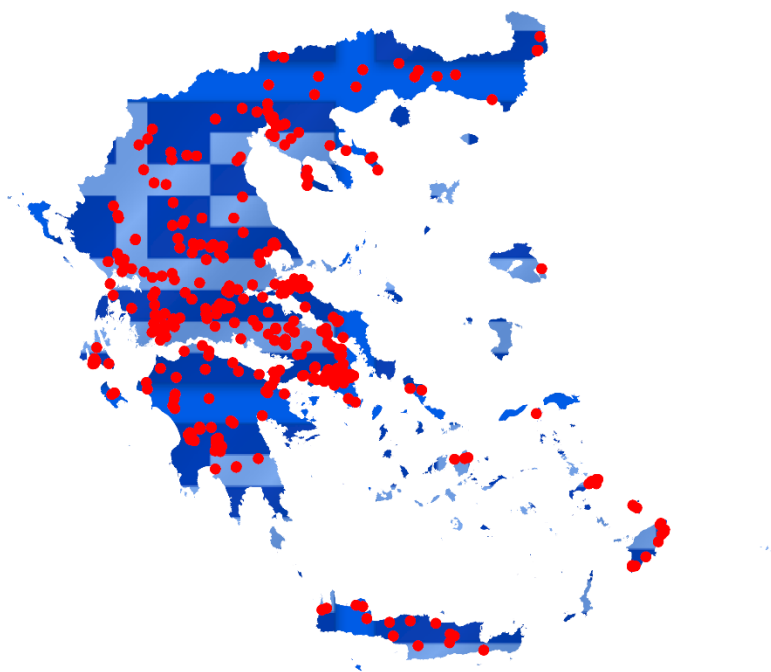




HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, AND SPORTS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND INTERFAITH
RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

INCIDENTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE



REPORT 2024

All maps and statistical analysis are also available on the website: <https://arcg.is/0j5bz1>



Cover page: Geographical distribution of all recorded incidents in the 2024 Report. Original map-layout source: Hellenic Statistical Authority

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

All maps (except for II.A.2.c.iii) as well as statistical processing and data presentation were prepared, upon request and instructions by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, by V. Rev. Archimandrite Ioannis-Georgios Peristerides, Chemical Engineer MSc, Theologian MA, PhD candidate of School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, National Technical University of Athens- whom we warmly thank. This work was supported by the Geography Laboratory of the School of Rural and Surveying Engineering and Geoinformatics of the National Technical University of Athens, and their use was granted free of charge.

The photographic material, unless otherwise stated, was provided by the entities participating in the Network of cooperation for recording incidents.



Copyright ©2025 General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The Report (in Greek and in English) is available online on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic: www.minedu.gov.gr

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Courtesy of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs

Translated into English by Isidora Prokopiou

In the event of any discrepancy the original Greek text shall prevail

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

(Psalm 25,8)

כְּבוֹדְךָ מִשְׁכַּן, וּמִקְוֹם; בֵּיתְךָ מְעוֹן, אֶהְבֵּתִי--יְהוָה

(תְּהִלִּים ח)

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

(Psalm 25,8)

מִגְדֹּל מִסְכָּן וּמִוָּצֵעַ בֵּיתְךָ מַחֵל אֶחֱבֵית רִבִּי יָא

(מְזַמִּיר ٨)

Table of contents

Introductory note	6
Content Summary.....	8
I. INTRODUCTION	9
A. General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.....	10
1. Overview.....	10
2. Regulatory framework in force.....	14
B. Protection of religious freedom	15
1. Regulatory framework.....	15
2. The concept of the “known religion”.....	17
3. The meaning of the term “prevailing religion”	17
4. The concept of “public morals”	19
5. Prohibition of proselytism	19
6. The provisions in the Penal Code regarding the penal approach of acts relating to religious conscience and worship.....	20
7. The legal status of religious communities in Greece.....	21
8. Legal framework on acquiring a permit to build and operate worship places (Houses of Prayer and Churches)	22
9. The Network for Recording Incidents against Religious Sites and the relevant Report	32
II. INCIDENTS.....	35
A. Christianity	36
1. Orthodox Church	36
2. Catholic Church in Greece	130
3. Other Christian Religious Communities.....	134
B. Judaism.....	137
1. Introduction.....	137
2. Legal framework.....	138
3. Incidents	145
4. Addendum	148
C. Islam	151
1. Muslim Minority in Thrace	151
2. Muslims outside Thrace.....	156
3. Mosque of Athens	161
4. Incidents	163

5. Addendum	166
D. Other Religions.....	173
I. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION & STATISTICAL OVERVIEW	174
A. Geographical distribution of recorded incidents by Religious Community	175
B. Statistical overview of the total number of recorded incidents	179
II. References:.....	180

Introductory note

With the present edition, ten (10) years have been successfully completed since the publication of the first Report on incidents against religious sites. What in 2015 constituted a reform aimed at obtaining valid and reliable data has, by 2025, become an established practice, fully integrated into the competences of the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations. However, the establishment of the Department itself, as part of the new organizational structure of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports (Presidential Decree 114/2014, GG, Vol. A', Iss. 181), constituted a significant reform that supports the new identity and strategic objectives of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, thereby contributing to its continued development.

Throughout this ten-year course, the Report has been enriched with extensive information enabling the reader to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the historical and legal status of the religious communities in the country, as well as the necessary knowledge of the broader regulatory framework in Greece relating to the protection of religious freedom. In this way, the annual publication of the Report now serves two complementary purposes: on the one hand, the valid and reliable recording of incidents against sites of religious significance, and on the other hand, the valid and reliable dissemination of information on the current Greek regulatory framework, which guarantees and protects religious freedom, enriched with historical data concerning the main religious communities living in the country.

All editions of the Report from 2015 to date are available on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, in both Greek and English, so as to be accessible to anyone with a relevant interest.

The following table summarizes the data for the period 2015-2024:

**Number of incidents against religious sites and their distribution by religious community,
2015 - 2024**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total	%
Orthodox Church	137	208	525	563	504	374	370	564	591	399	4,235	96.05%
True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)			1		3	4	3	1	6	3	21	0.48%
Metropolis of the Orthodox Armenians of Greece										1	1	0.02%
Catholic Church	1	1	2	1	3	7					15	0.34%
Ethiopian Orthodox Church			1								1	0.02%
Armenian Evangelical Church			4								4	0.09%

Jehovah's Christian Witnesses			4	3	4			2	2	1	16	0.36%
Judaism	4	5	11	20	5	10	3	1	6	5	70	1.59%
Islam	5	1	8	2	5	9	2	8	3	3	46	1.04%
Total	147	215	556	589	524	404	378	576	608	412	4,409	

George Kalantzis
Secretary General for Religious Affairs

Content Summary

In the **Introductory Part (I)** the historical background and the general regulatory framework currently in force 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 then made to the Network for recording incidents, the types of sites of religious significance taken into account in this Report are specified, and a list of cooperating religious and state bodies is provided.

In **Part II**, all types of incidents against sites of religious significance that came to the knowledge of the Service are presented by religious community, accompanied, where appropriate, by historical, legal and statistical data.

In total, for the year **2024**, four hundred and twelve (**412**) incidents against sites of religious significance were recorded, broken down by religion as follows:

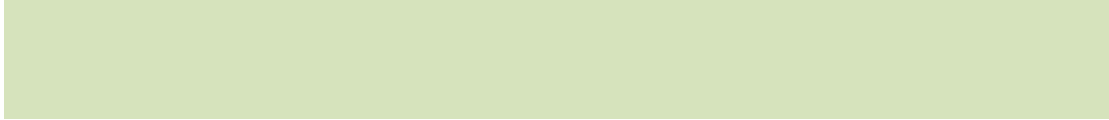
- Christianity: 404 incidents of all types (vandalism, break-ins, thefts, robberies, acts of sacrilege, desecration of graves, grave robbing, arson, and other forms of desecration).

Specifically:

- Orthodox Church: 399 incidents, accounting for 96.84% of the total.
- True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists): 3 incidents, accounting for 0.73% of the total.
- Jehovah's Witnesses: 1 incident, accounting for 0.24% of the total.
- Metropolis of the Orthodox Armenians of Greece: 1 incident, accounting for 0.24% of the total.
- Judaism: 5 incidents, predominantly of an antisemitic nature, accounting for 1.21% of the total.
- Islam: 3 incidents, accounting for 0.73% of the total.

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 modern Greek State. This relation is easier to understand through summarizing the establishment and evolution of the Ministry currently called Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports 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, p.9).

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

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

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

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

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

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

The *Constitutional Charter* 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 2). By the same decree, it is established that the scope of this Secretariat is to confer full freedom of worship to the male 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 Divine 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*" (GG, Vol. Α', Iss. 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 α' and class β'), three Clerks (class α', class β' and class γ') and two ushers.

By Law ΣΙΕ' of December 16, 1852 (GG, Vol. Α', Iss. 65), an additional secretary of the minister is included and a clerk of class α'.

Four years later, in 1856, by Law ΤΟΣΤ' adopted on October 12, 1856 (GG, Vol. Α', Iss. 60), an additional secretary of the minister of class α' is included.

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

In 1937, by Emergency Law 782 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 267) the Directorate for Religious Affairs is reestablished and the Ministry is named Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Education consisting of six departments:

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

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

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

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

In 1987, by Presidential Decree 417 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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

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

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

The General Directorate for Religious Affairs was repealed in 2014 by Presidential Decree 114 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 13) Article 72 (para. 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 Registry and the Department for Islamic Matters, and
- b. The Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations including the Department for Ecclesiastical and Religious Education, the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations and the Department for Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools).

B. Protection of religious freedom

1. Regulatory framework

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

Article 13 of the Constitution of Greece stipulates that:

“1. Freedom of religious conscience is inviolable. The enjoyment of individual and political rights shall not depend on a person’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 shall not be permitted to offend public order or public morals. Proselytism is prohibited. [...] 4. No person shall, by reason of his or her religious beliefs, be exempt from discharging obligations to the State or refuse to comply with the laws. [...]”

The above constitutional provision safeguarding religious freedom is not subject to suspension in a “*state of siege*” (Article 48 of the Constitution), while paragraph 1 thereof is not subject to revision (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 Decision 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,*

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

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

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

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 public morals. Therefore, a religion's adherent may not refuse to fulfil his/her obligations to the State or to comply with laws of general application that are unrelated to the above matters, such as Royal Decree 229/1965 'On the holiday calendar, incomplete attendance, etc., of secondary school students' which was issued on the basis of the enabling provision of Article 12 of Decree Law 4379/1964 and lays down (Article 1) the days that Secondary school students are allowed to be absent from school, including certain religious holidays for Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish students; it also lays down (Article 2) that in case of a student being absent on days other than the ones listed above, consequences may result to him/her not being admitted to the class exams".

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, stipulates 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 256) stipulates 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) stipulates 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 concept of the “known religion”

According to paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Constitution of Greece: *“Every known religion is free, and the rites of its worship shall be performed unhindered under the protection of the law. The exercise of worship shall not be permitted to offend public order or public morals. [...]”*. The term “known religion” was first used in the Constitution of 1844 and refers to a religion that can be known to anyone, that is, a religion accessible to all. Consequently, a known religion is one whose beliefs are manifest; its doctrines, principles, purposes and organization are not secret, and its worship is performed publicly and does not require initiation. Furthermore, a religion is considered known when it has a public doctrine and an open administration, in the sense that its teaching, the manner of its organization and its governing bodies are accessible to everyone. For this reason, illicit associations, secret societies or organizations pursuing unlawful purposes cannot be characterized as “known religions” (Opinion of the Prosecutor of the Supreme Court No. 14/1959, Nomiko Vima 1959, p. 1277; Council of State decisions 2105/1975, 2106/1975, 2139/1975, Plenary).

In any event, “known” does not mean “known to the authorities”, nor does it mean “recognized” in the sense of prior authorization, approval or consent. Therefore, a religion may be considered “known” even if it is, for example, a new religion, a religion that has emerged through differentiation from an older one, or a religion with few adherents or even without a clergy.

As a rule, every religion is presumed to be “known”, unless its “secret” character or the incompatibility of its worship with public order or public morals⁶ is demonstrated by the authorities. Under Article 17 of Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 223), every religion or denomination for which a permit for the establishment and operation of a place of worship for the exercise of public worship is in force is presumed to be a “known religion”.

3. The meaning of the term “prevailing religion”

In the current Constitution, as in all Constitutions since the establishment of the modern Greek state, the term “prevailing religion” is used (and not “official” or “state” religion). In particular, according to Article 3 of the Constitution:

“1. The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ. [...]”

The recognition of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the “prevailing” religion has a purely declaratory character, which is due to the fact that the overwhelming majority of Greeks (at a rate exceeding 95%) are affiliated with the Orthodox Church, as has been clarified many times both in public discourse and in the scholarly works of distinguished constitutional law scholars.

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”*.

⁶ P.D. Dagtoglou, Constitutional Law-Civil Rights, §572, Sakkoulas 1991. (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα, Σάκκουλας 1991, §572)

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’, Thessaloniki 2000)..

The view that the “prevailing religion” does not have the meaning of “state religion” or “official religion” is widely accepted nowadays as well as that the Constitution does not mandate dominance of a particular 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, Consubstantial and Indivisible 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 (cf. judgment 100/2017 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State).

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

Finally, paragraph 16 of Council of State (Plenary) Decision 1749/2019 states that: “Whereas, the reference in Article 3(1) of the Constitution to the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the ‘prevailing’ religion in Greece—as well as the invocation in the preamble of the Constitution of the ‘Holy, Consubstantial and Indivisible Trinity’—is connected with the decisive role of the Orthodox Church in the historical course of Hellenism, particularly during the period of Ottoman rule preceding national independence. It also constitutes a recognition of the factual reality that this religion is professed by the majority of the Greek people, while this reference is not devoid of normative consequences (such as, indicatively, the establishment of Christian holidays as mandatory public holidays at the national and local levels in both the public and private sectors) (see Council of State, Plenary Decisions 660 and 926/2018).”

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

4. The concept of “public morals”

Public morals are “the unwritten rules of the prevailing social morality, applied in a given place and time as standards of the appropriate conduct of the individual. When the Constitution or the law refers to public morals, such reference is made to them as a source of law, whereby these unwritten rules are assimilated to statutory law. The content of ‘public morals’ as a legal norm is determined with the aid of the teachings of common experience, from which it follows that public morals define and reflect the conduct of every honest and prudent member of society” (Supreme Court Decision 1562/1983). Public morals constitute a multifaceted concept within the various branches of legal science, primarily with reference to social morality. The criterion for their determination is always general.

Public morals refer to the generally prevailing views, that is, the body of fundamental political, economic, moral and social principles and perceptions prevailing in Greece at a given time, and not to the individual views held by a particular person or social group. However, the restrictive clause of public morals cannot be extended to the doctrines of a specific religion by elevating them to the exclusive criterion thereof, as this would in practice abolish any notion of religious freedom.

5. Prohibition of proselytism

According to the third sentence of paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Constitution, proselytism is prohibited. This prohibition applies to every “known religion” (Article 13(2) of the Constitution), regardless of whether it is the “prevailing” religion or any other. Moreover, there exists a relevant criminal sanction that predates both the Constitution and the Penal Code⁹.

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”.*

As also follows from a relevant statement made by the then Minister of Justice during the debates of the Fifth Revisionary Parliament concerning what is now Article 13 of the Constitution, the constituent legislator understood proselytism only as the “*attempt, by unlawful or immoral means, by abuse of a relationship of dependence, or by promises of benefits of any kind, to penetrate the religious conscience of persons belonging to a different denomination or religion*”¹⁰. Accordingly, proselytism that is constitutionally prohibited and also punishable under criminal law is understood as an attempt to influence a person’s religious conscience **by undue means**, in particular through coercion or fraud.

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

⁹ Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §596 (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα, Σάκκουλας 1991, §5966

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

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.

The fact that the Greek word “προσηλυτισμός” has been incorporated into the English language (as well as into other languages) as “proselytism”, but with a different meaning, creates a particular difficulty. In English, “proselytism” is generally understood simply as the attempt to persuade someone to change their religious belief, their political affiliation, or their broader worldview. This difference in meaning has led to considerable confusion at the international level and to persistent negative commentary regarding Greece, since the distinct meaning of the term “προσηλυτισμός” in the Greek legal order is often not understood. In Greece, the term does not concern the change of religion itself, but rather the manner in which such change is pursued, and in particular the use of undue means. As a result, it is sometimes incorrectly assumed that changing one’s religion is prohibited in Greece or that individuals are prosecuted merely for attempting to persuade others to alter their religious beliefs.

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

The new Penal Code ratified by Law 4619/19 (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 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 introduced by the new Penal Code is the repeal of the provisions of the following articles: Article 198 on malicious blasphemy, Article 199 on insulting religion and Article 201 on insulting the memory of the dead (Chapter Z on offences jeopardizing religious peace). Only Article 200, entitled “*Disturbance of religious assemblies*”, has been retained in this chapter, which provides that:

“1. Whoever maliciously attempts to prevent or intentionally disturbs a religious assembly tolerated by the State for the purpose of worship or ceremony shall be punished with imprisonment of up to two years. 2. The same penalty shall be imposed on anyone who, inside a church or in a place designated for a religious assembly tolerated by the State, commits grossly improper acts.”

Furthermore, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 175 of the Penal Code, the usurpation of the functions of a minister of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ or of another religion known in Greece remains punishable. However, Article 176, which provided for a sentence of imprisonment of up to six months for persons publicly wearing, without entitlement, the uniform or other distinguishing insignia of such religious ministers—among other categories of public officials—has now been repealed.

Additionally, Article 373 of the previous Penal Code has been repealed, under which grave robbery committed with the intent of unlawfully appropriating items for oneself or for a third party was punished 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

¹¹ Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §597 (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα, Σάκκουλας 1991, §597)

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”*.

7. The legal status of religious communities in Greece

The Holy Metropolises, the Parishes (the basic subdivisions of ecclesiastical organization) and the Holy Monasteries of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as well as the Jewish Communities, constitute legal entities under public law (L.E.P.L.). The Holy Metropolises, Parishes and Holy Monasteries of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as well as the Jewish Communities, are self-financed and are not subsidized by the Greek State for the coverage of their operating expenses or for their places of worship, etc.

The current Constitution (Article 18(8)) contains a specific reference to the Ancient Patriarchates and to the Holy Monastery of Sinai; however, this reference is limited to the protection of their property in Greece, without their presence in Greece conferring specific legal personality under Greek law. The sole exception is the Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of Saint Catherine of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai (Holy Monastery of Sinai), for the representation of which in Greece a legal entity under public law was established by Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142) under the name *“Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece”*.

The Muftiate of Didymoteicho, the Muftiate of Xanthi and the Muftiate of Komotini constitute independent public services at the level of a General Directorate, reporting directly to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, in view of the fact that Greece recognizes the right of members of the Muslim minority of Thrace to have recourse to the Mufti for the application of Islamic law (Sharia) in matters of personal status law. The operating expenses of these services are covered by the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.

The historical religious communities of Greece, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Evangelical Church, the Assyrian Orthodox Church, the Anglican Church, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt, the Armenian Orthodox Church and the German-speaking Evangelical Church, are recognized as Ecclesiastical or Religious Legal Entities under Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223).

Law 4301/2014, entitled *“Organization of the legal form of religious communities and their associations in Greece and other provisions falling within the competence of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, and other provisions”* (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223), constitutes the most important legislative act governing the legal organization of religious communities in Greece. By means of this law, a critical legislative gap that had existed since the introduction of the Civil Code in 1946 was definitively addressed. This gap concerned all religious communities in Greece, with the exception of three (the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, Judaism and the Muslim minority of Thrace), which already had an established legal status.

Prior to its adoption by the Hellenic Parliament, an extensive dialogue lasting at least 20 months took place with a significant number of religious communities, as well as dozens of working meetings with officials of ministries, independent authorities and other bodies (e.g. the Ministry of Justice, the Hellenic Data Protection Authority).

By Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223), the concept of the religious legal entity—defined as an association of natural persons (believers)—and the concept of the ecclesiastical legal entity—defined as an association of religious legal entities (a form of secondary-level organization, for religions with a synodal, episcopal or similar structure)—were introduced for the first time. These constitute new forms of legal entities akin to the civil-law association under the Civil Code, while presenting significant differences from that model, in order to regulate more effectively the sensitive issue of the organization and legal recognition of religious groups wishing to operate in a more structured manner and with an external legal form capable of reflecting their internal law. These provisions contain the necessary elements to achieve a basic degree of standardization of religious communities, to the extent that the State can recognize such groupings as distinct entities with their own legal personality, without disregarding their religious, historical and social differences, particularities and specific needs, as expressed in their internal life. Religious communities continue to enjoy the constitutional rights of free internal organization and operation and are subject only to the formal requirements associated with the proposed external legal form. The acquisition of this legal form through judicial proceedings (application before the Single-Member Court of First Instance under voluntary jurisdiction), which is entirely optional and in no way mandatory, is available to any religious community that meets the required number of natural persons (believers).

Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223) defines, for the first time in the Greek legal order, the concept of a *“religious community”*.

The system established by Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223) is smoothly integrated into the overall national framework of civil and public law, as well as into the international conventions safeguarding, in general, the rights to freedom of religion and freedom of association. Every citizen—believer of a particular religion or denomination—may now organize within the respective religious community and participate in an organized collective religious life. Through the register of religious ministers and communities provided for in Article 14, issues primarily related to acts recorded in the civil registry, which produce civil effects (such as marriages performed according to the rites of a religion), were addressed for the first time, thereby ensuring that citizens are protected from potentially invalid acts. Furthermore, the possibility of verifying the status of a religious minister via the internet safeguards any citizen wishing to join an organized religious community for the exercise of their religious duties.

In particular, the provisions relating to the register of religious ministers and to the ability of civil registry offices to obtain, directly via the internet, information on a person's status (and consequently on their capacity to perform religious rites that produce civil effects) have improved the provision of the relevant municipal services to citizens and enhanced legal certainty with regard to religious ceremonies recorded in the civil registry that have civil effects, given that in Greece a religious marriage has equal legal validity to a civil marriage.

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

In Greece, the acquisition of legal personality is not required for the establishment and operation of places of worship.

Although the licensing for the construction and operation of places of worship follows the same basic principles, a distinction has been established in practice between the procedure applicable to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ and that applicable to other religions. The main reasons for the development of this practice are primarily technical, given that—due to the religious composition of the population (with more than 95% of the inhabitants of Greece

being Orthodox Christians)—the needs for the construction and operation of churches of the Orthodox Church are significantly greater, as well as historical and cultural, relating to the conditions under which the modern Greek State was established.

Within the framework of equal consideration for the religious communities of the country, the State provides indirect support to places of worship of all religions through protective provisions, such as:

- a. **Law 4223/2013** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223) introduced an exemption from the payment of municipal fees to local authorities for all independent buildings of churches and places of prayer of all known religions and denominations.

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

In accordance with Article 32 *"Issuance of a building permit for ecclesiastical foundations"*, Law 4495/2017 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 167):

"1. The provisions of this law apply to the issuance of building permits for the legal entities provided for in Law 590/1977 and Law 4149/1961 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 41).

2. Prior authorization for the issuance of a building permit is mandatory and is granted by the competent Building Service (YDOM), in case of construction works concerning Churches, Metropolitan buildings (one per Metropolis), belonging exclusively to ecclesiastical legal entities under Law 590/1977 or Law 4149/1961 as well as Monasteries and their dependencies, including their enclosed premises and land serving the communal monastic life, as well as their annexes.

3. For works of the Church of Greece referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, a prior opinion on the architectural design shall be issued, before the granting of prior authorization, by the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture (KESEA) referred to in paragraph 5.

4. For works of the Church of Crete and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the relevant opinion shall be issued, prior to authorization, by the Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture of Crete and the Dodecanese (SEAKD) 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 the 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 the 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. Following prior authorization, the building permit and the permit for use as a church shall be issued in accordance to this law by the Building Service of the Church of Greece established under Article 2 of Law 4030/2011. For the commencement of construction works, in addition to the requirements set out in this law, the building permit shall be submitted to the competent Building Service and shall be kept on file by that Service for the initiation of the construction control procedure, in accordance with the provisions of this law.

8. A Building Service shall be established within the Church of Greece, which exercises the competences of Building Services and shall issue building permits within the spatial jurisdiction of the Church of Greece. A corresponding Building Service shall be established within the Church of Crete and the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, which shall issue building permits within the spatial jurisdiction of the Church of Crete exclusively for:

- a. Metropolitan buildings*
- b. Churches, provided that they belong exclusively to ecclesiastical legal entities under Law 590/1977, as well as their annexes. The construction of annexes is permitted only for churches belonging to ecclesiastical legal entities under Law 590/1977 and provided that such annexes form a single architectural unit with the church and serve its needs;*

- c. *Monasteries, in particular with regard to the enclosure and everything contained within it that serves communal monastic life.*

9. *The above Building Services shall also be competent to issue, on the one hand, the consecration permit for all places of worship of the aforementioned buildings and, on the other hand, the use permit for the non-worship areas of those buildings. The consecration permit and the use permit shall constitute a legal prerequisite for the commencement of the works or uses authorized by the building permit and may be incorporated into the same document.*

10. *The above Building Services shall be subject to the supervision and control of the Minister of Environment and Energy.*

The staff of the Services shall be recruited and remunerated by the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, respectively. The Building Services shall be integrated into the electronic information system to which the other Building Services are also connected.

11. *For the submission of an application for the issuance of prior authorization, an application and the accompanying file shall be submitted to the competent Building Service through the territorially competent Holy Metropolis. This procedure shall apply to every monastery or church following the doctrine of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, whether it belongs to an ecclesiastical legal entity or to a natural person or a legal entity under private law.*

12. *For iconography and other decorative works in monasteries and churches, which constitute artistic works, a permit shall also be required from the Building Service of the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete as applicable, together with the approval of the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture or the Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture for Crete and the Dodecanese, respectively.*

13. *A Regulation of the Permanent Holy Synod shall specify the rules governing the establishment, organization, competences, administrative support, operation and service status of the above services and bodies, as well as the creation and maintenance of their electronic records.*

14. *The buildings referred to in point (b) shall be classified as special buildings of public interest, and derogations may be permitted 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 256) or Article 88 of Emergency Law 2200/1940 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 42) or Article 62 of Law 590/1977 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 62) shall be set out".*

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

Specifically, for private places of worship of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution, the provisions of Article 31 of Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142) apply.

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

Until the adoption of Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142), Greece maintained in force a framework of laws and royal decrees dating back to 1938 and 1939, namely from the period of Ioannis Metaxas, concerning the licensing of places of worship. This situation led to condemnations of the Greek State both by the Council of State and by the European Court of Human Rights. As a result, the legislative framework of the Metaxas period remained in force only to the extent that it did not violate the Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights, which created numerous and significant problems for both the Administration and citizens. At the same time, developments in the law and the involvement of multiple authorities in the licensing procedure resulted in an excessive burden on citizens, conflicting guidance from services of different Ministries, and legal uncertainty regarding the licensing process.

Moreover, the administrative practice followed until 2014—namely, the granting of a permit for the establishment and operation of places of worship, coupled with the subsequent obligation of the religious community to undertake all necessary actions to ensure the lawful operation of the place of worship—was not only inconsistent with the principles of coordinated administrative action, as in many cases one authority would issue a permit and another would revoke it due to conflicts with its own competences, but also failed to operate effectively. In particular, it did not ensure, on the one hand, the safe assembly of members of religious communities in places of worship and their protection, and, on the other hand, the legal rights, safety and quality of life of local residents, nor, thirdly, the legal interest of social peace and coexistence, always within the above-mentioned framework of constitutional protection.

For this reason, the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports proceeded with the issuance of a joint circular in cooperation with all competent Ministries, consolidating (and reiterating, without introducing new rules of law, but essentially providing guidance and clarifications for their proper application) the existing and applicable (until Law 5224/2025) legal requirements for the granting of permits for the establishment and operation, as well as for the relocation, of places of worship. The aim was to ensure the safe assembly of members of religious communities and the safety of neighbouring residents and facilities, which constitutes an obligation of any State governed by the rule of law. In addition, all relevant

documents and application forms were standardized in order to facilitate citizens in the exercise of their rights.

Circular 69230/A3/6-5-2014 was supplemented by Circulars 128231/01/2-8-2016 and 176169/01/19-10-2018, and was subsequently replaced by the currently applicable [joint circular 105456/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number Ψ56646MTAH-IO9\)](#).

The eleven (11) years of experience gained from the issuance and implementation of circulars highlighted the need for the complete repeal of the 1938 legislative framework on licensing and the introduction of a new system. The new system introduced by Chapter II of Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142) constitutes the most significant and critical reform concerning places of worship and is grounded in the principles established and protected by the Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights, aiming at a proper balancing of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by these fundamental instruments. Accordingly, the law now sets out specific principles, requirements and procedures, and provides the necessary authorizations for the issuance of ministerial decisions, where required. In this way, effective and straightforward judicial review is ensured.

According to Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142), *“Places of worship are sites dedicated to the expression of religious reverence or the performance of acts of worship and are classified as follows: (a) houses of prayer, namely places of worship with a surface area of up to two hundred (200 sq.m.), and (b) temples, namely places of worship with a surface area exceeding two hundred (200 sq.m.).”* It should be noted that the use of the terms *“house of prayer”* and *“temple”* is of an administrative/technical nature, as the religious communities themselves choose the exact designation of their prayer/worship spaces, which is then declared in the relevant application submitted to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports.

For the construction, establishment and operation, relocation of a place of worship, as well as for additions (either vertical or by extension) and for all types of construction works on an existing place of worship or the demolition of a place of worship, of any religious community, whether possessing legal personality or not, an authorization is required, granted upon application by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and issued in the name of the religious minister.

Places of worship existing prior to 1955 operate lawfully provided that they possess a relevant declaratory act issued, upon application, by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. This specific provision became necessary because there may exist old places of worship of various religious communities, including historic ones, which, although they have not obtained an authorization for establishment and operation, have nevertheless operated continuously and uninterruptedly for many decades, serving the worship needs of the respective communities. A significant number of such places had been established and were already operating even before the entry into force of the former legislative framework (1938–1939). In any event, **a prerequisite for the submission of an application for the issuance of a declaratory act is that the places of worship must have operated continuously and uninterruptedly in the specific building or part thereof for a long period of time and, at a minimum, since before 9 August 1955 up to the present day.**

Prior to the issuance of a planning permit for the construction of a place of worship by the competent planning authorities, the relevant authorization of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports is required. For this reason, the religious community concerned must apply to the competent Service of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports so that, before the issuance of a building permit by the competent planning authority, the relevant administrative act of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports authorizing the construction has been issued. The **authorization for construction**, granted at the pre-construction stage, **does not in any case constitute a permit for establishment and**

operation. Consequently, it does not permit the operation of the place of worship, but is limited solely to the authorization by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports for the construction of the building. This is because the authorization for construction, which is always granted prior to construction and only after examination of the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Constitution concerning the free exercise of worship, as well as the provisions of Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142), as in force, does not substitute for the authorization for establishment and operation, which is granted at a second stage in respect of an existing building and concerns its functional suitability to serve the purpose for which it was constructed. Therefore, following the issuance of the building permit and the completion of the relevant construction works, the interested parties must reapply to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and submit a file containing the necessary supporting documents in order to obtain the required authorization for the establishment and operation of the temple.

The designation of the place of worship must, in particular, indicate the religious identity of the site, comply with the principle of truthfulness, not contravene the rules of public order, public morals, and the international relations of the country, not be used abusively, and not infringe upon the rights of third parties, especially those of other religious communities, so that the true and precise religious identity of the place of worship may be clearly established without any possibility of confusion. If, for religious reasons, the designation must be formulated in another language, it must be faithfully rendered into the Greek language, with the possibility of its inscription in Latin characters in parentheses, so that the true and precise religious identity of the place of worship may be clearly established without any possibility of confusion. An incorrect or misleading rendering of the designation in the Greek language renders it unacceptable.

For the authorization of the construction, establishment, and operation of houses of prayer, an application is required from at least five (5) individuals and one (1) religious minister who are Greek citizens, citizens of Member States of the European Union (EU), or third-country nationals lawfully residing in Greece.

For the authorization of the construction, establishment, and operation of temples, an application is required from at least one hundred (100) individuals and one (1) religious minister who are Greek citizens, citizens of Member States of the European Union (EU), or third-country nationals lawfully residing in Greece.

For the issuance of authorizations concerning places of worship of the Muslim minority of Thrace, the consent of the competent Mufti is required.

Authorizations concerning places of worship of the Israelite (Jewish) religion are granted only to the public legal entities referred to in Article 1 of Law 2456/1920 (Israelite Communities) and Article 1 of Legislative Decree 301/1969 (Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece).

For the first time, the procedure and the grounds on which a place of worship authorization may be revoked were established by law. Specifically, according to paragraph 8 of Article 26 of Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142), the authorization shall be revoked on the following grounds: (a) violation of constitutional provisions, the rules of public order, and for reasons of national security within the meaning of Article 3 of Law 5002/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 228); (b) violation of the terms and conditions governing the issuance of the administrative acts referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 hereof; (c) absence of a religious minister for a period exceeding six (6) months; (d) discontinuation of the operation of the place of worship for a period exceeding six (6) months, established by any appropriate means of evidence; (e) operation of the place of worship for a purpose other than the expression of religious reverence or the performance of acts of worship, established by any appropriate means of evidence; (f) failure to notify the Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the place of worship to

the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the authorization for the establishment and operation of the place of worship; and (g) application by the religious community.

Furthermore, for the first time, Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142) established that the registration of a religious minister in the registry of Article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223) shall be suspended upon the initiation of criminal prosecution and until the issuance of an irrevocable judicial decision for felonies or for the following misdemeanours: (a) theft, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of trust, breach of duty, perjury, false accusation, slander, any crime against sexual freedom or crime of financial exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to a foetus or newborn, the offences under Law 3500/2006 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 232) on combating domestic violence, abduction of minors, unlawful detention, unlawful violence, vigilante justice, threats, disturbance of religious assemblies; (b) violence against public officials and judicial officers, undue influence on judicial officers, disruption of public service, disruption of judicial proceedings, disobedience, mutiny, impersonation, breach of official seals, and breach of official custody; (c) incitement to disobedience, incitement to commit crimes, acts of violence or discord, solicitation and offer to commit a crime, criminal organization, terrorist acts – terrorist organization, punishable support, disturbance of the public peace, threats of committing crimes, dissemination of false information, desecration of symbols or places of particular national or religious significance; (d) the offences pursuant to Law 927/1979 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 139) on the punishment of acts or activities aiming at racial discrimination; (e) proselytism pursuant to Article 4 of Emergency Law 1363/1938 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 305); (f) the offences pursuant to Law 4139/2013 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 74) on addictive substances; and (g) impersonation of a religious minister. In the event of an irrevocable conviction, the religious minister shall be removed from the registry. If the religious minister is a third-country national and holds a residence permit, such permit shall be revoked without a period for voluntary departure. If the religious minister submits an application for the granting of a residence permit, such application shall be rejected without a period for voluntary departure.

The aforementioned regulations concerning the operation of places of worship relate to the authorization granted by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and do not substitute for or replace the permits for construction and other building works required under urban planning legislation.

The administrative authorization for a place of worship is granted (as an act of bound competence, as established by case law) by decision of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, following the ascertainment/verification that, on the one hand, the three conditions laid down in Article 13 para. 2 of the Constitution are fulfilled (Council of State Plenary Decisions 4202/2012, 1444/1991, Council of State Decision 5572/1996, Supreme Court Decision 20/2001), namely that the religion concerned constitutes a known religion without secret doctrines, that no proselytism is exercised, and that the practice of public worship is consistent with public order and public morals, and, on the other hand, that the remaining conditions laid down by the applicable legislation are satisfied. Indeed, *“the absence of the negative condition laid down in Article 13 para. 2 of the Constitution for the exercise of religious worship, namely the condition that public order or public morals are not infringed through the specific acts of worship, is, as a rule, established through repressive state action”* (Council of State Plenary Decision 4202/2012, see para. 8). Nevertheless, prior preventive administrative examination of the compliance of each case with formal and readily verifiable conditions and rules laid down generally by the framework of public order rules cannot be excluded or considered contrary to the Constitution.

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 Maniatakis entitled: *“Constitutional protection of cultural property and freedom of worship in response to the use of the Rotonda”* Thessaloniki 05-03-1995¹²).

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

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

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

Particularly with regard to the regulations of urban planning and street planning legislation, the Legal Council of the State has held by opinions 343/2002 and 121/2008 that: *“Within the definition of public order the following is included inter alia: compliance with regulations of the relevant urban planning and street planning legislation applicable in the area where the temple or place of worship shall operate”*. In fact, the Greek Ombudsman has expressed his position on this issue in the past, stating that prioritizing urban and building approval is not 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 para. 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:

¹² Published in Journal *Law and Nature* (Νόμος και Φύση), 1995 and can also be found at: <http://www.constitutionalism.gr/maniatakis-rotonda/>

(A) Rules on categories and content of land use i.e. **Presidential Decree 23/02/1987 (GG, Vol. D', Iss. 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. Similar provisions concerning religious sites are also contained in **Presidential Decree 59/2018 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 114)** regarding land uses regulated by regulatory (urban planning) schemes and included in the special environmental studies of para. 2 of Article 21 of Law 1650/1986 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 160)

(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, GG, Vol. D', Iss. 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, GG, Vol. D', Iss. 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 11/9900/27-11/03-12-1974 of the Minister of Social Services** (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 529/2015), **Fire Protection Regulation for Buildings, Presidential Decree 71/1988** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 32) as well as the **Fire Fighting Regulation 13/2021** (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 5519) 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, GG, Vol. B', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 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 para. 5 of Article 10 of Law 5104/2024, “Code of Tax Procedure and other provisions” (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 58), as in force, which provides that: “The Tax Administration assigns, even without the submission of a registration declaration, a Tax Identification Number (TIN) to a taxpayer or to a person not qualifying as a taxpayer, provided that it has at its disposal, in the case of a natural person, their personal details and, in the case of a legal person or legal entity, its name and registered seat, in particular: (a) in order to assess or collect claims against such person; (b) in order to carry out refunds of unduly paid amounts to non-established taxable persons within the framework of the administration of the ‘M.O.S.S.’ and ‘O.S.S./I.O.S.S.’ systems; and (c) in order for any financial transaction to be carried out with General Government entities, domestic credit institutions, and payment institutions.

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

9. The Network for Recording Incidents against Religious Sites and the relevant Report

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, and various Ministries of the Hellenic Republic, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Culture, etc.) and
- b. collect, process and publish this information in an **annual Report**.

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

As a result of the positive acceptance of the published Reports, the Network of cooperation for recording incidents was further expanded gradually, 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 incidents 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 incidents against religious sites in Greece and on determining and implementing further action. Among the points of agreement laid down in the Memorandum is the possibility for the two parties to work together on matters of mutual interest, such as training of the staff on matters of antisemitism, intolerance, racism, islamophobia, interreligious dialogue and deepening on matters related to the Christian Orthodox Church, Orthodox culture, etc.

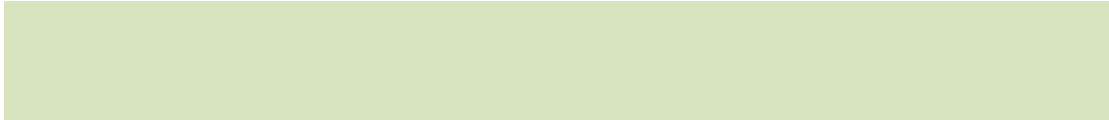
Consequently, this Report seeks to compile incidents of all kinds involving attacks against sites of religious significance, reflecting the overall situation at the national level, so as to constitute a reliable tool for drawing conclusions regarding the actual extent of such phenomena and to contribute to the development of policies aimed at addressing them.

A particularly significant innovation adopted during the preparation of this Report was the pilot operation, launched on 19 December 2024, and the full operation, launched on 20 February 2025, of an online platform through which the religious bodies participating in the aforementioned network may directly register incidents, thereby ensuring a more immediate, prompt, and accurate recording of data. Alongside the data entered by the religious bodies, the Service continues to collect data from the Hellenic Police, as well as through the review of articles in the daily press conducted by the Press Office of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and from news reports published in electronic media outlets.

Below are listed the religious entities and state bodies that cooperated with our Service within the framework of the Network for recording incidents and which we warmly thank, also from this position, for their tangible support of this initiative.

A. Religious Communities	
RELIGION	L.E.P.L./Ecclesiastical Legal Entities/Religious Legal Entities/Religious Communities
CHRISTIANITY	Orthodox Church: • 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 • Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos
	Catholic Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Entity, Article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church (Ecclesiastical Legal Entity, Article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (Religious Legal Entity, Article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Ioannina (Religious Legal Entity, Article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Evangelical Church of Loutraki
	Diocese of the Armenian Church of Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Entity, Article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Armenian Community of Komotini
	Christian Evangelist Church
	Biblical Baptist Church

	Apostolic Church of Christ (member of the Synod of Greek Pentecostal Churches)
	Church of Christians of Greece
	Free Apostolic Church
	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 (Religious Legal Entity)
	Jehovah's Christian Witnesses in Greece
JUDAISM	Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece
ISLAM	Mosque of Athens
	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 of Greek Muslims
	Worship House <i>"Sincerity Mosque (Masjid Al-Ikhlās)"</i>
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	
Ministry of Justice	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Ministry of Culture: Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities/Department for Supervision of Scientific Institutions in Greece and abroad and for Coordination of International Cooperation and Organizations	



II. INCIDENTS



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 comments). 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 Metropolises¹³ and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos¹⁴) which, according to the canon law come directly under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, spiritually and administratively and (d) Mount Athos, known in Greek as *Aghion Oros* (Holy Mountain), 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 law¹⁵.

In **Article 3 of the Constitution** the definition of the “**Orthodox Church of Greece**” is established: “1. *The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ. The Orthodox Church of Greece, acknowledging our Lord Jesus Christ as its head, is inseparably united in doctrine with the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople and with every other Church of Christ of the same doctrine, observing unwaveringly, as they do, the holy apostolic and synodal canons and sacred traditions. It is autocephalous and is administered by the Holy Synod of serving Bishops and the Permanent Holy Synod originating thereof and assembled as specified by the Statutory Charter of the Church in compliance with the provisions of the Patriarchal Tome of June 29, 1850 and the Synodal Act of September 4, 1928.* 2. *The ecclesiastical regime existing in certain districts of the State shall not be deemed contrary to the provisions of the preceding paragraph.* 3. *The text of the Holy Scripture shall be maintained unaltered. Official translation of the text into any other form of language, without prior sanction by the Autocephalous Church of Greece and the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople, is prohibited*”.

¹³ (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.

¹⁴ 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)).

¹⁵ Articles 1(4), 11(3) and 36 (1) Law 590/1977 (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 146)

The factual situation and place of the Church of Greece is established by Law **590/1977** “*On the Charter of the Church of Greece*” (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 146), as amended by Laws **2740/1999**, **2817/2000**, **3432/2006**, **4178/2013**, **4235/2014**, **4301/2014**, **4386/2016**, **4485/2017**, **4559/2018**, **5224/2025** and the Decisions of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece Ref. 4432/2823/8-10-10 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 244), Decision of 23-6-2010 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 156), Decision Ref. 4562/2593/16-11-2010 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 200), Ref. 4736/2758/7-10-2011 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 234) Decision of 8-3-2012 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 69) and of 8-5-2012 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 120), 5053/2016/625/17 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 45), 3823/2018/581/2019 (B' 1332), 2473/2206/2019 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 175), 4622/2223/2019 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 175) and 358/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 62).

As regards the semi-autonomous Church of Crete, Law **4149/1961** “*On the Statutory Act of the Orthodox Church of Crete and other provisions*” (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 legal status of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese remained unregulated since 1947 with obvious negative results for the State, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Clergy and ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and, of course, the citizens who embrace Orthodoxy. **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141) is the first law that regulated in a comprehensive and systematically structured manner the status of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese since the liberation and the union of the Dodecanese with Greece (Article 14 of Decree Law 423/1947 [GG, Vol. A', Iss. 226], Article 1 of Law 518/1948 [GG, Vol. A', Iss. 7]). This is a reform of equivalent importance as **Law 590/1977** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 146) and **Law 4149/1961** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 41).

Articles 317-346 of Part C “*Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese and other provisions*” of **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141) finally resolved a problem that had remained unsolved for 75 years. In this way, the legal certainty for the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, a more efficient organization and administration and a more complete coverage of the worship, pastoral and welfare needs of the believers were achieved.

Lastly, Mount Athos is self-governed, as established by **Article 105 of the Constitution**: “1. *The Athos peninsula extending beyond Megali Vigla and constituting the region of Mount Athos shall, in accordance with its ancient privileged status, be a self-governed part of the Greek State, whose sovereignty thereon shall remain intact. Spiritually, Mount Athos 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. *Mount Athos 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 Mount Athos 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 Mount Athos, 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 Mount Athos entities and the manner of operation thereof is effected by the Charter of Mount Athos 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 Mount Athos 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 Mount Athos”.

In particular, as regards Mount Athos, Decree Law **10/16-9-26** “*On ratification of the Charter of Mount Athos*” (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 309) is applicable.

a1. The payroll of the Clergy

The State of its own volition, because of the special value and moral importance attached to the Clergy, the undoubted contribution of the Orthodox Church to the national struggles for freedom and independence, the support to everyone -without discrimination of gender, religion, race, etc.¹⁶⁻, the free disposition of church property for national or public benefit purposes and anticipating the continuation of the entire contribution of the Clergy, decided with **Emergency Law 536 /1945** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 226) to cover the salaries of a certain number of Parish priests (6,000) of the Orthodox Church and by **Law 1041/1980** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 75) the salaries of the Metropolitans. **Emergency Law 536/1945** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 226) was amended by **Decree Law 4242/1962** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 135), **Law 3220/2004** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 15) and **Law 4111/2013** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 18), confirming the timelessness of the State’s commitment and the reasons that led to the payroll of a certain number of Parish priests.

Specifically on the issue of church property and its connection with the payroll of the Clergy of the Orthodox Church, it is noted that on November 6, 2018, in the joint communiqué of the then Prime Minister A. Tsipras and the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, Hieronymos II, it is stated: “1.*The Greek State acknowledges that until 1939, when the Emergency Law 1731/1939 was issued, it had acquired church property for a consideration that was less than its value. 2. The Greek State acknowledges that it assumed the payroll of the Clergy, in a broad sense, in exchange for the church property it acquired”.*

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

Para. 2 of Article 348 of Law **4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 141) solved the long-standing problem arising from the fact that all the Parish priests of the Church of Crete (955) were legally employed and paid without the corresponding permanent positions. In particular, para. 2 states the following: “*In the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and in the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Crete, nine hundred and fifty-five (955) permanent positions of Parish priests shall be established, which shall be occupied by Parish priests who are already paid by the State and whose appointment decision has been published in the Official Government Gazette at the*

¹⁶ The most recent case in which the Orthodox Church played a very important role in maintaining social cohesion with the support of all people without any discrimination is the period of the deepest economic crisis that Greece has experienced since 1945 and the immigration crisis.

time of the entry into force of the present [...] The expenses are within the Medium-Term Framework of Financial Strategy”.

Article 335 of **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141) resolved the long-standing problem arising from the fact that all Parish priests (258), deacons (8) and preachers (5) of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese were legally employed and remunerated while there were no corresponding permanent positions.

With paragraph 11 of Article 335, paragraph 12 of Article 347 and paragraph 11 of Article 348 of **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141) it was established that the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete and the Dodecanese: *“may employ Clerics with a private law employment contract to cover worship, pastoral and welfare needs, as well as ecclesiastical employees with a private law employment contract, for a fixed or indefinite period of time, or with a work contract. The employment of Clerics and the provision of services or work by the ecclesiastical employees of the first subparagraph does not create any legal relationship of dependent employment, contract of work or other dependence, or obligation or liability of the State, and the Holy Metropolises and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos are exclusively liable for the payment of their salaries from their own resources”.*

In addition, in para. 16, 17, 18 of Article 336, para. 14, 15, 16 of Article 347 and para. 13, 14, 15 of Article 348 of **Law 4957 /2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), a crucial reform was introduced, for the first time, which provides for the halving of the salary of Clerics (of all three degrees of priesthood) who are paid by the Greek State and against whom a criminal prosecution has been brought for a felony or for the following offences: a) theft, embezzlement (common and in the service), fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of duty, slander, any crime against sexual freedom or crime of economic exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to an embryo or a newborn child, the offences of Law 3500 /2006 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 232) for dealing with domestic violence, abduction of minors, unlawful detention, unlawful violence, vigilantism, threatening, disturbing religious gatherings, b) violence against officials and judicial persons, undue influence on judicial officials, disruption of the functioning of the service, disturbing judicial sittings, contempt of court, revolt, counterfeiting, breach of seals set by the authority, breach of the authority's custody; c) incitement to disobedience, incitement to commit crimes, violence or dissension, inviting and offering to commit a crime, criminal organization, terrorist acts - terrorist organization, criminal support, disturbing the peace, threatening to commit crimes, spreading false news, insulting symbols or places of particular national or religious importance; d) the offences of Law 927/1979 *“On the damnation of acts or actions aimed at racial discrimination”* (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 139), as in force; e) proselytizing under Article 4 of Law 1363/1938 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 305), as replaced by Article 2 of Law 1672/1939 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 123).

According to the Regulatory Impact Analysis, *“Para. 16 constitutes a breakthrough in the history of the payroll of the Clergy by the State (a similar provision exists in Article 347 para. 14 and Article 348 para.13 of the plan for the clerics of the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, respectively). It provides, for the first time, that clerics who are paid by the State and against whom a criminal prosecution has been brought for any felony or for the offences referred to in the said paragraph shall receive only 50% of their salaries, upon the issuance of a relevant act by the payroll clearing officer. The felonies and the offences referred to in this paragraph are of such social demerit that they offend and tarnish the special moral value which the average member of society requires of the religious minister, and not only to the religion to which they belong, but also of all religious ministers of any religion in general. The provision of para. 16 shall take effect from the publication of the Law and shall not have retroactive effect. It is noted that the legislator cannot interfere in the internal functioning of religious communities and therefore cannot impose penalties related to the mandatory or potential leave and suspension of priests from their religious duties. Such penalties shall be*

imposed only by the competent ecclesiastical bodies. It seems appropriate that the protection of the particular moral value and spiritual and social significance of the clerical ministry should require with the prosecution, as a minimum measure, the temporary reduction or complete cessation of their salary if they are convicted by an irrevocable court judgment (para. 18)¹⁷ (p. 567).

By **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), without any additional cost to the State, the existing legislative framework for the payroll of a certain number of Clerics of the Orthodox Church was modernized in accordance with the principle of the distinct roles that determines the relationship between the State and the Church in Greece, the discrepancy between the actual number of Clerics paid by the State and the number of projected permanent positions recognized by the State was eradicated, the employment and pension rights of the Clerics paid by the State were guaranteed, an explicit provision was introduced that the Orthodox Church should exclusively cover the cost of the payroll of the Clerics hired beyond the permanent positions established by the State, and, for the first time, it was provided, for the reduction of the salaries of Clerics paid by the State against whom criminal proceedings are being brought for felonies and specific offences.

b. Numerical data

The existing Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece 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 nine thousand eight hundred thirty-two (9,832).** Chapels, pilgrimage, private and cemetery Churches, as well as other religious sites do not factor in this figure.

A detailed record of the number of Parishes and Holy Monasteries (on the basis of which the aforementioned estimated total number of Churches within the Territory is derived), by Metropolis, is provided in the [Appendix \(Table iii\)](#).

During the year **2024**, 2 Presidential Decrees concerning the establishment of Holy Monasteries and 1 concerning the conversion of a Holy Monastery from female to male monastic status were published in relation to Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece.

c. Incidents

The religious sites of the Orthodox Church for this Report include all types of Churches¹⁸, 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 that were reported to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs within the framework of the Network of cooperation and therefore in no way constitute an exhaustive record of all incidents that took place against religious sites of the Orthodox Church during the reporting year.

¹⁷ The Regulatory Impact Analysis is available here: [12010980.pdf \(hellenicparliament.gr\)](#)

¹⁸ According to Article 1 of the Regulation of the Holy Synod 8/79 "On Holy 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.

Apart from incidents of burglary and theft of money, which constitute the majority of cases, more serious criminal acts were also recorded, such as **arson, aggravated thefts and acts of vandalism, disruption of religious gatherings, all forms of desecration and vandalism, desecration of corpses and graves, the writing of hate slogans, and other manifestations of religious intolerance.**

No	1.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Limini, Arta
Date	1 st January 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, and theft of votive offerings valued at approximately €1,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	2.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Platees, Boeotia
Date	3 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in at the parish office and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	3.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Martino, Phthiotis
Date	3 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 500€ from the offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	4.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Leondari, Boeotia
Date	6 January 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest. Seizure of a private passenger vehicle and burglary tools

No	5.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Karditsa
Date	7 January 2024
Brief description	Entry through the cemetery wall and theft of various brass objects from 50 graves, damage to the graves.
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	6.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Antonios, Megara, Attica
Date	Between 3 and 8 January 2024

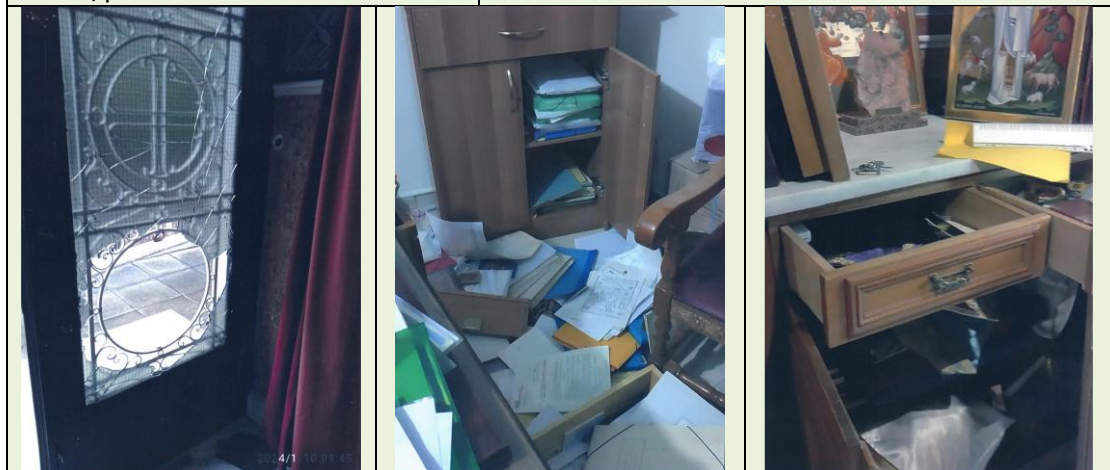
Brief description	Break-in and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	7.
Location	Holy Kellion of the Holy Archangels, Stavronikita Monastery, Karyes–Kapsala, Mount Athos
Date	8 January 2024
Brief description	Arson
Perpetrator/s	1 male Romanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	8.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kaminia, Ilia
Date	9 January 2024
Brief description	Breaking of the glass panel of the main entrance door
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Damage identified through CCTV footage. Case file

No	9.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Achladia, Achaia
Date	9 January 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	10.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos, Filothei – Psychiko, Attica
Date	9/10 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, theft of money from the Philoptochos Fund, and theft of the church safe containing approximately €7,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file



No	11.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Romvis, Athens
Date	11 January 2024
Brief description	Theft of copper gutters and damage to the church's external air-conditioning units
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	12.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Neochorouda, Thessaloniki
Date	13 January 2024
Brief description	Theft of metal religious objects from graves
Perpetrator/s	2 female Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	13.
Location	Church of Aghios Dionysios Areopagitis, Athens
Date	13/14 January 2024
Brief description	Damage to the external air-conditioning unit and the church's CCTV system
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	14.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Lampiri, Achaia
Date	14 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	15.
Location	Church of Aghios Filippou, Mpatsi, Andros
Date	15 January 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	16.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Mpatsi, Andros
Date	15 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	17.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Mpatsi, Andros
Date	15 January 2024

Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	18.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Neapoli, Thessaloniki
Date	15 January 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and breaking of window panes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

Nº	19.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Demetrios, Spata – Artemis, Attica
Date	16 January 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the church safe and property damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	20.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Theriakisi, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	Between 7 and 17 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church and the offertory box, damage, and theft of €500
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	21.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Sternes, Chania
Date	17 January 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	22.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Sykamino, Oropos, Attica
Date	17/18 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a large quantity of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 unidentified individual
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	23.
Location	Church of Aghia Kyriaki, Spata - Artemis, Attica
Date	18 January 2024

Brief description	Breaking of approximately 10 window panes around the church, removal of a window from the office behind the church, unlawful entry and ransacking of the premises, theft of approximately €200 from the Philoptochos Fund collection box, and property damage amounting to approximately €1,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file
Comments	It is noted that on 31 December 2023, unidentified individuals had again attempted to break into the church without success, also causing damage

No	24.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos Mastampas, Heraklion, Crete
Date	18 January 2024
Brief description	Vandalism and damage to the church and its surrounding area, and littering at the main entrances of the churches
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
	

No	25.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Pefki, Attica
Date	19 January 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in, extensive damage
Perpetrator/s	4 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	26.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Sykamino, Oropos, Attica
Date	19 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of one container of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 unidentified individual

Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested
---------------------------	----------------------------

Nº	27.
Location	Cemetery Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Komotini, Rhodope
Date	21 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

Nº	28.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Komotini, Rhodope
Date	21 January 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

Nº	29.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos and of Aghios Nikolaos en Vounenis, Artemis, Attica
Date	21/22 January 2024
Brief description	Breaking into the church and the offertory box; theft of money, damage to an icon on the iconostasis containing votive offerings, none of which were stolen
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	30.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Archontochori, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	22/23 January 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	31.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Piraeus, Attica
Date	27 January 2024
Brief description	Theft
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	32.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Haidari, Attica
Date	27 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in, theft of money from an offertory box, and theft of valuable votive offerings

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	33.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Panteleimon, Petroupoli, Attica
Date	27/28 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	34.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Kiato, Korinthia
Date	28 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in of a church storage room and theft of a baptismal font valued at approximately €1,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	35.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Krikelo, Evrytania
Date	28 January 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box and the Philoptochos Fund collection box, theft of a safe containing a gold Holy Chalice and a holy icon, and theft of €6,500 from another safe
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file. The perpetrator was identified through mobile phone data analysis, DNA evidence, video footage, and witness statements

№	36.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Klafsi, Evrytania
Date	28 January 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of a window and an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file. The perpetrator was identified through mobile phone data analysis, DNA evidence, video footage, and witness statements

№	37.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Neochori, Serres
Date	29 January 2024
Brief description	Theft of two carved doors
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	38.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Platanakia, Serres

Date	31 January 2024
Brief description	Theft of two carved doors and seven holy icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	39.
Location	Church of Panagia of Vlaherna, Keratsini, Attica
Date	1 st February 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through a window grille and theft of money from the parish priest's office
Perpetrator/s	4 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	40.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Kastrianon, Palio Pyli, Kos
Date	2 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of a church bell clapper
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

Nº	41.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Didymoteicho, Evros
Date	2 February 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested. Case file

Nº	42.
Location	Pilgrimage shrines in the area of the Monastery of Panagia Filerimos, Ialysos, Rhodes
Date	2/3 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of 7 of the 14 embossed copper plaques embedded in the masonry pilgrimage shrines located along the so-called "Way of Golgotha" at the Monastery of Panagia Filerimos on the archaeological hill of Filerimos in Ialysos, Rhodes. The copper plaques depict Christ's Passion on the way to Golgotha and were created in 1928 during the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese. The stolen plaques were recovered on the morning of 7 February 2024 by police officers of the Ialysos Police Department while investigating the case, abandoned in the wider Karakonero area. The plaques were subsequently transferred to the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national (Roma) and 1 unidentified individual
Police/procedural actions	Case file



No	43.
Location	Church of Aghios Achillios, Larissa
Date	4 February 2024
Brief description	Vandalism involving the spray-painting of offensive slogans on the church colonnade and main entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file
Comments	<u>Statement by Pavlos Marinakis, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister and Government Spokesperson (4 February 2024)</u> <i>"The vandalism of the Church of Aghios Achillios in Larissa, a place of worship, is utterly unacceptable and deeply offensive to our religion and to the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Blind fanaticism and those who espouse it have no place in a democratic society. It is now for the competent State authorities to take action."</i> <u>Statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, George Kalantzis (4 February 2024)</u> <i>"The offence manifested today through the vandalism of the Church of Aghios Achillios affects not only religious freedom but also freedom of expression. These acts of vandalism constitute a profound wound not only to Larissa and its residents, as Aghios Achillios is the city's patron saint and protector, but also to the entire Orthodox Church of Greece. Such utterly reprehensible acts undermine social cohesion as well as the inalienable right in a democracy to engage in dialogue with all members of society in a spirit of mutual respect."</i>

	<u>Communiqué of the Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece (7 February 2024)</u> <i>“The Standing Holy Synod expressed its sorrow over the desecration of the Church of Aghios Achillios in Larissa through the inscription of obscene slogans, as well as over the misinformation circulated online through a two-month-old video recording of Vespers at the feast-day celebration of the Church of Aghios Spyridon in Corfu, commenting that these and other similar incidents form part of a broader pattern of social and moral decline”</i>
--	---

No	44.
Location	Church of Archangel Michael, Archangelos, Rhodes
Date	4 February 2024
Brief description	Breaking into the church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	45.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Ambelakia, Nea Kallikrateia, Chalkidiki
Date	4 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of a church bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	46.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	5 February 2024
Brief description	Damage to the marble at the church entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	47.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos, Melissourgeio, Chania
Date	7 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable embroidered ecclesiastical textiles
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	48.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Aghioi Anargyroi – Kamatero, Attica
Date	7 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a safe from the church office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

№	49.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Moussoura, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	4/9 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	50.
Location	Cemetery, Stavros, Karditsa
Date	9 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of bronze objects (crosses, candlesticks, etc.) from graves
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

№	51.
Location	Chapel of the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Nea Philadelphia – Nea Chalkidona, Attica
Date	9 February 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through a protective grille and window, and theft of money from the chapel's offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	52.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos and Aghia Ypomoni, Ladiko, Faliraki, Rhodes
Date	9 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box containing money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	53.
Location	Church of the Resurrection of Lazarus, Chalcis, Euboea
Date	12 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of a bag containing €600, which had been left on a chair inside the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	54.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Salamina, Attica
Date	12 February 2024

Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	55.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassileios, Pelopio, Ilia
Date	12 February 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	56.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Aghios Andreas, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	12 February 2024
Brief description	Entry into the church using a key hidden beside the main entrance, forced opening of an offertory box, and theft of approximately €200
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	57.
Location	Church of Aghios Konstantinos, Pappadates, Aetolia-Acarmania
Ημερομηνία84/	12 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church office and theft of approximately €2,000 from a safe
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	58.
Location	Church of Evangelist Mark, Kapsorachi, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	12 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	59.
Location	Church, Pallini, Attica
Date	12/13 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church office, damage, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	60.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Rafina, Attica

Date	14 February 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through a window grille and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	The church warden was notified of the incident by the church's security company. Case file

No	61.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Amykles, Lakonia
Date	Between 1 st and 15 February 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of a window and door, causing damage to them and to the adjoining wall, estimated at €300, and theft of a candle stand and an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file
	

No	62.
Location	Church of Aghios Minas, Schoinos, Korinthia
Date	15/16 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of votive offerings and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	63.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kirkizates, Arta
Date	16 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, and theft of €300 from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	64.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Perachora, Korinthia
Date	Between 14 and 17 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, smashing of the display cases of pilgrimage shrines and theft of valuable votive offerings, forced opening of an offertory box, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Two perpetrators were arrested. Case file

No	65.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Sagini, Orestiada
Date	17 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	66.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kypseli, Athens
Date	17 February 2024
Brief description	Theft of a laptop computer from the parish office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	67.
Location	Church of Aghios Loukas, Athens
Date	18 February 2024
Brief description	Attempted arson at the church's northern main gate and inscription of offensive slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>





No	68.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Platanos, Kissamos, Chania
Date	18 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, smashing of windows, and theft of a sound system valued at €700
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Identification of the perpetrator and recovery of the stolen property. Case file.

No	69.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Artotina, Phocis
Date	19 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	70.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches Michael and Gabriel, Pentaghiioi, Phocis
Date	19 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a safe
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	71.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Megali Chora, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	19/20 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, and theft of audio equipment and metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	72.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Pissia, Korinthia
Date	20 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, theft of valuable votive offerings and money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested. Case file

Nº	73.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Chania
Date	22 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church and parish office; theft of metal objects and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	74.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Zoodochou Pigis, Tsoukalaria, Kos
Date	23 February 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through the church's main door and forced opening of the lock on the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	75.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios Mavrokampia, Zipari, Kos
Date	23 February 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through the church's main door, damaging the lock, and theft of one container of olive oil and a small amount of money from an offertory box; forced entry through the door of the kitchen located in the church courtyard, damaging the lock, and theft of three containers of olive oil, various household items, and a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	76.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos, Stavros, Phthiotis
Date	24/25 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	77.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kompotades, Phthiotis

Date	24/25 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	78.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Mexiates, Phthiotis
Date	24/25 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings and money from an offertory box, and attempted theft of old icons of significant monetary value and a large loudspeaker
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	79.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Gastouni, Ilia
Date	25 February 2024
Brief description	Breaking into the church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	80.
Location	Church of Aghios Vissarion, Megalo Evydrio, Farsala
Date	25 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of sound system equipment
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	81.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vassilopoulo, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	Between 24 and 26 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from locked drawers of the offertory box and the Philoptochos Fund collection box, by unknown means and without signs of forced entry
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	82.
Location	Early Christian Basilica of Archangel Gabriel, Psalidi, Kos
Date	26 February 2024
Brief description	Vandalism of the perpetual sanctuary lamp installed by the Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros within the church premises

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
	

No	83.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Polyneri, Farsala
Date	27 February 2024
Brief description	Breaking of the glass panel of a side window, entry into the church by climbing through the opening, and theft of a bronze baptismal font
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	84.
Location	Church of Evangelistria, Erythres, Attica
Date	27 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and forced opening of a drawer; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	85.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Afidnes, Attica
Date	27 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in; damage and disturbance to the church office, offertory box, and reception room; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	86.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Thermopyles, Phthiotis
Date	Between 23 and 28 February 2024

Brief description	Break-in, forced opening of offertory boxes, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	87.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Solomos, Korinthia
Date	27/28 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and disturbance of the church premises; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested. Case file

No	88.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Koutalas, Korinthia
Date	28 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and disturbance of the church premises; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested. Case file

No	89.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Chiliomodi, Korinthia
Date	28 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and disturbance of the church premises; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested. Case file

No	90.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Neochoraki, Boeotia
Date	28 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	91.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Examilia, Korinthia
Date	29 February 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested. Case file

No	92.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Evangelistria, Poseidonia, Korinthia
Date	Between 29 February and 1 st March 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door; theft of icons and votive offerings

Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested. Case file

№	93.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Almyros, Magnesia
Date	1 st March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of €600 from the Philoptochos Fund collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	94.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Mikrothebes, Magnesia
Date	1 st March 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in through a door; no entry into the church
Perpetrator/s	4 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	95.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Aidini, Magnesia
Date	1 st March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and search of the premises; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	96.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Krokio, Magnesia
Date	1 st March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and search of the premises; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	97.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Eleousa, Thessaloniki
Date	2 March 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	98.
Location	Cemetery, Panorama, Thessaloniki
Date	Between 23 February and 3 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of a marble object from a grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	99.
Location	Holy Kellion of Zoodochos Pigi of the Monastery Koutloumousiou, Mount Athos
Date	3 March 2024
Brief description	Outbreak of fire
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	A case file was opened by the Fire Service Unit of Karyes, Mount Athos

No	100.
Location	Church, Polyneri, Farsala
Date	Between 20 February and 4 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of a baptismal font and damage to windows and the entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	101.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Heraklion, Attica
Date	4 March 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	102.
Location	Monastery of Profitis Zacharias, Kos
Date	4 March 2024
Brief description	Smashing of the window panes of the monastery's auxiliary buildings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	103.
Location	Cemetery, Kryoneri, Attica
Date	5 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of metal objects from 150 graves and damage to the graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	104.
Location	Church of Aghios Therapon, Kilkis
Date	6 March 2024
Brief description	Damage to the church shrine
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	105.
Location	Pilgrimage Shrine of Aghios Ioannis Vatatzis at the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Didymoteicho, Evros
Date	7 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested

No	106.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Makrakomi, Phthiotis
Date	Between 15 February and 8 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 300 litres of heating oil
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	107.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Lyssimacheia, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	11 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in; forced opening of the offertory box, theft of money and votive offerings from the church's patronal icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	108.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Goumenissa, Achaia
Date	13 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	109.
Location	Cemetery, Gavros, Trikala
Date	16 March 2024
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	110.
Location	Church of Panagia Eleftherotria, Amarynthos, Euboea
Date	Between 10 and 17 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of oil lamps and sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	111.
Location	Monastery of Taxiarches, Neraida, Phthiotis

Date	Between 1 st February and 17 March 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the padlock at the entrance to the katholikon of the now-abandoned monastery, with no property stolen and no damage caused
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	112.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Megali Chora, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	17 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, and theft of metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	113.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Kato Verga, Messenia
Date	21 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	4 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	114.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassileios, Preveza
Date	23 March 2024
Brief description	Fire of unknown origin in the church sanctuary. Damage included the burning of a wooden cabinet, damage to all electrical wiring in the sanctuary, and smoke damage to the church and its frescoes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>





№	115.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Apideonas, Achaia
Date	24 March 2024
Brief description	Damage to oil lamps and the glass panels of graves
Perpetrator/s	1 Pakistani national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	116.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassileios, Elaionas, Phocis
Date	24 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in, forced opening of the safe and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	117.
Location	Hesychasterion of the Transfiguration of the Saviour (Saint Porphyrios), Milesi, Attica
Date	24 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of 420€
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	118.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Amykles, Lakonia
Date	25 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of an external air-conditioning unit valued at €3,500
Perpetrator/s	4 male Greek nationals (Roma)
Police/procedural actions	Complaint



No	119.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Kastriotissa, Phocis
Date	25/26 March 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box, theft of money, votive offerings and 1 Chalice
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	120.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Mavrolithari, Phocis
Date	25/26 March 2024
Brief description	Attempted entry
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	121.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Panourgias, Phocis
Date	25/26 March 2024
Brief description	Entry through a side window and theft of money from an unsecured offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	122.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Pyra, Phocis
Date	25/26 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	123.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Athanassios Diakos, Phocis
Date	26 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and attempted forced opening of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	124.
Location	Church of the Ascension of the Saviour, Dafnias, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	27 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church and offertory box; damage estimated at approximately €1,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	125.
Location	Cemetery, Askri, Boeotia
Date	27 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of metal objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	126.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Neochori, Boeotia
Date	28 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	127.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Askri, Boeotia
Date	28 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	128.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Langadas, Thessaloniki
Date	29 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in, breaking of the protective glass cover of an icon, and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	129.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Polydendri, Oropos
Date	29 March 2024
Brief description	Desecration of the Holy Altar and damage caused by overturning oil lamps onto it and placing five icons and the Crucifix upside down
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	130.
Location	Cemetery, Kosmas, Arcadia
Date	29/30 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of bronze vigil lamps from graves and the ossuary, causing damage to the graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	131.
Location	Church of Panagia Dexia, Thessaloniki
Date	30 March 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through a window grille and damage to the locks of internal doors, with nothing stolen
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	132.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Kato Steni, Euboea
Date	30/31 March 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	133.
Location	Church of Hossia Paraskevi, N. Epivates Thessaloniki
Date	31 March 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 unidentified individual
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	134.
Location	Chapel of Pammegistoi Taxiarches Michael and Gabriel, Katalonia, Pieria
Date	1 st April 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and theft of a bronze baptismal font and three bronze candle stands
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	135.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Apideonas, Achaia
Date	1 st April 2024
Brief description	Damage to a marble grave plaque
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	136.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Faneromeni, Rodopolis, Attica
Date	2 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in, theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	137.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Amorgianoï, Aetolia-Acarania
Date	7 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in through a door by breaking the lock and theft of ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file. Arrest

№	138.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Koniakos, Phocis
Date	9 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance, attempted forced opening of the offertory box, and theft of a blessing cross and the Epitaphios
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

№	139.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Doriko, Phocis
Date	9 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	140.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Doriko, Phocis
Date	9 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of an icon and a bronze candle stand
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	141.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Vassiliko, Euboea
Date	10 April 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

№	142.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Prodromos, Trikala
Date	11/12 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in through a door; forced opening of the church offertory box and the Philoptochos Fund collection box, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	143.
Location	Chapel of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Valaora, Evrytania
Date	11/12 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance; theft of money from an offertory box and theft of valuable votive offerings from the church's patronal icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	144.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Valaora, Evrytania
Date	11/12 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money and votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	145.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Agrinio, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	13 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	146.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Paraskevi, Mandra, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	Between 13 March and 14 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance and theft of the reliquary containing the holy relic of Saint Paraskevi, together with votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	147.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Sklethro, Phocis
Date	Between 31 st March and 14 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	148.
Location	Municipal Cemetery of Mandra – Eidyllia, Attica
Date	15 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of a bronze bell weighing approximately 20 kg, valued at around €700
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	149.
Location	Monastery of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Genesi, Trikala
Date	16 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	150.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Kyriaki, Kastraki, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	16 April 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through the main entrance and theft of valuables and votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	151.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Mpampalio, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	17 April 2024
Brief description	Disturbance of the church premises and the offertory box; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	152.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Empessos, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	17 April 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the offertory box, which was empty
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	153.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Aghioi Apostoloi, Trikala
Date	18 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	154.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kalloni, Grevena
Date	Between 14 and 21 April 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main entrance and theft of three icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	155.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Nea Chalkidona, Attica
Date	Between 19 and 21 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of copper air-conditioning pipes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	156.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Stromi, Phocis
Date	Between 15 and 22 April 2024
Brief description	Breaking of a window and theft of three icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	157.
Location	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Ano Perivoli, Kastoria
Date	22 April 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and theft of three icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	158.
Location	Church, Mouzaki, Karditsa
Date	23 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in through the main entrance and forced opening of the offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	159.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Mponila, Anatoli, Ioannina
Date	23 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box containing approximately 300€
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	160.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Nigrita, Serres
Date	27 April 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door; theft of money from an offertory box; theft of 2 icons and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	161.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Platanos, Ilia
Date	27 April 2024
Brief description	Damage to a side door
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	162.
Location	Cemetery, Palaiokklissio, Karditsa
Date	27 April 2024
Brief description	Theft of vigil lamps, vases and crosses from 21 graves
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	163.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Odigitria, Tithorea, Phthiotis
Date	30 April 2024
Brief description	Fire set to empty cardboard boxes near a display case containing silver items offered for sale by the monastery, breaking of the display case lock, and theft of valuable items worth more than €4,800
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	164.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos, Ampelakia, Salamina
Date	2 May 2024
Brief description	Small fire set to the church's outer fence by throwing a plastic container containing a flammable liquid
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	165.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Passalites, Rethymno
Date	3 May 2024
Brief description	Theft of three containers of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	166.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kerassochori, Evrytania
Date	6/7 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	167.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Germas, Kastoria
Date	7 May 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and a cabinet, and theft of €600
Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and pre-trial detention of the perpetrator

No	168.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Vogatsiko, Kastoria
Date	7 May 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and a cabinet, and theft of €600

Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and pre-trial detention of the perpetrator

Nº	169.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis, Plana, Chalkidiki
Date	7 May 2024
Brief description	Fire resulting in the complete destruction of the chapel. Firefighting operations were carried out by the Polygyros Fire Service, and the fire was extinguished without endangering human life
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	170.
Location	Roadside Shrine at the Tempi Rail Disaster Site, Tempi, Larissa
Date	7/8 May 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured entrance, breaking of the offertory box lock, and theft of approximately €200
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	171.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Filippiada, Preveza
Date	8 May 2024
Brief description	Theft of approximately 10 kg of olive oil, valued at around €100, from various graves
Perpetrator/s	1 male Iraqi national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

Nº	172.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Raxa, Trikala
Date	11 May 2024
Brief description	Cutting of the church's security camera cables, breaking of a door, and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Three juvenile perpetrators were arrested within the statutory period for arrest in flagrante delicto, together with their three parents/guardians for violation of Article 360 of the Greek Penal Code (<i>"Neglect of supervision of a minor"</i>)

Nº	173.
Location	Parish Office of the Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Glyfa, Phthiotis
Date	11 May 2024

Brief description	Break-in and theft of a laptop computer and various keys. Using the stolen keys, the perpetrators entered the church, no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	174.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sofiana, Korinthia
Date	13 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of three brass candle stands
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

Nº	175.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Sofiana, Korinthia
Date	13 May 2024
Brief description	Damage to the church windows in an attempted theft
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

Nº	176.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Koroneia, Boeotia
Date	15 May 2024
Brief description	Entry through the main entrance without visible signs of forced entry, theft of money from an offertory box, forced opening of a safe, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	177.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Kalogeriko, Arta
Date	15 May 2024
Brief description	Damage to a door and attempted forced opening of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The church is equipped with a CCTV surveillance system that recorded all of the perpetrators' movements. Case file



No	178.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas, Rachi, Arta
Date	15 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	179.
Location	Church of Aghios Lazaros, Mataranga, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	16 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage, forced opening of the offertory box, and disturbance of the surrounding area
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	180.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Drapetsona, Attica
Date	18 May 2024
Brief description	Theft of an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	181.
Location	Church of the Theotokos, Goritsa, Magnesia
Date	19 May 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the churchyard gate and a church window, and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Pakistani national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

No	182.
Location	Cemetery, Makrykapa, Euboea
Date	19 May 2024
Brief description	Theft of a church bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	183.
Location	Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos Pantanassa, Stoupaina, Perivleptos, Ioannina
Date	19/20 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in through a window near the monastery entrance, theft of an offertory box containing money, and theft of the security camera located at the monastery entrance
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Romanian national

Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested. Case file for aggravated theft (Article 374 of the Greek Penal Code)
---------------------------	--

Nº	184.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Raphael, Kassandreia, Chalkidiki
Date	20 May 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box, damage and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	185.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Raphael, Nikolaos and Eirini, Ammouliani, Chalkidiki
Date	21 May 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured main entrance and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	186.
Location	Church of Aghios Vessarion, Filippiada, Preveza
Date	22 May 2024
Brief description	Damage to an offertory box and theft of one wallet
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	187.
Location	Church of Aghia Kyriaki, Aghia Paraskevi, Magnesia
Date	23 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Pakistani national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	188.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Davleia, Boeotia
Date	23 May 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	189.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Artemissio, Euboea
Date	23 May 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	190.
Location	Parish Spiritual Center of the Church of Hossios Serafeim, Zeli, Phthiotis
Date	24 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in through two door; damage estimated at €1,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	191.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Eleousa, Chryssovergi, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	24 May 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest. The money was found in the possession of one of the accused, seized, and returned to a monastery employee

Nº	192.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kattavia, Rhodes
Date	25 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	193.
Location	Cemetery Church of Panagia Katholiki, Kattavia, Rhodes
Date	25 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested

Nº	194.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Pavlos, Kattavia, Rhodes
Date	25 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested

Nº	195.
Location	Private Chapel of Aghios Stephanos, Kattavia, Rhodes
Date	25 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals

Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested
---------------------------	------------------------------

Nº	196.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Kattavia, Rhodes
Date	25 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested

Nº	197.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Perevos, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	25/26 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in; damage; forced opening of the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	198.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Perevos, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	25/26 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in; damage
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	199.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Neomartyr Georgios of Ioannina, within the Metropolitan Church of Aghios Athanassios, Ioannina
Date	26 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the chapel and attempted forced opening of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	200.
Location	Pilgrimage Church of Panagia Trypiti, Aigio, Achaia
Date	26 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in, breaking of the protective glass covering of the patronal icon, and theft of valuable votive offerings. The total value of the stolen items and the damage exceeded €10,000
Perpetrator/s	2 male Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	201.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Roupakia, Achaia
Date	26 May 2024
Brief description	During the Divine Liturgy, the perpetrator entered the church in an agitated state, shouting loudly.

	Without provocation, he forcefully pushed a shrine stand, nearly causing it to fall to the floor. He then violently pushed the dove-shaped stand used to support the Holy Gospel, causing it to fall and be completely destroyed. He subsequently slammed the church's main door and fled in an unknown direction
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file for disturbing a religious assembly and damage to property

Nº	202.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Kassandreia, Chalkidiki
Date	27 May 2024
Brief description	The perpetrator entered the chapel, smashed a spotlight inside, and attempted to force open the offertory box. He repeatedly struck the offertory box lock with an iron hammer, damaging it, but ultimately failed to force it open
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	203.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Chryssi Akti Panagias, Magnesia
Date	27 May 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Pakistani national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	204.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Davleia, Boeotia
Date	27 May 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	205.
Location	Cemetery, Megara, Attica
Date	28 May 2024
Brief description	Attempted theft of bronze objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	206.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Krenti, Evrytania
Date	May 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 perpetrator

Police/procedural actions	Arrest
---------------------------	--------

No	207.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos and Aghios Nektarios, Pyrgoi, Lesvos
Date	2 June 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage to two doors, with an estimated total value of approximately 300€
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	208.
Location	Administrative Offices of the Holy Metropolis of Kifissia, Amaroussio, Oropos and Marathon, Kifissia, Attica
Date	2 June 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through a window grille, removal of a floor-anchored metal safe from the accounting office, from which €10,000 was stolen, and removal of all security cameras from the ground-floor premises
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	209. (See also Incident 216)
Location	Church of Aghios Stylianos, Zefyri, Attica
Date	4 June 2024
Brief description	Theft of the internal components of an outdoor air-conditioning unit
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	210.
Location	Church of Panagia “ <i>Rodon Amaranton</i> ”, Piraeus
Date	5 June 2024
Brief description	Theft of valuable votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	211.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Thessaloniki
Date	7 June 2024
Brief description	Breaking of the bell tower entrance
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	212.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Karya, Ilia

Date	8 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	213.
Location	Church of Aghios Minas, Desfina, Phocis
Date	10 June 2024
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	214.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Aghios Georgios, Euboea
Date	11/12 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	215.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vounoi, Euboea
Date	12/13 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	216. (see incident № 209)
Location	Church of Aghios Stylianos, Zefyri, Attica
Date	13 June 2024
Brief description	Theft of an outdoor air-conditioning unit
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

№	217.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Katerini, Pieria
Date	Between 1 st January 2021 and 17 June 2024
Brief description	The female perpetrator, employed as the church caretaker and having obtained duplicate keys to the offertory boxes and cash boxes, stole at least €60,000
Perpetrator/s	1 female Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

№	218.
Location	Cemetery Church of Taxiarches, Salamina
Date	19/20 June 2024
Brief description	Burning of the Holy Gospel, various religious books, and the figure of Christ from the Epitaphios
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

№	219.
Location	Church of Hossios Loukas, Vassiliko, Euboea
Date	20 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of valuable votive offerings, theft of money from an offertory box, and a large quantity of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	220.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Ellinokastro, Karditsa
Date	22 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

№	221.
Location	Church, Petrochori, Xanthi
Date	25 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of the church's sound system from the sanctuary, breaking of the offertory boxes, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	222.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Galatsona, Euboea
Date	27 June 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in. The perpetrators were noticed and fled the scene
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	223.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Galatsona, Euboea
Date	27 June 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage to a window
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	224.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Avgaria, Euboea
Date	27 June 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in; damage to the central entrance
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

No	225.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Geraki, Euboea
Date	28 June 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	226.
Location	Cemetery, Koropi, Attica
Date	28/29 June 2024
Brief description	Theft of more than 100 bronze vigil lamps and damage to a grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	227.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Piraeus
Date	1 st July 2024
Brief description	Theft of valuable votive offerings from an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	228.
Location	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Myrsini, Ilia
Date	2 July 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of two candelabra
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	229.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Drakonas, Chania
Date	2 July 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of ossuaries in family graves and disturbance of human remains
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	230.
Location	Cemetery, Megara, Attica
Date	4 July 2024
Brief description	Attempted theft of bronze objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	231.
Location	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Dilesi, Boeotia
Date	Between 30 June and 5 July 2024
Brief description	Theft of a baptismal font, candelabra, candle stands, vigil lamps, and various liturgical vessels, with a total value of approximately €6,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
	
	
	



No	232.
Location	Monastery of Ampelaki, Skortsinos, Arcadia
Date	5 July 2024
Brief description	Break-in, theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	233.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Skripou, Orchomenos, Boeotia
Date	7 July 2024
Brief description	Damage to a flagpole bearing a flag depicting a Byzantine religious symbol
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	234.
Location	Holy Kellion of Aghia Skepi, Kafsokalyvia, Mount Athos
Date	Between 1 st June 2023 and 9 July 2024
Brief description	Unknown perpetrator(s), on separate occasions, entered either through the unsecured main entrance or by using a duplicate key and stole the following items: two used mobile phones of low monetary value, two new zostika (monastic belts) valued at approximately €500, one vigil lamp valued at approximately €300, one key to the Holy Kellion, and various food items of low monetary value
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	235.
Location	Church of Aghia Aikaterini, Oinochori, Phocis
Date	Between 7 and 9 July 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church, forced opening of the offertory box, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	236.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikodimos, Chora, Naxos
Date	10 July 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in, causing damage to the church door, destruction of two notice boards, and destruction of a fabric banner depicting Aghios Nikodimos, which was displayed outside the church
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was identified through the church's CCTV system, arrested within the statutory period for arrest in flagrante delicto, and brought before the competent Public Prosecutor. The Church Council did not seek the perpetrator's criminal prosecution, as he undertook to repair the damage



No	237.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Ilioupoli, Attica
Date	12 July 2024
Brief description	Attempted theft of votive offerings from the display case of an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>



No	238.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Mygdalia, Arcadia
Date	Between 23 June and 13 July 2024
Brief description	Entry without signs of forced entry and theft of a safe containing approximately €5,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	239.
Location	Church of Aghia Anna, within the Holy Pilgrimage Shrine of Panagia Argokoiliotissa, Koronida, Naxos
Date	13 July 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	240.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Stadium, Athens
Date	13 July 2024
Brief description	Theft of the parish Philoptochos Fund collection box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	241.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Neos Pyrgos, Euboea
Date	14 July 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured bell tower hatch and theft of €400
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	242.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Eirini, Vainia, Lasithi
Date	14 July 2024
Brief description	Break-in and damage to the main door, no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	243.
Location	Cemetery, Keramoti, Naxos
Date	22 July 2024
Brief description	Damage to a family grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	244.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Kamari, Arcadia
Date	25 July 2024
Brief description	Attempted entry through a window, but the alarm was activated and the perpetrators fled the scene
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	245.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Polylofos, Euboea
Date	26 July 2024
Brief description	Breaking of the main entrance door
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	246.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Loutra Aidipsou, Euboea
Date	26 July 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an outdoor offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	247.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Ialysos, Rhodes
Date	27 July 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church, forced opening of the offertory box, and theft of money and a silver-plated cross
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	248.
Location	Roadside shrine near Gate E3 of the Port of Piraeus
Date	27 July 2024
Brief description	Desecration of the roadside shrine dedicated to Antonis Kargiotis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	249.
Location	Chapel of the Ascension of the Lord, Orchomenos, Boeotia
Date	1 st August 2024
Brief description	Damage to the glass panels of the door and windows. Inside the church, icons and two iconostasis vigil lamps were found thrown onto the floor
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

№	250.
Location	Church of Aghios Symeon, Aghios Thomas, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	4/5 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from the offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	251.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Dialampi, Rhodope
Date	7/8 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money, a sound system, and bottles of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was taken to the competent Police Department, where he confessed to the offences. Case file

№	252.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Saronic, Attica
Date	8 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

№	253.
Location	Cemetery, Kryoneri, Attica
Date	Between 8 and 10 August 2024
Brief description	Damage and theft of 100 brass and bronze vigil lamps
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	254.
Location	Cemetery of the Resurrection of the Lord, Pylaia, Thessaloniki
Date	10 August 2024
Brief description	Damage to candle stands and the marble surfaces of graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	255.
Location	Metochion of the Monastery of Hossios Gregorios of Mount Athos, Polydendri, Thessaloniki
Date	Between 9 and 11 August 2024

Brief description	Breaking of the entrance door and disturbance of the premises; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	256.
Location	Cemetery of the Resurrection of the Lord, Pylaia, Thessaloniki
Date	Between 10 and 12 August 2024
Brief description	Damage to a grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	257.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Neochori, Xanthi
Date	11/12 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box, 15 bottles of olive oil, and one chryalida valued at €75; icons, candle wicks, and charcoal for incense were thrown onto the floor
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	258.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Saronic, Attica
Date	12 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	259.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Saronic, Attica
Date	13 August 2024
Brief description	Entry without signs of forced entry and theft of the engolpion (pectoral medallion) from its display case
Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	260.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Saronic, Attica
Date	16 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

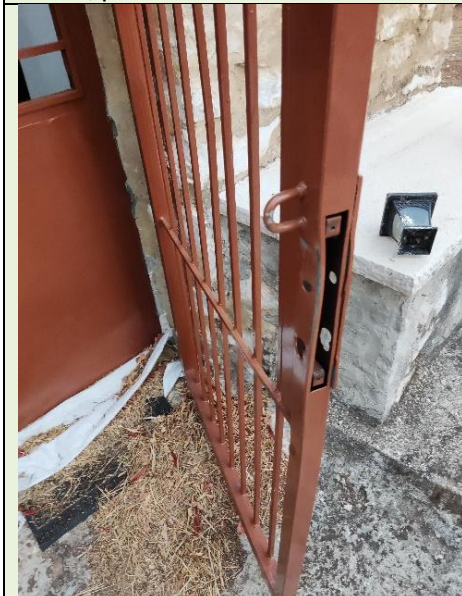
Nº	261.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Saronic, Attica
Date	16 August 2024

Brief description	Break-in; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	262.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Pedion Areos, Athens
Date	17 August 2024
Brief description	Sabotage of the water supply system, breaking of window panes, dumping of rubbish at the entrance, and removal of flags from around the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	263.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Ialysos, Rhodes
Date	18 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from the Philoptochos Fund collection box, as well as liturgical items
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	On 12 November 2024, the case was solved by officers of the Ialysos Police Department

No	264.
Location	Chapel of Profitis Ilias, Grimpovo, Arta
Date	Between 20 July and 19 August 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the door and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>



No	265.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Troianata, Kefalonia

Date	Between 14 and 19 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	266.
Location	Private Chapel of the Theotokos, Argos, Orestiko, Kastoria
Date	19 August 2024
Brief description	Theft of one cross and six icons
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

№	267.
Location	Chapel of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Panaidi), Symi
Date	Between 16 and 20 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church and its auxiliary buildings. The perpetrators entered all areas and vandalized the church, destroying icons and liturgical vessels, and are believed to have spent the night on the premises. They also forced open the offertory box and stole an unknown (small) amount of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified. It is estimated that the perpetrators were a group of approximately ten irregular migrants from African and Asian countries
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

№	268.
Location	Cemetery, Plagiary, Thessaloniki
Date	Between 7 and 21 August 2024
Brief description	Theft of a metal ecclesiastical ornament and a display case from a grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	269.
Location	Church of the Most Holy Theotokos, Trapezaki, Kefalonia
Date	Between 12 and 21 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	270.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Kedros, Karditsa
Date	21/22 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

No	271.
Location	Church of Aghia Anna, Lakethra, Kefalonia
Date	21/22 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	272.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Koulourata, Kefalonia
Date	22 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	273.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Grizata, Kefalonia
Date	Between 11 and 23 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	274.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Metaxata, Kefalonia
Date	Between 21 and 23 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	275.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Neo Ikonio, Karditsa
Date	22/23 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box, as well as electrical appliances
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	276.
Location	Church of Aghios Achillios, Lava, Kozani
Date	24 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in, forced opening of the offertory box, damage, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	277.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Metaxata, Kefalonia
Date	Between 21 and 25 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	278.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Aghioi Theodoroi, Grevena
Date	25 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	279.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Platanorevma, Kozani
Date	25 August 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	280.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Kyriaki, Vrysses, Chania
Date	Between 14 and 28 August 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	281.
Location	Church of Aghios Fanourios, Fourni Korseon, Samos
Date	30 August 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Italian national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	282.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Neos Pyrgos, Euboea
Date	Between 21 and 31 August 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	283.
Location	Church of Aghios Dionysios Areopagitis, Chryssovergi, Aetolia-Acarnania

Date	Between 1 st March and 4 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of one gold-plated pectoral cross
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	284.
Location	Holy Spring of Apostolos Pavlos, Nea Fokaia, Chalkidiki
Date	4 September 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	285.
Location	Church of Panagia, Kampos, Rethymno
Date	4 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	286.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Kampos, Rethymno
Date	4 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	287.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kampos, Rethymno
Date	4 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	288.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassileios, Kampos, Rethymno
Date	4 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	289.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Malonas, Rhodes
Date	5 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of one bronze candelabrum (a valuable ecclesiastical artifact) and attempted theft of the church bells
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	290.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Paisios, Drama
Date	6 September 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door, theft of silver votive offerings, small plastic crosses and prayer ropes, and attempted break-in of the metal offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	291.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Stadium, Athens
Date	10 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 candelabra
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	292.
Location	Church of Aghios Fanourios, Kolympia, Rhodes
Date	Between 28 August and 11 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box containing money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	293.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Patrai, Achaia
Date	11 September 2024
Brief description	Attempted forced opening of the church's offertory box using an iron bar
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	294.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Loutra, Stamna, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	11 September 2024
Brief description	Break-in, damage and theft of the CCTV recorder
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	295.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas Aetolos, Lamia, Phthiotis
Date	11 September 2024
Brief description	Damage to the church's heating chimney
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified juveniles who frequent the church courtyard during the evening hours
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	296.
Location	Third Cemetery of Athens
Date	Between 8 and 19 September 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the entrance to a family tomb, forced opening of one of the two sarcophagi, and opening of the coffin; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	297.
Location	Cemetery, Kypseli, Karditsa
Date	Between 16 and 19 September 2024
Brief description	Cutting of the cemetery fence and theft of 15 marble flower vases, three marble grave plaques, and 15 bronze crosses
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	298.
Location	Chapel of Timios Prodromos, Chortiatis, Thessaloniki
Date	19 September 2024
Brief description	Damage to two icons and an interior wall caused by fire
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	299.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kontariotissa, Pieria
Date	19 September 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church and an office cabinet
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was spotted by patrolling police officers and arrested

No	300.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Aitoliko, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	19 September 2024
Brief description	Attempted theft and damage following a break-in through the church's main entrance and an unsuccessful attempt to force open the offertory box using an iron crowbar. The perpetrator's actions were recorded by the church's CCTV surveillance and recording system
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	301.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Symi

Date	Between 10 and 20 September 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church and its auxiliary buildings. The perpetrators entered all areas and vandalized the church, destroying icons and liturgical vessels. They are also believed to have spent the night on the premises and consumed food that had been stored in the auxiliary buildings in preparation for the feast of the saint on 26 September
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

Nº	302.
Location	Church of Aghios Konstantinos, Mandra, Attica
Date	Between 14 and 22 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of copper piping from the outdoor heating and cooling units located on the church grounds
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	303.
Location	Third Cemetery of Athens
Date	Between 30 August and 23 September 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the entrance to a family tomb, forced opening of three of the four sarcophagi, and opening of the coffins; no theft reported
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	304.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Gerasimos, Psalidi, Kos
Date	23 September 2024
Brief description	Cutting open of the offertory box using an angle grinder
Perpetrator/s	2 male Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest and referral to the Public Prosecutor

Nº	305.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Aghios Christodoulos, Kassandreia, Chalkidiki
Date	23 September 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of the offertory box, damage, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	306.
Location	Church of Aghioi Timotheos and Mavra, Ilioupoli, Attica
Date	25 September 2024

Brief description	Entry without signs of forced entry and theft of a church's engolpion from a display case in the church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	307.
Location	Church of the Resurrection of the Lord, Menemeni, Thessaloniki
Date	26 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	308.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Archangeliotissa, Xanthi
Date	27 September 2024
Brief description	Forced entry through a window grille and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	5 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	309.
Location	Cemetery, Rodopolis, Attica
Date	28 September 2024
Brief description	Theft of metal objects from 50 graves and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	310.
Location	Cemetery, Lavrio, Attica
Date	1/2 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of more than 50 metal objects and extensive damage to graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	311.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Ellinika, Euboea
Date	Between 29 September and 3 October 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	312.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Vassileios, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	6 October 2024

Brief description	Insulting and threatening the church warden during the Divine Liturgy, resulting in the disturbance of the religious assembly
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

№	313.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Triada, Kerassia, Euboea
Date	7/8 October 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	314.
Location	Cemetery, Dionysos, Attica
Date	10 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 15 vigil lamps and other metal objects from graves, and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	315.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Akovos, Arcadia
Date	10 October 2024
Brief description	Damage to the church's tiled roof and theft of two bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

№	316.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Nea Panagia), Thessaloniki
Date	11 October 2024
Brief description	Damage and vandalism to the eastern exterior wall of the church (breaking off sections of the masonry and spray-painting graffiti), damage to the window grilles, and obstruction of the candle smoke chimney with various objects from the church chapel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint. The competent Ephorate of Antiquities formally requested that the Police Department increase patrols in the area during the night-time hours

№	317.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Mylon Gorge, Rethymno
Date	14 October 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an offertory box and theft of money

Perpetrator/s	2 male Syrian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	318.
Location	Chapel, Amariano, Heraklion
Date	Between 15 September and 15 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of a candelabrum
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

Nº	319.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Neos Pyrgos, Euboea
Date	16/17 October 2024
Brief description	Breaking of the window grilles and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	320.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos Galataki, Limni, Euboea
Date	20/21 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of a marble column approximately 1.5 metres high from outside the monastery, and cutting down of a young pine tree located nearby
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	321.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Ialysos, Rhodes
Date	22 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	322.
Location	Cemetery, Kapandriti, Attica
Date	Discovered on 23 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of decorative objects and damage to graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	323.
Location	Cemetery, Aliartos, Boeotia
Date	23 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of metal objects
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	324.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Petalou, Korinthia
Date	24 October 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	325.
Location	Cemetery, Kalamos, Attica
Date	Between 22 and 25 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of bronze objects (vigil lamps) and marble components
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	326.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Aghios Georgios, Pella
Date	25 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	327.
Location	Church of Aghios Sozon, Neochori, Arcadia
Date	25 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	328.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Neochori, Arcadia
Date	25 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	329.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Falaisia, Arcadia
Date	25 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	330.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Falaisia, Arcadia
Date	25 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals

Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested
---------------------------	----------------------------

Nº	331.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Makrina, Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	25 October 2024
Brief description	Arson of the offertory box and minor damage
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	332.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Dyrachi, Arcadia
Date	26 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	333.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Giannaioi, Arcadia
Date	26 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	334.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Lygaria, Phthiotis
Date	27 October 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of liturgical vessels
Perpetrator/s	3 male Bulgarian nationals
Police/procedural actions	2 perpetrators were arrested

Nº	335.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sofades, Karditsa
Date	29 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	336.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassileios, Amfithea, Messenia
Date	31 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	337.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Amfithea, Messenia
Date	31 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals

Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested
---------------------------	----------------------------

Nº	338.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Kotsikia, Euboea
Date	31 October 2024
Brief description	Attempted theft
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were spotted by a local resident and fled on foot. One perpetrator was arrested

Nº	339.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Nea Philadelphia, Attica
Date	31 October 2024
Brief description	Theft of money from the Philoptochos Fund collection box
Perpetrator/s	1 unidentified individual
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	340.
Location	Church of Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Mikrospilia, Arta
Date	Between 28 October and 2 November 2024
Brief description	Attempted forced opening of the south door; damage; no entry to the church due to the presence of an internal iron security bar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	341.
Location	Church of Aghios Vassileios, Dorio, Messenia
Date	Between 31 st October and 2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	342.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Dorio, Messenia
Date	Between 31 st October and 2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	343.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kosmati, Grevena
Date	Between 31 st October and 2 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in of the church, forced opening of the offertory box, and theft of money

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	344.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Rizochori, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	345.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Ampelonas, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell and 1 water tap
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	346.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Aghios Sostis, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	347.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Aghios Sostis, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	348.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Petra, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	349.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis, Petra, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	350.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Neda, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024

Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	351.
Location	Church of Aghios Raphael, Kamara, Arcadia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	352.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kamara, Arcadia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	353.
Location	Chapel of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Trifylia, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money from an offertory box and theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	354.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Eleni, Platanos, Messenia
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

Nº	355.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sofades, Karditsa
Date	2 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

Nº	356.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryfonas, Glyfada, Attica
Date	Between 28 October and 3 November 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of a drawer in the parish priest's office and theft of €3,500
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	357.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Aghia Eleni, Platania, Messenia
Date	3 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	358.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Falaisia, Arcadia
Date	3 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	359.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kamara, Arcadia
Date	3 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	360
Location	Chapel of the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Avlona, Messenia
Date	3 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	3 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	1 perpetrator was arrested

No	361.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sofades, Karditsa
Date	5 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals and 1 unidentified individual
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	362.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sofades, Karditsa
Date	6 November 2024
Brief description	Attempted forced opening of the Philoptochos Fund collection box. A sworn statement by the parish priest revealed that other previously unreported thefts had also occurred at the church. These incidents had been recorded by the church's CCTV system, and the perpetrators freely confessed to them. These are the above-mentioned Incidents Nos. 335, 355, and 361
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals

Police/procedural actions	Arrest
---------------------------	--------

Nº	363.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Athanassios, Ioannina
Date	6 November 2024
Brief description	A fire broke out initially in the Sunday school classrooms (located outside the church) and subsequently spread to the women's gallery inside the church. No lives, residential properties, or third-party property were endangered. The fire was completely extinguished by the Ioannina Fire Service. The total value of the material damage has not yet been determined due to the destruction of ecclesiastical artifacts of inestimable value
Perpetrator/s	According to the Ioannina Police Department, the incident was caused by an electrical short circuit
Police/procedural actions	A preliminary investigation is being conducted by the Ioannina Fire Service

Nº	364.
Location	Church of the Beheading of Timios Prodromos, Lepiana, Arta
Date	8 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in; forced opening of the offertory box and a drawer; damage and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	365.
Location	Cemetery Church, Ampeliko, Karditsa
Date	Between 19 October and 9 November 2024
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and theft of 4 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	366.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kastaniotissa, Euboea
Date	11/12 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	367.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Aghios Athanassios, Thessaloniki
Date	13 November 2024

Brief description	Breaking of a window, forced opening of the offertory box lock, and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	368.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anna of the Church of Aghios Nektarios, Alexandroupolis, Evros
Date	18 November 2024
Brief description	The church's CCTV system recorded an attempted forced opening of the door of the chapel located within the church grounds on the southeast side. The perpetrators broke part of the door and fled when a passing vehicle briefly stopped in the area
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were not identified



No	369.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Neochorouda, Thessaloniki
Date	21 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	370.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanassios, Galarinos, Chalkidiki
Date	21 November 2024
Brief description	Entry into an unsecured storage room adjacent to the church and theft of ecclesiastical and non-

	ecclesiastical items with a total value of approximately €700
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals and 1 male Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	371.
Location	Church of Aghios Stephanos, Afantou, Rhodes
Date	21/22 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of two candelabra with an estimated total value of approximately €5,500–6,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	372.
Location	Chapel, Kos
Date	23 November 2024
Brief description	Unauthorized entry into the premises, destruction of auxiliary buildings and vandalism of flags
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

№	373.
Location	Church, Sklaverochori, Heraklion
Date	25 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

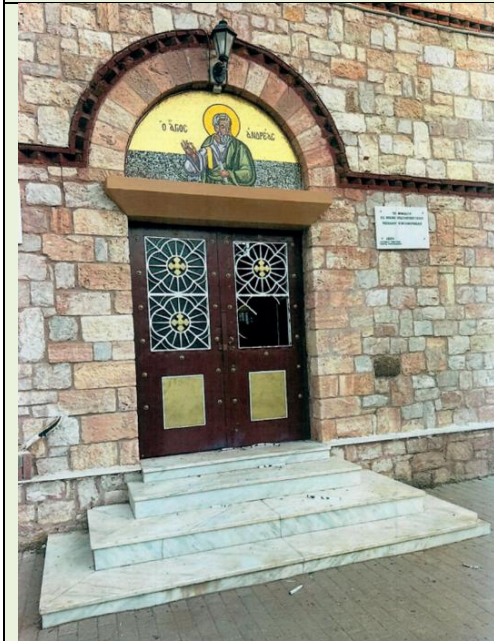
№	374.
Location	Cemetery of Zografou, Athens
Date	25 November 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of 15 ossuaries and family tombs
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

№	375.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Soumela of the Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Petroto, Thessaloniki
Date	26 November 2024
Brief description	Breaking into the chapel and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file



No	376.
Location	Cemetery, Petroupoli, Attica
Date	26 November 2024
Brief description	Theft of iron objects removed during exhumations
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	377.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Hymettos, Attica
Date	26/27 November 2024
Brief description	Break-in; damage; no items were stolen due to the activation of the church alarm system
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint





Nº	378.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni of the Church of Aghios Nektarios, Alexandroupolis, Evros
Date	27 November 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in captured on the church's CCTV system. The perpetrators shattered the glass of a door on the south-eastern side of the church. A stone thrown during the incident damaged the Crucified Christ placed on the Holy Altar. The perpetrators fled, apparently due to the activation of the alarm system. Before leaving, one of the perpetrators defecated beside the door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint



No	379.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Kato Gerakari, Zakynthos
Date	30 November/1 st December 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	380.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Aghia Marina, Zakynthos
Date	30 November/1 st December 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	381.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Spyridon, Mesolongi, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	1 st December 2024
Brief description	Damage by spray-painted graffiti reading (in Greek) <i>WAR AGAINST EVERY RELIGION FOR ANARCHY</i>
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	382.
Location	Cemetery, Evosmos, Thessaloniki
Date	2 December 2024
Brief description	Forced opening of an ossuary lock and theft of an ossuary box, which was subsequently recovered
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	383.
Location	Cemetery, Orchomenos, Boeotia
Date	6 December 2024
Brief description	Theft of vigil lamps
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	384.
Location	Cemetery, Kastro, Boeotia
Date	6 December 2024
Brief description	Theft of vigil lamps
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	385.
Location	Cemetery, Akraifnio, Boeotia
Date	6 December 2024

Brief description	Theft of vigil lamps
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest

No	386.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Nafplio, Argolida
Date	6 December 2024
Brief description	During a march and demonstration, the bust of Archimandrite Ierotheos Baziotis, located in the church courtyard, was vandalized with black spray paint
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	The competent Police Department became aware of the incident through a media report. In a subsequent telephone conversation with the parish priest, he stated that he did not wish to file a complaint regarding the damage, which is currently being repaired

No	387.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Apolychnos, Heraklion
Date	Between 15 November and 7 December 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint



No	388.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Agriovotano, Euboea
Date	8 December 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	389.
Location	Chapel, Avli, Heraklion
Date	10 December 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	390.
Location	Cemetery, Pella
Date	Between 7 and 11 December 2024
Brief description	Damage caused by spray-painted football supporter graffiti on the façade of a storage building next to the Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi (cemetery grounds), on the outer side of the cemetery fence, on the pavement outside the grounds, and on one wooden bench
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	391.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghia Triada, Neo Monastiri, Phthiotis
Date	11 December 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box, as well as one bell weighing approximately 60 kg and valued at €1,000
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	392.
Location	Cemetery, Neo Monastiri, Phthiotis
Date	11 December 2024
Brief description	Theft of 20 metal vigil lamps from graves, valued at €500
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	393.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Filemon, Symi
Date	Between 1 st and 12 December 2024
Brief description	Break-in and destruction of the doors of the church and its auxiliary buildings. The perpetrators

	entered all areas and vandalized the church, destroying icons and liturgical vessels. They also spent the night on the premises and lit the fireplace in an auxiliary building to keep warm
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified. The perpetrators are believed to have been a group of approximately 15 irregular migrants from African and Asian countries
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

Nº	394.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Theologos, Tsifliki, Euboea
Date	11/12 December 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in; the church alarm was activated
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	395.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of Aghios Athanassios, Kormista, Serres
Date	16 December 2024
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 male Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	396.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vonitsa, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	21/22 December 2024
Brief description	Theft of chains and 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	397.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Polylofos, Euboea
Date	26/27 December 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national
Police/procedural actions	Case file

Nº	398.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Neos Pyrgos, Euboea
Date	Between 21 st and 31 st December 2024
Brief description	Entry by unknown means and theft of a laptop
Perpetrator/s	1 male Greek national and 1 male Bulgarian national

Police/procedural actions	Case file
No	399.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Pelopio, Ilia
Date	2024
Brief description	Theft of metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

In addition to the above, the following incidents have come to the attention of the Service, the exact number of which, in some cases, cannot be determined:

Holy Metropolis of Arta

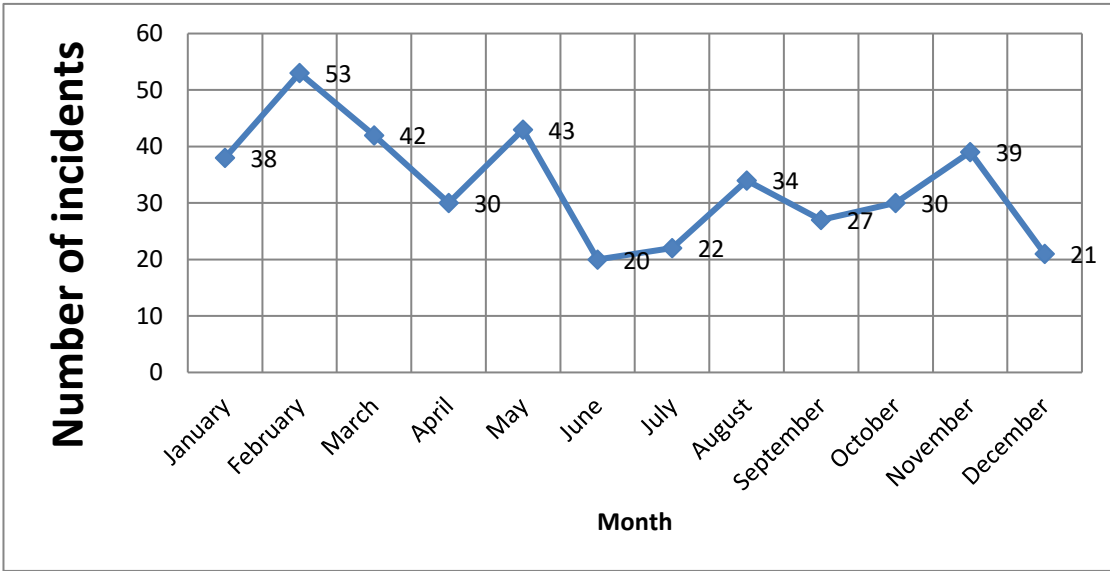
Stray cows entered the surrounding area of the Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos of the Parish of Ampelia Megalocharis, as well as the nearby cemetery. The animals' visits occur repeatedly throughout the year and are each time accompanied by the scattering of manure around and within the churchyard, as well as by damage caused to the graves. Despite repeated complaints by the parish priest to the municipal authorities, no measures have yet been taken. The police authority responsible for supervising the area visited the site, photographed the location, and recorded the incident.

Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki

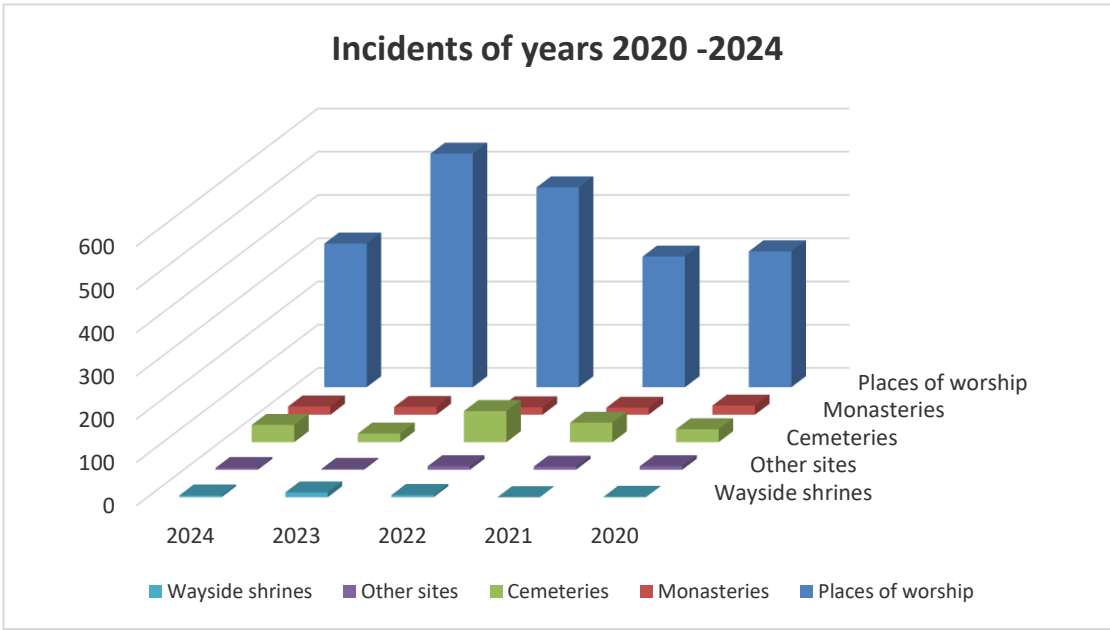
- Holy Cathedral Church of Aghia Sophia, Thessaloniki: Trafficking, use and trade of narcotic substances in the surrounding area of the church. The courtyard is used during the night hours as a public urinal and toilet. Vandalism of the holy icons located inside the chapel at the main entrance of the courtyard. Throwing of dangerous objects (e.g. broken bottles, knives, syringes). Writing of slogans and symbols with spray paint on various exterior parts of the church and the courtyard. The above incidents, as well as other similar ones, occur throughout the year on the cathedral grounds, and repeated complaints have been made to the competent police station and the municipal authorities.
- Holy Chapel near the Parish Church of Panagia Dexia, belonging to the Holy Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Panorama, Thessaloniki: repeated acts of destruction and damage inside the holy chapel (breaking of marble elements, destruction of a vigil lamp, burning of the holy icon of the Theotokos) throughout the year, caused by drug-dependent persons or other individuals, which the monastery is unable to prevent.

d. Addendum

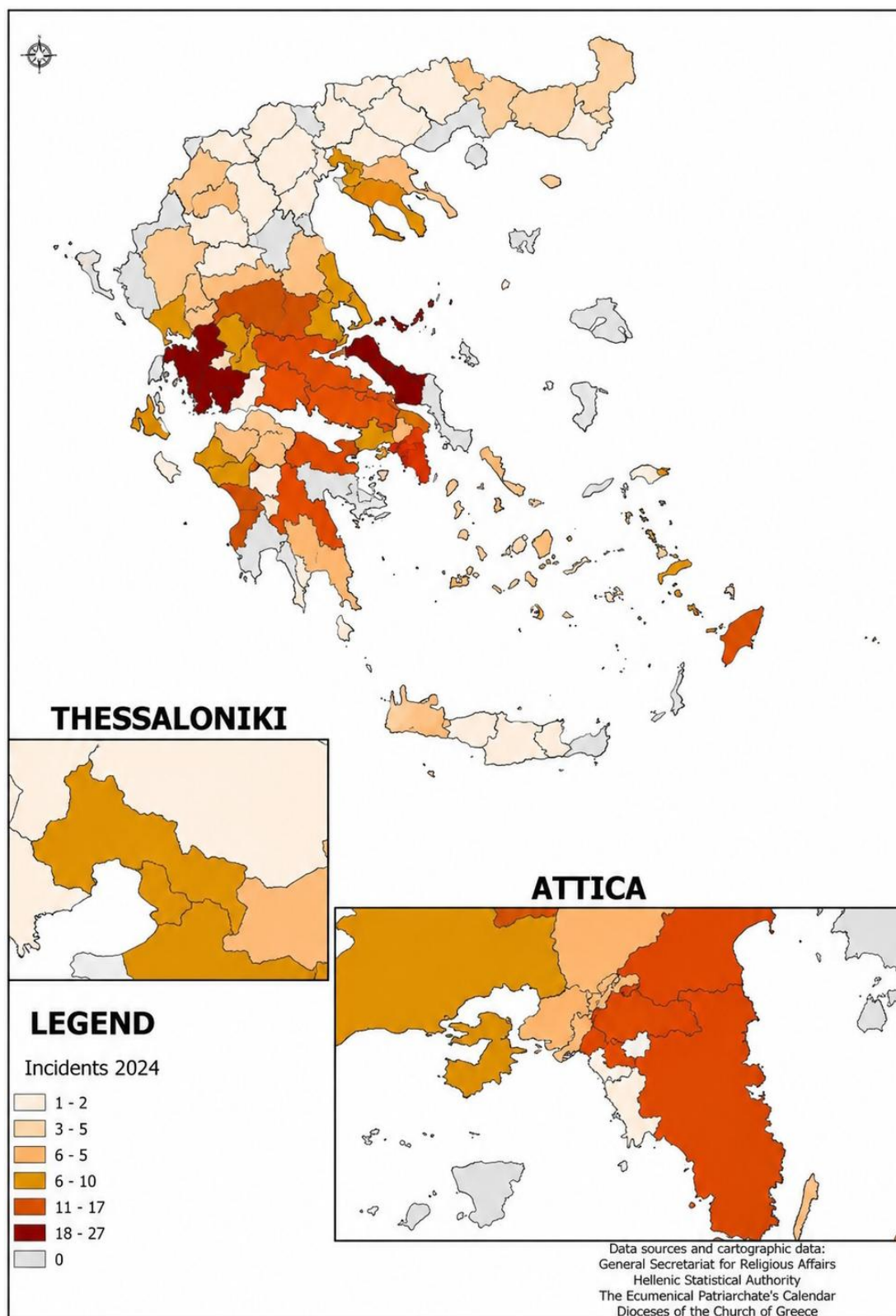
i. Charts and Maps of incidents



Incidents by month

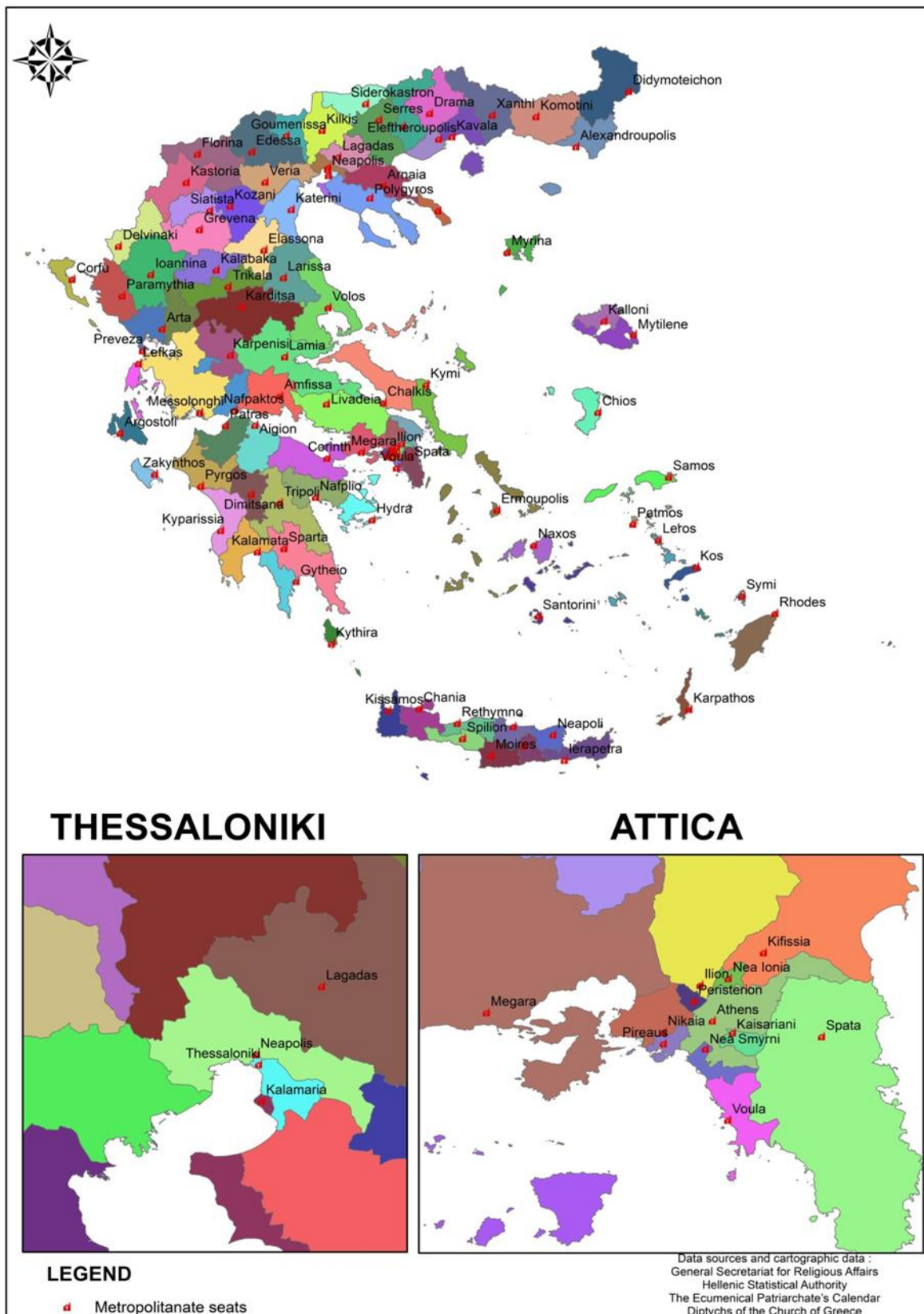


Comparative overview of incidents by site



Incidents 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		SEAT	№ of PARISHES	№ of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Athens	Athens	145	8
2	Aetolia and Acarnania	Missolonghi	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	Florina, Prespai and Eordaia	Florina	119	8
17	Glyfada, Elliniko, Voula, Vouliagmeni and Vari	Voula	20	1
18	Gortys and Megalopolis	Dimitsana	148	15
19	Goumenissa, Axiopolis and Polykastron	Goumenissa	48	2
20	Grevena	Grevena	97	1
21	Hydra, Spetsai and Aigina	Hydra	52	12
22	Ierissos, Mount Athos and Ardamerion	Arnaia	52	3

23	Ilion, Acharnai and Petroupolis	Ilion	47	3
24	Ioannina	Ioannina	249	11
25	Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos	Kaisariani	9	3
26	Kalavryta and Aigialeia	Aigion	162	14
27	Karpenision	Karpenision	97	4
28	Karystia and Skyros	Kymi	95	5
29	Kassandreia	Polygyros	79	6
30	Kastoria	Kastoria	123	8
31	Kefalinia	Argostoli	153	7
32	Kerkyra, Paxoi and Diapontioi Nisoi	Kerkyra	183	17
33	Kifissia, Amarousio and Oropos	Kifissia	63	11
34	Kitros, Katerini and Platamon	Katerini	84	6
35	Korinthos, Sikion, Zemenon, Tarsos and Polyfengos	Korinthos	164	17
36	Kythira and Antikythira	Chora of Kythira	31	1
37	Lagadas, Liti and Rentina	Lagadas	61	6
38	Larissa and Tyrnavos	Larissa	119	6
39	Lefkas and Ithaki	Lefkas	66	4
40	Lemnos and Aghios Ephstratios	Myrina, Lemnos	37	0
41	Mani	Gytheion	114	5
42	Mantineia and Kynouria	Tripoli	157	13
43	Maroneia and Komotini	Komotini	71	4
44	Megara and Salamis	Megara	32	15
45	Mesogaia and Lavreotiki	Spata	64	9
46	Messenia	Kalamata	224	9
47	Methymna	Kalloni, Lesvos	37	3
48	Monemvassia and Sparta	Sparta	142	7

49	Mytilini, Eressos and Plomaron	Mytilini	72	4
50	Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios	Nafpaktos	94	2
51	Nea Ionia, Philadelphia, Heraklion and Chalkidon	Nea Ionia	22	2
52	Nea Krini and Kalamaria	Kalamaria	21	1
53	Nea Smyrni	Nea Smyrni	19	0
54	Neapolis and Stavroupolis	Neapolis	54	3
55	Nikaia	Nikaia	40	1
56	Nikopolis and Preveza	Preveza	131	4
57	Paramythia, Philiata, Geromerion and Parga	Paramythia	150	3
58	Paronaxia	Naxos	44	4
59	Patrai	Patrai	189	9
60	Piraeus	Piraeus	30	1
61	Peristerion	Peristerion	18	1
62	Philippi, Neapolis and Thasos	Kavala	95	4
63	Phocis	Amfissa	110	6
64	Phthiotis	Lamia	245	19
65	Poliana and Kilkis	Kilkis	120	3
66	Samos, Ikaria and Korsoi	Samos	117	18
67	Serrai and Nigrita	Serrai	118	5
68	Servia and Kozani	Kozani	96	5
69	Siderokastron	Siderokastron	69	7
70	Sisanion and Siatista	Siatista	87	11
71	Stagoi and Meteora	Kalabaka	71	15
72	Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos	Ermoupolis	129	13
73	Thira, Amorgos and Nisoi	Thira	33	3

74	Thessaliotis and Fanariofersala	Karditsa	234	14
75	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	43	2
76	Thevai and Levadeia	Levadeia	113	23
77	Trikki, Gardiki and Pyli	Trikala	128	5
78	Triphylia and Olympia	Kyparissia	159	6
79	Veria, Naousa and Kampania	Veria	110	8
80	Xanthi and Peritheorion	Xanthi	86	4
81	Zakynthos and Strophades	Zakynthos	61	4
82	Zichnai and Nevrokopion	Nea Zichni	69	5
TOTAL			8,137	566
CHURCH OF CRETE		SEAT	Nº of PARISHES	Nº of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Crete	Heraklion	127	9
2	Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos	Arkalochori	91	4
3	Gortyna and Arcadia	Moirai	108	6
4	Ierapytni and Sitia	Ierapetra	86	5
5	Kissamos and Selino	Kissamos	80	3
6	Kydonia and Apokoronos	Chania	108	6
7	Lambi, Syvritos and Sfakia	Spili Rethymnis	78	6
8	Petra and Cherronisos	Neapolis	80	11
9	Rethymno and Avlopotamos	Rethymno	101	10
TOTAL			859	60
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF THE DODECANESE		SEAT	Nº of PARISHES	Nº 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	Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	Patmos	10	4
5	Rhodes	Rhodes	64	9
6	Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	Symi	18	5
TOTAL			172	36
GRAND TOTAL:			9,168	664
			Grand Total of Parish and Monastery Churches: 9,832	

iv. Historical religious sites of the Orthodox Church

In Greece, a number of Christian Churches of the Byzantine period (330-1453) have been preserved, dating from the early Christian era (4th-7th century), such as the Acheiropoietos Monastery and the Latomos Monastery in the city of Thessaloniki, the pre-Byzantine period (mid 7th century to mid 9th century), the middle Byzantine period (mid-9th century to the fall of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204) and the late Byzantine period (1204 to the fall of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453). The following period, the post-Byzantine period from 1453 to 1830, also has some remarkable cultural monuments and, by extension, Christian Churches in Crete (before the Ottoman conquest) and the Ionian Islands (which were never conquered by the Ottomans).

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

Unfortunately, a significant part of the Byzantine Christian churches and monasteries of Athens were destroyed and looted, especially during the Regency period (1833-1835) and then during the reign of Otto. Thus, after the publication of the "*Declaration on the Independence of the Greek Church*" (Royal Decree of 23-7/1-8 1833), a series of decrees dissolved those monasteries (almost 400) that had no more than six monks¹⁹ and confiscated their property. The Royal Decree of 27-5/9-6 1836 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 22) stipulated that the movable and immovable property of the dissolved monasteries would be sold for the construction of a university, while the ruined parish churches (including the private ones), including the land on which they were located, would be given to the municipalities, to be sold by auction and the money should be used for welfare projects. This policy, which to a certain extent was combined with the transfer of the capital of the State from Nafplio to Athens (Royal Decree of 18-30/9/1834, GG, Vol. A', Iss. 36) and the attempt to rebuild it, had devastating consequences for the preservation of the Byzantine churches of Athens, the

¹⁹ See Sp. Troianos, op. cit., §2.1.4.

majority of which were demolished in order to sell off their respective plots of land and to serve the urban planning of the city.

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

v. Parliamentary Question No. E-002046/2024 by Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI) entitled “Vandalism of Orthodox sacred religious sites in Greece”

“In 2014, the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports issued its first report on the 3 390 cases of vandalism against religious sites in Greece, a trend that is rapidly rising. Indeed, cases of vandalism in 2022 quadrupled compared to 2015. What is even more striking is the spike in recorded acts of violence against the Orthodox Church and the desecration of Greek Orthodox churches. As many as 95.72 % of these attacks were targeted against the Orthodox Church, 1.74 % against Judaism, 1.18 % against Islam and less than 0.5 % against other religions.

The acts of violence in question include vandalism, break-ins, theft, burglaries, acts of sacrilege, desecrations of graves, arsons, and other forms of desecration, as well as attacks against Christian believers.

Given that the spike in religious intolerance was discussed during the Plenary debate on 10 October 2024, can the Commission answer the following:

How does it plan to help Member States tackle hate crimes and acts of vandalism against places of religious worship, ensuring that the EU’s values of religious freedom and safety are respected?

Submitted: 14.10.2024”

In response to this question, the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath, replied as follows on behalf of the European Commission:

“Freedom of religion is protected under Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. However, pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter, its provisions are addressed to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law. In this context, the European Commission is committed to protecting Christians and members of other religious groups from persecution both within and outside the EU.

The EU has established clear rules to address racism and intolerance, including hate crimes and hate speech. In order to prevent and combat the spread of illegal hate speech online, in 2016 the Commission agreed with major information technology companies on a ‘Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online’, which is intended to serve as a code of conduct within the meaning of Article 45 of the Digital Services Act, within the broader due diligence obligations provided for in that Regulation and aimed at addressing the dissemination of illegal content online.

The Commission has also taken measures to protect places of worship. Although the implementation of security measures remains primarily a national competence, the Commission provides support to improve the protection of places of worship in cooperation with religious communities. The Commission provides targeted funding to support Member States in their efforts to protect places of worship and religious communities, mainly through the Internal Security Fund. The 2022 call for proposals provided funding amounting to EUR 8.3 million for the protection of places of worship. Of the five projects awarded, two included

consortium members from Greece, such as law enforcement services and religious organizations”²⁰.

Specifically, the following projects funded under the “Internal Security Fund (2021–2027)” of the European Union are concerned:

- [“SPIRIT” \(Synergies to Protect places of worship and Religious gatherings\)](#), with participating partners from the Greek side including the Hellenic Police, the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), the Holy Metropolis of Glyfada, Elliniko, Voula, Vouliagmeni and Vari, and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki; and
- [“PARTES” \(PARTicipatory approaches to proTECTing placeS of worship\)](#), with participating partners from the Greek side including the Hellenic Police and the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA)

vi. Press release dated 22 November 2024 issued by the Municipality of Neapoli–Sykies (Thessaloniki) regarding the vandalism of the Monument to Pontic and Asia Minor Hellenism.

“Vandals desecrated the Monument to Pontic and Asia Minor Hellenism in the Park of Memory – They tore down one of the two sculptures depicting the ‘Unforgettable Homelands’ – The municipal authorities filed a complaint against unidentified perpetrators.

With the aim either of stealing the metal or of insulting the memory of the Asia Minor and Pontic refugees, unidentified perpetrators caused damage to the monument after first disabling its lighting system.

Unidentified vandals desecrated the Monument to Pontic and Asia Minor Hellenism, which had been erected at a central location in the Municipality of Neapoli–Sykies in the summer of 2023 in memory of our ancestors. Taking advantage of the darkness—after first rendering the monument’s lighting system inoperative—the perpetrators attempted to tear down one of the two sculptures depicting the suffering of Asia Minor and Pontic Hellenism in the early 20th century. The Deputy Mayor for Technical Works, Stelios Gkatzes, has already filed a complaint against unidentified perpetrators at the Sykies Police Station, while the police are seeking footage from security cameras of nearby shops in order to identify the perpetrators.

*Shortly after the incident, the Mayor, **Simos Daniilidis**, was informed of the actions of the unidentified individuals by passers-by. He immediately arrived at the Park of Memory, where he saw that one of the two sculptures depicting the suffering of Greek refugees was about to fall from a considerable height to the ground, posing a risk of injuring children playing in the park. As he observed while attempting to move the aluminum sculpture to a safe location, the unidentified vandals had acted in a deliberate manner in order to cause damage to the monument. Specifically, after breaking the locks and disabling the lighting system, they **removed the supporting bolts** located at the base of one of the two columns (the one on the side of Riga Feraiou Street), leaving it on the verge of collapse. The mayor immediately notified the municipal maintenance crews, who transported the sculpture to the municipal workshop, where it will be repaired and reinstalled, thereby fully restoring the monument.*

*All restoration work will be carried out with the assistance of **Giorgos Tsaras**, Emeritus Professor at the School of Fine Arts of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, who created the*

²⁰ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002046_EN.html

monument. Mr. Tsaras, after being informed of the incident, expressed his regret for the damage caused and assured that the work will be restored as soon as possible.

The motives of the perpetrators remain unknown, as it has not been clarified whether their aim was to insult the memory of the Pontic and Asia Minor refugees or whether they attempted to steal the aluminum from which the sculpture is made.

The Mayor of Neapoli–Sykies expressed his anger and indignation over the damage caused to such an emblematic work, which was created to honor the memory of our ancestors and to remind us of our recent history, as well as to strengthen the efforts for the international recognition of the Genocide of the Pontic, Asia Minor and Thracian Greeks.

“They should be ashamed”

“In a municipality with a strong refugee heritage, the Park of Memory, which we inaugurated last summer, was a debt owed to our ancestors. Those who attempted to destroy it, whether in order to sell the metal or simply to cause damage, should be ashamed because they insult the memory of their grandparents and become allies of the persecutors of their forebears,” the Mayor of Neapoli–Sykies, **Simos Daniilidis**, commented, among other remarks.

It is recalled that the **Park of Memory of Pontic and Asia Minor Hellenism** of the Municipality of Neapoli–Sykies, located between Riga Feraiou, Andreas Papandreou and Nafpaktou streets, was inaugurated in June 2023. At the same time, **the unveiling** of the monument also took place. The monument has the form of an inclined column **six meters high**, at the top of which **seven illuminated birds** are placed, conveying the message of living memory.

The inauguration ceremony was held in an atmosphere of deep emotion, attended by representatives of the State, institutions, political parties, as well as associations and unions of Pontic and Asia Minor Greeks from the municipality and from across Northern Greece.”



The Monument before and after the act of vandalism.

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”* (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 Entity governed by Private Law and the religious communities (Dioceses, Parishes, Monasteries) inextricably linked to it are recognized as Religious Legal Entities governed by Private Law and amount to two hundred and twenty-seven (227) in total. Among

those, there are eighty-two (82) Parishes and forty-seven (47) Monasteries (see [Addendum, table ii](#)).

Currently, the Catholic Church in Greece has **233 places of worship**.

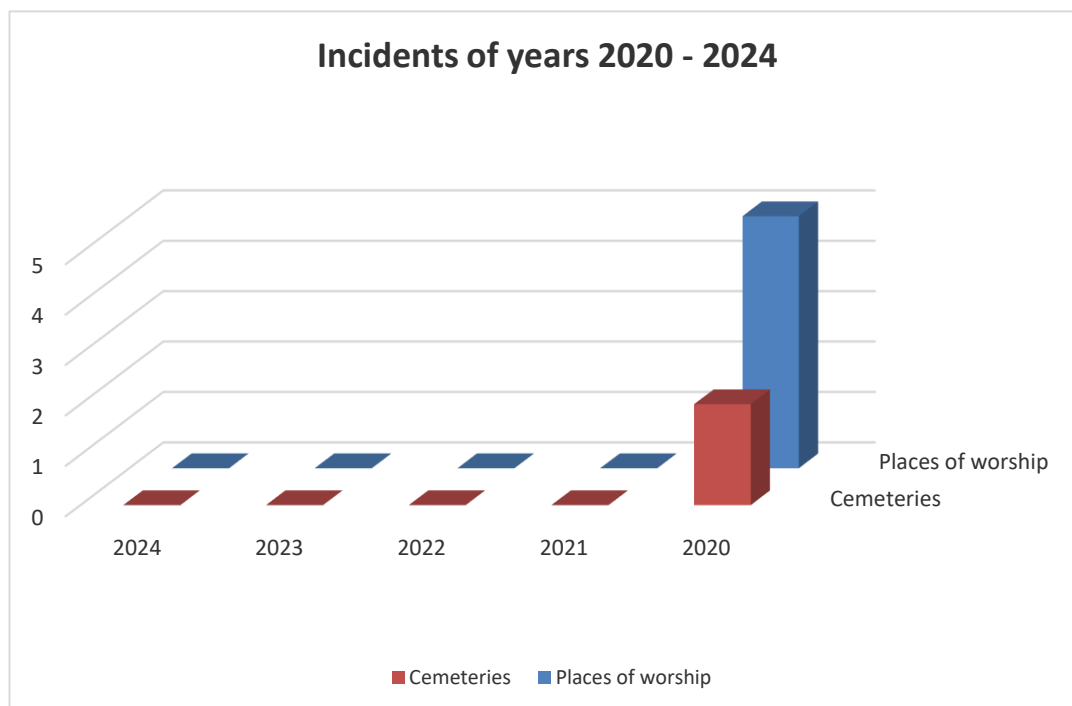
The State of its own volition has been paying the salaries, since 1958, of fifteen (15) religious teachers of the Catholic denomination serving in the Cyclades.

b. Incidents

No incidents were reported.

c. Addendum

i. Statistical overview



Comparative overview of incidents 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 Kerkyra, 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 Church	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 Catholic Bishops' Conference of Greece.



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

Seated in Tinos.

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

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

Seated in Kerkyra

It includes the islands of Kerkyra, Paxoi, Antipaxoi, Lefkada, Ithaki, Kephallonia, Zakynthos and the region of Epirus.

Catholic Holy Archdiocese of Athens, Religious Legal Entity.
Seated in Athens.

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Rhodes, Religious Legal Entity.

Seated in Rhodes.

It includes the Dodecanese.

Catholic Diocese of Syros, Religious Legal Entity.

Seated in Syros.

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

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

Seated in Thira.

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

Catholic Diocese of Crete, Religious Legal Entity.
Seated in Chania.

It includes the entire island of Crete.

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

Seated in Chios.

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

Apostolic Vicariate of Thessaloniki, Religious Legal Entity.

Seated in Thessaloniki

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

Exarch of Byzantine Rite, Religious Legal Entity.
Seated in Athens.

Ordinariat of Armenian Rite, Religious Legal Entity.

Seated in Athens.

3. Other Christian Religious Communities

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

1. Anglican Church as Religious Legal Entity seated in Athens.
2. Ethiopian Orthodox Church as Religious Legal Entity seated in Athens.
3. Coptic Orthodox Church as Ecclesiastical Legal Entity seated in Acharnes, Attica with 2 Religious Legal Entities.
4. Armenian Orthodox Church as Ecclesiastical Legal Entity seated in Athens with 9 Religious Legal Entities.
5. German speaking Evangelical Church as Religious Legal Entity seated in Athens.
6. Greek Evangelical Church as Ecclesiastical Legal Entity seated in Athens with 8 Religious Legal Entities.
7. Assyrian Orthodox Church as Religious Legal Entity seated in Aigaleo, Attica.
8. Armenian Evangelical Church in Greece as Religious Legal Entity seated in Piraeus.
9. The Church of Sweden in Greece, as a Religious Legal Entity seated in Athens.

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 Entity by the issuing of the relevant judgment following the publication of Law 4301/2014:

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

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

According to the latest available information (**August 2025**), there are **six hundred and thirty-two (632)** 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 (10), the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (1), the German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece (3), the Greek Evangelical Church (38), the Fellowship of Greek Free Evangelical Churches (47), the Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (2), the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (8), the Christian Assyrian Church (1), the Armenian Evangelical Church (1), the Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost (91), the Apostolic Church of Pentecost (17), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) (3), the Adventist Church (8), the Jehovah's Christian Witnesses (116), the True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists) (200)** and other religious groups with a smaller number of adherents.

During the year **2024**, **ten (10)** applications for an authorization to establish and operate a house of prayer or temple were submitted, **six (6)** were accepted, **seven (7)** were rejected and **four (4)** were pending as of December 31, 2024 due to incomplete supporting documents.

It is also noted that **two (2)** authorizations to establish and operate houses of prayer were revoked in the year **2024** due to their discontinuance.

The following incidents were reported:

True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

No	1.
Location	Private Church of Panagia Galaktotrofousa, Aigaleo, Attica
Date	8 February 2024
Brief description	Break-in; theft of metal ecclesiastical objects and votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	2.
Location	Church of the Ascension of the Lord and Aghios Vassileios, Spata, Attica
Date	15 February 2024
Brief description	Breaking of the glass panel of a balcony door, break-in of an internal metal door, theft of three bronze liturgical fans (ripidia), and damage estimated at €10,000
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	3.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Marina, Sofiko, Korinthia
Date	4/5 December 2024
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Case file
---------------------------	-----------

Jehovah's Christian Witnesses in Greece

No	1.
Location	Former assembly hall, now used exclusively as a storage facility by the local community, Serres
Date	28/29 September 2024
Brief description	Damage caused by blue spray paint on the sign and the exterior wall
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file
Comments	A sign from the building's previous use remains in place, bearing the inscription (in Greek): <i>JW.ORG – Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses – Christian Jehovah's Witnesses</i> . The property is owned by the religious association " <i>Christian Jehovah's Witnesses of Macedonia–Thrace</i> ," headquartered in Thessaloniki



Metropolis of the Orthodox Armenians of Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Entity)

No	1.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Gregorios the Illuminator, Athens
Date	Early 2024
Brief description	Theft of a church bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

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 Eliezer²¹:

"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, former 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 Greece²² since it:

²¹ Eliezer, Victor. The Jewish community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe. Published in European Jewish Press, 4/5/2017.

²² 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, GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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, Kerkyra, 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, Kerkyra). Since 1970²³ 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 143) as amended by Law Decree 301/1969 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 Kerkyra. 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 101) *“Regarding the approval of the Statute of the Israelite Brotherhood in Athens”*, the Statute of the said Brotherhood was approved and published in the Official Government Gazette.

By **Law 2456/1920** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 173), adopted under the premiership of Eleftherios Venizelos, it has been laid down that Jewish communities are *“Legal Entities under Public Law”*²⁴.

²³ See Moses Konstantinis [“Jewish Communities of Greece after the Holocaust”](#), p. 32

²⁴ See [Press Release](#) by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic of January 12, 2015 regarding the Legal personality of the Jewish Communities and the Jewish Schools [Communiqué by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. George 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 6 republished in number GG, Vol. A', Iss. 14), the Greek State was the first European state, and even before the end of World War II, 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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, Religious Affairs, and Sports supervises these organizations under **Presidential Decree 353/1997** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 239).

By **Emergency Law 846/1946** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 79) the legal person provided for by Emergency Law 846/1946 has been laid down.

By **Law 1657/1951** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 110) *"Amendment and Addendum of the Statute of the Jewish Community of Athens"* Presidential Decree 182/1978 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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.

Article 122 of **Law 2961/2001** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 266) maintained in force *"the provisions on the taxation of Israeli marriage contracts (ketubah) and property of Israelis lost during the war and leaving no heirs"*.

By **Law 3218/2004** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 12), January 27²⁵ 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** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 51) was issued on *"Organizing commemoration events on January 27, Remembrance Day for the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust"*.

By **Law 3943/2011** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 4018/2011**, Article 13 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 215) on *"Restoration of Holocaust victims who originally had the Greek nationality"*, it was 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 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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"*.

Law 4071/2012 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 85) ensured the operation of the Jewish Schools as they were exempted from the general regulation according to which the salaries of seconded public employees are paid by the institutions to which they are seconded and not by the State. With this regulation, the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports continued to pay the salaries of the seconded teachers in the Israelite schools.

According to **Law 4178/2013** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 174), if there are urban planning violations (arbitrary constructions) or changes of use in the Synagogues, the Jewish Communities can legalize them with the same procedure as provided for state properties and without paying the fines applicable to private individuals. The same procedure was provided for the Churches of the Orthodox Church and the Mosques of the Muslim minority in Thrace.

By **Law 4223/2013** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 287), the Jewish Communities were exempted from paying property tax on Synagogues and other properties of public benefit purpose (as is the case for all legal places of worship of the religious communities in Greece).

By the **Joint Ministerial Decision** of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs **2/52141/AYEP/2013** (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 1370/2013), the Jewish Communities, although they are Legal Entities under Public Law, were exempted from accounting and internal financial management procedures provided for the other L.E.P.L., because they are non-profit, public benefit organizations with a religious purpose.

By **Law 4235/2014** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 32) Jewish Communities maintain all benefits of L.E.P.L., but they have the full right of autonomous government (while for other L.E.P.L. the internal organization is designated by the State). Additionally, the regulations voted for L.E.P.L. after

²⁵ 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.

the entry into force of Law 4235/2014 shall not apply to Jewish Communities, unless it is expressly provided for that they regard them. The same regulation applies to the Orthodox Church.

Law 4285/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 191), as an amendment to **Law 927/1979** *"On condemning acts or actions aimed at racial discrimination"*, to include among the punishable acts provided for therein the approval, trivialization or malicious denial of the Holocaust²⁶.

By **Law 4310/2014**, Article 3 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 258) the Jewish Museum of Greece was recognized as a research center whose *"research is part of the country's overall research effort"*.

By **Law 4415/2016** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 159) the Hellenic Parliament re-established the regulations of Law 4071/2012, which had been repealed in 2015 in the context of the implementation of the Economic Adjustment Program for Greece.

By **Law 4461/2017**, Article 109 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 38) the right of acquisition of the Greek citizenship was extended also to *"direct descendants of citizens of Israel or of other countries, born in Greece by May 9, 1945 who died before acquiring the Greek nationality"*.

By **Presidential Decree ΥΣ98/2017** *"Approval of the special urban planning study of the Real Estate Property owned by GAIA OSE SA "ΓΑΙΑ ΟΣΕ ΑΕ" for the creation of a Holocaust Museum in the area of the Thessaloniki Commercial Station, in the Municipality of Thessaloniki, Regional unit of Thessaloniki"* the relevant study was approved.

By the Circular **176169/Θ1/19-10-2018** *"Procedure for the recognition of a place of worship, existing before 1955, of a formal or informal form of organization, religion and denomination of religious communities"* by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs the problem of the non-existence of permits regarding houses of prayer for the Synagogues and more generally the places of worship of the historical religious communities in Greece was resolved.

By **Law 4547/2018**, Article 114 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 102) the Holocaust Museum of Greece in Thessaloniki was established.

By **Law 4559/2018**, Article 49 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142) it is stipulated that the Jewish Museum of Greece may receive grants from the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs for the implementation of research, educational and training programs concerning, among other things, the fight against racism and antisemitism.

By **Decision 114/11-02-2019** of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the definition of antisemitism was adopted as it was set out at the Plenary meeting of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), in the context of catering for the needs for planning and implementing actions and initiatives of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs on combating antisemitism.

²⁶ Article 2 para. 1 of Law 927/79, as in force: *"Whoever intentionally, publicly, orally or through the press, via the Internet or by any other means or manner, condones, trivializes or maliciously denies the existence or gravity of crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the Holocaust and crimes of Nazism that have been recognized by decisions of international courts or the Greek Parliament and such conduct is directed against a group of persons or a member of a group of persons identified on the basis of race, colour, religion, genealogical background, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender characteristics or disability, when such conduct is manifested in a manner that may incite violence or hatred or involves a threatening or abusive nature against such a group or its member, shall be punishable by the penalties provided for in paragraph 1 of the preceding Article."*

By **Law 4607/2019**, Article 66 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 65) the grant for the construction of the Holocaust Museum of Greece by the Greek State in the amount of 8,000,000 euros was established.

By the Prime Minister's **Decision 8/11/2019** the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definitions of antisemitism and Holocaust denial were adopted.

By para. (δ) of Article 1 of the **Prime Minister's Decision Y 13/2020** (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 664) "*the supervision of the realization of the Greek Holocaust Museum and the national activities of the Greek Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in the year 2021*" were added to the responsibilities of the Vice President of the Government.

By **Law 4772/2021**, Article 27 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 17) it was laid down that the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and the Jewish Communities in Greece were subject to the favorable conditions for supporting owners for non-collection of rent for immovable property due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

By **Law 4795/2021**, Article 53 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 62) the issue of the administrative bodies' mandates of the Jewish Communities due to the exceptional conditions caused by the pandemic COVID-19 was resolved, in accordance with the request of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece.

By **Law 4801/2021**, Article 43 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 83) issues of property exchange between the Hellenic Railways Organization "OSE" and the Municipality of Thessaloniki and urban planning regulations for the construction of the Holocaust Museum as well as the ownership of the construction project by the Jewish Community in Thessaloniki were resolved.

By **Law 4972/2022**, Article 176 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 181) the donations intended for the construction of the Holocaust Museum of Greece were exempted from VAT (Value-Added Tax).

By the Presidential Decree **17/18-11-2022** "*Modification of the Presidential Decree YΣ98/2017 "Approval of the special urban planning study of the Real estate Property owned by GAIA OSE SA "ΓΑΙΑ ΟΣΕ ΑΕ" for the creation of the Holocaust Museum in the area of the Thessaloniki Commercial Station, in the Municipality of Thessaloniki, Regional unit of Thessaloniki"*(A.A.Π. 293)" (Δ' 850) the urban planning study for the construction of the Holocaust Museum in Thessaloniki was approved.

By **Law 5043/2023**, Article 79 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 91) a special exemption from VAT (Value-Added Tax) for the supply of goods and services under a donation contract for the purpose of the erection, construction, repair and extension of places of worship or religious monuments or places of accommodation and operation of charitable institutions belonging to the Central Board of Jewish Communities or Jewish Communities) was established.

By Article 70 of **Law 5128/2024** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 118), Article 18A was added to Law 4301/2014 concerning the possibility of adopting support measures for religious communities that have suffered a Holocaust or genocide recognized by the Hellenic Parliament. Specifically, it provides that religious communities that have suffered a Holocaust or genocide, as well as non-profit schools associated with them, may receive assistance and support measures following a relevant application to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, in order to ensure both the preservation of their particular cultural identity and their connection with Greek history and Greek culture.

Furthermore, paragraph 6 of Article 26 of **Law 5224/2025** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142) established for the first time that permits for places of worship of the Israelite (Jewish) religion are granted only to the legal entities under public law provided for in Article 1 of Law 2456/1920 (Israelite

Communities) and Article 1 of Legislative Decree 301/1969 (Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece).

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

In the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Greece dated 22-1-2014, the following Ministerial Decision 42856/02/14-3-2018 was initially published *“Student Contest – Educational Program on Teaching about the Holocaust Remembrance in Greece”* (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 950), which has recently been replaced by the Joint Ministerial Decision 149452/02/3-11-2020 (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 5066) with the same subject, in accordance with Article 1 of which: *“The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs [...] may organize, on the recommendation of the Institute of Educational Policy, an annual student contest for the creation of digital audiovisual works (films) on the subject of historical aspects of the Holocaust, for the participation in an educational program including a visit to the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland”*.

Also, on July 2, 2018 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and the international organization OSCE/ODIHR aiming at providing security to Jewish communities and organizations as well as identifying, recording and fighting racist and antisemitic crime and organizing a pilot training program for members of the Hellenic Police Divisions and Services.

On March 1, 2022, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the *Mémorial de la Shoah*, the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and the Mohammed Ali Research Center regarding training on the Holocaust and Genocides for teachers and University students.

On February 27, 2024, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports (General Secretariat for Religious Affairs), the Church of Greece, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus and the Church of Cyprus on the history, religion and culture of the Greeks of Jewish religion and their contribution to Greek history and culture, as well as the implementation of educational and training programs and seminars for teachers, students and the Clergy on the Holocaust and the fight against antisemitism, racism and intolerance.

Other actions of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs for the awareness of the school community against antisemitism, which took place in 2024, are the following:

- The Olga Lenguel Institute, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, provides grants (€300 each) to schools implementing educational programs on the Holocaust. The funds are intended to cover material and technical needs related to the program. During the 2023–2024 school year, 10 grants were awarded.
- During the school years 2023-24 the educational program CONVOI 77 was implemented in schools in Thessaloniki in cooperation with the CONVOI 77 Organization. The aim of this European project is writing the biographies of the Jews who were on board Convoi 77, which was the last train to depart from Drancy to Auschwitz. Greek schools are researching and writing the biographies of the 18 Greek Jewish passengers.
- On February 1-3, 2024, a Scientific Conference and an Event of Remembrance and Honor on *“The Holocaust on the Isle of the Righteous. History, Education and Interculturality”*, took place in Zakynthos. The event was co-organized by the General

Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Primary Education Directorate of Zakynthos, the Secondary Education Directorate of Zakynthos, the Municipality of Zakynthos, the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, the University of Patras, the University of Ioannina, the Cultural Association “Ugo Foscolo” and the Department of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) of Zakynthos.

- On February 13, 2024, a seminar for Ministry representatives on the implementation of the National Action Plan against Antisemitism was organized in Athens. The seminar was co-organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, and the World Jewish Congress.
- On February 14, 2024, a seminar for the ambassadors of the member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) was organized in Athens. The seminar entitled “*Seminar on Jewish presence in Greece and contemporary forms of antisemitism for Athens-based ambassadors*” was co-organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, and the World Jewish Congress.
- On April 2-4, 2024, the seminar on the Holocaust entitled “*The Holocaust as a starting point*” was held in Ioannina with the participation of 20 teachers from Greece and 20 teachers from Albania. The seminar was organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in cooperation with the *Mémorial de la Shoah*.
- On April 7-10, 2024, a training seminar entitled “*Lessons from the Past – Actions for the Future. Teaching about the Holocaust and Social Justice*” was held in Athens. The seminar was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights (TOLI), in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.
- At the initiative of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, all secondary education school units in Greece were informed and invited to participate in the international initiative of the British Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) entitled “*My Hometown*”. During the Plenary Session in Glasgow (June 2024), the Greek delegation was informed that Greece ranked among the three countries with the highest level of participation.
- On 10–11 October 2024, a seminar on the Holocaust entitled “*The Holocaust as a starting point*” was held in Xanthi. Forty (40) Greek educators participated, twenty (20) of whom were teachers at minority schools or Islamic religion teachers. The seminar was organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in cooperation with the *Mémorial de la Shoah*.
- The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, the Jewish Museum of Greece, and the Centropa co-organized an educational program entitled “*Remembering the Past – Building Bridges*”. The program included a workshop/seminar on issues related to World War II and the creation of a short film by students from three (3) schools in Greece, Germany and Israel. From Greece, a group of ten (10) students from the General Lyceum of Panagia Diasellou participated in the program. The participants took part in an educational visit to Mannheim, accompanied by two (2) teachers from the above-mentioned schools, from 13 to 17 October 2024.
- From 14 to 16 October 2024, a seminar for teachers entitled “*The Holocaust as a starting point – Advanced Training*” was held in Thessaloniki. The seminar was organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs in cooperation with the *Mémorial de la Shoah*, the Holocaust Fund of the Jews from North Macedonia, the

Bulgarian History Teachers' Association, and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. Fifteen (15) teachers from Greece participated in the seminar.

- On 14–15 November 2024, the Jewish Museum of Greece, in cooperation with the non-governmental organization Yahad-In Unum and the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, organized a seminar for teachers on the teaching of the Holocaust entitled “*Local Aspects of the Holocaust in Eastern and Southeastern Europe*”. The seminar was addressed to teachers of primary and secondary education in Greece and took place in Athens.

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 the year 2024, **five (5)** incidents were recorded, four of which clearly display an antisemitic character, that is, they are driven by an ideology that led to the Holocaust and the murder of six million of our fellow human beings.

No	1.
Location	Cemetery, Volos
Date	8 January 2024
Brief description	Spray-painted slogan (in Greek) <i>CRUSH THEM</i> in black on the front exterior wall of the jewish cemetery
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>



No	2.
Location	Holocaust Memorial – Remembrance Site, Volos

Date	8 January 2024
Brief description	Spray-painted slogan (in Greek) <i>NOT IN OUR NAME</i> in black, along with a depiction of the Star of David, on the base of the Holocaust Memorial
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
	

No	3.
Location	The kosher restaurant that also houses the Chabad Synagogue, Athens
Date	18 June 2024
Brief description	An arson attack was carried out using flammable materials. Specifically, two individuals approached the premises on a motorcycle and, using an improvised incendiary device, set fire to the external door of the building
Perpetrator/s	The preliminary investigation revealed the involvement of one Greek national, one foreign national of Iranian origin, and two additional foreign nationals of Afghan origin, one of whom was detained at Korydallos Correctional Facility
Police/procedural actions	The attack was solved by the Hellenic Police Directorate for the Investigation of Special Violent Crimes. Upon completion of the main investigation, the case file was submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office

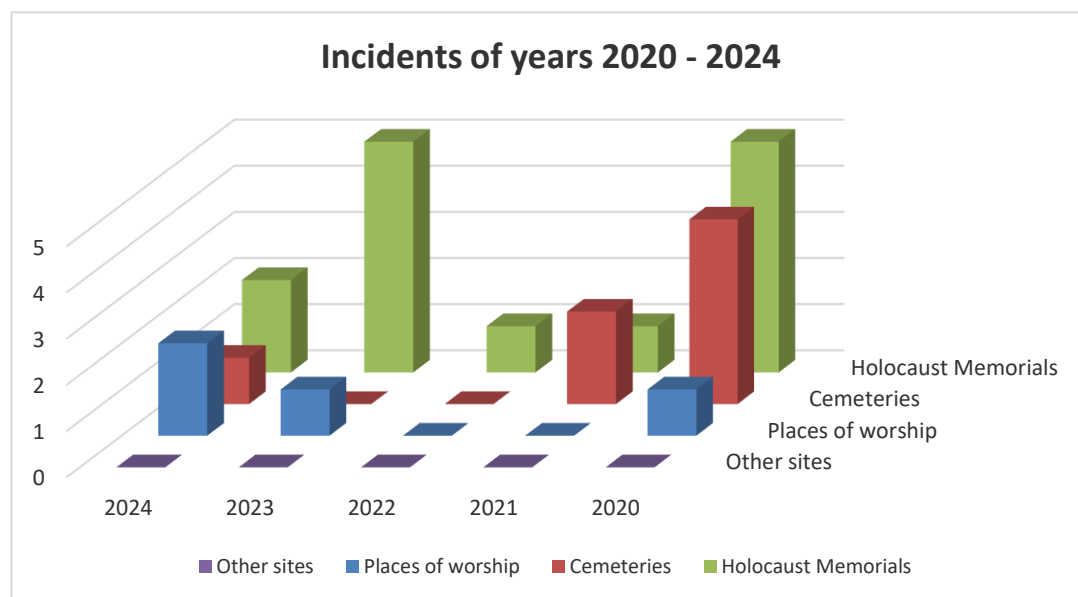
No	4.
Location	Jewish Synagogue, Chalcis, Euboea
Date	8 November 2024
Brief description	Spray-painted a swastika on the exterior wall of the Synagogue

Perpetrator/s	Minor students who were given a warning
Police/procedural actions	-

No	5.
Location	Holocaust Memorial, Thiseio, Athens
Date	23 November 2024
Brief description	Vandalism involving graffiti of non-racist content
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file

4. Addendum

a. Statistical overview



Comparative overview of incidents by site

b. Letter from the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece to the Mayor of Heraklion, Crete, regarding the inscription of antisemitic slogans in Kornarou Square.

Ref. No.: 125/03.09.2024

To
Mr. Alexis Kalokairinos
Mayor of Heraklion
E-mail: mayor@heraklion.gr

CC:
1. Ms. Olga Kefalogianni, Minister of Tourism
2. Mr. George Kalantzis, Secretary General for Religious Affairs

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Further to our communication last May (Ref. No. 70/24.05.2024), we would first like to thank you for your prompt response and your personal intervention for the swift removal of antisemitic slogans from various locations in your city.

Unfortunately, racist vandals have once again returned unimpeded, repeating the same graffiti slogans in Hebrew, this time in Kornarou Square (photographs attached).

We therefore reiterate our request for the removal of the slogans that stigmatize Jews collectively as murderers and directly harm the cultural character of the city.

We hope that once again you will act with effectiveness and sensitivity in order for the slogans to be removed from Kornarou Square.

Thank you in advance and we kindly ask that you inform us of the relevant actions taken.

Yours sincerely,

David Saltiel

President

Victor Isaac Eliezer

Secretary General





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” (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 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.

The State of its own volition has been paying the salaries, since 2013, of one hundred and twenty (120) teachers of the Islamic religion.

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, Religious Affairs, and Sports. Operational expenditures are charged to the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. The financial and management audits of the Muftiates 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, Religious Affairs, and Sports and the Minister of Economy and Finance.

The Hellenic Parliament passed by a large majority **Law 4964/2022** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 150), which in Part C entitled “Modernization of the Muftiates in Thrace” (Articles 137-157) includes provisions for the current operation and organization of the Muftiates, putting an end to a pending issue of more than 30 years.

Law 4964/2022 (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 150), the product of extensive research and consultation with Muslim religious ministers has filled an important gap in Greek legislation on a number of issues of key importance for a significant group of our fellow citizens.

Law 4964/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 150):

1. provided, for the first time, a modern and comprehensive legal framework for the Muftiates and Muftis in Thrace, fully compatible with the Constitution, but also with the international obligations of the country, as defined by the Treaty of Lausanne, the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights.
2. addressed a series of issues that had been identified in practice and which, either due to ambiguities in the provisions previously in force, or simply as a result of changing circumstances, had complicated the situation and substantially impeded the proper operation of the Muftiates, the provision of the religious needs of the Muslim minority in Thrace, the effective management of its religious affairs, but also the proper exercise of the judicial powers of the Muftis.
3. established a comprehensive framework for the organization and operation of the Muftiate, with authorization for the issuance of Presidential Decrees, and for the coverage of operational expenses, accommodation, security, staffing and personnel transfers, travel, the publication of printed materials, the creation of websites, etc. In this way, the financial independence of the institution is decisively promoted, while at the same time the overall work of the Muftiates —and that of the Muftis— is facilitated, the impact of their activities on the local community is broadened, and their image and standing is enhanced, locally, regionally and nationwide.
4. contrary to what was the case until its adoption, no longer emphasizes the individual Mufti, but the institution of the Muftiate, as a public service, ensuring that services to citizens are not treated as dependent upon a particular officeholder but as emanating from an institution whose proper operation is promoted, reinforced, and guaranteed by the State.
5. included provisions to protect the standing of the Muftis at an individual level, including measures concerning the welfare of their families, and their personal protection, as well as the establishment of incompatibility rules intended to minimize the risk of accusations and to prevent any questioning of their probity.
6. established financial support, and the possibility for those who have served as Muftis and have stepped down from office to serve as special advisors to the competent Ministry. Through these measures, the State affirms its support for, confidence in, and continued investment in individuals who have fulfilled such a significant role.
7. for the first time, clearly defines the threefold capacity of the Mufti in Greece, since, unlike what applies in other EU member states (in which Islamic sacred law "*Sharia*" is not applied at all), the Mufti in Greece concurrently functions as a religious minister, exercises judicial powers (as a religious judge applying Islamic law), and serves as the head of a public service (civil servant). The co-existence of these three capacities within the same person entails a particular responsibility of the State with regard to the manner of his selection and the framework governing the exercise of his duties.
8. introduced significant innovations with regard to the selection process of the Muftis, all of which are designed to ensure the widest possible acceptance of them as individuals of enhanced standing, with special ties with the citizens they are called upon to serve. A key figure in the selection process is no longer the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia–Thrace (the institutional successor to the Prefect), but the Acting Mufti. The contribution of an expanded Advisory Committee, both in terms of its size and composition, is of decisive importance. The Committee consists of thirty-three (33) members of the Muslim minority who are selected, without any involvement of the State, by means of a public draw and are among the teachers of the Undergraduate Program of Islamic

Studies or the Islamic Religious Schools in Thrace, the Imams, the Islamic Religion teachers and distinguished theologians. The Advisory Committee examines the candidacies and determines whether each candidate is suitable to assume the duties of the Mufti. Subsequently, it submits to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports an alphabetical list of those deemed suitable, for the appointment of the Mufti by Presidential Decree.

9. maintained all the positive reforms that had been adopted in relation to **Law 1920/1991** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 11), and in particular the optional recourse to the Mufti for matters of personal status law concerning members of the Muslim minority of Thrace (**Law 4511/2018**, A'2). Law 4511/2018 constituted an extremely important step towards equality before the law and the protection of democratic rights, with full respect for the identity, religious belief and particular characteristics of the Muslim minority of Thrace, and was adopted with broad consensus among all political parties (with the exception of "*Golden Dawn*").

All of the above, as well as a number of individual provisions described in detail in the law, contribute to the creation of an institution that operates with guarantees of legitimacy, transparency, independence and effectiveness, headed by individuals of standing, to whom the State guarantees to provide excellent conditions for the performance of their duties, granting them adequate financial and logistical support. And all this, with full respect for the principles of Islam, the International Treaties and what applies in the EU.

As regards the procedural rules in cases falling under the jurisdiction of the Mufti, the following [Presidential Decree 52/2019 \(GG, Vol. A', Iss. 90\)](#) 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*" remains in force. 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, Religious Affairs, and Sports 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.

Moreover, by **Article 27 of Law 4067/2012** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 the mountain areas of Thrace, due to lack of property titles and urban planning for almost all of them. By **Article 48 of Law 4178/2013** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 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 the issuance of building permits or permits to repair mosques (currently only allowed in areas with an approved urban plan), 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, Research and Religious Affairs taking into account the Muslim minority in Thrace, the large number of the existing Islamic worship places (mosques, tekkes, masjids, cems/cemevis), certain cases of malfunction in carrying out repairs or constructions of extensions or annexes at the existing places of prayer, 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 Managing 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 the 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 (the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, and the 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 the Environment and Culture of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior/Sector Macedonia-Thrace, a circular was issued on the “[Authorization procedure for issuing a building permit to Islamic places of prayer/worship in Thrace \(mosques, tekkes, masjids, cems/cemevis\)](#)” (Online Publication Number 78ΘΓ4653ΠΣ-Z3X), **the provisions of which were updated and incorporated into the joint circular “[Circular on Islamic places of worship in Thrace \(mosques, tekkes, masjids, cems/cemevis\)](#) (Ref. Number: 105510/Θ1/31.08.2021 Online Publication Number: 6ΘX646MTAH-0Y6)”**.

An explicit reference is made in this circular regarding the obligation to protect the cultural heritage as derived from international conventions²⁷ and the national regulatory framework²⁸. In particular, in order for modern monuments to be integrated in a protection scheme, the competent bodies should designate them as such, since it is through this designation procedure that the protection scheme is activated. Especially in Thrace, where the majority of the Islamic places of prayer/worship are almost a hundred years old, it is necessary to clarify on a case-by-case assessment, if the place of prayer/worship is subject to the provisions of Law 3028/2002 “*On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general*”.

d. Bektashi–Alevi Muslims of Thrace

The Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace submitted to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, on 27 March 2018, their “*Declaration of Faith and Application for a Permit to Perform the Religious Duties of the Alevi Muslims of Thrace.*” requesting a permit to operate the Tekke of Roussa in the Regional Unit of Evros as a place of prayer for the Alevi.

²⁷ UNESCO Convention of 1972, Granada Convention of 1985

²⁸ Constitution of Greece, Articles 24 (1) and (6); Law 3018/2002

According to the statements set out in the said application, Alevism or Alevitism is an independent branch of Islam. The fundamental characteristics of Alevism, which also derive from its general interpretation of the Quran, are as follows:

- 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 Cem 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.

Every year, ancestral “*sacrifice rituals*” are organized to honor and commemorate the tragedy of Hussein and to symbolize the persecutions of Alevis 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
- The feast “*Hilia*” that takes place every summer in the homonymous location (usually the first weekend of August) and includes wrestling competitions in which residents from the surrounding villages participate.

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 place for Dervishes (and in particular the Bektashi order). It is a monument of great religious and cultural value.

In addition, by Ministerial Decision 31811/01/19-3-2021 (Online Publication Number: ΩΔ4646MTΛH-15M), a permit to establish and operate a house of prayer (cemevi) was granted to the religious community under the name “*Alevis of Megalo Derio*”. Furthermore, by Ministerial Decision 48425/01/13.5.2024 (Online Publication Number: ΨΕ2Π46NKΠΔ-09B), a permit was granted for the establishment and operation of a second Alevi house of prayer (cemevi) to the Waqf Committee of the Goniko Mosque in the Regional Unit of Evros, thereby making Greece one of the few countries in Europe that have recognized the Alevis as a distinct religious community.

By Article 49 of Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142), Greece recognized, following a request by the interested parties, a ‘religious legal entity under private law, pursuant to Article 2 of Law 4301/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 223), under the name “*Bektashi–Alevi Muslims of Thrace Religious Legal Entity*”, with its seat in Roussa, of the local community of Mikro Dereio, in the

municipal unit of Orfeas of the Municipality of Soufli, in the Regional Unit of Evros, without the obligation to submit an application by the said religious legal entity in accordance with the procedure of voluntary jurisdiction before the competent Single-Member Court of First Instance.’ The same law also regulated other matters, such as waqfs, the remuneration of Islamic Religion Teachers, and the provision of religious education in public and minority schools attended by students belonging to the Bektashi–Alevi Muslim faith of Thrace.

Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 142) constitutes a historic turning point for the Bektashi–Alevi Muslims of Thrace, as well as for their relationship with the Greek State. After two centuries of persecution, denial and suppression of their religious identity by the Ottoman Empire, and following decades of their compulsory inclusion in the religious environment of Sunni Muslims—who constitute the majority within the Muslim minority of Thrace—the Bektashi–Alevi are recognized as a distinct religious group within the Muslim minority of Thrace and acquire the possibility of representation in the legal sphere not only in Greece but also internationally.

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 Boards of the Managing Bodies of the Waqfs in Rhodes and Kos respectively. Articles 117 “*Managing Bodies of the Waqf Properties of Kos and Rhodes*” and Article 118 “*Private Waqfs of Rhodes and Kos*” of **Law 4821/2021** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 134) resolved the long-standing problem since 1947 of the legal personality, administration and operation of the Managing Bodies of Waqfs in Rhodes and Kos and the Private Waqfs of Rhodes and Kos as until the enactment of this law the legislative framework that had been introduced during the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese with the **Decree 12/2-5-1929** by the Italian Governor of the Islands of the Aegean Islands²⁹ was still in force.

According to **Law 4821/2021**, the Management Boards of the Managing Bodies of the Waqf Properties in Kos and Rhodes are formed of five members and are set up by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs every two years. Their members are Greek Muslims, permanent residents of Rhodes or Kos, respectively. The Bodies may be subsidised by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Particular mention should be made to the funding by the Ministry of Culture for restoring historical Mosques in the area, such as the Reçep Pasha Mosque, the Sintrivan Mosque, the Mosque of Mehmet Aga, the Suleiman Mosque, the Murad Reis Mosque in Rhodes, as well as the Defterdar Mosque on the island of Kos.

Specifically, according to relevant information from the Office of the Secretary General of Culture, the Islamic monuments of Rhodes and Kos for which restoration studies have recently

²⁹ Cf. decree by the Army Commander of the Dodecanese (Ref: 19/29-4-1947) as ratified by Resolution ΑΔ’ of the 4th Revisionary Hellenic Parliament (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 262/27-11-1947)

been approved, restoration works are currently underway, or restoration has been completed, are the following:

RHODES

1) *The Mosque of Reçep Pasha, Medieval City. It has been included in the projects of the Recovery and Resilience Fund. It includes two sub-projects, the self-commissioning and the maintenance and restoration works of the mosque's decoration. The latter has been put out to tender (approx. 500,000 euros). Additional studies for the annexes to the monument are in progress.*

2) *Murat Reis cemetery. It has been included in the projects of the Recovery and Resilience Fund. Exploratory excavation works have been carried out in some places and the architectural study of the mosque has been completed, while architectural studies for specific mausoleums are in progress. Structural studies of the mosque and the mausoleum of Mehmet Shekib Pasha are also underway. Tenders have been launched for the three sub-projects, for a total amount of 185,000 euros.*

KOS

1) *Defterdar Mosque. A restoration study has been carried out by the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Kos, and the project is currently being implemented by the competent Directorate of Restoration of the Ministry of Culture, following the resumption of works due to the previous contractor's inability to execute the project. The project has been included in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).*

On Friday, 22 November 2024, the inauguration ceremony marking the commencement of the mosque's restoration works took place. Among those present were the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kos and Nisyros, Mr. Nathanael; the Secretary General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, Mr. George Kalantzis; former Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr. Ioannis Pappas; the Mayor of Kos, Mr. Theodosios Nikitaras; the Deputy Regional Governor for Digital Development, Mr. Charalampos Navrozidis; the Head of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese, Ms. Michailidou; the Fire Service Commander of Kos, Mr. Mavridis; the President and Treasurer of the Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in Komotini, Mr. Isa and Mr. Emin; the President of the Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in Didymoteicho, Mr. Molla; the Treasurer of the Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in Xanthi, Mr. Kasapoglou; the President of the Waqf Committee of the Islamic Property in Alexandroupolis, Mr. Chatzikerimoglou; the President of the Waqf of Rhodes, Mr. Vintimi; the Secretary General of the Technical Chamber of Greece, Mr. Giannikouris; the President of the Technical Chamber of Kos, Mr. Chrysoulakis; the President of the Taxi Owners Association of Kos, Mr. Kinas; among others.³⁰

2) *Attik Mosque. A restoration study has been carried out by the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Kos, which was approved by the Central Archaeological Council (KAΣ).*

3) *Moruk Mosque (Old Town of Kos). A restoration study has been carried out by the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Kos, which was approved by the Central Archaeological Council (KAΣ).*

4) *Mosque in Platani. The mosque is operational, as its restoration works have been completed. The project was funded by the South Aegean Region, which undertook its financing*

³⁰<https://www.vakoufko.gr/nea-kai-anakoinoseis/eidiseis/teleti-egkainion-tis-enarxis-ton-ergasion-apokatastasis-tou-temenous-ntefterntar-stin-plateia-eleftherias/>

through a programmatic agreement between the Ministry of Culture, the South Aegean Region, and the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Kos.

On Friday, 12 January 2024, the inauguration of the Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque in Platani, Kos, took place, attended by the Regional Governor of the South Aegean, Mr. Georgios Hatzimarkos, and the President of the Waqf of Kos, Ms. Elvan Kotzaoglan. Among those in attendance were the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kos and Nisyros, Mr. Nathanael; the Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr. Ioannis Pappas; the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. George Kalantzis; the Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Georgios Didaskalou; the Deputy Regional Governor for Education, Mr. Giannis Kritikos; the Deputy Regional Governor of Kos, Ms. Konstantina Svinou; the Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor, Mr. Stamatis Kampourakis; the Deputy Mayor for Education, Ms. Katerina Chatzithoma-Kypriaiou; the Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Ms. Stamatia Kantartzi; the Fire Department Lieutenant Colonel, Mr. Gregorios Mavridis; the Mayor's Special Advisor on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, the Kos Diaspora, and the Primary Sector, Ms. Sevi Vlachou; the Chief of Police, Mr. Vlassis Stratigis; the General Director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage and Director of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities at the Ministry of Culture, Ms. Olympia Vikatou, and Ms. Ioulia Papageorgiou, respectively; the Head of the Cyclades Ephorate of Antiquities, Mr. Dimitris Athanasoulis; political figure affiliated with the New Democracy party, Ms. Eleftheria Ftaklaki; former President of the Technical Chamber of Dodecanese, Mr. Antonios Giannikouris; and the President of the Technical Chamber of Kos, Mr. Georgios Chrysoulakis, and from the Muslim community, in addition to the Imam of Kos, Irfan Trampa, the Presidents of the Waqfs of Rhodes and Komotini, Vintimis Salih and Selim Isa, respectively³¹.

The Secretary General for Religious Affairs, in his address, emphasized the following: "Greece is a wonderful country to visit, but above all, a wonderful country to live in. It is a wonderful country because it has democracy, because it protects the rights of its citizens, because it knows how to set boundaries, because it enables and fosters the right conditions for freedom, thought, speech, and hope to flourish. This project today confirms exactly that outlook. Greece, as its Constitution states, is the only one that bears the responsibility and authority—and fully exercises it—to protect and guarantee the religious freedom of all of us."

5) Gazi Hasan Pasha (Loggia) Mosque. A restoration study has been prepared by the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Kos, which has been approved by the Central Archaeological Council. Approval is still pending for the study concerning the minaret, due to a disagreement between the appointed architect of the Waqf of Kos and the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese regarding the proposed restoration method.

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 had continued with strict adherence to sanitary protocols to address the epidemiological risks³². At the request of the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Rhodes and by decision of the Ministry of Culture, the Suleiman Mosque remained open during August 2024 as a site accessible to visitors.

³¹<https://www.vakoufko.gr/en/nea-kai-anakoinoseis/eidiseis/ta-egkainia-tou-temenous-gazi-chasan-pasa-sto-platani-tis-ko/>

³²See Decision of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic No. 179884/20-4-2022 (Online Publication Number Ω2ΨΞ4653Π4-07Ω).

By Acts **182953/01/22-11-2019** (Online Publication Number Ω5MY46MTΛH-ZΦ7), **182982/01/22-11-2019** (Online Publication Number 6X1H46MTΛH-BT2) and **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 **176169/01/19-10-2018** issued by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs (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, demonstrating the State’s practical commitment to ensuring the unhindered enjoyment of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of religious individuals and religious communities.

Finally, pursuant to Law **4821/2021** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 134), the joint Decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance **88878/01/19-7-2022** on the “*Regulation of the operation of the L.E.P.L. under the names “MANAGING BODY OF THE WAQF PROPERTY IN KOS” and “MANAGING BODY OF THE WAQF PROPERTY IN RHODES”* (GG, Vol. B’, Iss. 3960/26-7-2022) was published.

The above Decision established the framework for the operation of the Managing Bodies and defined their mission and purpose (Articles 1 and 2). It also laid down their operating principles and their Management (Articles 3 and 4). It defined the way in which the Managing Bodies operate and the responsibilities of the Management Boards (Article 5), the Chairman (Article 10) and the Management Consultant (Article 12) as well as the specific tasks that may be entrusted to the members (Articles 7 and 11) and their remuneration (Article 9). In addition, the place and time of the meetings of the Management Boards and the invitation of third parties to provide any necessary information or facilitate the functioning of the Management Boards (Article 6), the conditions of operation and decision-making (Article 7) were laid down. Finally, the rules on financial management, supervision, regular and extraordinary accountability, and the competent bodies thereof were laid down, as were the rules on the publication of acts issued by the bodies of the Managing Bodies, as well as any other details necessary for the proper functioning of the Managing Bodies and the fulfillment of their purpose (Articles 8 and 13).

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. Others are currently under restoration due to damage resulting from the passage of time and natural deterioration, such as, for example, the Valide Mosque, the oldest mosque in Mytilene, with €1.2 million in funding 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.

Certain mosques, following their restoration, operate as cultural exhibition venues, such as the Emir Zade Mosque in Chalcis, the Lower Fountain (or Tzisdarakis) Mosque in Athens, the Küçük Hassan Mosque in the city of Chania, and the Yeni Mosque in Thessaloniki. Notably, the

latter, following its allocation by the Ministry of Culture to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, was used for the first time in 2024 during the Feasts of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

The Mosque of Athens at its own expense, sent the esteemed Imam Taha Abdelghalil, a member of its Religious Committee, to lead the Eid al-Fitr Feast (April 10, 2024). In his sermon, the Imam stated, among other things:

*“My dear ones, today is a celebration... the Feast of Eid al-Fitr. **What is the purpose of this celebration?** The purpose is gratitude. **Why should we be grateful?** 1 – We must be grateful to God **for the joy He has given us...** 2 – We must be grateful to God **because, through fasting and prayer, He forgives our sins...** 3 – We must be grateful to Allah **because fasting is the means by which we are forgiven by Him.** **How should we express our gratitude? (some practical aspects of the celebration):** 1 – We express our gratitude **by being kind to our relatives.** 2 – We express our gratitude **by being kind to our fellow human beings.** 3 – We express our gratitude **by showing happiness within our community.** 4 – We express our gratitude **by continuing worship after Ramadan.** 5 – We express our gratitude **by thanking anyone who has done good for us.** As we all know, the Prophet Muhammad says, ‘Whoever does not thank people, does not thank God’... In this regard, we thank the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, as well as all those who contributed to such an initiative that brings life to cultural monuments... We thank our Greece for the facilities and services it provides to its Muslim citizens and to Muslims residing here... Any similar initiative in the future will be warmly welcomed by us... **May God protect our country, Greece—its government and its people...**”.*

In 2025, on the occasion of the celebrations marking the end of the Ramadan fast (Eid al-Fitr)³³ and the Feast of the Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha),³⁴ the Ministry of Culture granted the use of the Yeni Mosque in Thessaloniki and the Suleymaniye Mosque in Rhodes. During the religious celebrations for the end of the Ramadan fast at the Yeni Mosque in Thessaloniki, the Imam and President of the Religious Committee of the Mosque of Athens, Mohammed Elzahabi, was also present and officiated.

An indicative list is included in the [Addendum](#) of this section.

The Ministry of Culture 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 past³⁵.

c. Islamic Houses of Prayer

Applications for permits to establish and operate places of worship of the Islamic religion were submitted for the first time in 2013, and all were approved, except for cases with incomplete supporting documentation. In **2024**, three (3) applications were submitted; however, none had been approved by the end of the year due to incomplete documentation, while no permit for an Islamic House of Prayer was revoked. **According to current data (as of August 2025), the total number of Islamic Houses of Prayer throughout the country, excluding Thrace and the Dodecanese, is sixteen (16).**

³³ <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/ypapegan/anakoinoseis/60968-07-03-25-telesi-ton-thriskeftikon-kathikonton-ton-mousoulmanon-kata-to-ramazani-kai-tin-eorti-tis-lysis-tis-nisteias-tou-ramazaniou-eid-al-fitr>

³⁴ <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/news/61710-04-06-25-telesi-ton-thriskeftikon-kathikonton-ton-mousoulmanon-kata-tin-eorti-tis-thysias-tou-avraam-eid-al-adha>

³⁵ The Ottoman Architecture in Greece – Collective work, December 2009 (Η ΟΘΩΜΑΝΙΚΗ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ – ΣΥΛΛΟΓΙΚΟ, Δεκέμβριος 2009)

It is noted that, in order to facilitate the unhindered performance of religious duties by Muslims during the major Islamic festivals — Eid al-Fitr (the Feast of Breaking the Fast, marking the end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (the Feast of the Sacrifice, commemorating Abraham’s devotion to God) — the Greek State has, since 2011³⁶, provided spaces free of charge at the Peace and Friendship Stadium and the Athens Olympic Sports Complex. In 2020, however, this arrangement was suspended as part of the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the opening of the Mosque of Athens on November 2, 2020, the reasons for granting such concessions no longer applied.

Additionally, every year (except in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), a procession is held in Athens by Muslims to commemorate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. This event takes place with the permission of the Greek authorities and under the protection of the Hellenic Police.

3. Mosque of Athens

With the provisions of **Law 3512/2006** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 264), the necessary regulatory framework for the establishment and operation of an Islamic Mosque in Attica, under public supervision, was introduced for the first time in national legislation. The aim was to enable Muslims residing in the greater Athens area (both Greek citizens and foreigners) to perform their religious practices in a manner appropriate to their faith.

With the enactment of **Laws 4014/2011** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 209), **4327/2015** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 50), **4414/2016** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 149) and **4473/2017** (GG, Vol. A’, Iss. 78), various administrative and urban planning issues were resolved. As a result, the construction of the building of the Mosque of Athens and its surrounding area—covering approximately 4 acres (16,000 square meters)—was completed around mid-2019. The building and its surrounding area were presented to the Muslim community of Athens on June 7, 2019.

By Ministerial Decision **135952/01/11-8-2017** (Y.O.Δ.Δ. 401- Online Publication Number: 7FAB4653PΣ-1ΣΘ) the first Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens” was appointed.

The Joint Ministerial Decision by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance on “*Rules of Procedure of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens”*” **151436/01/13-9-2018** was issued providing for, inter alia, the following:

- the possibility, by decision of the Management Board, to establish non-remunerated religious committees of consultative nature, composed of members or non-members of the Board, for the improved operation of the Mosque. Specifically, members of these committees may include public servants, Muslims legally residing in Attica, faculty members of Universities or graduates of the Undergraduate Program of Islamic Studies of the Faculty of Theology of the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and religious ministers serving at Islamic worship places in Attica who have been authorized by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (Article 17),

³⁶ See the Press Releases of [17-5-2018](#) and [8-5-2019](#) of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs on the subject: “Muslims’ religious practice at the end of Ramadan (Eid-al-Fitr)” and the [16-8-2018](#) and [25-7-2019](#) Press Releases on: “Performing prayer on Eid al Adha” (Feast of the Sacrifice, commemorating Abraham’s devotion to God).

- the possibility, by decision of the Management Board, to form volunteer groups composed of Muslims legally residing in Attica and members of the Muslim communities of Attica who wish to offer their services temporarily and free of charge, in order to support the proper operation of the Mosque of Athens—particularly during major religious holidays and in response to the increased needs of attending believers (Article 18),
- the operation of the Mosque of Athens on all days of the week. The opening hours of the Mosque of Athens are set as follows: (a) half an hour before the time at which the first prayer is conducted by the Imam; and (b) half an hour after the time at which the last prayer is conducted by the Imam. During the Holy Muslim Month of Ramadan and the Feast of Abraham's Sacrifice, the Mosque of Athens shall operate on a 24-hour basis. In order to perform their religious duties, all believers may freely access the Mosque of Athens during its opening hours and in accordance with the annual prayer schedule (Article 19); and
- the procedure and conditions for the limited private use of the Mosque by Muslim communities residing in Attica (Article 20).

On May 20, 2019 [the Presidential Decree 42/2019 \(GG, Vol. A', Iss. 74\)](#) "*Organization of the Legal Entity of Private Law "Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens"*" was published. The Organization of the Legal Entity specifically defines, even by way of derogation from the provisions applicable to the public sector, its structure and operation, the number, positions, categories, qualifications, status and duties of the staff employed, as well as their disciplinary law, the topics of studies, projects, leasing or renting of real estate and provision of services related to the operation and maintenance of the Mosque and the procurement of supplies, its financial management and its inclusion in the appropriate accounting management system and any other detail necessary for its regular operation and the achievement of its purpose.

Law **4589/19** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 13) Article 72 (1) regulates in detail matters regarding revenue from donations to the Legal Entity of Private Law and **Law 4610/19** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 70) Article 217 regulates the matter of the Islamic Religious Minister (Imam)'s remuneration. By Ministerial Decision **149184/Θ1/3-11-2020**, a Religious Minister (Imam) was appointed at the Mosque of Athens.

Following the expiration of the term of office the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "*Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens*", its new composition was appointed by Ministerial Decision 109537/Θ1/25-8-2020 (ΥΟΔΔ 697- Online Publication Number: 6ΨΞ446ΜΤΛΗ-BNE).

The Mosque of Athens began operating on Monday November 2, 2020, according to the relevant announcement made by the President of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law concerned:

"The Mosque began to operate today, November 2, 2020, in accordance with the legislation applicable regarding the places of worship, as referred to in Joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ./67924 on social distancing and other measures taken in Greece to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Official Gazette B' 4709/23-10-2020).

The Management Board of the Mosque of Athens will communicate the date of the inaugural ceremony when this will be possible depending on the developments in the fight against the pandemic".

The State has, of its own volition, assumed responsibility for the remuneration of the Imam of the Mosque of Athens.

With para. 1 of Article 350 of **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), the mission of the Legal Entity of Private Law was reformulated, its position as a religious center of the Muslims of Attica was clarified and the relevant legislative framework was amended, in order to ensure increased credibility and transparency of the institutions, improved risk management and consequent improvement of the services provided.

With para. 4 of Article 6 of **Law 3512/2006** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 264) as added by para. 7 of Article 350 of **Law 4957/2022** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), the "*Religious Committee of the Mosque of Athens*" was established. Its purpose is to assist in an advisory capacity the Management Board of the L.E.P.L. for the fulfilment of its objectives as defined in the founding law. The five regular and alternate members were appointed for a one-year term of office by the Management Board's decision 5/30.1.2023 (Y.O.Δ.Δ. 131/17.2.2023).

With Article 66 of **Law 5128/2024** (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 118), a provision was introduced, inter alia, allowing the Management Board, by a specifically reasoned decision that may be revoked at any time, to assign responsibilities and specific duties related to the implementation, application, management and execution of the purposes of the legal entity to a regular or alternate member of the Board, other than the President and the Vice-President, in order to enable faster resolution of issues that arise and to improve the services provided by the Mosque to citizens.

On the major Muslim holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, thousands of believers gather at the Mosque of Athens to perform their religious duties. On a daily basis, the Mosque is also visited by numerous worshippers, school groups and representatives of embassies.

On 24 November 2023, the former Vice President of Indonesia, Ma'ruf Amin, paid an official visit to the Mosque of Athens in order to perform his religious duties, accompanied by a large delegation that included members of the Embassy of Indonesia in Athens, protocol officers and journalists.

On 14 December 2023, Bea ten Tusscher, Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, visited the Mosque and held discussions with the Imam, the members of the Board of Directors and the Religious Committee on issues concerning freedom of religion or belief for Muslims residing in Attica.

On 30 April 2024, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Greece, Saad bin Abdulrahman Alammar, visited the Mosque to perform his religious duties and to arrange the details of the visit of Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, who visited the Mosque on 12 May 2024 accompanied by a large delegation.

4. Incidents

No	1.
Location	Muftiate of Didymoteicho, Didymoteicho, Evros
Date	7 January 2024
Brief description	Damage to the exterior wall of the Muftiate building through the inscription of symbols and slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Case file



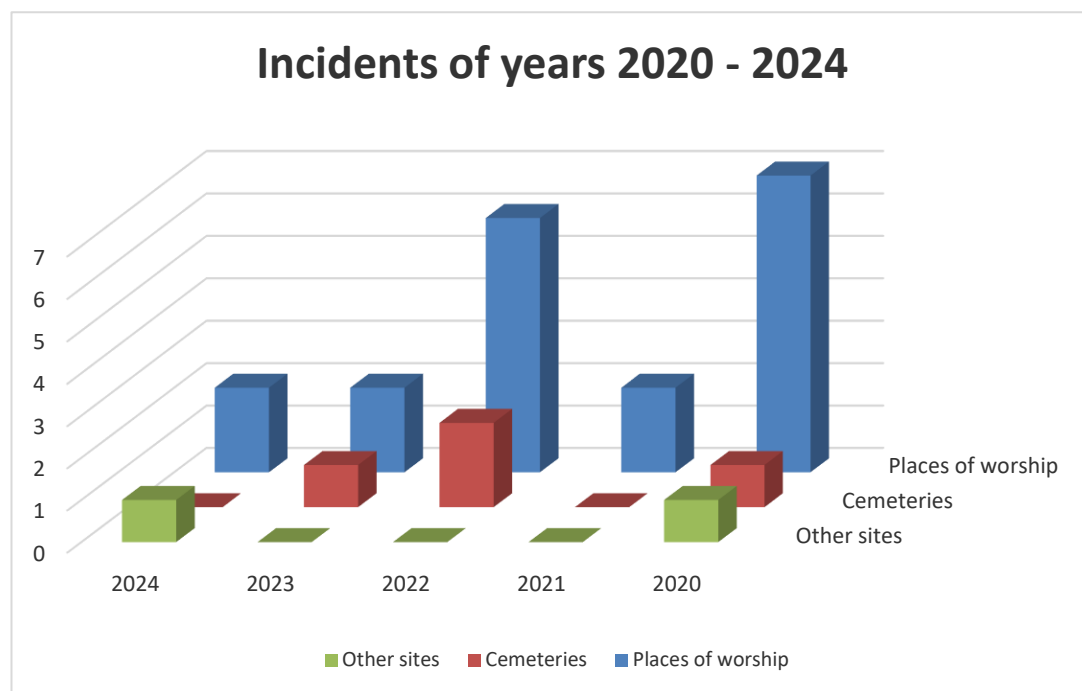


No	2.
Location	Informal place of prayer, Aghios Nikolaos, Athens
Date	26 April 2024
Brief description	Verbal abuse of a person wearing traditional religious attire and damage to the premises' window
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

No	3.
Location	Prayer house of the religious community "ALFOURQAN – Sunni Muslims"
Date	21/22 December 2024
Brief description	Damage; Graffiti (symbols) sprayed in black paint on the main door of the prayer house and on a nearby column bearing a plaque with the name of the prayer house
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified individuals
Police/procedural actions	Case file

5. Addendum

a. Statistical overview



Comparative overview of incidents by site

b. Circular Regarding the Public Holidays of Minority Schools during Muslim Religious Festivals

The Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace issued Circular No. Φ.8.2/23.7/9751/28-9-2023, titled: *“Public Holidays of Minority Schools during Muslim Religious Festivals.”* According to the Circular, for the calendar year 2024, Minority Schools, in addition to other official holidays, will also observe holidays on the following Muslim religious festivals:

1. 11/12 January 2024 – Regaip Kandili (Thursday)
2. 6/7 February 2024 – Miraç Kandili (Wednesday)
3. 24/25 February 2024 – Berat Kandili (Sunday)
4. 9 to 13 April 2024 – Ramazan Şeker Bayramı (Tuesday to Saturday)
5. 15 to 19 June 2024 – Kurban Bayramı (Saturday to Wednesday)
6. 14/15 September 2024 – Mevlid Kandili (Sunday).

According to the circular, for the Kandil nights, the school holiday is observed **on the day following the holy night**, except in the case of **Regaip Kandili**, for which the holiday is observed **on the preceding day**.

c. Announcement by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs regarding the observance of Muslim religious duties during Ramadan and the Feast of Breaking the Fast (Eid al-Fitr) (12-03-24)

“The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs extends its wishes to Muslims for a blessed Ramadan, hoping that it will be a month of love, charity and good deeds.

Organizations or associations in regions of the country where no Muslim prayer facilities operate are invited to contact the respective municipalities so that enclosed spaces may be made available for the performance of prayers during the Feast of Breaking the Fast (Eid al-Fitr) on 10 April 2024.

Given the operation of the Mosque of Athens, there is no need for the Municipality of Athens or the neighboring municipalities to provide spaces for the performance of prayers on that day (10 April).

Specifically, for the regions of Rhodes and Thessaloniki, the “Suleymaniye Mosque” and the “Yeni Mosque” respectively will be made available for use by our Muslim fellow citizens and visitors for the prayers of 10 April.

For the better information of public services, institutions and private individuals who may be involved in facilitating Muslim fellow citizens during Ramadan, it is recalled that during the fast (approximately from sunrise to sunset) the consumption of any food or drink is not permitted (subject to specific exceptions), and that prayer times are not uniform throughout the country but vary by location. Indicative prayer times for six (6) regions of the country are provided, as communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs by the Mosque of Athens, the Muftis of Thrace, and the Imams of Kos and Rhodes.

For any further information or clarification, interested parties are requested to contact the Mosque of Athens (tel. +30 210 3424576) or the Department for Islamic Matters of the Directorate for Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports (tel. +30 210 3442829).

The prayer times for the month of Ramadan are attached:

[Ramadan Prayer Times – Athens](#)

[Ramadan Prayer Times – Didymoteicho](#)

[Ramadan Prayer Times – Komotini](#)

[Ramadan Prayer Times – Xanthi](#)

[Ramadan Prayer Times – Kos](#)

[Ramadan Prayer Times – Rhodes](#)

d. Indicative list of Islamic monuments in Greece³⁷

The Ministry of Culture is implementing a multidimensional project for the restoration and promotion of Islamic monuments with national and community resources. Many of these monuments are now open to the public, hosting remarkable exhibitions. At present, remarkable projects are underway at important Islamic monuments, funded by national

³⁷ Source: Department of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic.

resources or co-funded programs (NSRF, Recovery and Resilience Fund) and in several cases in cooperation with local authorities.

The following updated (until September 2025) list includes the most important Islamic monuments of the Greek territory, which are either currently open to the public or in which work is being carried out or planned in order to make them open to the public as soon as possible and obviously does not constitute an exhaustive list of Islamic monuments in Greece.

Stereia Ellada

Athens, Fethiye Mosque (Mosque of the Wheat Bazar)

Athens, Mosque of the Lower Fountain (Tzisdarakis)

Athens, Medresse (Islamic Religious School, 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

Nafpaktos, Baths at the Vezir Mosque area (18th century)

Peloponnese

Nafplio, Trianon or Old Mosque of the Constitution square

Nafplio, "*Vouleftiko*" Mosque

Nafplio, Medresse (Islamic Religious School), also known as "Leonardo Prison"

Nafplio, Catholic church ("*Fragoklisia*"), Mosque

Argos, Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Mosque

Corinth, Akrokorinthos, Mosque

Corinth, Ancient Corinth, Mausoleum (known as "*Tekke*")

Monemvassia, Castle of Monemvassia, Mosque

Pylos, Niokastro, Mosque (or Church of the Transfiguration of our Savior)

Kyparissia, Mosque

Epirus

Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Mosque

Ioannina, Castle, İç Kale, Fethiye Mosque

Ioannina, Medresse (Islamic Religious School) Aslan Pasha, Castle

Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Kitchens (NE Acropolis)

Ioannina, Castle, Library of the Castle (NE Acropolis)

Ioannina, Castle, Bath (NE Acropolis)

Ioannina, Castle, access to the NE Acropolis - İç Kale, Fethiye Mosque (Master Plan)

Ioannina, Kaloutsiani, Kalou Cesme Mosque

Ioannina, southwest of Litharitsia, Veli Pasha complex: Mosque – Medresse (Islamic Religious School) – Kitchens

Arta, Marati area, Faik Pasha Mosque, also known as the “*Imaret*”

Arta, Marati area, Faik Pasha Türbe

Arta, Feyzullah Mosque

Konitsa, Kato Konitsa, three Türbes

Thesprotia, Doliani, an arched building, probably a mosque, on the southern tower of the ancient fortification

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, Aghios Konstantinos, Osman Shah (Koursoum) Mosque

Trikala, General Sarafis st., Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Macedonia

Thessaloniki, at the intersection of Venizelou and Egnatia streets, Hamza Bey Mosque, also known as “Alkazar”

Thessaloniki, Rotunda monument, Minaret of the Rotunda

Thessaloniki, Yeni Mosque (Old Archaeological museum)

Thessaloniki, above Kassandrou Street, northeast of the Basilica of Saint Demetrios, Alaca Imaret, also known as the “*Ishak Pasha*” Mosque

Thessaloniki, Terpsithea square, Mausoleum Musa Baba

Kavala, Ibrahim Pasha Mosque

Kavala, Halil Bey Mosque and Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Kavala, Imaret

Serres, Mustafa Bey Mosque

Serres, Mehmet Bey Mosque (or Aghia Sophia)

Serres, Zincirli Mosque

Drama, Dikastirion square Mosque (Arap Mosque)

Drama, Mosque Agamemnonos and Armen st. (Santirvan Mosque)

Kato Nevrokopi, Exohi, Mosque

Drama, Mosque of Xiropotamos, Church of Aghia Triada (former Mosque)

Drama, former Mosque, Church of Aghios Nikolaos

Giannitsa, Mausoleum Gazi Evrenos

Giannitsa, “*Mescit*” or Türbe Ahmet Bey

Giannitsa, Ahmet Bey Mosque or Sheikh Ilahi Mosque

Giannitsa, Iskender Bey Mosque

Edessa, at the intersection of Stratou, K. Palaiologou, P. Ferraïou, Ioanninon, and Lykourgou Streets, Yeni Mosque

Edessa, Hünkâr Mosque

Veria, Orta Mosque

Veria, Mahmud Çelebi Mosque (16th-17th c.)

Veria, Musa Çelebi Medresse (Islamic Religious School) Mosque

Veria, Old Metropolis- Eski Metropol, Hünkâr Mosque

Veria, Northwestern addition and Minaret of the Mosque of the Old Metropolis

Kastoria, Medresse (Islamic Religious School) and Library Ahmet Pasha

Kastoria, Kursum Mosque

Katerini, Abdullah Pasha Tekke

Kilkis, Messia, Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni Church (an ottoman mausoleum inside)

Stageira, Archaeological site of the medieval town of Sidirokafsia, Complex of the small bath and Mosque

Thrace

Xanthi, Genisea, Mustafa Pasha Mosque

Xanthi, Genisea, Kasaba Mosque (or Tsarsi)

Xanthi, Mosque in Myki

Xanthi, Selino, Kütüklü Baba Tekke

Komotini, historical center, Yeni Mosque (possibly late 16th c.)

Komotini, Imaret

Komotini, Eski Mosque (possibly 14th or 15th c.)

Komotini, Tekke Pos-Pos (19th c.)

Komotini, Serdarmahale and Tabakhane Mosques (possibly 16th–17th c.)

Komotini, Kayali Mosque and Medresse (Islamic Religious School) (early 18th c., possibly 1730)

Komotini, Selvili Mosque (or “*Broken Mosque*”), west of the Komotini fortress

Didymoteicho, Mehmet Çelebi Mosque (or Great Mosque)

Didymoteicho, Oruç Pasha Mausoleum (1417 or 1426)

Soufli, Roussa, Tekke of Seyyid Ali Sultan or Roussa Tekke

North-East Aegean

Lesvos, Mytilene, Epano Skala, Valide Mosque

Lesvos, Mytilene, Ermou st., Yeni Mosque

Lesvos, Mytilene, Mesaio Kastro, Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Lesvos, Mytilene, Kastro, Tekke

Chios, Metzitie Mosque

Chios, Kara Ali Cemetery

Chios, Osmaniye Mosque, Fragkomahala (1892)

Chios, Castle, Bajrakli Mosque or Hamidiye Mosque (1892)

Dodecanese

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Suleiman Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Platonos st., Ibrahim Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Dorieos Square, Reçep Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Arionos Square, Mustafa Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Alexandridou Square, Hamza Bey Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Socratous st., Mehmet Agha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Sindrivan Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Ali Hilmi Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Imaret (locally known as "*Palio Syssitio*" – charitable institution and poorhouse) and Church of the Holy Apostles

Rhodes, Murat Reis complex, cemetery, Mosque, Tekke

Kos, Loggia Square, Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque

Kos, Eleftherias Square, Defterdar Mosque

Kos, Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque in Platani

Kos, Moruk Mosque

Kos, Attik Mosque

Kastellorizo, Kavos area, Mosque

Crete

Heraklion, Old Town, Vezir Mosque (Aghios Titos)

Heraklion, Kommeno Mpenteni area, Three Men Tekke

Heraklion, Mihrab, Abdurrahman Agha Mosque

Heraklion, Nea Alatsata, Tekke Mosque of Khorasani Zadeh of the Bektashis

Heraklion Prefecture, Settlement of Fortezza (Inadiye or Candia Nova or New Fortress)

Chania, Venetian Castle, Küçük Hasan Mosque (or Yiali Mosque)

Chania, Old Town, Splantzia Square, Minaret of the Ibrahim Sultan Mosque or Hünkar Mosque, adjacent to the Church of Aghios Nikolaos

Chania, Mevlevi Dervishes Tekke

Rethymno, Fortezza Fortress, Ibrahim Sultan Mosque

Rethymno, Old Town, Gazi Deli Hussein Pasha Mosque complex

Rethymno, Old Town, Kara Mousha Pasha Mosque

Rethymno, Old Town, Valide Sultana Mosque

Rethymno, New Town, Veli Pasha Mosque complex

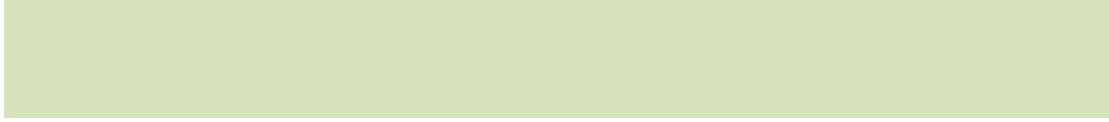
Rethymno, Mikrasiaton Square, Türbe

Ierapetra, Kato Mera, Mosque Square, 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 (5), Hellenic Ethnic Religion (1), Ancient Hellenic Religion (1) and Scientology (1).**

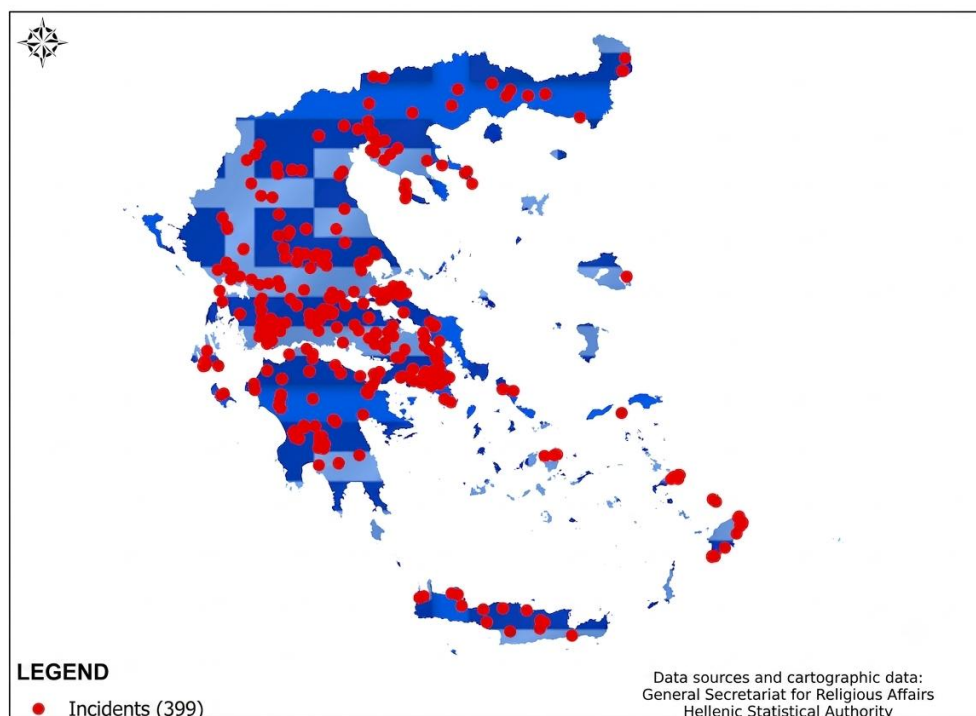
No incidents have been reported against sites of other Religions.



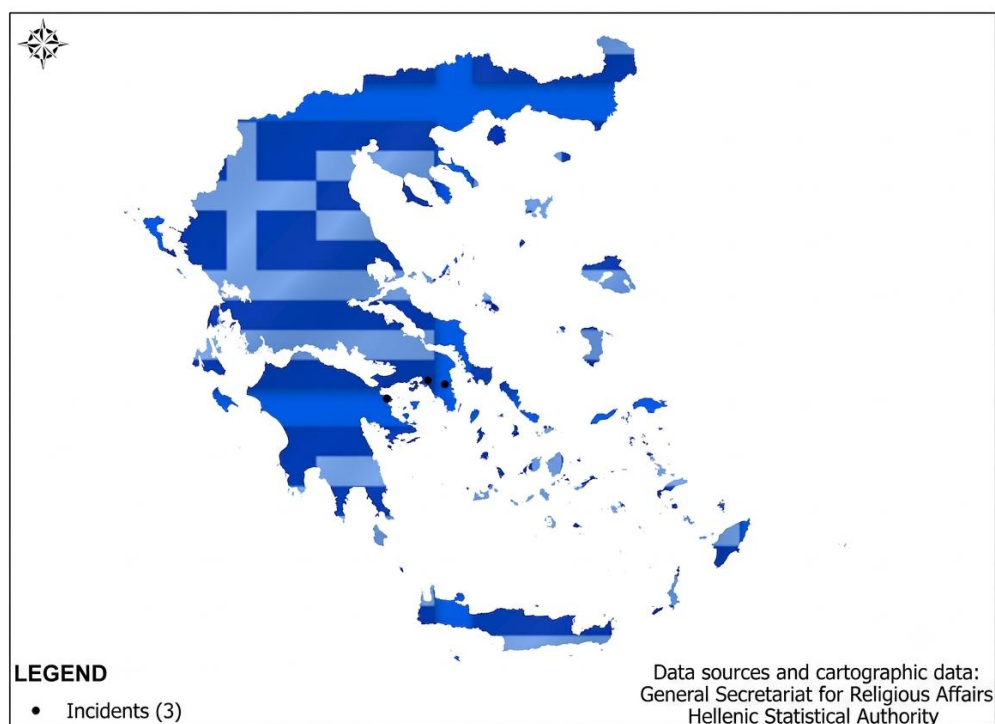
I. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION & STATISTICAL OVERVIEW



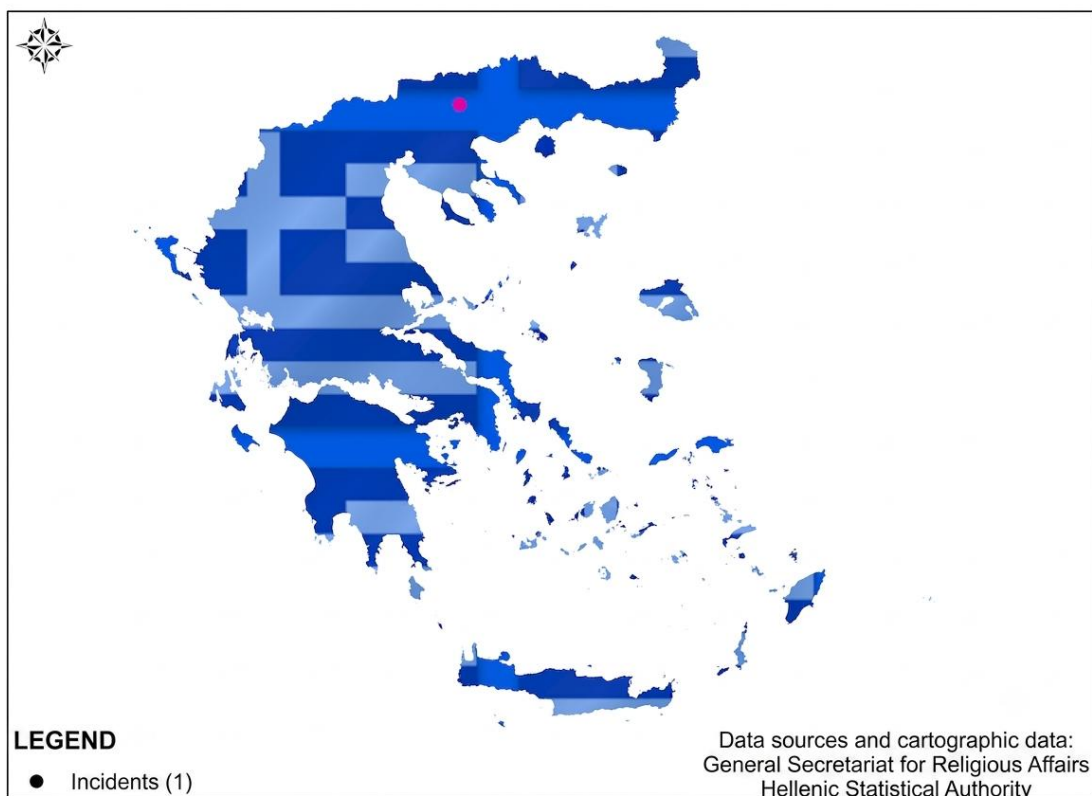
A. Geographical distribution of recorded incidents by Religious Community



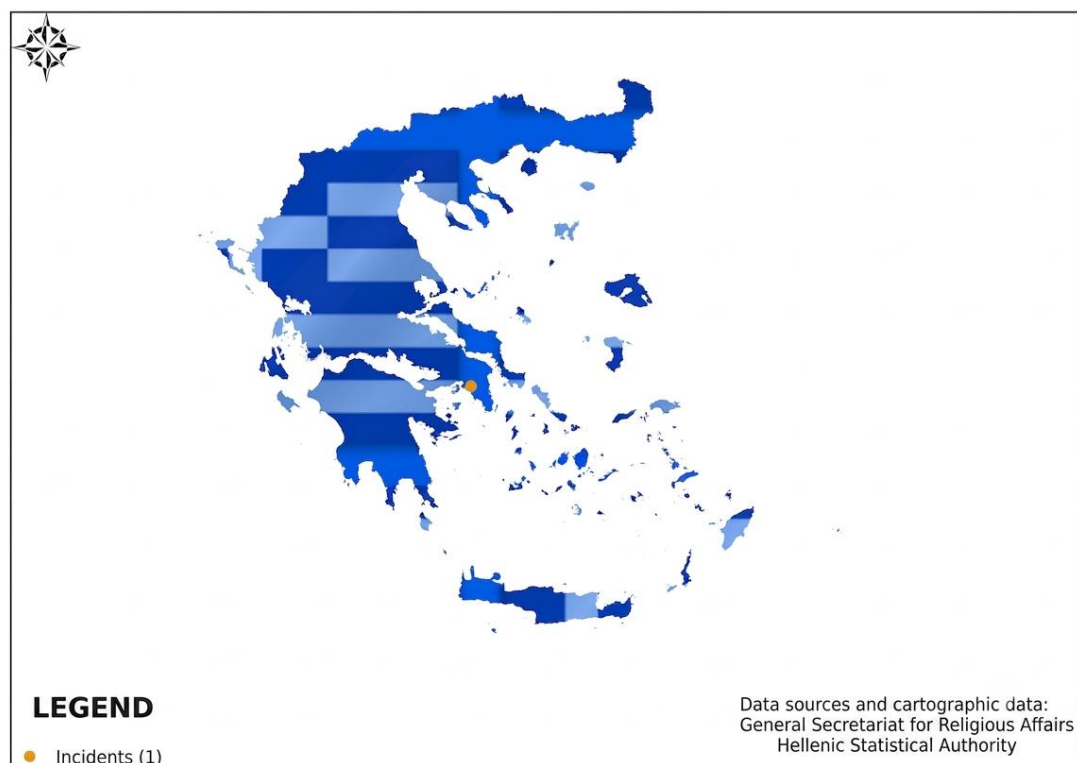
Orthodox Church



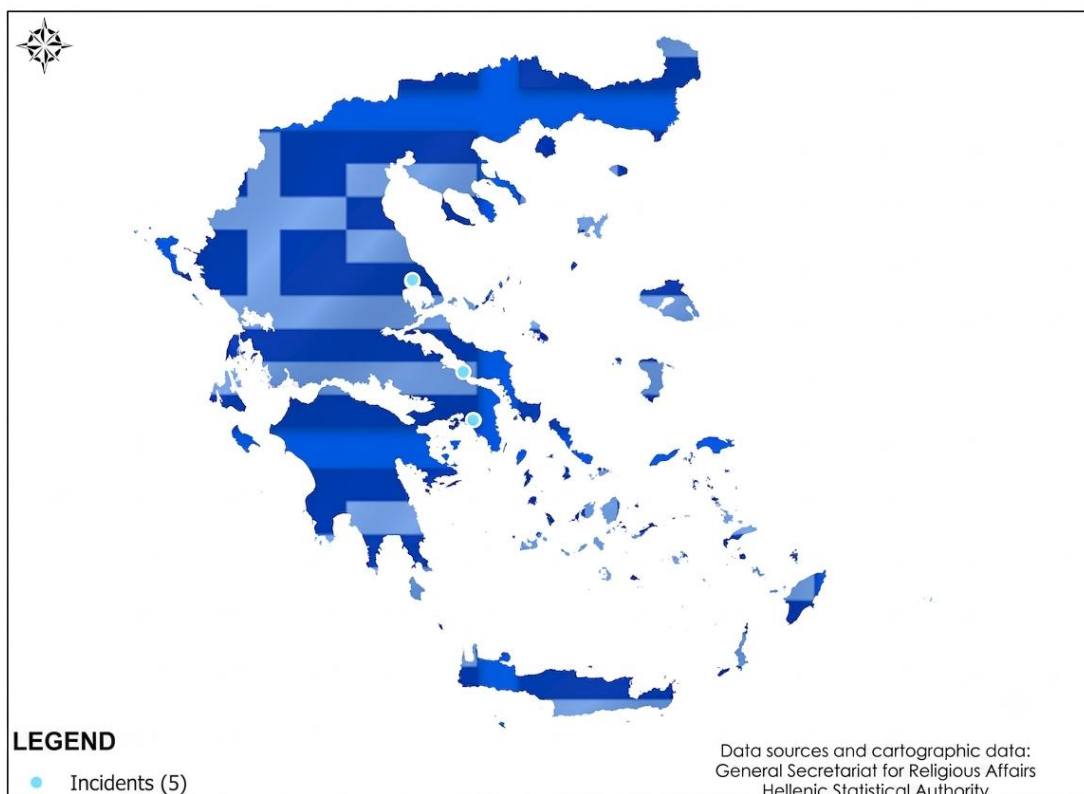
True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)



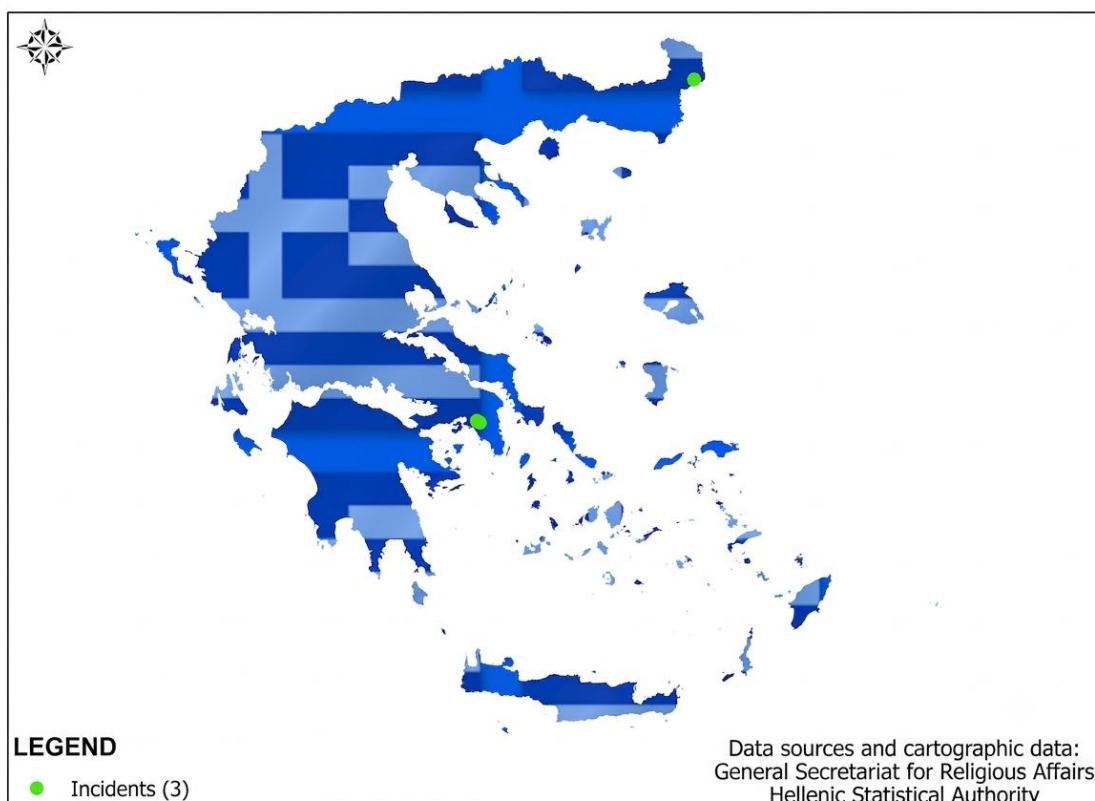
Jehovah's Christian Witnesses



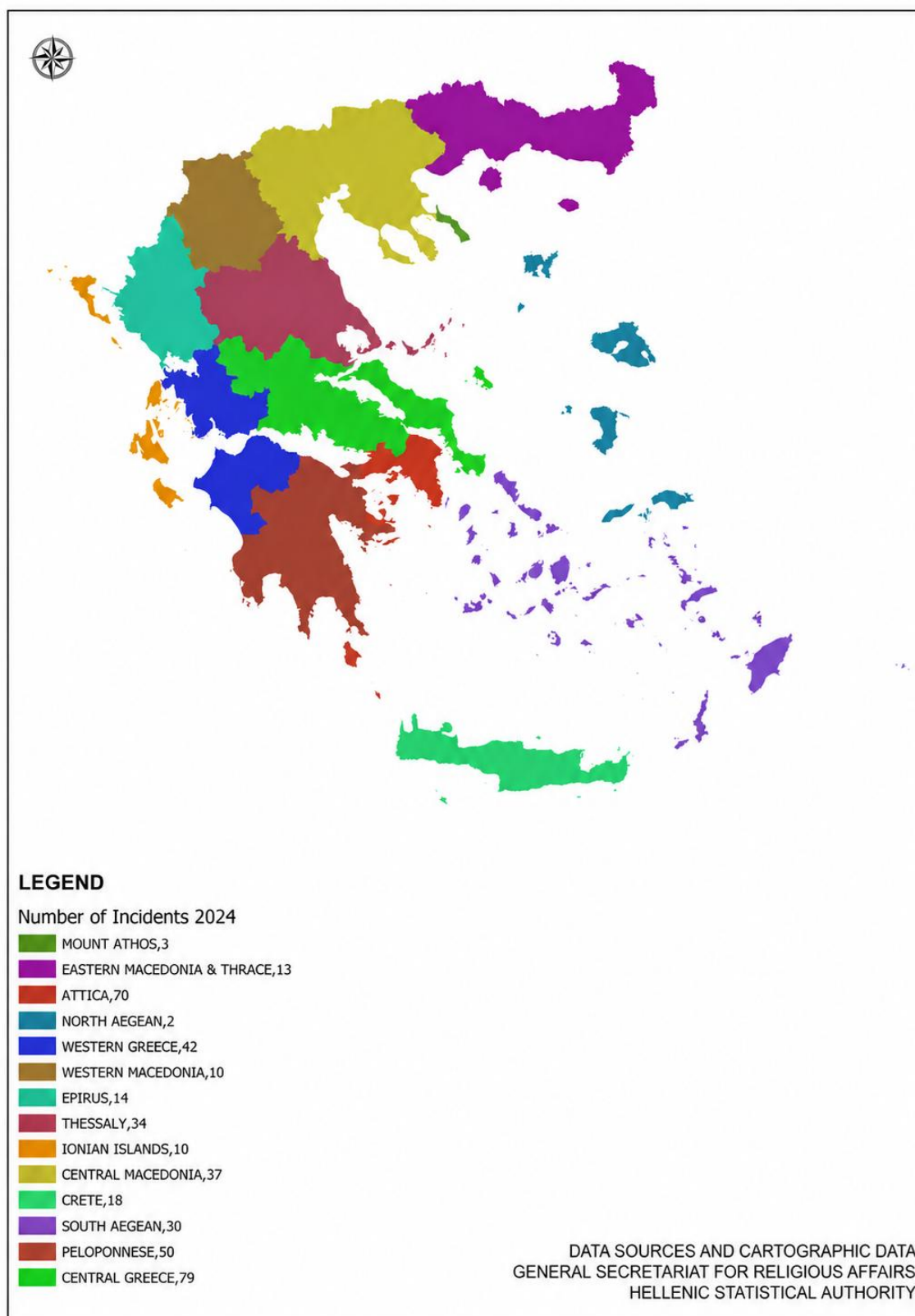
Metropolis of the Orthodox Armenians of Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Entity)



Judaism

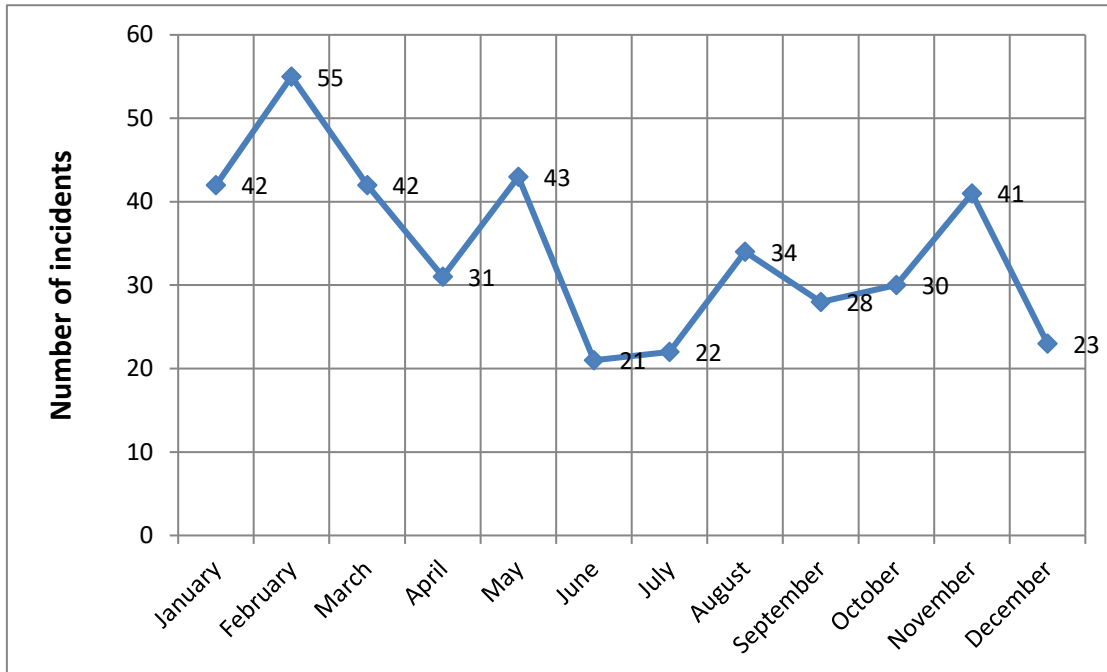


Islam

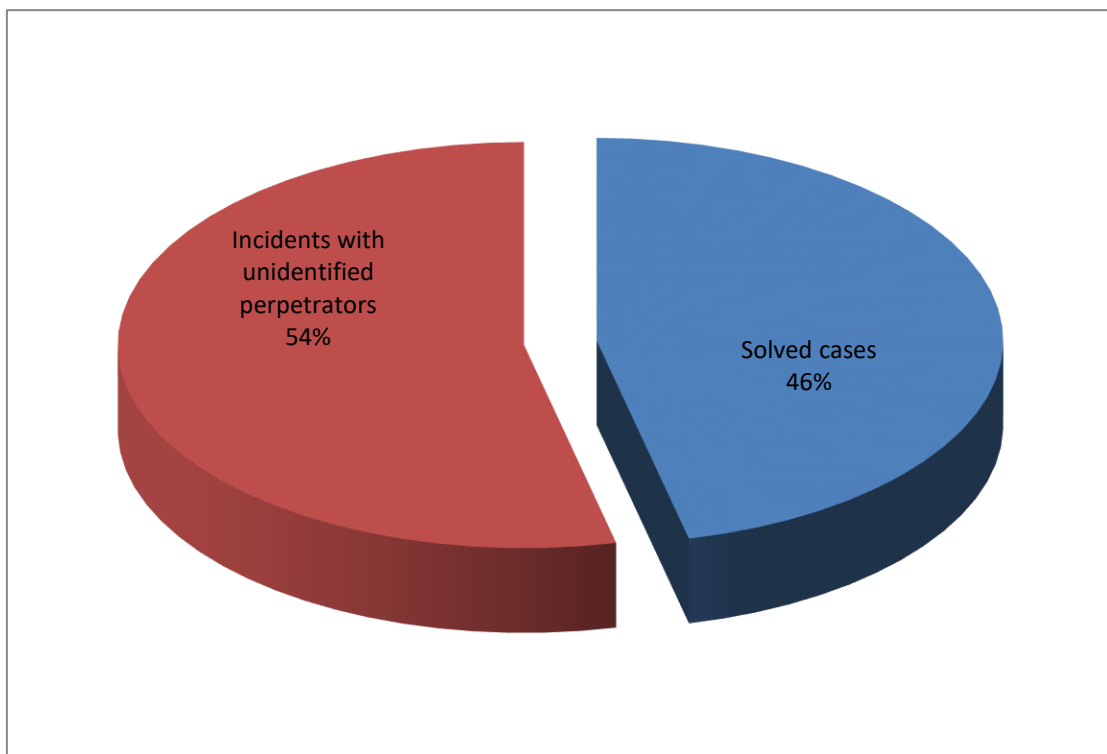


Geographical distribution of recorded incidents affecting all religious communities by administrative Region

B. Statistical overview of the total number of recorded incidents



Monthly distribution of incidents affecting all religious communities



Overview of solved and unsolved incidents affecting all religious communities

II. References:

References

- Chrysogonos, K. Ch. (2006). *Individual and social rights* [Ατομικά and Κοινωνικά Διαισώματα]. Nomiki Vivliothiki.
- Dagtoglou, P. D. (2012). *Constitutional law: Individual rights* [Συνταγματικό Δίαιδο – Ατομικά Διαισώματα]. Sakkoulas Publications.
- Eliezer, V. (2017, May 4). *The Jewish community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe*. European Jewish Press. <https://ejpress.org/the-jewish-community-in-greece-the-oldest-community-in-europe/>
- Konstantinis, M. (n.d.). *The Israelite communities of Greece after the Holocaust* [Οι Ισραηλιτικές Κοιιότητες της Ελλάδος μετά το Ολοκαύτωμα].
- Manitakis, A. (1995). The constitutional protection of cultural goods and freedom of worship: The case of the uses of the Rotunda [Η συνταγματική προστασία των πολιτιστικών αγαθών and η ελευθερία της λατρείας, με αφορμή τις χρήσεις της Ροτόντας]. *Nomos kai Physis*.
- Metallinos, G. (2008). Ioannis Kapodistrias (The politician–martyr of Orthodoxy and Hellenism) [Ιωάννης Καποδίστριας (Ο πολιτικός – μάρτυρας τής Όρθοδοξίας και του Έλληνισμού)]. *Ekklesia*, 85(8), 604–609.
- Troianos, S. (1984). *Lectures on ecclesiastical law* [Παραδόσεις Εκκλησιαστικού Δικαίου] (2nd ed.). Sakkoulas Publications.
- Venizelos, E. (2000). *The relations between state and church as constitutionally regulated relations* [Οι Σχέσεις Κράτους and Εκκλησίας ως σχέσεις συνταγματικά ρυθμισμένες] (3rd ed.). Paratiritis.

