐπιτροπὴ λογοδοτεῖ περὶ τῶν κατὰ τὸ παρελθὸν ἔτος πεπραγμένων καὶ δαπανηθέντων. Ἄν μὴ κληθῆ ἡ ἀδελφότης, συνέχεται αὐτοδικαίως τὴν τελευταίαν τοῦ Ἰανουαρίου ἐβδομάδα καὶ καλεῖ εἰς λογοδοσίαν τὴν ἐπιτροπὴν.

Ἄρθρ. 14. Καλεῖται εἰς συνέλευσιν ἡ ἀδελφότης καὶ ὁσάκις ὁ πρόεδρος ἤθελε κρίνει τοῦτο ἀναγκαῖον ἢ ἤθελον ζητήσῃ τοῦτο ἰγγράφως δέκα μέλη τῆς ἀδελφότητος.

Ἄρθρ. 15. Μέλη τῆς ἀδελφότητος δύνανται νὰ ἴνῃσι ἀπὸ δεκαετίας τοῦλάχιστον ἐν Ἀθήναις μόνιμως κατοικοῦντες Ἰσραηλιταί. Τὴν παραδοχὴν τούτων εἰς τὴν ἀδελφότητα ἀποφασίζει ἡ τριμελής ἐπιτροπὴ μετὰ τοῦ ραββίνου, ἔχοντος μόνον συμβουλευτικὴν ψῆφον.

Ἄρθρ. 16. Ἐκαστον τῶν μελῶν καταβάλλει κατὰ μῆνα εἰς τὸ ταμίαιον τῆς ἀδελφότητος δραχμὴν μίαν. Δύ-

ναται ἡ ἐπιτροπὴ ν' ἀπαλλάξῃ μέρος τῆς εἰσφορᾶς ταύτης ἕνεκεν ἐνδείας.

Ἄρθρ. 17. Ἄν τι τῶν μελῶν καθυστερήσῃ ἐπὶ ἐν ἔτος τὴν μηνιαίαν αὐτοῦ εἰσφορὰν, διαγράφεται ἐκ τοῦ καταλόγου τῶν μελῶν.

Ἄρθρ. 18. Ἐπίσης ἀποφάσει τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς διαγράφεται καὶ τὸ μέρος ἐκεῖνο, ὅπερ ἤθελε καταδικασθῆ ὑπὸ τῶν ἀρμοδίων ἀρχῶν ἐπὶ παραβάσει τῶν κεκμένων νόμων καὶ ἐν ὑποχρεώσεων τοῦ πολίτου.

Ἄρθρ. 19. Ἡ ἀδελφότης ἐκ τοῦ ταμίαιου αὐτῆς παρέχει ἐτησίαν εἰσφορὰν εἰς τὸ πτωχοκομεῖον καὶ τὰ νοκομεῖα «Ἑλπίς» καὶ «Εὐαγγελισμός». Ἐφάπαξ δὲ καὶ ἐν δεδωμέναις περιστάσει δυσπραγίας τῆ ἐγκρίσει τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς.

Ἄρθρ. 20. Τὸ παρὸν καταστατικὸν ἡ ἀδελφότης δύναται μετὰ διετίαν νὰ τροποποιήσῃ. Ἄλλ' ἐν τῇ συνελύσει δεῖον νὰ παρίστανται τοῦλάχιστον τὰ τρία τέταρτα τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τῶν μελῶν τῆς ἀδελφότητος.

Ἄρθρ. 21. Ἡ ἀδελφότης διὰ μίαν πενταετίαν ἐξαιρετικῶς καὶ λόγῳ τιμῆς ἐκλέγει πρόεδρον τὸν Κύριον Κάρολον Ρότσιλδ, ταμίαν τὸν Κον Μ. Α. Λέβην καὶ γραμματεῖα τὸν Κον Α. Κωνσταντίνην. Πᾶσα νέα ἐπιτροπὴ θὰ ἐκλέγεται κατὰ τριετίαν.

Ἄρθρ. 22. Ἡ ἀδελφότης ἐντέλλεται τῇ ἐπιτροπῇ, ὅπως τὸ παρὸν καταστατικὸν ὑποβάλλῃ πρὸς θεώρησιν καὶ ἐγκρίσιν εἰς τὴν Σιβαστὴν Ἑλληνικὴν Κυβέρνησιν.

Ἰσογρ. Βεχὸρ Ἰσαὰκ Ἰεσουρού, Ἰσαὰκ Ἀλβαχλῆς, Δαβὶδ Σκινιζῆς, Ἡλίας Δ. Σκινιζῆς, Μωϋσῆς Δ. Σκινιζῆς, Ἰούδας Ραβιτζ, Λέων Βαρούχ, Μωϋσῆς Σ. Φόρτες, Χαΐμ Τολέδος, Ἀαρὼν Μ. Μισραχῆς, Ἐμμανουὴλ Ταβιάς, Χαΐμ, Ταβιάς, Χαΐμ Νασσί, Ἰωσήφ Ἰεσουρού, Νισσὴ Χ. Κοὲν, Ἀαρὼν Σ. Μισραχῆς, Κάρολος Ρότσιλδ, Μ. Σ. Λέβης, Α. Κωνσταντίνης.

Διὰ τὸ ἀκριβὲς τῆς ἀντιγραφῆς

Ἐν Ἀθήναις τὴν 10ην Φεβρουαρίου 1890.

Ὁ πρόεδρος τῆς ἐπιτροπῆς

ΚΑΡΟΛΟΣ ΡΟΤΣΙΛΔ.

Ὁ ταμίαι

Μ. Σ. Λέβης.

Ὁ γραμματεὺς

Α. Κωνσταντίνης.

Ἄρθ. 5971,

(2)

Περὶ χορηγίας ἀναπληρωμ. πιστώσεως δραχ. 3063,87 ἐπὶ τοῦ προϋπολογισμοῦ τοῦ ἔτους 1890 τοῦ ἐν Ἀιδινίῳ γεωργ. σχολείου.

Ο ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

Λαβόντες ὑπ' ὄψει τὴν ὑπ' ἀριθ. 325 ἀναφορὰν τῆς Διευθύνσεως τοῦ ἐν Ἀιδινίῳ Κασσαβ. καὶ Τριανταρ. γεωργικοῦ σχολείου, καὶ τὸ δι' αὐτῆς ὑποβληθὲν ὑπ' ἀριθ. 79 πρακτικὸν τοῦ συμβουλίου τοῦ αὐτοῦ σχολείου, δι' οὗ χορηγεῖται πίστωσις ἐν τῷ προϋπολογισμῷ τρίχοντος ἔτους ὑπὸ τὸ κεφ. Δ' ἀρθρ. 1 καὶ 2 ἐκ δραχμῶν 3063, 87 πρὸς ἀνανέωσιν τῶν ἐν τῷ εἰρημένῳ πρακτικῷ σημειομένων ἐνταλμάτων, ἐγκρίνομεν αὐτὸ καὶ παραγγέλλομεν τὴν δημοσίευσιν αὐτοῦ τε καὶ τῆς παρούσης.

Ἐν Ἀθήναις τῇ 2 Μαΐου 1890.

Ὁ Ὑπουργὸς
Σ. ΔΡΑΓΟΥΜΗΣ.

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), the provisions of which were updated and incorporated into the joint circular [«Circular on Islamic places of worship in Thrace \(Mosques-Tekke-Masjid-Jem/Cemevi\) \(Ref. Number: 105510/01/31.08.2021 Online Publication Number: 60X646MTΛΗ-0Y6\)»](#).

An explicit reference is made in this circular regarding the obligation to protect the cultural heritage as derived from international conventions²⁹ and the national regulatory framework³⁰. 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. Alevis 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 Alevis.

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 Alevis in the prefecture of Evros in particular, as well as in the prefecture of Rodopi.

²⁹ UNESCO Convention of 1972, Granada Convention of 1985

³⁰ Constitution of Greece, articles 24 (1) and (6); Law 3018/2002

Every year, ancestral “sacrifice rituals” are organized to honor and commemorate the tragedy of Hussein and to symbolize the persecutions of Alevi Muslims over time. The following feasts are organized:

- Annual Kurban in the Tekke of Roussa Mursala on November 8
- Kurban in a number of villages: Roussa, Goniko, Ourania, Mesimeri, Mikro Dereio, Sidirous, Hamilo, Ano Mikraki
- Kirk Kurban in Chloi, Rodopi prefecture
- Ali Baba Kurban in Ano Kambi, Rodopi prefecture
- Sinan Baba and Hassan Baba in Megalo Dereio
- Atmezar Kurban in Kehro, Rodopi prefecture
- Gaziler Kurban in Chloi, Rodopi prefecture
- Kiose Kioi Kurban in Spano, Evros prefecture and
- Feast in Hilia organized every summer (on the first weekend of August) with wrestling competitions

The Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) is the most important in the Balkans. It has a history of approximately seven centuries and has always been an assembly space for Dervishes (and in particular the Bektashi order). It is a monument of great religious and cultural value.

The Secretary General for Religious Affairs issued the following document (Ref: 108011/01/3-7-2019):

“In reply to the application (July 2, 2019) submitted by the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs having regard to:

- a. *The Confession of Faith and Application for permit for religious practice of the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace (March 27, 2018) and the Application (May 8, 2018) of this Committee requesting permit for religious practice in the Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) on holidays throughout the year on specific dates,*
- b. *The declaration of the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace in their Confession of Faith that their “religious practice takes place in spaces of assembly called jem or cemevi and tekke (Meydan Evi) and not in mosques”,*
- c. *The fact that the Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) has been a place of assembly for Alevi Muslims since the 15th century and continuous to operate occasionally as such,*
- d. *The fact that the Tekke of Roussa is recognized as a monument in accordance with the provisions of Law 3028/2002 (Official Gazette A’ 153) “on the protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general”, and*
- e. *The application of the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace (Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs 107584/01/3-7-2019) 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 Hıllı, Roussa, Mikro Dereio, Municipality of Soufli, Evros prefecture, on August 2, 3 and 4, 2019, ending on August 9, and to remain in Hıllı 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 Aegean³¹. 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.

³¹ See also decree by the Army Commander of the Dodecanese (Ref: 19/29-4-1947) as ratified by Resolution ΑΔ’ of the 4th Revisionary Hellenic Parliament (Official Government Gazette Α’ 262/27-11-1947)

Particular mention should be made to the funding by the Ministry of Culture and Sports for restoring historical mosques in the area, such as the Recep Pasha Mosque, the Sintrivan Mosque, the Mosque of Mehmet Aga, the Suleiman Mosque, the Murad Reis Mosque in Rhodes.

With the support of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs the Suleiman Mosque in Rhodes – which operates as a Museum- is made available each year to the Managing body of the Waqf property in Rhodes for the Eid al-Fitr prayer (for the end of the fast of Ramadan) and the Eid al-Adha prayer (for the Sacrifice of Abraham). Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the operation of the site continued with strict adherence to sanitary protocols to address the epidemiological risks.

By Acts 182953/01/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number Ω5MY46MTΛH-ZΦ7), 182982/01/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number 6X1H46MTΛH-BT2) και 182990/01/22-11-2019 (Online Publication Number Ω27Λ46MTΛH-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 past³².

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 Muslims³³ 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/Θ1/11-8-2017** (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 7ΦΑΒ4653ΠΣ-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*

³² Ottoman Architecture in Greece, Collective work, 2009 (Η Οθωμανική Αρχιτεκτονική στην Ελλάδα – Συλλογικό, Δεκέμβριος 2009)

³³ 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*".

Entity of Private Law “Committee of the Mosque of Athens” 151436/01/13-9-2018 was issued providing for, inter alia, the following:

- the possibility to set up, following a decision by the Management Board, non-remunerable religious committees of consultative nature composed of members or non- members of the Board for the better functioning of the Mosque. In particular, members of these committees may be public servants, Muslims legally residing in Attica, faculty members of Universities or graduates of the Undergraduate Programme of Islamic Studies of the Faculty of Theology of the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and religious ministers of Islamic worship places in Attica authorized by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (article 17),
- the possibility to set up, following a decision by the Management Board, groups of volunteers composed of Muslims legally residing in Attica and members of the Muslim communities of Attica who wish to offer their services on a temporary basis and free of charge and to support the proper functioning of the Mosque of Athens especially during the periods of major Islamic holidays and for the increased needs of the adherents (article 18),
- the daily functioning of the Mosque of Athens. Opening hours of the Mosque are: from thirty minutes before the time of the first prayer performed by the Imam to thirty minutes after the time of the last prayer performed by the Imam. During the holy Islamic month of Ramadan and the Feast of the Sacrifice of Abraham (Eid Al Adha), the Mosque of Athens shall operate twenty-four hours a day. All adherents may come freely at the Mosque during the opening hours and at the yearly prayer times in order to perform their religious practices (article 19) and
- the procedure and conditions for making the Mosque available to individual Muslim communities of Attica for a limited period of time (article 20).

On May 20, 2019 the Presidential Decree 42/2019 (A’ 74) “Organization of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Committee of the Mosque of Athens” was published. The Organization of the Legal Entity defines in particular, even in derogation of the provisions in force for the public sector, its structure and operation, the number, positions, categories, qualifications, status and duties of the staff employed, as well as their disciplinary law, the topics of studies, projects, leasing or renting of real estate and provision of services related to the operation and maintenance of the Mosque and the procurement of supplies, its financial management and its inclusion in the appropriate accounting management system and any other detail necessary for its smooth operation and the achievement of its purpose.

Law **4589/19** (A’13) article 72 (1) regulates in detail matters regarding revenue from donations to the Legal Entity of Private Law and Law 4610/19 (A’70) article 217 regulates the matter of the Islamic religious minister’s remuneration.

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 109537/01/20 (YOΔΔ 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”.

By article 49 of Law 4777/2021 (A'25) and article 97 of Law 4812/2021 (A'110) changes were made to the composition of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Committee of the Mosque of Athens”, including an increase in the number of Muslim representatives from two (2) to four (4). The nine-member Management Board was appointed by the Decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs 98380/01/9-8-2021 (ΥΥΟΔ 668, ΑΔΑ: 64ΟΨ46ΜΤΛΗ-ΔΤΗ).

4. Incidents

For the year **2020**, **nine (9)** incidents were recorded, as follows:

No	1.
Location	Mastanli Muslim Cemeteries, Komotini, Rodopi
Date	21 May 2020
Brief description	Damage caused by an axe to 3 tombstones - headstones
Perpetrator/s	1 national (Muslim)
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested and released on the order of the competent Public Prosecutor. An order for a psychiatric examination was pending against her by the competent Public Prosecutor's Office, which was executed on the same day

No	2.
Location	Eski Mosque, Komotini, Rodopi
Date	17 June 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators spray-painted on the exterior walls of the building
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was lodged
Indicative photographic material (Source: The Management Committee of Muslim Property of Komotini)	



No	3.
Location	Osman Shah Mosque (Koursoum Mosque), Trikala
Date	13 July 2020
Brief description	Two glasspanes of the main entrance of the building used as a museum were broken by throwing stones

Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

No	4.
Location	Kayali Mosque, Komotini, Rodopi
Date	10 August 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators spray-painted on the exterior walls of the building
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was lodged

Indicative photographic material (Source: The Management Committee of Muslim Property of Komotini)



No	5.
Location	Informal Muslim House of Prayer, Tympaki, Heraklion, Crete
Date	9 September 2020
Brief description	During a rally by members of the national-patriotic political sphere objects were thrown in the adjacent house of prayer causing damage to its facade
Perpetrator/s	5 nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested - A dossier was formed

No	6.
Location	Mastanli Mosque, Komotini, Rodopi
Date	15 September 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators pulled apart the flooring of the building's courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was lodged

Indicative photographic material (Source: The Management Committee of Muslim Property of Komotini)



No	7.
Location	Serdar Mosque, Komotini, Rodopi
Date	6 October 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators spray-painted on the exterior walls of the building
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was lodged
Indicative photographic material (Source: The Management Committee of Muslim Property of Komotini)	



No	8.
Location	Mosque of Athens
Date	24 October 2020
Brief description	A perpetrator spray-painted a cross in black and wrote the phrase "ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΝΙΚΑ (Victory in Jesus Christ)" on the front door of the land plot where the Mosque is located
Perpetrator/s	1 national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested - A dossier was formed

No	9.
Location	Informal House of Prayer for Muslims, Heraklion, Crete
Date	4 November 2020
Brief description	Perpetrators, without being perceived, deposited at the main door three (3) wrapped A4 pages with sketches depicting the Prophet Muhammad in offensive scenes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A dossier was formed

5. Addendum

a. Statistical presentation

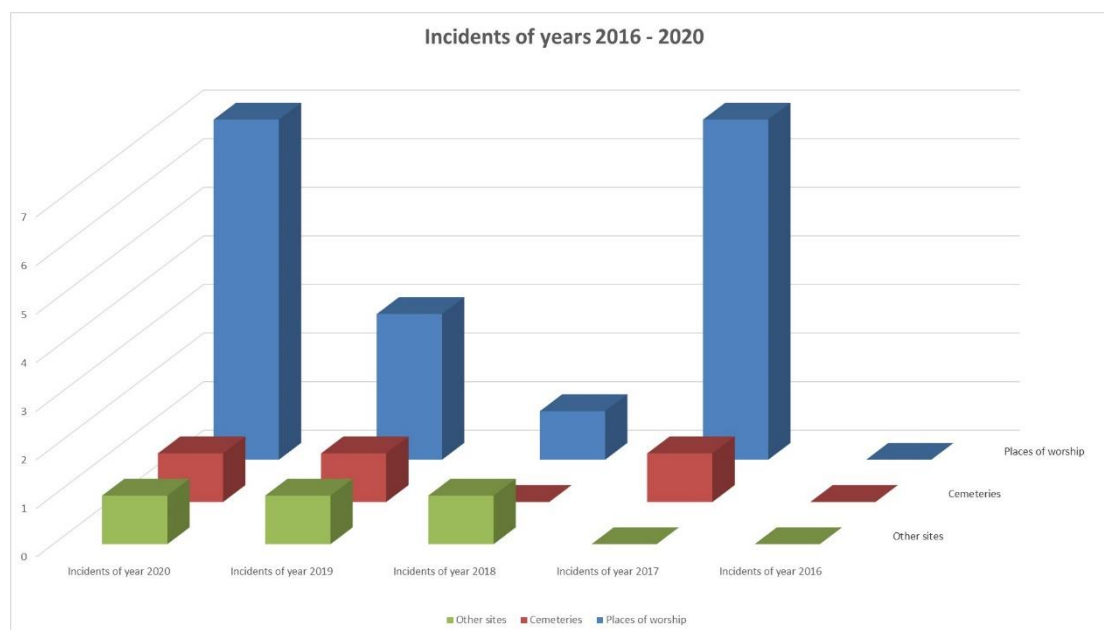


Figure 6: Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2016-2020 by site

b. A circular on non-attendance days for Minority Schools on Islamic holidays was issued by the Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace setting out six (6) days of Islamic holidays for Minority Schools in addition to the rest of national school holidays.

c. Indicative list of Islamic monuments in Greece³⁴

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 2021) contains the most important Islamic monuments in Greece, either currently open for visit by the public or where work is being carried out or planned, so that they can be open to the public as soon as possible. It is to be noted that information on secular Islamic art and architecture is not presented here and that certainly this list is not an exhaustive index of all Islamic monuments in Greece.

Sterea Ellada

Athens, Fethiye Mosque (Mosque of the Wheat Bazar)

Athens, Mosque of the Lower Fountain (Tzisdarakis)

³⁴Source: Department of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture and Sports

Athens, Medresse (Aiolou and Pelopida st.)
Athens, Küçük Mosque, Mousaiou square, Plaka
Livadia, Gazi Omer Bey Mosque
Chalkis Emir Zade Mosque and fountain
Palaeochora Karystos, Minaret in the Church of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour
Nafpaktos, Fethiye Mosque
Nafpaktos, Vezir Mosque and ottoman fountains

Peloponnese

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

Epirus

Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Mosque
Ioannina, Castle, İç Kale, Fethiye Mosque
Ioannina, Medresse 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, Faik Pasha Türbe
Arta, Feyzullah Mosque
Konitsa, Kato Konitsa, three Türbes

Thessaly

Larissa, 31 August st., Yeni Mosque
Larissa, Bajrakli Mosque
Elassona, Varosi, Mosque
Tempi, Hasan Baba Tekke
Asprogeia, Farsala, Durpali Sultan Tekke, Dervish Monastery

Trikala, Saint Constantin, Osman Shah (Koursoum) Mosque

Trikala, General Sarafis st., Medresse

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 (Aghia Sophia)

Serres, Mustafa Bey Mosque

Serres, Zincirli Mosque

Drama, Dikastirion square Mosque

Drama, Mosque Agamemnonos and Armen st.

Kato Nevrokopi, Exohi, Mosque

Drama, former Mosque, Church of Aghios Nikolaos

Giannitsa, Mausoleum Gazi Evrenos

Giannitsa, "Mescit" or Türbes Ahmet Bey

Giannitsa, Ahmet Bey Mosque and baths

Giannitsa, Iskender Bey Mosque

Veria, Orta Mosque

Veria, Mahmud Çelebi Mosque

Veria, Musa Çelebi Medresse Mosque

Veria, Minaret, Old Metropolis- Eski Metropol, Hünkar Mosque

Edessa, Yeni Mosque

Edessa, Hünkar Mosque

Kastoria, Medresse and Library Ahmet Pasha

Kastoria, Kursum Mosque

Katerini, Abdullah Pasha Tekke

Kilkis, Messia, Sts. Constantin and Eleni Church

Stageira, Archaeological site of the medieval town of Sidirokafsia, Complex of the small bath and Mosque

Thrace

Xanthi, Genisea, Mustafa Pasha Mosque

Xanthi, Mosque in Myki
Xanthi, Genisea, Kasaba Mosque
Xanthi, Selino, Kütüklü Baba Tekke
Komotini, historical center, Yeni Mosque
Komotini, Imaret
Komotini, Eski Mosque
Komotini, Tekke Pos-Pos
Komotini, Serdar and Tabakhane Mosques
Komotini, Kayali Mosque and Medresse
Komotini, Selvili Mosque
Didymoteicho, Mehmet Çelebi Mosque
Didymoteicho, Oruç Pasha Mausoleum
Evros, Soufli, Rousa, Tekke

North-East Aegean

Lesvos, Mytilene, Valide Mosque
Lesvos, Mytilene, Yeni Mosque
Lesvos, Mytilene, Veli Pasha Medresse
Lesvos, Mytilene, Kastro, Tekke
Chios, Metzite Mosque
Chios, Kara Ali Cemetery
Chios, Osmaniye Mosque
Chios, Bajrakli Mosque
Chios, Hamidiye Mosque

Dodecanese

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Suleiman Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Ibrahim Pasha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Reçep Pasha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Mustafa Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Hamza Bey Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Mehmet Agha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Sindrivan Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Ali Hilmi Pasha Mosque
Rhodes, Medieval Town, Imaret
Rhodes, Murat Reis complex, cemetery, Mosque, tekke
Kos, Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque
Kos, Defterdar Mosque

Kos, Hassan Pasha Mosque

Kos, Moruk Mosque

Kos, Atik Mosque

Kastellorizo, Mosque

Crete

Heraklion, Vezir Mosque

Heraklion, Three Men Tekke

Heraklion, Mihrab, Abdurrahman Agha Mosque

Heraklion, Nea Alatsata, tekke Mosque

Heraklion Prefecture, Inadiye, Candia Nova

Chania, Venetian Castle, Küçük Hasan Mosque (Yiali)

Chania, Minaret of Hünkar Mosque

Chania, Dervish Tekke

Rethymno, Ibrahim Sultan Mosque

Rethymno, Gazi Hussein Pasha Mosque

Rethymno, Kara Mousha Pasha Mosque

Rethymno, Valide Sultana Mosque

Rethymno, Veli Pasha Mosque complex

Rethymno, Mikrasiaton square, Türbe

Ierapetra, Mosque and fountain

D. Other Religions

According to the information available to the Directorate of Religious Administration, the existing legally authorized worship places of other religious communities are as follows: **Buddhist (5), Hindu (3), Baha'i (6), Hellenic Ethnic Religion (1) and Ancient Hellenic Religion (1).**

For the year **2020** no incidents have been reported against sites of other Religions.



II. GEOGRAPHICAL DISPLAY & STATISTICAL PRESENTATION



A. Geographical display of incidents for year 2020 by Religious Community

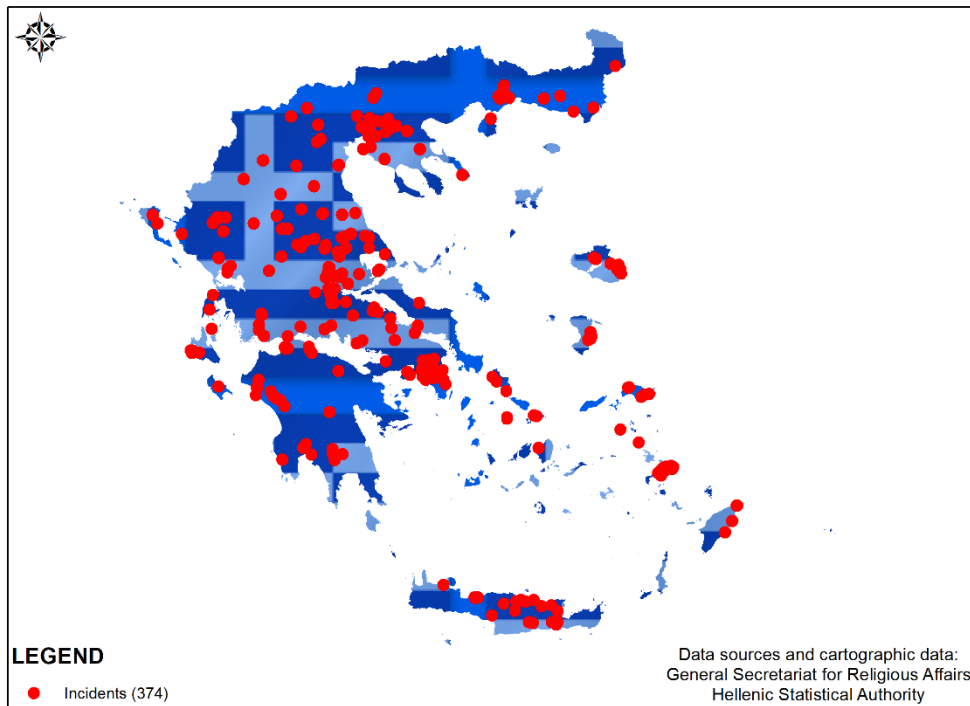


Figure 7: Orthodox Church

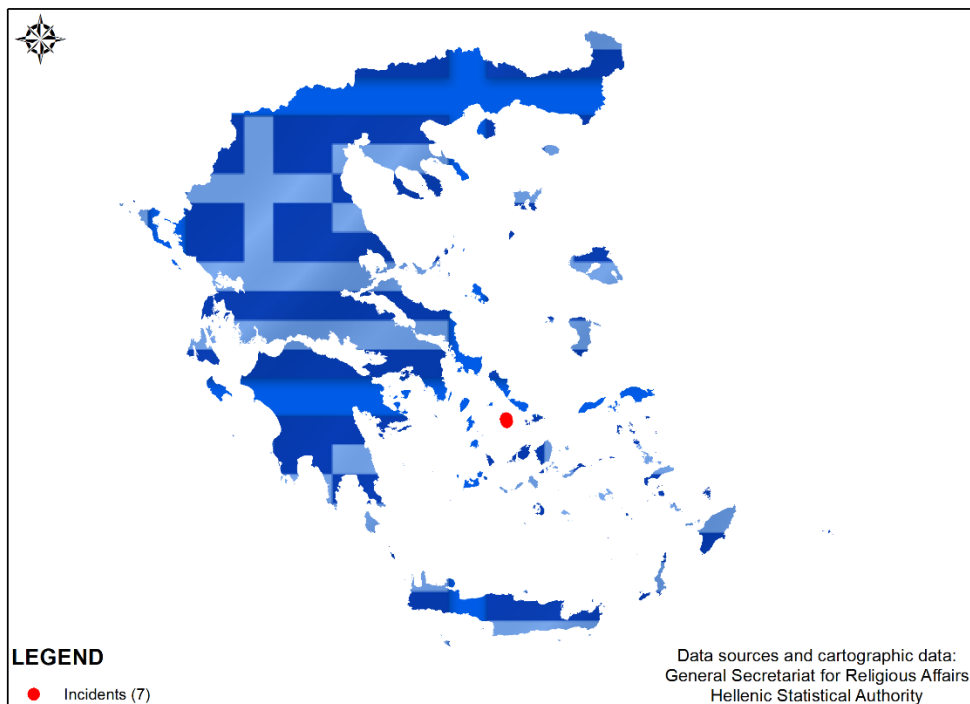


Figure 8: Catholic Church

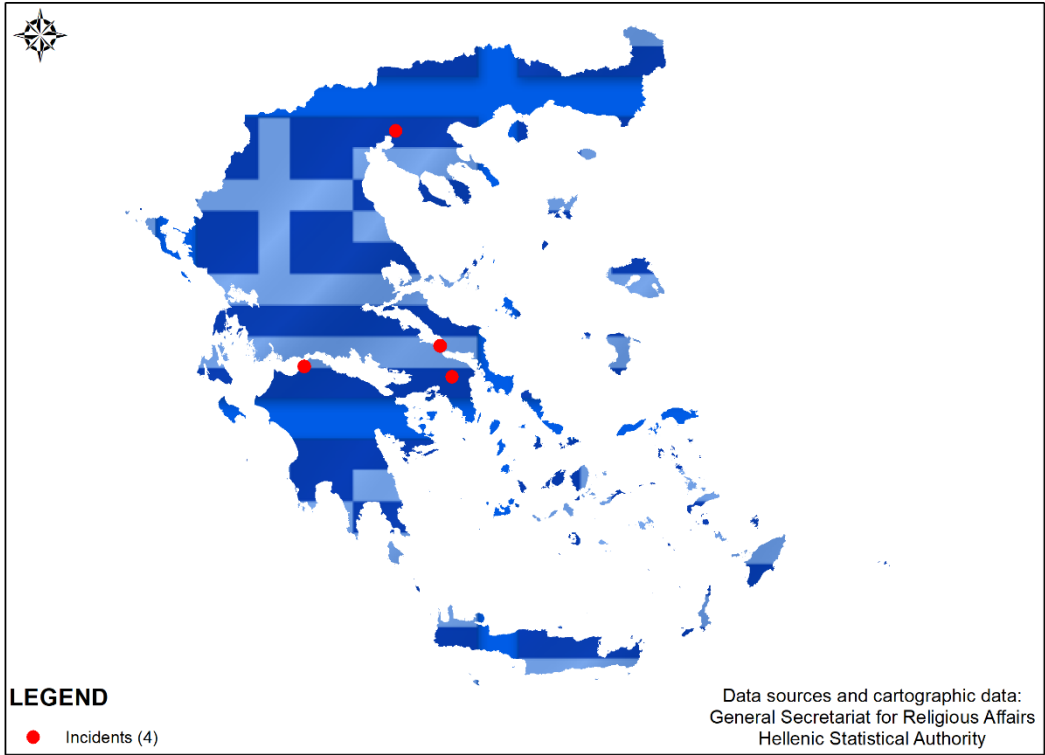


Figure 9: True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

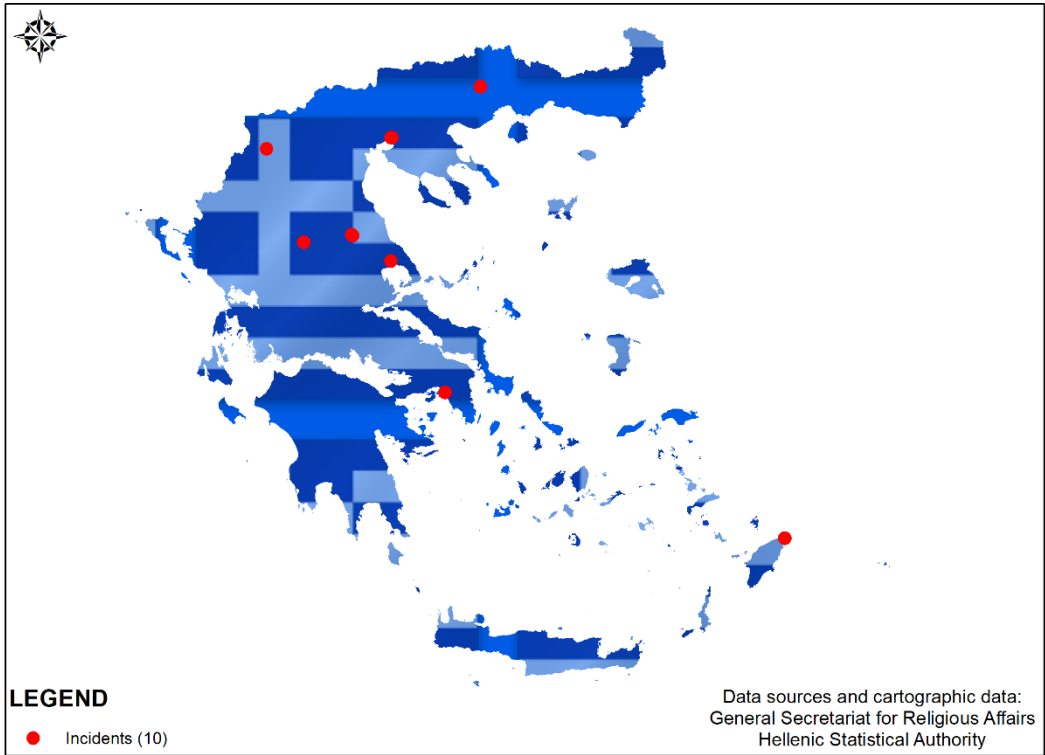


Figure 10: Judaism

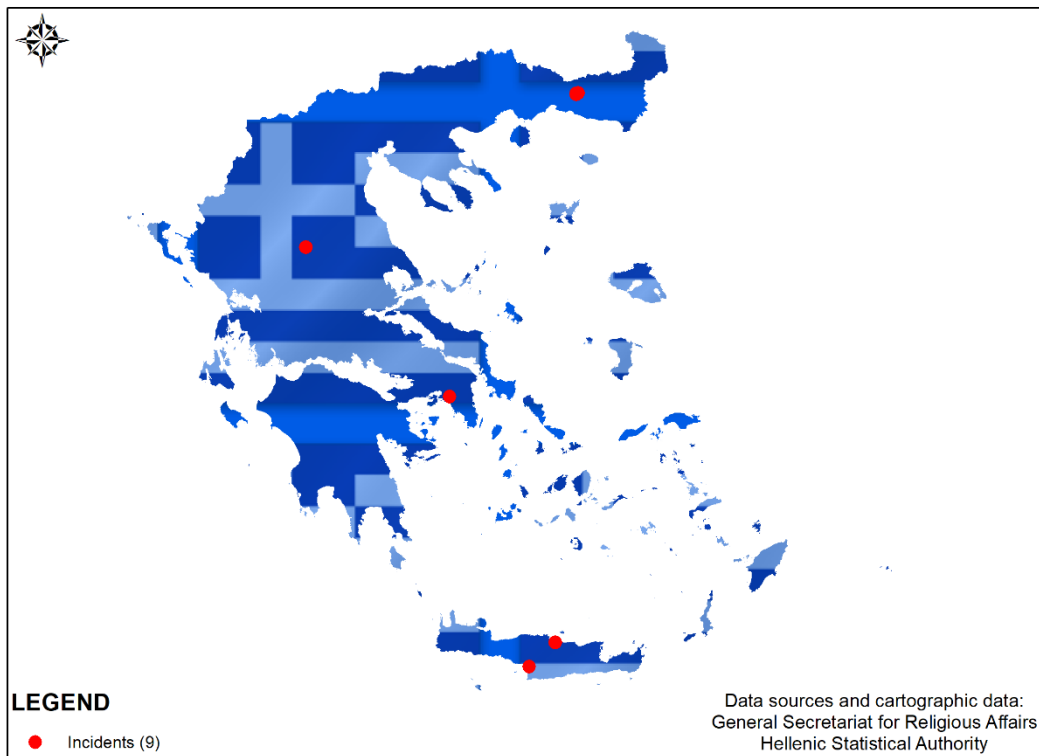


Figure 11: Islam

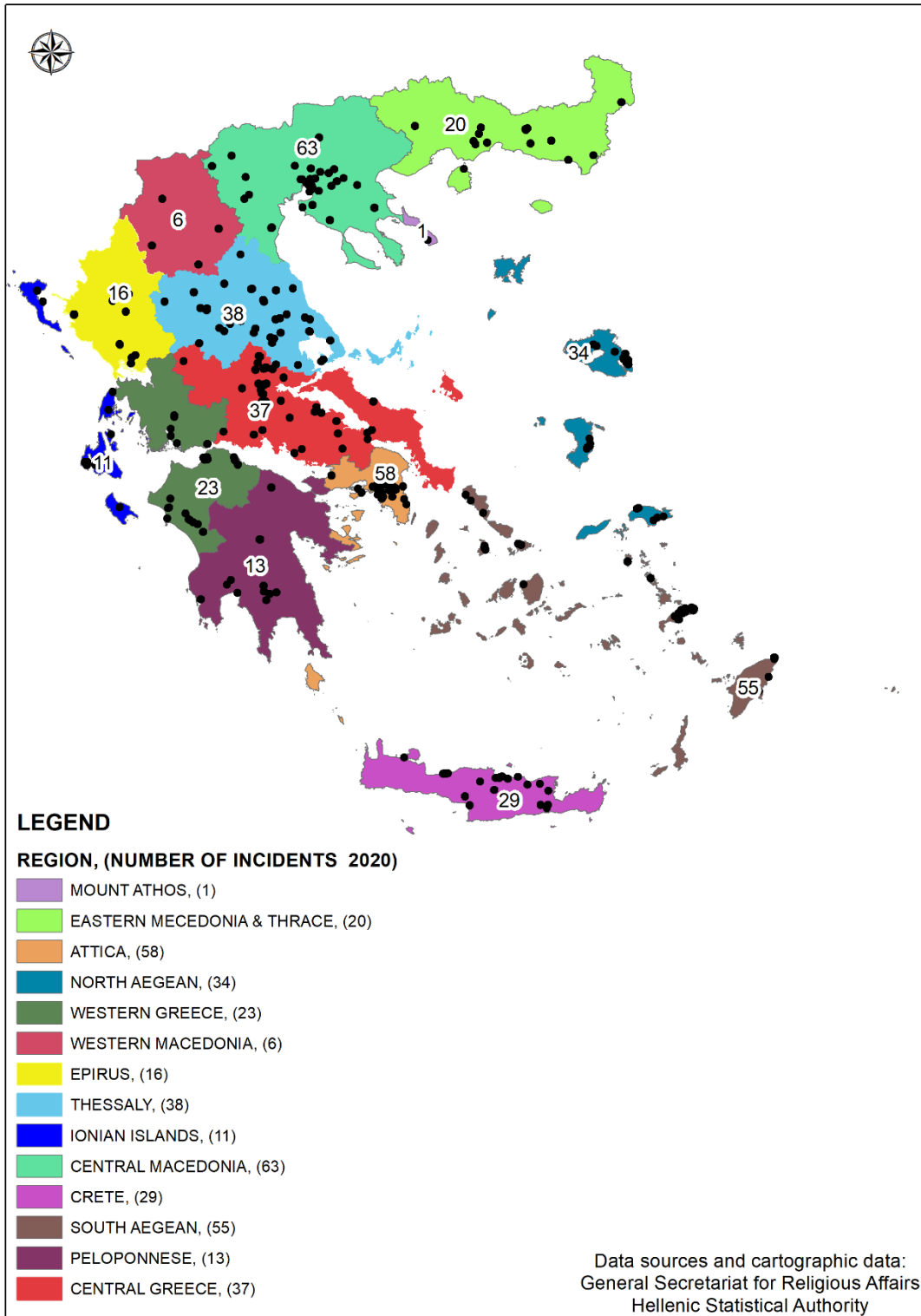


Figure 12: Geographical display of the total number of Incidents against all Religions by Administrative Region

B. Statistical presentation of total number of incidents for the Report 2020

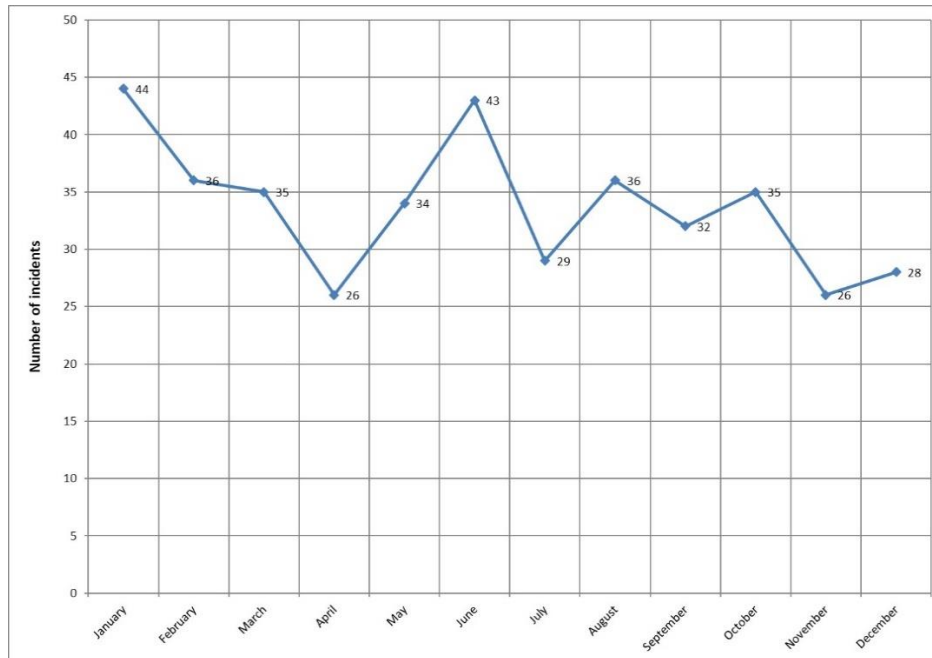


Figure 13: Total number of incidents against all Religions by month

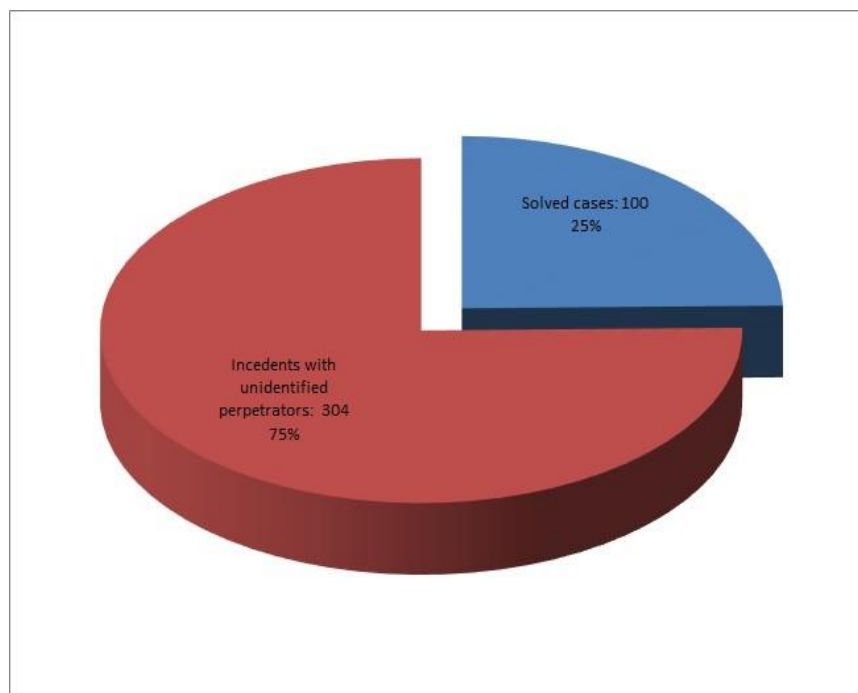


Figure 14: Solved and unsolved cases of incidents of all Religions

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