

REPORT 2016

ACTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH
AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS
AFFAIRS

DIRECTORATE FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS
AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

Cover page: Geographical display of all incidents presented in the 2016 Report. Original map-layout source: Hellenic Statistical Authority

The maps on the cover page, in Part III and on Table 1 were prepared, upon request and instructions by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, by V. Rev. Archimandrite Ioannis-Georgios Peristerides, Chemical Engineer MSc, Theologian, PhD candidate, School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, National Technical University of Athens- whom we warmly thank for granting them to us- with the support of the research group "GeoCHOROS" of the National Technical University of Athens.



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COURTESY AND NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

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Contents

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTORY NOTE.....	7
Content Summary.....	8
I. INTRODUCTION	10
A. Regulatory Framework for the protection of religious freedom	10
B. Legal framework on issuing a permit to build and to operate worship places (Houses of Prayer and Churches)	12
1. Building and operating of churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ.....	12
2. 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	15
3. Numerical Data	19
a) Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ	19
b) Worship places (temples and houses of prayer) of other Religious Communities	20
C. Regulatory framework of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs	20
D. The Network for recording incidents against religious sites and the Report drawn up .	21
E. Religious sites	22
II. INCIDENTS DURING 2016	23
A. Christianity	23
1. Orthodox Church	23
2. Catholic Church in Greece	77
3. Other Christian Religious Communities.....	79
B. Judaism.....	81
C. Islam	89
1. Muslim Minority in Thrace	89
2. Muslims outside Thrace.....	91
a. Mosques in Rhodes and Kos	91
b. Other mosques in Greece.....	91
c. Islamic houses of prayer	92
3. Islamic Mosque in Athens.....	92
4. Significant events in 2016.....	93
D. Other Religions.....	95
III. GEOGRAPHICAL DISPLAY & STATISTICAL PRESENTATION	96
A. Geographical display of incidents of 2016	96
B. Statistical presentation by Religion	100

1. Christianity.....	100
2. Judaism	103
3. Islam	104
IV. ANNEX	105
TABLE 1. Map of Holy Metropolitanates of the Orthodox Church of Greece	105
TABLE 2. Numerical Data on the Orthodox Church in Greece	106
TABLE 3. Catholic Dioceses in Greece.....	109
TABLE 4. Number of Parishes and Monasteries of the Catholic Church in Greece.....	110
TABLE 5. Indicative list of Mosques classified as monuments	111
TABLE 6. Participants in the Network for recording incidents against religious sites in Greece	114
TABLE 7. Indicative Photographs	117
CHRISTIANITY.....	117
JUDAISM	123
TABLE 8. Press Releases.....	124
SOURCES:.....	126
References in Greek:	126
References in English.....	126
Webpages:.....	126

FOREWORD

Religious Affairs policy making and implementation is one of the aims served by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, in accordance with Articles 13 and 3 of the Constitution.

Protecting and safeguarding religious freedom for all without exception, within the legal framework, is a cornerstone of this policy.

In that respect, this edition is very useful not least for the following reasons: a) data is recorded and listed in a reliable and valid manner so that the discussion concerning the lack of respect in religious sites can be based on facts, b) public awareness can be achieved through this knowledge and c) a concise but at the same time comprehensive recording of the existing legal framework on religious freedom is offered so that ideas and perceptions no longer valid are not reproduced.

In view of the above, it could be claimed that the most important contribution of this Report is its educational value. Thus, policy on religious affairs meets education policy since, after all, forming awareness of respect for others and for diversity is a matter of education. In order to respect others one needs to have self-respect first and to feel confident about their own identity. In that way, one is able to discuss, understand and accept diversity which forms the wealth of a society.

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs will continue working on improving the legal framework on religious freedom, intensifying the efforts for further improvement and implementation of new activities in schools to consolidate a culture of religious freedom and to ensure that policy on religious affairs successfully implements the requirements of the Constitution.

KONSTANTINOS GAVROGLU

Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The fact that the *Report on Acts against Religious Sites in Greece* is published for the second consecutive year is in itself significant considering the usual problem of lack of continuity in such initiatives which require an investment in financial and human resources over a long period of time.

The cover page of the edition “Report 2016 – Acts against Religious Sites in Greece” depicts the map of Greece with the Greek flag in the background with the red dots marking the spots where these acts took place.

The Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations of the Directorate for Religious Education of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs which has the authority to draw up this Report in accordance with the Presidential Decree 114/2014 (A’ 181), took into account the remarks and comments submitted, as well as the criticism expressed regarding the first attempt to record the acts against religious sites in Greece (Report 2015), in an attempt to improve the process of data collection and classification and provide intelligible and compiled information on the existing legal status of religious freedom in Greece.

In Greece tolerance is safeguarded and so is religious freedom to the fullest extent both as a human right to pray to the God one chooses to worship and as a right to reject religion and its expressions of transcendence.

In any case, whether one believes in God or not, whether one has not decided if they believe or not, respect to what others consider Sacred is a crucial element for maintaining social peace and cohesion. Disrespect to the religious beliefs of others or negative perception of those who practice their religion (either individually or collectively) deprives our society of links among its members, intensifies divisions providing ground for conflicts and, eventually, impeding the nation’s progress both in intellectual and in material terms.

Of course, however well-disposed the Greek State is towards everyone’s religious beliefs and practice, as the [Constitution](#) wisely states “*no person shall be exempt from discharging his obligations to the State or may refuse to comply with the laws by reason of his religious convictions*”. This provision will prove to be exceptionally valuable in the years ahead in order to ensure national unity and social peace.

George Kalantzis

Secretary General for Religious Affairs

Content Summary

In the **Introductory part (I)** the general regulatory framework governing the protection of religious freedom in Greece is presented followed by the particular regulatory framework on building and operating worship places. Figures on the Orthodox Church and the Religious Communities in Greece come next and there is a brief reference on the regulatory framework of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, since matters on permit issuing and operating worship places in Greece fall within the remit of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. In addition, information is provided on setting up the Network for recording incidents against religious sites and on the overall aim of the Report. Lastly, this Report sets out the types of religious sites which are of interest to this recording.

In **Part II** all incidents against religious sites are listed by religion, with brief additional information, as they have come to the knowledge of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs during 2016, after cooperation with the members of the aforementioned Network.

During 2016 a total of two hundred fifteen (215) incidents against religious sites were recorded which are broken down by religion as follows:

Christianity: two hundred and nine (209) incidents of all kind (grave-robberies, vandalism, burglaries, thefts, sacrilege, acts of arson and other desecration), in some cases demonstrating extreme fanaticism; two hundred and eight (208) incidents concern the Greek Orthodox Church and one (1) concerns the Catholic Church.

Judaism: five (5) incidents, mainly acts of racism/anti-Semitism.

Islam: one (1) incident of religious fanaticism and hate speech.

No incidents against other religions have been reported.

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

- a) Geographical breakdown of the incidents in Greece by Religion
- b) Geographical breakdown of the total of incidents reported (215) by Administrative Region, most incidents (36) taking place in Epirus
- c) Chronological order of the incidents by month, most incidents (27) taking place in November
- d) Cases that have been solved (73 incidents, 34% of the total) and cases remaining unsolved (142 incidents, 66%)

Additionally, graphs are included regarding:

- a) The Orthodox Church, in relation to the type of sites attacked (the vast majority of cases are Churches: 94.7%), in relation to the chronological order of the incidents per month, in relation to the type of sites compared to the incidents reported in 2015, as well as mapping the number of incidents by Holy Metropolitanate.
- b) Judaism, in relation to the type of sites compared to the incidents of the year 2015
- c) Islam, in relation to type of sites compared to the incidents of the year 2015.

Lastly in the **Annex (IV)** the following are presented:

- Map of the Holy Metropolitanates of the Orthodox Church (Table 1) and updated data on the number of parish churches and monastery churches located in all Holy Metropolitanates of the Orthodox Church in Greece (Table 2),

- Map and data on the Ecclesiastical Provinces and the number of parishes of the Holy Monasteries of the Catholic Church in Greece (Table 3 and 4),
- Indicative list of the Mosques in Greece which have been classified as monuments (Table 5),
- Updated list of the religious communities and the public bodies that cooperate with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs within the Network of cooperation for recording incidents against religious sites (Table 6),
- Photographs depicting various incidents by religious community are presented for purposes of illustration (Table 7) and
- Press releases and Communiqués issued in response to certain incidents recorded (Table 8).

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Regulatory Framework for the protection of religious freedom

Since 1821 all Greek constitutional texts in addition to recognizing the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the prevailing religion in Greece¹, ensured the freedom of religious observance of all other known religions. However, 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 right². According to the commonly held view, the individual right of religious freedom includes the concept of religious conscience and the freedom of observance³.

Article 13 (paragraphs 2 and 4) of the Constitution of Greece establishes that: “2. All known religions shall be free and their rites of worship shall be performed unhindered and under the protection of the law. The practice of rites of worship is not allowed to offend public order or the good usages. Proselytism is prohibited. [...] 4. No person shall be exempt from discharging his obligations to the State or may refuse to comply with the laws by reason of his religious convictions”.

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

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

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

Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Law 2462/1997 (Official Government Gazette A’ 25) provides that: “1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. 2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom

¹ See II.A.1 for the meaning of the term “prevailing religion”

² S. Troiannos, Course in Canon Law, Sakkoulas Publishing House 1984, 2nd edition, par. 2.1.4 and 2.2.2.

³ P.D. Dagoglou, Constitutional Law- Civil Rights, Sakkoulas 1991, par. 554.

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”.

In addition to the aforementioned constitutional and international provisions, national legislation provides for more concrete measures⁴ for protecting religious freedom for each and every known religion⁵, such as the penal provisions on proselytism⁶ which is prohibited by the Constitution, the penal provisions on jeopardizing religious peace⁷ and on usurpation of a religious minister's office⁸, stronger criminal proceedings against theft when religious worship items are being stolen and when it takes place in an area intended for religious worship (sacrilege⁹), while damage committed in worship places is subject to criminal prosecution in the strictest version of the Penal Code on property damage (Penal Code article 381¹⁰) as aggravated cases.

⁴ S. Troiannos, op.cit., par. 2.2.7 and An. Christofilopoulos, Hellenic Ecclesiastical Law, Athens 1965, p.76

⁵ P.D. Dagtoglou, op.cit., par. 572 : *“Known religion is the religion that has no hidden beliefs but clear dogma, worship, organization and aims”.*

⁶ Article 4 Emergency Law 1363/1938 as amended by article 2 of Emergency Law 1672/1939: *“1. Anyone engaging in proselytism shall be liable to imprisonment and a fine [...] 2. By ‘proselytism’ is meant, in particular, any direct or indirect attempt to intrude on the religious beliefs of a person of a different religious persuasion (eterodoxos), 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 institution is considered a particularly aggravated case”.*

⁷ Articles 198-201 Penal Code

⁸ Articles 175 par.2 Penal Code

⁹ An. Christofilopoulos, op.cit., p.78

¹⁰ Article 382 Penal Code: *Aggravated cases of damage: 1. Criminal mischief of property mentioned in article 381(1) is punishable by a minimum of three months of imprisonment if it was committed without provocation. 2. The offender is punished with the punishment mentioned in paragraph 1 if the object damaged provided for in article 381(1) is: a) an object used for the common benefit, b) of especial high value c) the damage is caused through fire or through one of the means provided for in article 270. 3. If two or more people participated in the offence of paragraph 1 or if one of the conditions of paragraph 2 applies, it is punishable by a minimum of six months. 4. Damage or defacing committed as per the conditions of the previous article, on an archaeological or artistic or historical monument or on an item in a public place is punishable by imprisonment of a minimum of one year if the offence is not punished more severely by another provision.*

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

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

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

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

1. Building and operating of churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ

In order to build and operate churches of the Church of Greece the provisions of article 2 of **Law 4030/2011** apply "New procedure of issuing building permits, building control and other provisions" (Official Government Gazette A' 249), as it was supplemented by article 53 of **Law 4178/2013** (Official Government Gazette A' 174) "Building permits of ecclesiastical property".

With the aforementioned provisions the old status of "Church Building" was abolished and in its place a Building Service was established in the Church of Greece under the supervision and control of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The Church of Greece hires the staff of this Service and pays their salaries. The Building Service is integrated in the information system in which all Building Services are connected. The building permit is issued by the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The building permit and the permit for the building to be used as a church are issued, according to the general provisions, by the Building Service operating in the Church of Greece. Additionally, it is established that "regarding private churches and chapels, the authorization to build and the issuing of a permit to build shall be issued by the competent Building Services of the respective Municipalities".

According to the circular issued by the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece (Ref: 2842/13-6-2014) regarding the lawful beginning of constructions or change of use of ecclesiastical property¹¹ governed by the competent Building Service of the Church of Greece, the following conditions apply:

- "1) submission of an application addressed to the local Metropolitan for issuing a document with his consent to the ecclesiastical construction or use and submission of the architectural design to the competent Holy Metropolitanate to be forwarded to the*

¹¹ a) Bishporic buildings (one per Metropolitanate) b) churches (non-private) belonging to Metropolitanates, parishes, monasteries, pilgrimage foundations, Church foundations and annexes c) Monasteries (irrespective of their legal status). See article 4 of the Regulation of the Holy Synod 247/2013 "On organization, powers, constituent sitting, operation of the Building Service and the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture of the Church of Greece" (Official Government Gazette 258 A').

Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture in order to issue a favorable opinion on the architectural design;

2) written agreement – permission of the local Metropolitan for the ecclesiastical construction or use, otherwise the application shall not be forwarded to the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture to give an opinion for the building permit to be issued by the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations of the Ministry of Environment and, in this case, the application with the supporting documents shall be returned to the person concerned and the procedure shall be interrupted;

2.b) the positive opinion by the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture on the architectural design. In order for the Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture to issue an opinion, the person concerned shall pay the fee provided for in the Regulation 247/2013 [...] to the Church of Greece (National Bank of Greece account number 040/558100-160). The name of the entity requesting the permit shall be indicated on the note of the wire transfer as well as the reason of the wire transfer: “Fee Building Service - Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture” [...];

3) The Central Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture shall return to the Holy Archdiocese the architectural design with its favorable opinion which shall be forwarded with all the necessary supporting documentation to the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change;

4) in the case of construction work or use for which the approval of the architectural design is not required, the competent Metropolitan shall forward the application with the necessary supporting documents and his favorable opinion to the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change for issuing the building permit;

5) Following the building permit by the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations, the application and supporting documents of the person concerned accompanied by the favorable opinion of the Metropolitan and the approval for the building permit by the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations are submitted to the Building Service of the Church of Greece to issue the building permit;

6) the building permit issued by the Building Service of the Church of Greece after the study of the designs and the necessary documentation;

7) the permit for the building to be used as a church or the permit for its use as a place of worship or generally for religious use which is attached on the building permit, shall be stamped and signed “by order of the Holy Synod” by the Chief Secretary provided that the Building Service of the Church of Greece issues the building permit and this is an additional legal condition for the works to start (article 2(2)(Z) of Law 4030/2011);

8) the building permit issued by the Building Service shall be sent on the same day to the Directorate for Construction and Building Regulations and it shall be registered for the beginning of the control procedure for the constructions in accordance with the provisions”.

Similar procedures are provided for by the Church of Crete and the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese in accordance to the article 12 “Building permits of ecclesiastical property of the Church of Crete” of **Law 4258/2014** “Process for delimiting and arrangements on

watercourses matters – arrangements of urban planning legislation and other provisions” (Official Government Gazette A’ 94)¹².

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

A significant number of these churches was registered by the competent Ministry of Culture and Sports and is presented on the website “Odysseus”¹³ where information on 350 Christian places of worship which are cultural monuments is available¹⁴. Additionally, Mount Athos, Meteora, early Byzantine and Byzantine monuments of Thessaloniki, Monastery of Daphni, Monastery of Osios Loukas, Nea Moni at Chios, Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Patmos have been listed on UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites, and are protected, in accordance with the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage ratified by Greece in 1981.

Unfortunately, a large number of Byzantine Christian churches and monasteries in Athens were destroyed and looted especially during the period of the Regency (1833-1835) and subsequently during the reign of Otto. Thus, after the publication of the “Declaration on the Independence of the Greek Church” (Royal Decree 23-7/1-8-1833), monasteries (approximately 400) with fewer than six monks¹⁵ were dissolved by a series of decrees and their property was confiscated. Royal Decree 27-5/9-6-1836 (Official Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic A’ 22) stipulates that the property (real estate and movable assets) of the dissolved monasteries shall be divested in order to construct a University; additionally, the ruined churches, even the private ones, including the land, are granted to the municipalities in order to be auctioned and the money raised shall be used for charitable works. This policy which was connected, to a certain extent, with the moving of the State’s capital from Nafplio to Athens (Royal Decree 18-30.9.1834, Official Government Gazette A’ 36) and the effort to reconstruct it, had devastating consequences on the maintenance of byzantine churches in Athens; most of them were demolished in order for the land to be divested and to the benefit of the urban planning.

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

¹² Regulation of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Orthodox Church in Crete 3/2015 “On organization, powers, constituent sitting, operation etc. of the Council of Ecclesiastical Architecture in Crete and the Dodecanese and the Building Service of Crete and the Dodecanese” (Official Government Gazette 23 A’).

¹³ http://odysseus.culture.gr/index_en.html

¹⁴ <http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/2/eh220.jsp?era=3&group=7>

¹⁵ S. Troiannos, op.cit., par. 2.1.4

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

In accordance to the regulations of the first chapter of Law 4301/2014 (Official Government Gazette A' 223) and the establishment of a new form of collective religious organization, namely the ecclesiastical and religious legal persons, all religious communities, except for those expressly excluded according to Article 16 of Law 4301/2014, that is the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete, the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos - and in general every Orthodox ecclesiastical jurisdiction (klima)¹⁶ -the Jewish Communities and the religious Muslim communities in the regions under the jurisdiction of the Muftiates in Thrace, may be organized as legal persons of this form governed by private law in accordance with the provisions of this law. In the provisions of the aforementioned law it is provided for that the religious and ecclesiastical legal persons may establish and operate worship places in their own name (article 9).

In Greece, the regulations of **Emergency Law 1363/1938** (Official Government Gazette A' 305) as amended by the regulations of **Emergency Law 1672/1939** (Official Government Gazette A' 123), of the **Royal Decree of 20-5/2-6-1939** implementing it (Official Government Gazette A' 220) and article 27 of **Law 3467/2006** (Official Government Gazette A' 128) and the **joint circular 69230/A3/6-5-2014** (Online Publication Number ΒΙΦΘ9-ΤΟΤ), as updated by the **joint circular 118939/ 01/ 19-7-2016** (Online Publication Number 76774653ΠΣ-5Ω9)¹⁷, apply for granting a permit for worship places (temples and houses of prayer). These regulations do not apply to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ (Church of Greece, Church of Crete, Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos), as foreseen in article 3 of the Constitution, for which specific provisions apply. In particular as concerns building permits for Islamic places of worship and/ or prayer in Thrace (mosques, tekke, masjid, cem, cemevi) the **joint circular 57071/01/3-4-2017** (Online Publication Number: 78ΘΓ4653ΠΣ-Ζ3Χ) applies.

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

The official authorization for a church or house of prayer (with the exception of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ) is issued by non discretionary - according to case-law - decision of the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. The authorization may be issued after verification that the three conditions provided for by article 13 paragraph 2 of the Constitution are satisfied (Council of State Plenary Session decision 4202/2012, Council of State Plenary Session decision 1444/1991, Council of State 5572/1996, Supreme Court of Cassation 20/2001) i.e. that this concerns a known religion with no hidden belief but clear doctrines, no proselytizing is practiced and its worship is free to everyone and does not

¹⁶ It needs to be clarified that the Orthodox Churches spiritually connected with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople which are under a different ecclesiastical jurisdiction, "klima", (other than the Church of Greece), i.e. other Orthodox Patriarchates or Autocephalous Churches, may establish glebes within the territory of the Church of Greece only under the specific provisions of article 39 of **Law 590/1977** (Official Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic A' 146) "on the Charter of the Church of Greece".

¹⁷ This circular as well as a summary list of the necessary documents are available in English on the webpage of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs at the following links:
http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2016/270716_Circular_Update.pdf
<http://www.minedu.gov.gr/religious-afairs/regulatory-framework/27035-2017-02-21-necessary-documents-for-issuing-a-permit-to-establish-and-operate-a-temple-or-place-of-worship>

offend public order or the good usages; moreover the other provisions laid down by legislation apply. “Non-compliance with the condition laid down by article 13, paragraph 2 of the Constitution on practicing religious worship, i.e. the condition of not offending public order or the good usages through religious worship is normally established by state repressive action” (Council of State Plenary Session 4202/2012 argument 8); however the prior – precautionary administrative investigation to verify formal and easily verifiable requirements and regulations as those are set by the public order rules, may not be excluded or considered incompatible with the Constitution.

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

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

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

As it is accepted by all legal theory and case-law: “Freedom of worship does not enshrine the absolute right for believers to worship God where they want and when they want, without complying with the law nor does it enshrine a particular right to practice rites of worship in a designated area. It merely guarantees the right for believers of all religions and denominations to worship God in their own way and with the means chosen by themselves and imposed by the rules of their religion without unjustified obstacles and arbitrary interference by the State.” (opinion by Antonis Manitakis entitled: “Constitutional protection of cultural property and freedom of worship in response to the use of the Rotonda” Thessaloniki 05-03-1995¹⁸).

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.

¹⁸ Published in Journal “Law and Nature” (Νόμος και Φύση), 1995 and can also be found at: <http://www.constitutionalism.gr/manitakis-rotonda/>

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 par. 2 of the Law of Administrative Procedure (see Greek Ombudsman document Ref. number 18893.06.2.6./09/09/2008 and Mediation Summary of September 2009).

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

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

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

C) Rules on general conditions of hygiene of the building and on public health protection (e.g. water, sewerage, lighting, ventilation etc.) such as: a) **article 11 of the Building Code** (see article 354 Code of Planning Legislation 14-07-1999, Official Government Gazette D' 580/27-07-1999) on the obligation for all areas of principal use in buildings to have natural lighting and ventilation (direct and indirect) and b) **the Ministerial Decree Γ1/9900/27-11/03-12-1974 of the Minister of Social Services**

(Official Government Gazette B' 1266/1974) in so far as it is in force, laying down the obligation of constructing and providing toilet facilities in all areas of public assembly and living areas (article 1, indent 9), as well as the other provisions within the existing legislation on Public Health protection.

D) Rules on fire safety, i.e. the provisions of **Fire Fighting Regulation 3/2015** (Official Government Gazette B' 529/2015), **Fire Protection Regulation for buildings, Presidential Decree 71/1988** (Official Government Gazette A' 32/17-02-1988) as well as the **Fire Fighting Regulation 13/2013** (Official Government Gazette B' 1586/2013) in force. In accordance with the aforementioned legal provisions, designated requirements on fire safety measures must be followed– depending on the date of the application of the building permit and on the number of people gathered- both for the assembly areas for fewer than fifty persons and those for over fifty persons. It is explicitly mentioned that buildings or parts of buildings where people gather for religious events and activities (in accordance with the relevant regulation of the Building Code) explicitly referring to churches and places of worship (article 1, Fire Fighting Regulation 3/2015, Official Government Gazette B'529/2015) are included in the abovementioned places. Compliance with the relevant regulations is evidenced by the fire safety certificate issued by the competent firefighting authority.

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

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

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

It is noted that according to circular 128231/Θ1/ 2-8-2016 on “*Process for construction of a worship place (temple or house of prayer) of a formal or informal type of organization of a religion or a denomination of a religious community (other than the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ)*” (Online Publication Number: ΨΔ014653ΠΣ-ΓΕΙ) the provision for the administrative authorization is applied in all cases of operating churches or houses of prayer

and in general all buildings used for practicing religious beliefs of all religious communities (except for those within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ in Greece as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution). This applies both for **constructing** a new building, which will house a worship place and for **using an existing one** in order to establish and operate a place of worship. The above concern religious communities organized as legal persons of any formal type (such as association, civil law non-profit partnership, religious legal person) as well as communities remaining informal, with no special legal personality (on the same legal grounds and given the equal enjoyment, by all religious people, of their constitutional rights, as explicitly stipulated by the Constitution and implemented for decades in the Greek national law).

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

It is clarified that the building permit issued in the stage prior to building, shall not be under any circumstances permit to establish and operate nor does it authorize the operation of the worship place and it is limited only to authorize on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs the reconstruction work since this permit issued by the Directorate of Religious Administration before the beginning of the building works and only following an examination of the conditions defined by Article 13, paragraph 2 of the Constitution on free practice of worship (*"All known religions shall be free and their rites of worship shall be performed unhindered and under the protection of the law. The practice of rites of worship is not allowed to offend public order or the good usages. Proselytism is prohibited"*) and the provisions in force of Law 1363/38 and Law 1672/39, does not replace the permit to establish and operate (separate and distinct from the one cited above) which is issued in a second stage and concerns the operating possibility of an existing building to serve the aim for which it was built. Therefore, following the issuing of a building permit and the completion of the necessary building works, all interested parties should be addressed again to the Directorate of Religious Administration to submit the file with the necessary supporting documents in order to receive then the necessary permit to establish and operate a temple.

3. Numerical Data

a) Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ

According to the data in the possession of the Directorate of Religious Administration, **the existing parish churches and monastery churches for the total of the Holy Metropolitanates of the Orthodox Church in Greece, amount to 9.799**, Chapels, pilgrimage churches, private churches, cemetery chapels and other religious sites do not factor in this figure.

The number of parishes and monasteries on the basis of which is calculated the total number of churches per Metropolitanate in Greece, is listed in Table 2 of the Annex.

In 2016 five (5) **Presidential Decrees** were adopted for establishing parishes, one (1) for renaming a Monastery and two (2) for re-establishing Monasteries in Metropolitanates of

the Church of Greece. Additionally, in 2016 one (1) application was filed requesting to establish a parish and three (3) to establish Monasteries.

b) Worship places (temples and houses of prayer) of other Religious Communities

According to the data in the possession of the Directorate of Religious Administration, the existing legally authorized worship places of non-Christian religious communities, amount to **twenty (20)** and belong to the following religious communities: **Buddhists** (7 worship places), **Hindus** (3 worship places), **Islam** (4 worship places - the ones operating in Thrace, in Rhodes and in Kos are not included in this number) and **Baha'i** (6 worship places).

The existing legally authorized worship places of Christian communities- confessions exceed **500** and include **the Anglican Church (5), the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (1), the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt (5), the Armenian Orthodox Church (10), the German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece (3), the Greek Evangelical Church (37), Fellowship of Greek Free Evangelical Churches (60), the Assyrian Church (1), the Armenian Evangelical Church (3), the Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost (89), the Apostolic Church of Pentecost (18), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) (3), the Adventist Church (10), the Jehovah's Witnesses (75)** and other religious groups with a small number of adherents.

The **Catholic Church in Greece**¹⁹ has approximately **241 places of worship** (including monasteries) according to current data.

In **2016** twelve (12) applications requesting authorization to establish and operate a worship place or a temple were submitted. Eleven (11) out of them were accepted and one (1) was pending due to incomplete supporting documents. Five (5) applications were submitted requesting construction of a worship place or temple and they all were accepted. Additionally, in 2016 two (2) permits to establish and operate worship places were revoked.

Finally, in 2016, one (1) court ruling was adopted (1279/2016 Court of First Instance of Athens) on recognition of the "Metropolitanate of the Armenian Orthodox Apostolic Church in Greece" as a religious legal person in non-contentious proceedings under article 3 of Law 4301/2014.

C. Regulatory framework of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

Article 1 of the Presidential Decree 114/2014 (Official Government Gazette A' 181) on the new **Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs** expressly and for the first time establishes the protection of religious conscience and religious observance and practice as one of the main missions of the Ministry: *"The mission of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is a) to promote education with a view to educate Greeks morally, intellectually, professionally and physically, to develop their national and religious conscience and to shape them in being free and responsible citizens; b) to develop and promote science, research, technology and lifelong learning, c) to protect the freedom of religious conscience and of religious observance and practice and to supervise ministers of all known religions"*.

Article 41 of the Presidential Decree 114/2014 establishes the aim of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs: The aim of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs is to supervise the religious education system and to connect religion and culture while at the same time promoting actions against intolerance and for interfaith relations.

¹⁹ Detailed figures are listed in II.A.2. in Tables 3 and 4 of the Annex

Article 1 paragraph 6 and 7 of Ministerial Decree 62309/A1/ 21-4-2015 (Official Government Gazette B' 776) establishes that the competence to sign for a permit to establish and operate temples, houses of prayer or religious meeting-houses has come under the remit of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs and is exercised through the Department for other Religions and Denominations of the Directorate for Religious Administration under the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

The new organization structure of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs includes a significant innovation which underlines a new political priority. Article 43 of Presidential Decree 114/2014 established the Department for Religious Freedoms and Interfaith Relations within the Directorate for Religious Education with the following competences: "...a) matters relating to religious freedom, irrespective of religion and denomination, supervision and control of lawful practice of religious freedom and protection from insults, development of dialogue between the state and religious communities or the interfaith dialogue, support of international religious relations as well as addressing all relevant matters".

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

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

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

It is noteworthy that the publication of the previous Report²⁰ was broadly welcomed²¹ by religious communities and led to a constructive approach.²² Following this, the Network of cooperation for recording incidents continued to further expand with the participation of

²⁰ http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/ACTS_AGAINST_RELIGIOUS_SITES_IN_GREECE_-_REPORT_2015.pdf

²¹ By way of illustration:

-as stated in the letter (Ref. 16/20-2-2017) of the Jewish Community of Volos: "Allow us to congratulate you on your laudable initiative and on the strenuous efforts you have made in order to carry out and publish the report on acts of violence against religious sites"

-as stated in the letter (13-3-2017) of the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly of Greece: "This initiative which is constructive for Greece gives us a sense of security and satisfaction".

²² For instance, as stated in the letter (Ref. 313/20-12-2016) of the Most Rev. Metropolitan of Kos and Nisyros Nathanael [underlining added]: "In this Report which is the result of a noble initiative of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, part of the reflection of the current situation is included regarding incidents of desecration of sacred sites in our country; a part which is sufficient to demonstrate the need for appropriate measures that should be taken by those responsible for the various religious sites (those of Holy Metropolitanates, Hegumens of Monasteries, Heads of Parishes, and those of other denominations and religions, respectively) as well as by the State through more effective policing of these sites, the desecration of which causes painful feelings to all those who respect not only their own religious sites but also those of their fellow men regardless of their faith".

more religious communities which is particularly significant for extracting primary data, regarding offences against sites of specific religious communities as well as lack of such acts within the reference year.

Therefore, by this second Report an attempt is made to collect offensive acts against religious sites reflecting the overall situation at national level so that this can be used as a reliable tool to draw conclusions on the real scale of these phenomena. Although analyzing the causes is not the subject of this Report, the reliable and systematic recording of the problem is undoubtedly an essential and necessary condition for seeking those causes.

The Religious Communities and the State bodies with which the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs cooperates within the Network of cooperation for recording incidents and which have contributed the most in gathering the data of this Report are listed in Table 6 of the Annex.

More specifically, for the year 2016 the data was provided by: a) official correspondence with the Network participants, b) Press Releases and Communiqués by the Hellenic Police and c) news and articles published in daily press as indexed by the Press Office of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and, additionally, news published in electronic media.

E. Religious sites

Primarily, all places of worship (Churches, Synagogues, Temples, Houses of Prayer etc.), both the lawfully existing ones as well as the unofficial ones (i.e. operating without the relevant permit by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs) have been considered as religious sites. Schools of religious nature (Ecclesiastical Schools, Jewish Schools and Islamic Medresses in Thrace), cemeteries of religious nature (Parish cemeteries, Muslim cemeteries, Jewish cemeteries) and, in some cases, monuments of religious nature or monuments connected to religious minorities (i.e. Holocaust Memorials for Greek Jews etc), have also been considered as religious sites. The incidents collected and reported are all types of offences against such religious sites during 2016.

II. INCIDENTS DURING 2016

All incidents recorded by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, within the framework of the Network of cooperation are set out below. Acts against various religious sites are broken down by religion, in chronological order and with a brief description of the details (place, date, description of the incident, perpetrators, police and procedural action and other remarks):

A. Christianity

1. Orthodox Church

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 Orthodox Church of Greece which consists of the Archdiocese of Athens and eighty one (81) Metropolitanates, b) the semi-autonomous Church of Crete, under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which consists of the Archdiocese of Crete and eight (8) Metropolitanates, c) the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese (5 Metropolitanates²³ and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos²⁴) which, spiritually, administratively, and according to the canon law come directly under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and d) the Aghion Oros (Mount Athos) which is a self-governed part of the Greek State as established by the Hellenic Constitution, spiritually under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Both the Metropolitanates and the Parishes (which are the basic subdivisions of the ecclesiastical organizational structure) are legal persons governed by public law²⁵.

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.”*

Although it has been often clarified in public rhetoric and in constitutional law literature, it is worthwhile to note that recognizing the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the

²³ a) Holy Metropolitanate of Rhodes, b) Holy Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros, c) Holy Metropolitanate of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia, d) Holy Metropolitanate of Karpathos and Kassos, e) Holy Metropolitanate of Symi.

²⁴ By Law 1155/1981 Patmos was pronounced Holy Island 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))

²⁵ Articles 1(4), 11(3) and 36 (1) Law 590/1977 (Official Government Gazette A’ 146)

“prevailing” religion is an ascertainment due to the fact that the vast majority of Greeks (representing more than 95%) is connected to the Orthodox Church.

According to 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...”²⁶.

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

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

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

Lastly, Mount Athos (Aghion Oros) is self-governed, as established by [article 105 of the Constitution](#): “1. The Athos peninsula extending beyond Megali Vigla and constituting the region of Aghion Oros shall, in accordance with its ancient privileged status, be a self-governed part of the Greek State, whose sovereignty thereon shall remain intact. Spiritually, Aghion Oros shall come under the direct jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. All persons leading a monastic life thereon acquire Greek citizenship without further formalities, upon admission as novices or monks. 2. Aghion Oros shall be governed, according to its regime, by its twenty Holy Monasteries among which the entire Athos peninsula is divided; the territory of the peninsula shall be exempt from expropriation. The administration of Aghion Oros shall be exercised by representatives of the Holy Monasteries constituting the Holy Community. No change whatsoever shall be permitted in the administrative system or in the number of Monasteries of Aghion Oros, or in their hierarchical order or in their position to their subordinate dependencies. Heterodox or schismatic persons shall be prohibited from dwelling thereon. 3. The determination in detail of the regimes of the Aghion Oros entities and the manner of operation thereof is effected by the Charter of Aghion Oros which, with the cooperation of the State representative, shall be drawn up and voted by the twenty Holy Monasteries and ratified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Parliament of the Hellenes. 4. Faithful observance of the regime of the Aghion Oros entities shall in the spiritual field be under the supreme supervision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and, in the administrative,

²⁶ Evaggelos Venizelos, *Church - State relations as relations regulated by the Constitution*, [In Greek] p.146 Paratiritis Publishing House, 3rd ed., Thessaloniki, 2000

*under the supervision of the State, which shall also be exclusively responsible for safeguarding public order and security. 5. The afore-mentioned powers of the State shall be exercised through a governor whose rights and duties shall be determined by law. The law shall likewise determine the judicial power exercised by the monastic authorities and the Holy Community, as well as the customs and taxation privileges of Aghion Oros***

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

The existing Metropolitanates in Greece today (including the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos) amount to a total of 97 and are listed in Table 2 of the Annex.

The religious sites of the Orthodox Church include Monasteries, all types of churches²⁷, religious monuments (such as the Areopagus where Apostle Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians, wayside shrines) as well as parish cemeteries.

The incidents presented in details below are those communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs by the information sources available (see I.D. above), through the Network of cooperation. This list of incidents against the Orthodox Church during 2016²⁸ is certainly not exhaustive. By way of example, in the document (Ref. Number 76822/02/0-5-2017) by the Church of Greece the following incidents were communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, **without specifications and enumeration on the recording:**

- Holy Metropolitanate of Mantinea and Kynouria: glass breaking and vandalism with slogans in Churches,
- Holy Metropolitanate of Karystia and Skyros: burglaries and thefts of collection boxes and bells²⁹ from Churches and Chapels,
- Holy Metropolitanate of Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios: glass breaking and removal of flagpoles in several Churches,
- Holy Metropolitanate of Poliana and Kilikis: petty thefts and vandalism in Churches and thefts of silver vigil lamps and sacred vessels from ecclesiastical holiday camps in Sourmena,
- Holy Metropolitanate of Lambi, Syvritos and Sfakia: during the summer of 2016 there have been overnight stays of tourists at seaside chapels without any other damage or desecration.

Additionally, the following incidents were communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs:

²⁷ According to article 1 of the Regulation of the Holy Synod 8/79 “On Churches and Parishes” the churches of the Greek Orthodox Church are divided into a) parish churches, including their chapels, b) Pilgrimage churches or churches of public benefit purpose and Church foundations, c) Private Churches, d) Cemetery Churches.

²⁸ It is noteworthy that, according to the official statistics of the Hellenic Police for the year 2016, “*thefts and burglaries of Churches*” amount to 276 accomplished crimes and 68 attempts: http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2016/statistics16/2016_epikrateia.xls

²⁹ “With regard to liturgical utensils, indicatively see, P. Robotis, *Liturgics* [in Greek], Athens 1869, §10, pp. 61-62: “*Liturgical utensils are called, firstly, the items used for the divine mystagogy and, secondly, all other items used in Church. [...] Various sacred items may be classified into three groups. [...] The third group includes items common to all religious rites. Percussion instruments (semantra) and church bells fall under this group.* (Book also available in “Anemi, the Digital Library of Modern Greek Studies” at the following link: <http://anemi.lib.uoc.gr/metadata/9/0/3/metadata-86-0000333.tkl>)

- Holy Metropolitanate of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia: approximately ten (10) incidents of partial or total destruction of wayside shrines have been observed on Leros island,
- Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta: theft of water heater and household utensils from the Cultural Center of Riviotissa of the Holy Metropolitanate. Criminal proceedings were initiated for this incident,
- Holy Metropolitanate of Thessaloniki: in June 2016, seizure of the building formerly occupied by the Orphanage “Alexander the Great” by anti-authoritarians, Greeks and non-nationals, and members of the “No border camp” of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Arrests have been carried out, as well as criminal proceedings and convictions of certain persons arrested.

Finally, the incidents communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs concerning **solely** incidents of **money theft** (i.e. church collection boxes), **without committing “sacrilege”³⁰ or any other kind of desecration**, are reported and referred to in section II.A.1.b, separately from the rest of the incidents against Religious Sites of the Orthodox Church in Greece (II.A.1.a).

Therefore, during **2016, two hundred and eight (208)** incidents against sites of the Orthodox Church in Greece have been recorded, **forty two (42)** of which relate only to money theft (Section b) and **one hundred and sixty six (166)** to all other types of offenses (Section a) as follows:

a. Incidents of all types (except those related solely to money theft)

N ^o	1-2. (two incidents)
Place	Church of Saint Aikaterini of Piraeus (Alexandra’s Square)
Date	January 4/5 and 5/6, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans painted on the wall fence
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	3.
Place	Church of Saint Paraskevi in Oreino, Municipality of Pogonio, Ioannina
Date	January 10, 2016
Brief description	The following items were stolen: 1 embroidered piece of fabric (probably a curtain) displaying Jesus Christ and Holy Communion Chalice, 1 Holy Gospel, 1 silver covered Holy Gospel, 1 silver Holy Communion Chalice, 1 embroidered Epitaph, 1 bronze Sanctification Cross, 1 bronze Discos
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified

³⁰ Regarding the distinction between theft and sacrilege, see, by way of reference, Hieromonk Agapios and Monk Nikodimos, Αγπίου Ιερομονάχου και Νικοδήμου Μοναχού «Πηδάλιον» (“Pedalion”), footnote 1 on the comments on the 72nd Canon of the Apostles: “It is to be noted that the place also distinguishes the one who commits theft from the one who commits sacrilege [...] that is to say, **if the place from where the item is stolen is a Church, this is sacrilege**; if it is a common place, it is theft. However, **sacrilege is mainly characterized by the stolen item. The person who has stolen something sacred is denounced for committing sacrilege**, while the person who has stolen a privately owned icon or something of the kind is rehabilitated as a common thief. **Therefore stealing money from a sacred site does not constitute sacrilege but common theft**”. (p.98, Papadimitriou Publishing House, Athens, 2003)

Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation
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N°	4.
Place	Cemetery of Sts. Theodoroi in Aria, Nafplio
Date	January 13, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused to graves
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No complaint lodged

N°	5.
Place	Cemetery Church of Sts. Theodoroi in Aria, Nafplio
Date	January 13, 2016
Brief description	Altar set on fire, Church interior damaged and objects broken, breaking into collection box and theft of money
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No complaint lodged

N°	6-7. (two incidents)
Place	Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint Dimitrios (Holy Metropolitanate of Chalkis)
Date	January 19 and 24, 2016
Brief description	Paint thrown over northern and main entrance of the Church, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	8.
Place	Parish Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Eisodia Theotokou) in Neon Alatsaton, Heraklion, (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	January 29, 2016
Brief description	Unsuccessful attempt to break into the Church, into the Parish Office and facilities.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Hellenic Police Public Security Division of Heraklion, digital material submitted where evidence on the perpetrators' action and facial features is recorded on surveillance cameras of the Church (as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete)

N°	9.
Place	Church of the Holy Forty Martyrs (Aghion Tessarakonda), Daimonia (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	January, 2016
Brief description	Theft of outdoor loudspeaker
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified

Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation proceedings as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
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N°	10.
Place	Episcopal residence at the Holy Metropolitanate of Thessaloniki
Date	February 2, 2016
Brief description	6 hooded men intruded in the administration building and destroyed furniture and equipment, threw paint and fire extinguisher liquid over to desks and employees, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available
Remarks	See Table 7 of the Annex for responsibility claim

N°	11.
Place	First Cemetery of Athens
Date	February 3, 2016
Brief description	Grave robbing
Perpetrator(s)	1 Greek national
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrator was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Athens and relevant procedural documents were submitted

N°	12.
Place	Church of Saint Filothei in Filothei - Psychiko Municipality (Holy Archdiocese of Athens)
Date	February 7, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism and desecration, flower uprooting, throwing litter, eggs and other waste
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the local Police Department as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	13-14. (two incidents)
Place	Churches in Kavala
Date	Beginning of 2016 and February 15, 2016
Brief description	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police

Perpetrator(s)	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release³¹ of June 1st, 2016 by the Press Information Bureau of the General Regional Police Directorate of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace:</p> <p><i>“Thefts from two Churches and a Monastery were solved in Prefectures of Kavala and Ioannina. Procedural documents were submitted against a 34-year-old priest for committing grand theft, embezzlement and infringement of legislation relating to protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general. Following in-depth investigations by police officers of the Public Security Division of the Police Directorate of Kavala, thefts from two Churches and a Monastery were solved. These thefts had been committed between 1997 and the beginning of 2016 in the Prefectures of Kavala and Ioannina.</i></p> <p><i>A 34-year-old priest was identified as perpetrator against whom procedural documents were drawn up for grand theft, embezzlement and infringement of legislation relating to protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general. In more detail, the police investigation has shown that during that period of time, the 34-year-old stole the following items from two Churches in the Prefecture of Kavala and a Monastery in the Prefecture of Ioannina:</i></p> <p><i>15 wooden icons of Saints</i> <i>Relics of Saints</i> <i>1 Holy Gospel</i> <i>Numerous ecclesiastical items</i></p> <p><i>Following investigations conducted in two residences of the 34-year-old and in a warehouse, all stolen items have been found and confiscated, as well as one Holy Gospel, a wooden icon and numerous ecclesiastical items, the ownership of which is being investigated.</i></p> <p><i>The greatest number of confiscated items was returned to the owners, while one Holy Gospel Book, 6 wooden icons of Saints and 13 ecclesiastical items were sent to the competent Ephorate of Antiquities.</i></p> <p><i>The procedural documents drawn up were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kavala and the preliminary investigation was conducted by the Public Security Division of Kavala”.</i></p>

N ^o	15.
Place	Church of Saint Eleftherios (Aghiou Eleftheriou) in Gyzi district, Athens
Date	February 16, 2016
Brief description	Improvised incendiary device put in the entrance of the Church caused some material damage
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	16.
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³¹http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=62865&Itemid=1699&lang=

Place	Cemetery of Nea Kerasounta in Preveza
Date	February 21/22, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused to a grave
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Arta

N ^o	17.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Forest Alsos Probona, Ilion
Date	February 22, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with marble breaking and damage caused to ornamental plants outside the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation; procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Athens

N ^o	18.
Place	Church of Saint Constantine (Aghiou Constantinou), Rethymno
Date	February 25, 2016
Brief description	The offices of the Church were set on fire and there was attempted theft
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Rethymno and the case was closed due to unknown perpetrator

N ^o	19. (See also N ^o 23, 41, 42, 44)
Place	Church of Saint Athanasios (Aghiou Athanasiou) in Aetopetra, Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	Between February 21 and 26, 2016
Brief description	Burglary and theft of twelve Icons, one Icon on fabric, one reliquary and one Holy Gospel
Perpetrator(s)	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police
Police/Procedural action	According to the Press Release ³² of May 23, 2016 by the Press Information Bureau of the General Regional Police Directorate of Epirus: <i>“A 39-year-old Albanian national was arrested, as member of a criminal group, accused of grand theft stealing from a church, car theft, as well as burglaries of houses and stores in villages of Konitsa A 31-year-old Albanian national is identified as his accomplice and is charged with the same charges and is wanted as well as three</i>

³² http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=62630&Itemid=1685&lang=

other unidentified accomplices.

It has been determined that the perpetrators have committed five church burglaries and thefts and they are involved in nine more cases of thefts- burglaries in houses and stores and one car theft. Churches were mainly targeted by the perpetrators who were aiming to steal and sell ecclesiastical relics and to gain unlawful profit.

In the afternoon of May 21, 2016 (two days ago), a 39-year-old Albanian national, member of a criminal group, was arrested in a rural area in Melissopetra, Ioannina, after extended investigations by the Police Directorate of Ioannina. The arrested person is involved in grand theft for stealing from Churches, for car theft and for burglaries in houses and stores in the area of Konitsa, Ioannina. A 31-year-old Albanian national is identified as his accomplice and is charged with the same charges and is wanted as well as three other unidentified accomplices.

Procedural documents were drawn up against the perpetrators for the offences of grand theft, criminal group, infringement of the law on protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general, vehicle theft, destruction of private/public property as well as infringement of legislation on Aliens' Act and Fireworks law.

More specifically, during investigation of theft cases, in the afternoon of May 21, 2016 (two days ago) the two perpetrators were found in a rural area of Melissopetra, Ioannina and after police pursuit, police officers restrained the 39-year-old perpetrator, while his 31-year-old accomplice got away and is wanted. After police investigation and adequate evaluation and use of all evidence found during preliminary investigation, it is verified that the accused are involved in the following theft cases which took place between December 2015 and May 2016 in villages of Konitsa:

Between December 2, 2015 and March 2, 2016, they broke into the chapel of Saint Nicolaos in Aetopetra, Konitsa and they stole six icons.

Between February 21, 2016 and February 26, 2016, they broke into the Church of Saint Athanasios in Aetopetra, Konitsa and they stole twelve icons, one icon on fabric, one reliquary and one Holy Gospel.

Between May 15, 2016 and May 22, 2016, they broke into the Church of Saint Paraskevi in Aetopetra, Konitsa and searched the place without stealing anything.

Between May 19, 2016 and May 20, 2016, they broke into the Church of Saint Nicolaos in Iliorrachi, Konitsa and searched the place without stealing anything.

Between May 20, 2016 and May 21, 2016 they broke into the Church of Saint Nicolaos in Mazi, Konitsa and they stole ten icons, a silver tabernacle and an old Epitaph.

[...]

The police investigation defined the perpetrators' action regarding their moves and the choice of their targets especially when this was theft of religious practice items and ecclesiastical relics with the aim to sell them and to make profit and the criminal group was profiled in relation to descriptive characteristics. Several stolen religious items (six icons, one old Epitaph and a metallic chalice set) were found in a sac in the possession of the person arrested and were seized by the Police. The items, after shown to an

	<p>archaeologist, were declared to fall under the protective provisions "on Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general". Other stolen items were also found in the possession of the accused, such as mobile phones and eight firecrackers.</p> <p>The person arrested was referred to the competent authority; the police investigation is on-going by the Public Security Division of Ioannina in order to find the stolen items, to identify the rest of the accomplices and to fully investigate the action of the criminal group".</p>
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N°	20.
Place	Church of the Archangel in Daimonia (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	February, 2016
Brief description	Burglary, destruction of door – windows, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	21.
Place	Church of Saint Antonios (Aghiou Antoniou) in Kallergiana, Rodopos (Holy Metropolitanate of Kissamos and Selino)
Date	February, 2016
Brief description	Theft of an old wooden tabernacle with the icon of Saint Antonios painted on it.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No complaint was lodged with the police, as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete

N°	22.
Place	Cemetery Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelismou Theotokou) in Apostoloi, Pedias, Municipality of Minoa Pediados, Heraklion, Crete (Holy Metropolitanate of Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos)
Date	Probably in February or March, 2016
Brief description	Cemetery desecration with bones exposed probably from digging up a grave of a deceased buried around that period. The desecration was found out by the Church priest
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete no action took place other than oral briefing to the Holy Metropolitanate

N°	23. (See also N° 19, 41, 42, 44)
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Aetopetra, Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	Between December 2, 2015 and March 2, 2016
Brief description	Theft of six Icons

Perpetrator(s)	See N° 19
Police/Procedural action	See N° 19

N°	24.
Place	Church of Taxiarchae – Archangels (Pammegiston Taxiarchon) in Xanthi (Holy Metropolitanate of Xanthi and Peritheorion)
Date	March 13, 2016
Brief description	Breaking through the southern door of the Holy Bema, breaking into collection box, theft of money (€130), theft of a silver cross (worth of €1,200)
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint against persons unknown was lodged, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/Θ2/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	25. (See also N° 65)
Place	Church of Saint Vasilios (Aghiou Vasileiou) in Exarcheia, Athens
Date	March 22, 2016
Brief description	Church stained glass window was broken and improvised explosive device (firestarters for fire place) was thrown into the Church. Small scale fire started.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	26.
Place	Church of All Saints (Aghion Panton) in Kallithea (Holy Archdiocese of Athens)
Date	March 22, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans painted on the external walls. Fire in the kitchen of the church set by arsonists (explosive device found – Molotov cocktail), damage on the frescos of the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Ex proprio motu investigation by the police. Procedural documents were submitted to the Public prosecutor's office at the Court of First Instance of Athens

No	27.
Place	Cemetery Church of Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochou Pigis) in Korakovouni, Municipality of North Kynouria, Arcadia
Date	Between February 25 and March 25, 2016
Brief description	Church interior damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation. Procedural documents against persons unknown for theft attempt and grand damage were submitted to the Public prosecutor's office at the Court of First Instance of Nafplio

N°	28.
Place	Church of Saint Paraskevi (Aghias Paraskevis) in Petria, Municipality of Skydra, Pella
Date	March 26, 2016
Brief description	Between 3:00 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. one or more unknown perpetrators broke into the Church of Saint Paraskevi through the northern side door of the Narthex; they broke the collection box and stole the safe box which was in there fixed on the ground. Most probable they took it by pulling it with a vehicle. The safe box contained €2,500 and the damage caused was approximately €5,000, as the Church priest declared.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The competent Police Station took all necessary actions, however the perpetrators remain unidentified so far

N°	29.
Place	Church of Saint John the Baptist (Aghiou Ioannou Prodromou) in "Seven Steps", Kos
Date	March, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church through the main door and robbed liturgical items in search of valuables
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in the document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 by the Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	30.
Place	Chapel in Polygyros Halkidiki
Date	April 3/4, 2016
Brief description	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police
Perpetrator(s)	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police

Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release³³ of April 5, 2016 by the Press Information Bureau of the General Regional Police Directorate of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace:</p> <p><i>“Seven cases of burglaries in Polygyros, Halkidiki were solved. A 41-year-old Greek national was arrested in accordance with the procedure for offenders caught in the act Procedural documents were drawn up; the person arrested was charged with grand theft and drug possession. [...] In particular, as it has been determined by police investigation, between the evening of April 3, 2016 and the morning of April 4, 2016, the 41-year-old broke into a chapel in Polygyros and stole an iconostasis. Police was immediately mobilized and after thorough search the iconostasis was found yesterday morning (April 4, 2016) on a street in the same area and the collection box was broken. Later, in the morning of the same day, the 41-year-old was found and arrested. The police searched the house of the person arrested where they found and confiscated various tools, a bank card of a clerk, a drug pill in a package without medical prescription and money taken from the collection box. [...] The person arrested will be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Halkidiki”.</i></p>
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N ^o	31.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Mihaniona, Thessaloniki
Date	April 8/9, 2016
Brief description	Door was broken and damage was caused inside the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	32.
Place	First Cemetery of Athens
Date	April 12, 2016
Brief description	Grave robbing
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Athens

N ^o	33.
Place	Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Meropi, Pogonio, Ioannina
Date	April 23/24, 2016

³³ http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=61533&Itemid=1672&lang=

Brief description	Thirteen icons were stolen; the icons had been recorded by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina as protected by the law "On protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general" (Law 3028/2002)
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation
Remarks	In July 2014 and in June 2015 incidents of sacrilege/smuggling took place in the same church

N°	34.
Place	Church of Saint Dimitrios in Nymfopetra (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	April, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was stolen, doors and electrical wires damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Complaint lodged with the police; preliminary investigation

N°	35.
Place	Parish Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Eisodia Theotokou) in Neon Alatsaton, Heraklion (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	May 1 st , 2016 (Easter Sunday)
Brief description	Unsuccessful attempt to break into Church. The northern door of the Narthex was damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Two unidentified young men
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, a complaint was lodged with the Public Security Division of Heraklion; church security camera footage showing the perpetrators' movements and characteristics was also submitted

N°	36. (See also N° 37 and N° 38)
Place	Church of Saint Minas in Kestrini, Paramythia, Thesprotia (Holy Metropolitanate of Philiaata, Geromerion and Parga)
Date	May 4/5, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church through the side door by breaking the lock cylinder and then unset the alarm system. They stole one silver reliquary in which there was a relic (a finger) of Saint Minas
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the competent Police Station, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece. Preliminary investigation by the Public Security Division of Igoumenitsa for infringement of article 374 of the Penal Code on Grand Theft

N°	37. (See also N° 36 and N° 38)
Place	Church of Saint Kosmas in Ragio, Thesprotia
Date	May 5/6, 2016

Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church through the side door by breaking the lock cylinder, searched and left without stealing anything
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation by the Public Security Division of Igoumenitsa for infringement of article 374 of the Penal Code on Grand Theft

N°	38. (See also N° 36 and N° 37)
Place	Monastery of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou) in Ragio, Paramythia, Thesprotia (Holy Metropolitanate of Philiaata, Geromerion and Parga)
Date	May 5/6, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Monastery Church through the main door by breaking the lock cylinder, searched the Nave and the Sanctuary and took from a cabinet a reliquary with three relics (Bones of Saints) and a small amount of money (€10) from the open collection box
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece. Preliminary investigation by the Public Security Division of Igoumenitsa for infringement of article 374 of the Penal Code on Grand Theft

N°	39.
Place	Chapel of Saint Dimitrios in Aktio, Vonitsa, Aitolokarnania
Date	May 8, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused by digging up the Church floor
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the competent Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance

N°	40.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Milina, Magnisia
Date	May 19, 2016
Brief description	Excavation around the olive tree fencing of the Church at about 22:00
Perpetrator(s)	Three Greek nationals
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrators were arrested and prosecuted for conducting unlawful archeological research and for unlawful use of metal detectors; the date for the hearing was fixed (November 23, 2016) with the Court of First Instance of Volos

N°	41. (See also N° 19, 23, 42, 44)
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Iliorachi, Konitsa
Date	May 19/20, 2016

Brief description	Perpetrators broke into church and searched around without stealing anything
Perpetrator(s)	See N° 19
Police/Procedural action	See N° 19

N°	42. (See also N° 19, 23, 41, 44)
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Mazi, Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	May 20/21, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into church and stole ten icons, a silver tabernacle and an old Epitaph
Perpetrator(s)	See N° 19
Police/Procedural action	See N° 19

N°	43.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Filippiada, Preveza
Date	May 21, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans painted on the Church fencing wall
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents submitted to Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Arta

N°	44. (See also N° 19, 23, 41, 42)
Place	Church of Saint Paraskevi (Aghias Paraskevis) in Aetopetra, Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	Between May 15 and 22, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into church and searched around without stealing anything
Perpetrator(s)	See N° 19
Police/Procedural action	See N° 19

N°	45.
Place	First Cemetery of Athens
Date	May 23, 2016
Brief description	Grave robbing
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents submitted to Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Athens

N°	46.
Place	Church in Edessa
Date	May 27, 2016
Brief description	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police

Perpetrator(s)	One person
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release³⁴ of May 28, 2016 by the Press Information Bureau of the General Regional Police Directorate of Central Macedonia:</p> <p><i>“A 29-year-old was arrested in Pella while he was attempting to break into a church.</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>Continuous and targeted patrols by the police force of the Public Security Division of Edessa, in their plan to prevent and combat crime, lead in arresting a young man who was caught in the act while attempting to break into a Church in the region.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, yesterday evening (May 27, 2016) the aforementioned man attempted to break into a Church in Edessa through the door but he was seen by police officers on patrol and got arrested.</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>The man arrested will be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Edessa while his possible participation in other offences is being investigated”.</i></p>

N°	47.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) (Holy Metropolitanate of Xanthi and Peritheorio)
Date	May 2016
Brief description	Two Holy Myron pots and votive offerings were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	48.
Place	Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary Koronias, Castle of Arta
Date	June 2, 2016
Brief description	Attempt to enter into the Church by removing stones from wall (in the afternoon)
Perpetrator(s)	See N° 12, Section II.A.1.b
Police/Procedural action	See N° 12, Section II.A.1.b

N°	49.
Place	Chapel of Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochou Pigis), Parish of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rodia, Heraklion, located in Spiliotissa Palaiokastros Malevizio, Heraklion, Crete (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	Between May 5 and June 5, 2016
Brief description	The church door was broken, the glass frame of an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the iconostasis was broken, the

³⁴http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=62778&Itemid=1687&lang=

	icon of Jesus Christ was taken apart from the iconostasis and was thrown on the church floor, candle stands were damaged and sand was thrown on the floor, defecation upon the Altar and desecration with feces on thirteen icons. Vandalism with graffiti on the church wall – probably with charcoal- reading: “Eat sh*t, Zeus’ treat”. No items or money were taken.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The Church priest lodged a complaint with the Police Station of the Heraklion region. Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Heraklion. Preliminary investigation
Remarks	The incident was published on the electronic edition of the newspaper Kathimerini: http://www.kathimerini.gr/862999/article/epikairothta/ella da/sokarei-o-vandalismos-ekklhsias

N°	50. (See also N° 66)
Place	Church of Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochou Pigis), Akadimias st. (Holy Archdiocese of Athens)
Date	June 5, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism; the bust of Georgios Gennadios was stolen from the church and paint in large quantity was thrown at the main entrance of the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Exarcheia. Investigation ex proprio motu by the police

N°	51.
Place	Church of Saint Kyriaki Riviotissa (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	June, 2016
Brief description	The church bell was stolen, part of the roof was damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	52.
Place	Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou) in Vassiloudi (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagada, Liti and Rentini)
Date	June, 2016
Brief description	Lanterns, sacred vessels and collection box were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police. Preliminary investigation

N°	53. (See also N° 54)
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) (Holy Metropolitanate of Kefalonia)
Date	July 7, 2016

Brief description	The northern door of the Church was broken, damage caused in the Church and votive offerings were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The perpetrator was arrested and the stolen items were returned. The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kefalonia and the relevant procedural documents drawn up against him with charges for repeated grand theft and receiving stolen goods were submitted. Preliminary investigation

N°	54. (See also N° 53)
Place	Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rakantzi in Argostoli (Holy Metropolitanate of Kefalonia)
Date	July 9, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrator broke into church, caused damage and stole votive offerings
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The perpetrator was arrested and the stolen items were returned. The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kefalonia and the relevant procedural documents drawn up against him with charges for repeated grand theft and receiving stolen goods were submitted. Preliminary investigation
Remarks	<p>According to the Press Release³⁵ of July 11, 2016 by the Press Information Bureau of the General Regional Police Directorate of the Ionian Islands:</p> <p><i>“Two cases of burglaries in Churches of Kefalonia from which golden votive offerings were stolen, were solved by the Public Security Division of Argostoli, Kefalonia.</i></p> <p><i>On Saturday July 7, 2016 at noon, a 29-year-old Greek national was arrested</i> by the Public Security Division of Argostoli which conducted the investigation and he was charged with grand theft. The police investigation has shown that the 29-year-old was involved in two consecutive cases of Church burglaries. In particular, he was involved <i>in breaking into the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rakantzi, in Argostoli in the morning of Saturday July 9, 2016 when he stole approximately ten golden votive offerings.</i></p> <p><i>In the same way, in the morning of Thursday July 7, 2016 he stole two golden votive offerings from the Church of Aghios Nikolaos.</i> The police investigation has shown that another 24-year-old Greek national was involved who got arrested in the morning of Saturday July 9, 2016 and his name is contained in the procedural documents charged with receiving stolen goods and placing them on the market.</p>

³⁵ http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=63897&Itemid=1717&lang=

	<p><i>Preliminary investigation was conducted by the Public Security Division of Argostoli.</i></p> <p><i>The two persons arrested were referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kefalinia.”</i></p>
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N°	55.
Place	Chapel of Saint Pelagia (Aghias Pelagias), Parish of Pacheia Ammos located in Gournia, Pacheia Ammos, Ierapetra, Crete (Holy Metropolitanate of Ierapytni and Sitia)
Date	Between 18:00 of July 10 and 10:00 of July 11, 2016
Brief description	Defecation upon the Altar and desecration with feces on the Altar and on all icons, breaking of vigil lamps of the iconostasis and damage caused to glass surface of icons and other items
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint against person(s) unknown was lodged with the Police Station of Ierapetra. Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lasithi and then forwarded to the Ierapetra Police Station for preliminary investigation

N°	56.
Place	Church in Naxos
Date	Between July 12 and July 15, 2016
Brief description	Theft
Perpetrator(s)	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release³⁶ of July 17, 2016 by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of the General Regional Police Directorate of South Aegean:</p> <p><i>“Twelve cases of burglaries of houses, professional spaces and a Church in Naxos were solved</i></p> <p><i>A 34-year-old Albanian national was arrested and one more Albanian of the same age is wanted for arrest as his accomplice</i></p> <p><i>The perpetrators had stolen money, electronic devices and several other items of total estimated value of €27,500</i></p> <p><i>On Saturday July 15, 2016, twelve cases of burglaries of houses, professional spaces and a Church in Naxos were solved by the police force of Naxos Police Station. Two days ago early in the morning, a 34-year-old Albanian national was arrested for these acts and one more Albanian of the same age, unidentified, is wanted for arrest. Procedural documents were drawn up against them and they were charged with committing grand theft and</i></p>

³⁶http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27.%27&perform=view&id=64046&Itemid=1720&lang=

	<p><i>illegal residence in Greece.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, as it has been verified after extended police investigation, between June 12, 2016 and July 15, 2016, the two perpetrators have committed jointly twelve thefts of money, electronic devices and personal items of total estimated value of 25,000€.</i></p> <p><i>Some of the stolen goods were found in the possession of the accused and after they were identified they were confiscated and returned to the owners. The perpetrator, against whom restrictive conditions have been imposed for a similar case, was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Naxos and the investigation is ongoing in order to fully verify the criminal acts of the person arrested and to arrest his accomplice.</i></p>
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N°	57.
Place	Cemetery of Saint Dionysios (Aghiou Dionysiou), located in Kyllini, Municipality of Andravida
Date	July 17, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused (excavation) on a grave and theft of objects
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	After the perpetrator was identified, the procedural documents drawn up were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Amaliada

N°	58.
Place	Chapel of Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochou Pigis), Alsos forest park of Nea Filadelfeia (Holy Metropolitanate of Nea Ionia)
Date	July 30, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with anti-authoritarian and satanic slogans outside the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	59.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Exarcheia, Athens
Date	July 31, 2016
Brief description	Improvised incendiary device was thrown and activated on the outer wall of the Church. Damage caused.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	60.
Place	Church of Saint Gregorios Palamas (Aghiou Grigoriou Palama), Holy Metropolitanate of Thessaloniki
Date	July 31, 2016
Brief description	A group of anti-authoritarians stormed the Church and interrupted the Divine Liturgy shouting slogans and throwing flyers
Perpetrator(s)	Twenty-six Greek nationals

Police/Procedural action	Arrests, criminal proceedings, acquittal of certain persons accused, due to doubts and of others due to lack of intent, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Remarks	<i>See Press Release by the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece in Table 8 of the Annex</i>

N°	61.
Place	Chapel of Saint Anthony (Aghiou Antoniou) of Veria (Holy Metropolitanate of Xanthi and Peritheorio)
Date	July 2016
Brief description	Exterior door damaged
Perpetrator(s)	One person
Police/Procedural action	The perpetrator was arrested, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	62.
Place	Chapel of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) Kefala, located in Halikoura, Kos
Date	July 2016
Brief description	The Church was broken into, Chalice with silver cup was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos as referred to in document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 of the Holy Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	63.
Place	Chapel of Saint Athanasios (Aghiou Athanasiou) - Annunciation (Evangelismou) (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	July 2016
Brief description	Safe box was broken, sacred vessels stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police. Preliminary investigation

N°	64.
Place	Church of Saint Dimitrios (Aghiou Dimitriou) Port of Heraklion (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	August 1 st , 2016
Brief description	At approximately 5:50 a.m. unidentified perpetrators placed and lit an improvised incendiary device composed of a butane cylinder for home use, two plastic bottles containing flammable liquid and fabric. The device was placed outside the secondary door of the Church behind the Sanctuary. The ignition did not cause an explosion of the cylinders and limited damage was caused on the walls, the secondary entrance door and a power switch

Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, the incident was recorded by the Police who was notified by people living in vicinity. Preliminary investigation

N°	65. (See also N° 25)
Place	Church of Saint Vasilios (Aghiou Vasileiou) in Exarcheia, Athens
Date	August 3, 2016
Brief description	Glass bottles containing paint were thrown in the main entrance of the Church. Damage caused
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation. Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Athens

N°	66. (See also N° 50)
Place	Church of Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochou Pigis) in Acadimias Str., Athens
Date	August 3, 2016
Brief description	Glass bottles containing paint were thrown in the main entrance of the Church. Damage caused
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation. Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Athens

N°	67.
Place	Monastery of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pilion (Holy Metropolitanate of Demetrias and Almyros)
Date	August 7, 2016
Brief description	Five persons broke into the Monastery, stole money from the Church and robbed the priest and his wife who were guests at the Monastery, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Ex proprio motu criminal prosecution

N°	68.
Place	Administration Building of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, Monastery of the Holy Incorporeal Taxiarchs (Asomaton) Petraki, Athens
Date	August 8, 2016
Brief description	Improvised incendiary devices (Molotov cocktail) were thrown into the churchyard. Two parked cars were damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the General Police Directorate of Attica. Ex proprio motu preliminary investigation

Remarks	<i>See text of responsibility claim in Table 7 and Press Release by the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece in Table 8 of the Annex</i>
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N°	69.
Place	Church of the Monastery of Saint Paraskevi (Aghias Paraskevis), Municipality of Lamia, Fthiotis
Date	August 8/9, 2016
Brief description	Church was damaged
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	After the perpetrator was identified, procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Fthiotis

N°	70.
Place	Cemetery of Saint Paraskevi (Aghias Paraskevis), Municipality of Lamia, Fthiotis
Date	August 8/9, 2016
Brief description	Two graves were damaged
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	After the perpetrator was identified, procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Fthiotis

N°	71.
Place	Cemetery of Taxiarch in Leros Island, Dodecanese
Date	Between August 4 and 14, 2016
Brief description	A grave was littered and damaged and insulting slogans were written on it
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	On September 16, 2016 a complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Leros reporting an offence of Article 201 (insulting the dead) and Article 365 (insulting the memory of the dead) of the Penal Code. Procedural documents were drawn up and submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kos

N°	72.
Place	Church of Saint Charalambos (Aghiou Charalambous) in Ilisia, Athens
Date	August 14, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans and symbols on the outer wall of the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary Investigation

N°	73.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Preveza (Holy

	Metropolitanate of Nikopolis and Preveza)
Date	August 18, 2016
Brief description	Priest's briefcase was stolen from Church, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police, a person was arrested and charges were filed, perpetrator was convicted as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Remarks	<p>According to the Press Release³⁷ of August 19, 2016 by the Epirus Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau:</p> <p><i>"A case of theft from a church in Preveza was solved after investigation conducted by the police force of the Public Security Division of Preveza. A 43-year-old Greek was arrested in accordance with the procedure for offenders caught in the act; procedural documents were drawn up and he was charged with theft.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, last night a complaint was lodged with the Public Security Division of Preveza against an unidentified man who entered in Saint Nicolaos church in Preveza yesterday evening (August 18, 2016) and took an envelope containing money, three bankbooks and other documents. Following the investigation conducted, a 43-year-old Greek was identified as perpetrator of the theft and he was found by the police today (August 19, 2016) in Filippias on a coach bus on the route from Preveza to Athens and was arrested.</i></p> <p><i>The stolen money was found in his possession and was confiscated.</i></p> <p><i>The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Preveza and it is being investigated whether he has taken part in other offences."</i></p>

N ^o	74.
Place	Church of Sts. Anargyroi (Agion Anargyron), Hospital of Pyrgos, Eleia, (Holy Metropolitanate of Eleia)
Date	August 21/22, 2016
Brief description	The following items were stolen: Holy Gospel, tabernacle from altar, chalice, discos, asterisk, spear, clerical vestment and money (€25) which was stolen by breaking the collection box, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	A man and a woman, Greek nationals
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police reporting an offence of Articles 45, 51, 52, 60, 79, 232§1A and 374a of the Penal Code. The procedural documents drawn up were submitted for investigation and then forwarded from the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of First Instance of Eleia to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Appeal of Patras
Remarks	According to the Press Release ³⁸ of August 23, 2016 by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Western Greece:

³⁷ http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=64741&Itemid=1732&lang=

	<p><i>“Two Greek nationals were arrested for stealing from the Church of Sts. Anargyroi in Pyrgos</i></p> <p><i>The perpetrators stole, among other items, a Holy Gospel, a chalice and a tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament.</i></p> <p><i>Today (August 23, 2016) at noon, police officers from the Public Security Division of Pyrgos in cooperation with police officers from the Police Station of Krestena and the Police Drug Unit of Pyrgos arrested in Krestena Eleia, two Greek nationals, a 47-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman on the charge of grand theft.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, yesterday (August 22, 2016) in Pyrgos, the two perpetrators, acting jointly, entered in the Church of Sts. Anargyroi and stole a Holy Gospel, a chalice set consisting of a chalice, a discos, a tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament, an asterisk, a spear, a clerical vestment and €25 from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>The perpetrators were identified by police investigation and they were arrested this morning in their residence in Krestena.</i></p> <p><i>Police searched the residence of the perpetrators in the presence of an officer of the court where all sacred vessels were found, confiscated and returned to the priest of the Sts. Anargyroi Church.</i></p> <p><i>The persons arrested will be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Eleia.</i></p>
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N ^o	75.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) Municipality of Saint Nikolaos (Holy Metropolitanate of Kastoria)
Date	August 22, 2016
Brief description	The collection box was broken, money was stolen and Church walls were damaged, as referred to in document Ref.: 103587/02/20-6-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release of August 24, 2016 by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Western Macedonia:</p> <p><i>“Yesterday (August 23, 2016) at noon in Kastoria, police officers of the Public Security Division of Kastoria arrested a 50-year-old Greek national for theft from a Church.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, extensive investigation showed that on August 22, 2016 at noon, the aforementioned person broke into the Church in Kastoria from the main entrance, broke the lock of the collection box and stole €827 from it.</i></p> <p><i>This amount which was found in the possession of the 50-year-old was confiscated and returned to the treasurer of the Church committee.</i></p> <p><i>The Public Security Division of Kastoria is conducting a preliminary investigation and the person arrested will be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kastoria.”</i></p>

N ^o	76. (See also N ^o 77, 78-81, 82)
Place	Church of Saint Paraskevi (Aghias Paraskevis) in Asimohori,

³⁸ http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=64842&Itemid=1731&lang=

	municipality of Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	August 24-25, 2016
Brief description	The window on the western side of the Church was broken, probably with an iron item; the perpetrator entered and caused some mess; nothing was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the competent police station. The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Ioannina and the case was closed due to unknown perpetrators

N°	77. (See also N° 76, 78-81, 82)
Place	Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou) in Asimohori, municipality of Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	August 24-25, 2016
Brief description	The cylinder of the front door lock was broken with an iron item, the perpetrator entered in the Church and stole three icons falling under Law 3028/2002 "On protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general"
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the competent police station. Procedural documents were drawn up and preliminary investigation was conducted

N°	78-81. (4 incidents) (See also N° 76, 77, 82)
Place	Churches of the Holy Metropolis of Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa
Date	Between July 1 st and August 25, 2016
Brief description	Grand thefts
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Incidents correlated with No 77 in procedural documents for infringement of article 374 a' and d' of the Penal Code on Grand Theft and of Law 3028/2002 "On protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general". Preliminary investigation

N°	82. (See also N° 76, 77, 78-81)
Place	Cemetery Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Asimohori parish, municipality of Konitsa, Ioannina
Date	Between August 20 to 25, 2016
Brief description	The wooden front door of the Church was broken, probably with an iron item; the perpetrator entered and caused some mess; nothing was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the competent police station. The procedural documents for theft attempt were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of

	Ioannina and the case was closed due to unknown perpetrators
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N°	83.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Kypseli, Athens
Date	August 28, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans on the main entrance and on the outer wall of the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were forwarded by the Public Prosecutor's office to the Police Station of Kypseli for preliminary investigation

N°	84.
Place	Athens Metropolitan Cathedral
Date	August 29, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans painted on the outer wall of the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	85.
Place	Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Panagias Faneromenis), Kefalari parish (Holy Metropolitanate of Kastoria)
Date	Summer 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken; altar covers and table of the prothesis covers were stolen, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	86.
Place	Chapel in Leros Island
Date	September 3, 2016
Brief description	Desecration (a cross was broken as referred to in the local press)
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Investigation and search of key witnesses and more information
Remarks	The letter of the Mayor of Leros (September 5, 2016) to the competent Ministers referring to this incident is published in <i>Leros News</i> : https://www.terosnews.gr/1/2/ta-nea-tis-lerou/8605-dhmarchos-leroy-omada-prosfygwn-bebhlwse-ekklhsaki-kai-prokalese-sobares-blabes-ston-dhmotiko-fwtismo-epistolh-pros-toys-armodioys-ypoyrqoys.html

N°	87-88. (two incidents)
Place	Athens Metropolitan Cathedral

Date	September 6 and 13, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans and symbols painted on the outer wall of the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	89. (See also N ^o 118)
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Kurnas, Chania
Date	September 25, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into and valuable votive offerings, money and other items were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Two men and a woman
Police/Procedural action	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police on incident N ^o 118

N ^o	90.
Place	Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Skoura (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	September 2016
Brief description	The door of the Church was broken into and damaged, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/Θ2/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	91.
Place	Church in Kozani
Date	September 2016
Brief description	As described in the following Press Release by the Hellenic Police
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	According to the Press Release of November 23 ³⁹ , 2016 by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Western Macedonia: <i>“Police officers of the Public Security Division of Kozani solved a theft attempt from a Church in Kozani and procedural documents were drawn up against a 44-year-old Greek national. In particular investigation showed that in the end of September the 44-year-old man attempted to break into a side window of a Church in the area of Kozani aiming to commit theft. The procedural documents will be submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kozani”.</i>

N ^o	92.
Place	Chapel of Saint Aikaterini in Kos Island
Date	September 2016
Brief description	The Church was broken into, Chalice with silver cup was stolen, and a mess was caused in the altar

³⁹http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=67241&Itemid=1790&lang=

Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 of the Holy Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	93.
Place	Church of Saint Aikaterini in Kavalos, Lefkas Island
Date	Between September 25 to October 1 st , 2016
Brief description	The Church was broken into, and items (votive offerings) were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lefkas

N°	94.
Place	Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint Vasileios in Tripoli, Arcadia
Date	October 2, 2016
Brief description	The door of the Church's office was damaged (glass broken)
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Tripoli and procedural documents were submitted. The Public Prosecutor ordered a psychiatric examination of the perpetrator
Remarks	As referred to in document Ref.: 3/11-1-2017 of the Ecclesiastical Council Chairperson of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint Vasileios of Tripoli, this incident was caused by a mental patient, citizen of Tripoli, therefore this was not a conscious act against the Church

N°	95.
Place	Chapel of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou) in Paliouri, Halkidiki
Date	Between August 6 to October 7, 2016
Brief description	Icons were damaged
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Halkidiki and procedural documents were submitted

N°	96.
Place	Church of Saint Aikaterini in Plaka (Holy Archdiocese of Athens)
Date	October 9, 2016
Brief description	Theft of two reliquaries of Saint Tryphon and Saint Anastasios the Persian
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified

Police/Procedural action	A complaint against persons unknown was lodged, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
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N°	97.
Place	Church of the Ascension of Jesus, Thourio (Holy Metropolitanate of Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli)
Date	October 10, 2016
Brief description	An amplifier (microphone installation) was stolen as well as €140 from the collection box, windowpane was broken
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police and the incident was recorded, as referred to in document Ref.: 103587/02/20-6-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	98.
Place	Church of the Resurrection of Jesus in Ermoupoli, Syros Island, Cyclades
Date	October 18/19, 2016
Brief description	Damage was caused; vandalism of the interior and exterior of the Church with slogans
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Syros

N°	99.
Place	Cemetery chapel of Saint Athanasios (Aghiou Athanasiou), Parish of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Kornofolia, Soufli (Cemetery of Kornofolia) (Holy Metropolitanate of Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli)
Date	Between October 17 and 20, 2016
Brief description	Altar doors of 19 th century were stolen (doors had been rescued when the Church of the old Cemetery of Kornofolia collapsed in 1949)
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police

N°	100.
Place	Church of Saint Aikaterini in Alcazar, Larisa
Date	October 23/24, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrator(s) broke window railing with drill and window with crowbar; they entered the Church, broke the two padlocks of the collection box with clippers and stole at least €600, broke the church fundraising box with a sharp object and stole €150, broke the glass frame of the St Aikaterini icon from where they stole about 25 votive offerings, such as chains, rings and other valuables of undetermined value

Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Ex proprio motu preliminary investigation by the police; investigation for grand theft. Procedural documents against persons unknown were drawn up

N°	101.
Place	Church of Sts. Anargyroi (Agion Anargyron) in Psyri (Holy Archdiocese of Athens)
Date	October 29, 2016
Brief description	Walls were painted, flags were burned
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Acropolis

N°	102.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Elia, Heraklion (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Attempt to break into the Chapel by breaking the main entrance with an iron bar
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, a complaint was lodged with the Public Security Division of Heraklion by the priest of this church

N°	103.
Place	Chapel of Saint John the Forerunner (Aghiou Ioannou Prodromou), Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Elia, Heraklion, in the rural area Epáno Vathi (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Attempt to break into the Chapel by breaking the main entrance with an iron bar
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, a complaint was lodged with the Public Security Division of Heraklion by the priest of this church

N°	104.
Place	Cemetery Church of Saint John (Aghiou Ioannou) in "Seven Steps", Kos Island
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Thefts of bronze lanterns from graves
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 of the Holy Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros a complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos

N°	105.
Place	Church of the Archangel in Daimonia (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church and destroyed the microphone installation, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	106.
Place	Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior (Metamorfofi Sotiros) in Lagadas (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Collection box was stolen, doors and windows were broken
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police. Preliminary investigation

N°	107.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Monolofos (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Clerical vestments and oil were stolen, as referred to in document Ref.: 103587/02/20-6-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police. Preliminary investigation

N°	108-117. (10 incidents)
Place	Church of Saint John the Hermit in Marathokefala Spilia, Chania (Holy Metropolitanate of Kissamos and Selino)
Date	October 31 st – November 1 st , 2016
Brief description	Perpetrator(s) broke into and caused damage to the Church and the Holy Pilgrimage, money was stolen from the collection box as well as a microphone
Perpetrator(s)	Two persons
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police regarding some of the incidents. The investigation conducted by the Police Station of Voukoli in cooperation with the police officers of the Public Security Division of Chania, showed that the perpetrators were two persons. The perpetrators got arrested and were referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Chania and the procedural documents were submitted

Remarks	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, 10 acts in total took place against this Church in 2016
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N°	118. (See also N° 89)
Place	Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior (Metamorfosi Sotiros) in Kissamos, Chania
Date	November 2, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into and valuable votive offerings, money and other items were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Two men and a woman
Police/Procedural action	The woman arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance in Chania and the procedural documents were submitted
Remarks	<p>According to the Press Release of November 23⁴⁰, 2016 by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Crete: <i>“Two cases of theft from Churches in Chania were solved Procedural documents were drawn up against three Greek nationals (2 men and a woman) charged with grand theft Additionally, a 44-year-old Greek national charged with a drug-related offense was arrested Yesterday (November 11, 2016) two cases of theft from Churches were solved by Police officers of the Police Station of Kissamos for which procedural documents were drawn up against three Greek nationals (a 44-year-old woman, a 60-year-old man and a 51-year-old man). Additionally, a 44-year-old woman was arrested charged with a drug-related offense. In particular, on November 2, 2016, a 44-year-old woman stole jewelry from a Church using distraction techniques and run away in a car that a 60-year-old man was driving. Then they offered the jewelry for sale at a shop in Chania. Through police investigation the jewelry was found in the shop and it was returned to the Church priest. Continued police investigation by the Police Station of Kissamos showed that on September 25, 2016, in an area of the Municipality of Apokorona, the 44-year-old woman had committed another theft from the Church, stole money and jewelry (votive offerings) and run away in a car that a 51-year-old man was driving. Investigation in the house of the 44-year-old woman showed that that she possessed a small amount of cannabis which was confiscated. Preliminary investigation is conducted by the Police Station of Kissamos and the woman arrested will be referred to Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Chania”.</i></p>

N°	119.
Place	Church of Taxiarchae – Archangels in Dafni, Municipality of Agrafta, Evrytania

⁴⁰http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=67013&Itemid=1783&lang=

Date	November 5-8, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused (soil was excavated) inside the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	120.
Place	Church of the Ascension in Koropi, Attica
Date	November 11, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused in the churchyard
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N ^o	121.
Place	Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior (Metamorfofi Sotiros) in Nikiana, Lefkas Island
Date	November 19, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into, damage was caused inside the Church and valuable items (votive offerings) were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lefkas and the procedural documents were submitted
Remarks	According to the Press Release of November 23 ⁴¹ , 2016 by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Ionian Islands: "A 43-year-old man was arrested yesterday (November 20, 2016) at noon in Lefkas by police officers of the Public Security Division of Lefkas, charged with theft from a Church in the area of Nikiana. In particular, police investigation showed that the 43-year-old broke into the Church door and stole four votive offerings and an electrical appliance from the Church office. The 43-year-old was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lefkas"

N ^o	122.
Place	Church of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul in Ymittos (Holy Metropolitanate of Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos)
Date	November 20, 2016
Brief description	Windowpane was broken, trash was thrown around the Church
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N ^o	123.
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⁴¹http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=67194&Itemid=1781&lang=

Place	Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Patelari, Parish of Patelari , Municipality of Platania (Holy Metropolitanate of Kydonia and Apokoronos)
Date	November 20, 2016
Brief description	Votive offerings placed on the Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, a complaint against person(s) unknown was lodged with the Police Station of Galata, Chania

N°	124.
Place	Cemetery in the area Moria, Lesvos
Date	November 26/27, 2016
Brief description	Damage caused on graves
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation was conducted and procedural documents against person(s) unknown were drawn up

N°	125.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Volos (Holy Metropolitanate of Demetrias and Almyros)
Date	November 2016
Brief description	A group of anti-authoritarians raised a banner, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	126.
Place	Cemetery Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou), Parish of Saint Nikolaos Polysitos (Holy Metropolitanate of Xanthi and Peritheorion)
Date	November 2016
Brief description	Attempt to steal doors and windows
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	127.
Place	Church of Saint Athanasios (Aghiou Athanasiou) in Pythio (Holy Metropolitanate of Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli)
Date	November 2016

Brief description	Collection box was stolen, doors and windows were damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police, preliminary investigation, as referred to in document Ref.: 103587/02/20-6-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	128.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou), Municipality of Saint Nikolaos (Holy Metropolitanate of Kastoria)
Date	November 2016
Brief description	Church walls were damaged, as referred to in in document Ref.: 103587/02/20-6-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	At least three
Police/Procedural action	Under investigation

N°	129.
Place	Church of Saint Kyriaki in Kolhiko (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	November 2016
Brief description	Collection box was stolen, Church was looted, windows were damaged, as referred to in in document Ref.: 103587/02/20-6-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police. Preliminary investigation

N°	130.
Place	Church of Saint Porfyrios in Heraklion (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	November 2016
Brief description	Electrical material, wires, high voltage generator were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the police. Preliminary investigation

N°	131.
Place	Chapel of Taxiarchae – Archangels (Taxiarchon) Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Elia, Heraklion, located in Amnissos, Kartero (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	Fall 2016
Brief description	Attempt to break into the Chapel by breaking the main entrance with an iron bar
Perpetrator(s)	One person, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete

Police/Procedural action	The perpetrator was arrested and then released, as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete
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N°	132.
Place	Cemetery of Megala Kalyvia in Trikala
Date	December 5/6, 2016
Brief description	Damage (excavation) was caused to graves and objects were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation. The procedural documents for the offence of insulting the dead (Article 201 of the Penal Code) was closed due to unknown perpetrator by the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of First Instance of Trikala

N°	133.
Place	Church of the Prophet Elias (Prophiti Iliia) in Thessaloniki, Ano Poli
Date	December 8, 2016
Brief description	Arson attack at the main entrance of the Church. Damage caused on the door
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation
Remarks	See responsibility claim in Table 7 of the Annex

N°	134.
Place	Private Church of Saint Dimitrios (Aghiou Dimitriou), Parish of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelismou Theotokou) in Sternes (Holy Metropolitanate of Kydonia and Apokoronos)
Date	December 9, 2016
Brief description	Two icons were stolen (Holy Trinity and Blessed Virgin Mary)
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint against perpetrator(s) unknown was lodged with Police Station of Souda, Chania, as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete

N°	135.
Place	Chapel of Saint Kyriaki in Turkovunia (Holy Archdiocese of Athens)
Date	December 10, 2016
Brief description	Damage, sacred vessels stolen, Altar door and Northern door were broken (probably with an iron bar)
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified

Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Galatsi, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
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N°	136.
Place	Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Eisodia Theotokou) in Sissiotissa, Kefalonia (Holy Metropolitanate of Kefalonia)
Date	December 14, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into and a votive offering was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation. The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kefalonia

N°	137.
Place	Church of Michael the Archangel (Michael Arhagelou) in Lagolio, Tymbaki, Municipality of Faistos, Heraklion, Crete
Date	December 16, 2016
Brief description	On December 16, 2016 at approximately 16:40, the Police Station of the area was informed by a phone call that unknown perpetrators performed an arson attack in the Church with a flammable liquid. The arson attack was perceived by a by-passer who noticed smoke coming out of the Church and immediately put out the fire. Inspection showed that the fire was caused by a flame (match-lighter) and resulted in partial destruction of the altar, burning of ecclesiastical books while the altar curtain and doors were filled with smoke. Additionally it was found that on one of the Church walls the phrase "Allah is the Greater" was written in spray paint in Arabic
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation was conducted against person(s) unknown for offense of articles 264 (arson) and 382 (Grand theft) of the Penal Code. The relevant documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Heraklion
Remarks	See Table 7 of the Annex for photographs

N°	138.
Place	Chapel of Saint Paraskevi, Parish of the Holy Apostle Thomas in Sounio (Holy Metropolitanate of Xanthi and Peritheorion)
Date	December 20, 2016
Brief description	Theft of Icons
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece, a complaint was lodged with the Police

	Station of Xanthi
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N°	139.
Place	Church of the Archangel in Daimonia (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	December 2016
Brief description	The microphone installation was stolen, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/Θ2/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	140.
Place	Church of Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochou Pigis) in Petroto, (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagadas, Liti and Rentina)
Date	Winter 2016
Brief description	The collection box and sacred vessels were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police; preliminary investigation

N°	141.
Place	Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelismou Theotokou) in N. Ionia, Volos (Holy Metropolitanate of Demetrias and Almyros)
Date	2016
Brief description	Lights around the church (headlamps) were damaged, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/Θ2/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	142-143. (two incidents)
Place	Two Churches in Nea Moudania
Date	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police below
Brief description	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police below
Perpetrator(s)	One Greek national and one Albanian national
Police/Procedural action	According to the Press Release of March 19, 2016 ⁴² , by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Central Macedonia: <i>“Nine thefts and burglaries have been solved, in particular regarding houses and Churches in Nea Moudania Three persons were arrested in accordance with the procedure for offenders caught in the act; procedural documents were drawn up</i>

⁴²http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=61177&Itemid=1656&lang=

	<p>against them.</p> <p>They stole computers, watches, money etc. Most of the money was found in their possession and was returned to the owners.</p> <p>Methodical and systematic Police investigation by the Public Security Division of the Nea Moudania Police Station led to solving 9 burglaries and thefts from houses, Churches, lockers in sport facilities, a dental clinic, and a school playground in Nea Moudania, Halkidiki.</p> <p>A 19-year-old Greek and two Albanian nationals of 19 and 21 years old were arrested and charged with theft and grand theft. [...]</p> <p>Investigation showed that most of the stolen goods were found in their possession and were returned to the owners.</p> <p>The persons arrested were referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Halkidiki”.</p>
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N°	144.
Place	Holy Cross Church in Ano Stavros (Holy Metropolitanate of Ierissos, Aghion Oros and Ardamerion)
Date	2016
Brief description	Burglary, as referred to as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	145.
Place	Church of Saint Dimitrios in Arkasades (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	2016
Brief description	Candle stands were stolen as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	145.
Place	Church of Saint Dimitrios in Arkasades (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	2016
Brief description	Candle stands were stolen as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	146.
Place	Church of Saint Barbara in Arkasades (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	2016
Brief description	Candle stands were stolen as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	147.
Place	Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou) in Kato Lefkonas (Holy Metropolitanate of Serrai and Nigrita)
Date	2016
Brief description	Cross was stolen from the altar; sacred vessels were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece, a complaint was lodged with the Police Station

N°	148.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos in Trivouno (Holy Metropolitanate of Florina, Prespai and Eordaia)
Date	2016
Brief description	Excavation in the Church in search of gold coins, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	149.
Place	Church of Aghia Paraskevi in Pyxos, Prespai (Holy Metropolitanate of Florina, Prespai and Eordaia)
Date	2016
Brief description	Excavation in the Church in search of gold coins, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	150.
Place	Church in Oxya, Prespai (Holy Metropolitanate of Florina, Prespai and Eordaia)
Date	2016
Brief description	Excavation in the Church in search of gold coins, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	151.
Place	Church of Saint Demetrios in Parorio, Florina (Holy Metropolitanate of Florina, Prespai and Eordaia)

Date	2016
Brief description	Excavation in the Church in search of gold coins, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	152-154. (three incidents)
Place	Church of Euboean Saints in Chalkis (Holy Metropolitanate of Chalkis)
Date	2016
Brief description	Within the year 2016, three attempts were made to break the door, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	155.
Place	Chapel of the Guiding Blessed Virgin Mary (Panagias Odigitrias) Parish of Saint Nikolaos in Chalkis (Holy Metropolitanate of Chalkis)
Date	2016
Brief description	Paint thrown over western door of the Church, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	156.
Place	Chapel in Leros
Date	2016
Brief description	Perpetrators removed icons from walls, threw them down and threw oil on them. The incident took place at night time, as referred to in document Ref.: 74Λ/24-5-2017 of the Holy Metropolitanate of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	157-159. (three incidents)
Place	Church of Saint Paul (Aghiou Pavlou) in Linopoti, Kos Island
Date	2016
Brief description	Wire of power supply was stolen three times
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 of the Holy Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	160-161. (two incidents)
Place	Church of Saint Paraskevi in Kos Island
Date	2016

Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church and stole valuable votive offerings from the Icon of Saint Paraskevi, twice within the year
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in the document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 by the Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	162.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Pyli, Kos
Date	2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church and stole valuable votive offerings from the Icon of Saint George
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in the document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 by the Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	163-164. (two incidents)
Place	Chapel of Saint Panteleimon (Aghiou Panteleimonos) in Kos Island
Date	2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church and stole valuable votive offerings from the Icon of Saint Panteleimon, twice within the year
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in the document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 by the Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	165.
Place	Chapel of Saint Anna in Kos Island
Date	2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church and stole valuable votive offerings from the Icon of Saint Anna
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in the document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 by the Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

N°	166.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Ancient Agora, Kos Island
Date	2016
Brief description	Church entrance and windows were broken and severely damaged
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Kos, as referred to in the document Ref.: 136/31-5-2017 by the Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros

b. Incidents related solely to theft of money

N°	1.
Place	Church of Saint Nikanor (Aghiou Nikanoros) (Holy Metropolitanate of Kastoria)
Date	January 22, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and €10 were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The perpetrator was arrested and a complaint was lodged, as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece

N°	2.
Place	Chapel of Saint Kyriaki (Aghias Kyriakis) in Alexandroupolis
Date	January 24, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and small amount of money was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	A Hungarian national and a Greek national
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrators were arrested and referred to Public Prosecutor
Remarks	<p>According to the Press Release of January 25, 2016⁴³, by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace:</p> <p><i>“Two persons were arrested charged with stealing from a chapel Yesterday (January 24, 2016) in the early morning, police officers of the Public Security Division of Alexandroupolis arrested two persons in Alexandroupolis, a 27-year-old Hungarian national and a 16-year-old Greek national, charged with theft.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, the two perpetrators were found and arrested by police officers yesterday in the early morning when they went into a chapel in Alexandroupolis and stole €17.80 from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>The 27-year-old had in his possession three burglary tools which were confiscated and the stolen money was returned to the vestryman of the Church.</i></p> <p><i>The 27-year-old has been a person of interest before for the same offense.</i></p> <p><i>The persons arrested were referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Alexandroupolis”</i></p>

N°	3.
Place	Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou), Parish of Eleousa Ioannina (Holy Metropolitanate of Ioannina)
Date	January 25, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and money was stolen as referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

⁴³ http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=59968&Itemid=1622&lang=

N°	4.
Place	Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Panagias ton Xenon) in Lefkas Island
Date	February 14, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into; €250 were stolen from collection box
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lefkas

N°	5.
Place	Church of Saint Dimitrios in Veria, Imathia
Date	February 18, 2016
Brief description	Small amount of money (€4.80) was stolen (at 00:30) from the collection box kept outside the church
Perpetrator(s)	One perpetrator
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrator was arrested at 1:50 a.m. of the same day and was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Veria. Preliminary investigation. The date for the hearing was fixed (June 30, 2016) for the offense of “repeated petty theft”

N°	6. (See also N° 7 and 8)
Place	Chapel of Saint Nikolaos (Holy Metropolitanate of Karpathos and Kasos)
Date	February 18, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and money was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	See remarks
Police/Procedural action	See remarks
Remarks	As referred to in document Ref.: 83/24-5-2017 of the Holy Metropolitanate of Karpathos and Kasos, a complaint was lodged with the Police Station of Karpathos; the perpetrators were arrested (young Albanian nationals) and the sentences provided for were imposed.

N°	7. (See also N° 6 and 8)
Place	Chapel of Panormitis (Holy Metropolitanate of Karpathos and Kasos)
Date	February 18, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and money was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	See remarks N° 6
Police/Procedural action	See remarks N° 6

N°	8. (See also N° 6 and 7)
Place	Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary Larniotissa, Pigadia (Holy Metropolitanate of Karpathos and Kasos)
Date	February 18, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and money was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	See remarks N° 6

Police/Procedural action	See remarks N° 6
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N°	9.
Place	Church of Saint George Palamba (Holy Metropolitanate of Paramythia, Philiata, Geromerion and Parga)
Date	March 10, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken and money was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece a complaint was lodged with the Police Station

N°	10.
Place	Church of the Holy Trinity (Aghia Trias) in Patra
Date	April 9, 2016
Brief description	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police below
Perpetrator(s)	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police below
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrators were arrested and referred to Public Prosecutor
Remarks	<p>According to the Press Release of April 10, 2016⁴⁴, by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Western Greece: <i>“Two Greek nationals were caught in the act of stealing from the Church of the Holy Trinity</i> <i>Perpetrators had stolen money from the Church collection box as well as candles</i> <i>Two Greek nationals a 35-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman were caught in the act of stealing yesterday (April 9, 2016) at noon in Patra by police officers of DI.AS squad (motorcycle police force) of the Police Directorate of Achaia. Procedural documents were drawn up and they were charged as accomplices to theft.</i> <i>In particular, the two perpetrators got into the Church of the Holy Trinity in Patra and stole €11 from the collection box and candles. Police officers of the DI.AS squad of the Police Directorate of Achaia arrested the perpetrators in the act and found the stolen goods in their possession which they returned to the Church priest.</i> <i>[...]</i> <i>Today the persons arrested were referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Patra”</i></p>

N°	11.
Place	Church of the Prophet Elias (Prophiti Iliia) in Plaisio, Philiata (Holy Metropolitanate Paramythia, Philiata, Geromerion and Parga)
Date	May 13, 2016
Brief description	The collection box was broken and money was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 76822/02/10-5-2017 of the Church of Greece a complaint was lodged with the Police

⁴⁴http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=61674&Itemid=1669&lang=

	Station
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N°	12.
Place	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Savior (Metamorfofi Sotiros), Byzantine Church of Saint Theodora, Arta
Date	May 22/23, 2016
Brief description	The side door was broken into and €20 in coins was stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release of June 5, 2016⁴⁵ by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Epirus:</p> <p><i>“Seven thefts and robberies from churches and a theft from a school canteen were solved in Arta.</i></p> <p><i>The perpetrator identified is a 22-year-old Greek national.</i></p> <p><i>Methodical and systematic Police investigation by the Public Security Division of Arta led to solving seven burglaries and thefts from churches and a theft from a school in the area of Arta.</i></p> <p><i>A 22-year-old Greek national was identified and procedural documents were drawn up against him for theft and damage.</i></p> <p><i>In more detail, police investigation showed that the 22-year-old is involved in the following cases of thefts-burglaries that took place between May 22 and June 2, 2016, in the area of Arta.</i></p> <p><i>During the evening of May 22/23, 2016 he broke into the Chapel of Saint Theodora in Arta and stole money from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>During the evening of May 26/27, 2016 he broke into the Church of the Holy Apostles and the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and he stole money from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>Between May 26 and 30, he broke into the Church of Saint Vasilios twice and stole money from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>During the evening of May 29/30, 2016, he broke into the door of the Church of Saint George Batzi and stole money from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>During the evening of May 29/30, 2016, he broke into the door of the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelistria) and stole money from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>At noon of June 2, 2016, he attempted unsuccessfully to enter in the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Koronisia, Kastro, Arta (See incident No 48, Section II.A.1.a)</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Arta and investigation by the Public Security Division of Arta is ongoing regarding the possible participation of the person accused in other similar offences”.</i></p>

N°	13.
Place	Cemetery Church of the Holy Apostles, Cemetery of Municipality of Arta
Date	May 26/27, 2016
Brief description	Main entrance was broken into with sharp object and perpetrator entered into Church and unsuccessfully tried to steal money from the collection box

⁴⁵http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=62998&Itemid=1701&lang=

Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	See No 12

N ^o	14.
Place	Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Arta
Date	May 26/27, 2016
Brief description	Main entrance was broken into with sharp object; €50 in coins were stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	See No 12

N ^o	15-16. (2 incidents)
Place	Church of Saint Vasilios in Arta
Date	May 26/27 and May 29, 2016
Brief description	Entrance was broken into and coins were stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	See No 12

N ^o	17.
Place	Church of Saint George in Batzi, Arta
Date	May 29/30, 2016
Brief description	Door was broken into and money was stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	See No 12

N ^o	18.
Place	Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelistria) in Arta
Date	May 29/30, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into; €10 in coins were stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	See No 12

N ^o	19.
Place	Church of Saint George in Batzi, Arta
Date	June 8, 2016
Brief description	Small amount of money was stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	According to the Press Release of June 9, 2016 ⁴⁶ by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Epirus: <i>"A 22-year-old Greek national was arrested in Arta for stealing from the collection box Yesterday (June 8, 2016) in the afternoon, police officers of the Public Security Division of Arta in cooperation with police officers of the Crime Prevention and Suppression team of Arta arrested a 22-</i>

⁴⁶http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27.%27&perform=view&id=63122&Itemid=1701&lang=

	<p><i>year-old national charged with grand theft. In particular, police officers found and arrested the 22-year-old for entering the church of Saint George Batzi in Arta and stealing money from the collection box.</i></p> <p><i>It is noted that the 22-year-old has committed similar offences in the past. [editor's note: See incident 12]</i></p> <p><i>The person arrested will be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Arta and preliminary investigation is conducted by the Public Security Division of Arta".</i></p> <p>According to a subsequent document by the Police Directorate of Arta, the perpetrator was referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Arta charged with grand theft as an occupation and repeatedly as well as for infringement of Law 3028/2002 "On protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general". The perpetrator was taken to the prison of Ioannina.</p>
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N ^o	20.
Place	Chapel in Didymoticho
Date	June 9, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Two Greek nationals
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release of June 9, 2016 ⁴⁷ by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Central Macedonia and Thrace:</p> <p><i>"Two Greek nationals were arrested for stealing from a chapel in Didymotichon</i></p> <p><i>Yesterday (June 9, 2016) in the afternoon, police officers of the Public Security Division of Didymotichon of the Police Directorate of Orestias arrested two Greek nationals aged 17 and 15, charged with theft.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, police officers found and arrested the perpetrators for stealing the collection box from a chapel in Didymotichon.</i></p> <p><i>Investigation revealed 2 burglary tools which were confiscated and the stolen collection box which was returned to the priest of the chapel.</i></p> <p><i>Procedural documents will be submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Orestias and preliminary investigation is conducted by the Public Security Division of Didymotichon".</i></p>

N ^o	21.
Place	Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimiseos Theotokou) in Farsala
Date	July 12, 2016
Brief description	Burglary and theft
Perpetrator(s)	Three persons
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrators were arrested and referred to the Court of First Instance of Larisa on July 14, 2016 in accordance with the procedure for offenders caught in the act. A judgment

⁴⁷http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27..%27&perform=view&id=63151&Itemid=1699&lang=

	against two persons was issued for theft and theft attempt
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N°	22.
Place	Church of Saint Nikolaos (Aghiou Nikolaou) in Kourtalioitiko Gorge, Rethymno
Date	July 12, 2016
Brief description	Theft of €50
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Rethymno and the case was closed due to unknown perpetrator(s)

N°	23-30. (8 incidents)
Place	Churches in Messinia and Arcadia
Date	July 27, 2016
Brief description	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police below
Perpetrator(s)	Three Greek nationals
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release of June 9, 2016 ⁴⁸ by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of the Peloponnese:</p> <p><i>“Eight cases of theft and theft attempt from Churches committed in the municipalities of Kalamata and Messini, in Messinia, and in the municipality of Megalopoli in Arcadia, were solved after extended police investigation by the Public Security Division of Kalamata</i></p> <p><i>Three Greek nationals, a 39-year-old man and a 41-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman are charged with theft.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, after extended police investigation conducted by the Public Security Division of Kalamata, it has been verified that on July 27, 2016, the above-mentioned persons committed jointly three theft attempts and five thefts of money from Churches in local communities of the municipalities of Kalamata and Messini, in Messinia, and of the municipality of Megalopoli in Arcadia.</i></p> <p><i>Procedural documents will be submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Kalamata. Police investigation and preliminary investigations by the Public Security Division of Kalamata are ongoing regarding the possible participation of the persons accused in other similar offences.”</i></p>

N°	31.
Place	Metropolitan Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelistria) in Lefkas Island
Date	August 8/9, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into and €200 was stolen from the collection box
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lefkas

⁴⁸http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27.%27&perform=view&id=64367&Itemid=1737&lang=

N°	32.
Place	Church of Saint John Chrysostom (Aghiou Ioannou Chrysostomou) (Holy Metropolitanate of Nikopolis and Preveza)
Date	August 18, 2016
Brief description	Theft attempt
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	According to the Public Prosecutor's office of Preveza, criminal proceedings for theft attempt were brought against the person accused who was arrested and tried in flagrante delicto before the one-member Magistrates' Court of Preveza which pronounced a one month prison sentence suspended for three years against him

N°	33.
Place	Church of Saint John Chrysostom (Aghiou Ioannou Chrysostomou) in Katsifariana, Chania
Date	August 29/30, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators broke into the Church from a small window and destroyed the collection box and stole from it a small amount of money; no sacred vessels or votive offerings or Holy books were stolen; no damage or desecration was caused
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation by the Public Security Division of Chania

N°	34.
Place	Church of Saint George (Aghiou Georgiou) in Demati, Monofatsi (Holy Metropolitanate of Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos)
Date	September 19, 2016
Brief description	The collection box was broken into and €33 was stolen; no other damage was recorded. The money was returned
Perpetrator(s)	Two persons, one Greek national and one Albanian national, as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete
Police/Procedural action	Perpetrators got arrested by the Police and procedural documents were drawn up. The parish did not ask for the perpetrators to be prosecuted, as referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete

N°	35.
Place	Church in Perivleptos in Ioannina
Date	October 10, 2016
Brief description	See Press Release by the Hellenic Police below

Perpetrator(s)	Two Albanian nationals
Police/Procedural action	<p>According to the Press Release of October 11, 2016 ⁴⁹ by the Hellenic Police Press Information Bureau of Epiros:</p> <p><i>“Two Albanian nationals were arrested for theft attempt from the collection box of a church in Perivleptos, Ioannina.</i></p> <p><i>Yesterday (October 10, 2016) in the afternoon two Albanian nationals, a 37-year-old and a 25-year-old, were arrested by police officers of the of DI.AS squad (motorcycle police force) of the Police Directorate of Ioannina, caught in the act and charged with theft attempt, illegal entry into the country and infringement of Customs Code legislation.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, the two perpetrators were arrested having previously attempted to steal from a collection box in the churchyard of Saint Paraskevi Church in Perivleptos, which however was empty.</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>The persons arrested will be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Ioannina. Preliminary investigations are conducted by the Public Security Division of Ioannina”.</i></p>

N°	36.
Place	Chapel of Saint Raphael, Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Elia, Vathy, Heraklion (Holy Archdiocese of Crete)
Date	October 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into with iron bar. Small quantity of olive oil and €5 were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	As referred to in document Ref.: 338/15-5-2017 of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, a complaint was lodged with the Public Security Division of Heraklion by the priest of this church

N°	37.
Place	Church of Saint Dimitrios in Chrysavgi (Holy Metropolitanate of Lagada, Liti and Rentini)
Date	November 3, 2016
Brief description	Collection box was stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	A complaint was lodged with the Police. Preliminary investigation

N°	38.
Place	Metropolitan Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evangelistria) in Lefkas Island
Date	November 3/4, 2016
Brief description	Church was broken into and €15 was stolen from collection box
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified

⁴⁹http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&lang=%27.%27&perform=view&id=66181&Itemid=1764&lang=

Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Lefkas
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N°	39.
Place	Church of Taxiarchae – Archangels (Pammegiston Taxiarchon) of the Monastery of the Saint Taxiarch of the Municipality in Agrambelos, Xiromero, Aitolokarnania
Date	Between November 8 and 20, 2016
Brief description	Money and olive oil were stolen
Perpetrator(s)	Two Albanian nationals, minors
Police/Procedural action	Procedural documents were drawn up and criminal proceedings were initiated against the minors for infringement of Articles 45, and 372 of the Penal Code (theft with accomplices) and against their parents for infringement of Article 360 of the Penal Code (child neglect)

N°	40.
Place	Church of Saint Athanasios (Aghiou Athanasiou) in Karyes, Trikala
Date	December 18, 2016
Brief description	Perpetrators entered the Church by breaking into the door and stole €10 from collection box; they left without stealing any other item or desecrating anything
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

N°	41.
Place	Chapel of Sts. Anargyroi (Agion Anargyron in Daimonia (Holy Metropolitanate of Monemvasia and Sparta)
Date	December 2016
Brief description	Money was stolen from collection box
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation

N°	42.
Place	Chapel of Saint Nikolaos, Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Limni, Evia (Holy Metropolitanate of Chalkis)
Date	2016
Brief description	Collection box was broken into
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	No data available

2. Catholic Church in Greece

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

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

The Greek Orthodox Church was recognized as prevailing religion in the Ionian Islands according to the “**Constitutional Chart of the United States of the Ionian Islands**” but a special protection was granted to the Catholic Church.

Article 4 of Law N’ (i.e. 50) of 1864 “On the ratification of the Treaty between Great Britain, France and Russia on the Union of the Ionian Islands to the Kingdom of Greece” (Official Government Gazette A’ 25) established the following, regarding the position of the Catholic Church in the Ionian Islands: “*The union of the United States of the Ionian Islands to the Kingdom of Greece shall in no wise invalidate the principles established by the existing legislation of those Islands with regard to freedom of worship and religious toleration; accordingly the rights and immunities established in matters of religion by Chapters I and V of the Constitutional Charter of the United States of the Ionian Islands, and specifically the recognition of the Orthodox Greek Church as the dominant religion in those Islands; the entire liberty of worship granted to the established Church of the protecting Power; and the perfect toleration promised to other Christian communions shall, after the union, be maintained in their full force and effect. The special protection guaranteed to the Roman Catholic Church, as well as the advantages of which that church is actually in possession shall be equally maintained; and the subjects belonging to that communion shall enjoy in the Ionian Islands the same freedom of worship which is recognized in their favor by the Protocol of the 22 January (3rd February), 1830. The principle of entire civil and political equality between subjects belonging to different creeds, established in Greece by the same protocol, shall be likewise in force in the Ionian Islands.*”

Following the introduction of the Civil Code in 1946, the question which emerged concerning the legal personality of the Catholic Church and of its establishments in Greece, was solved by **article 13 of Law 4301/2014**. According to this, the Catholic Church in Greece is recognized as Ecclesiastical Legal Person governed by Private Law and the religious communities (Dioceses, Parishes, Monasteries) inextricably linked to it are recognized as Religious Legal Persons governed by Private Law and amount to 227 in total. Among those, there are 82 Parishes and 47 Monasteries⁵⁰.

⁵⁰ See Tables 3 and 4 of the Annex for detailed list

For the year 2016 one incident against the Parish Church of the Sacred Heart of our Savior has been reported (see Table 7 of the Annex for photographs).

N°	1.
Place	Parish Church of the Sacred Heart of our Savior, Athens (Religious Legal Person Law 4301/14 Article 13(1)(Γ)(12))
Date	August 8, 2016
Brief Description	Perpetrators broke into Church; damage caused and arson attempt
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The police was informed and the incident was recorded. The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of First Instance of Athens
Remarks	<p>According to the document of May 8, 2017 by the Conference of the Catholic Hierarchy in Greece: <i>"The first attempt of the perpetrator to enter the Church was by breaking the side windowpane on the left side. Despite his effort to open the window, he did not succeed and thus he used as a lever a big iron grating that he found and he managed to get into the Church by breaking the support blocks of a big wooden door which is on the left side of the Church. While he was in the Church, the perpetrator used a metal container which he filled with wood that he got from breaking wooden items (lectern, keyboard pieces) and other flammable material (the Altar cover) and he sprayed them with paraffin from the Altar candles. We assume that he attempted to use the (direct-current, battery) bulbs forming a halo on the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and tried to create a spark in order to short circuit the wires. His effort was unsuccessful. Then he looked for lit candles but there weren't any and he found a lighter which was fortunately broken and thus the worst was avoided. No theft or any other activity was observed in the Church"</i>.</p>

3. Other Christian Religious Communities

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

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

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

	Legal name	Decision number
1	Metropolis of Attica and Boeotia of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal Person	165/2015, Court of First Instance in Thebes
2	Metropolis of Piraeus and Salamina of the Church of True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Religious Legal Person	2457/2015, Court of First Instance in Piraeus)
3	Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost, Kifissia, Religious Legal Person	2749/2015, Court of First Instance in Athens)
4	Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost, Athens, Religious Legal Person	2842/2015, Court of First Instance in Athens
5	Metropolis in Greece of the Armenian Orthodox Apostolic Church	1279/2016, Court of First Instance in Athens

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

For the year **2016** no incidents against religious sites of the above Christian communities were reported (See section I.E.)

However, the **Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki** (Religious Legal Person by Law 4301/2014) reported two incidents which took place in the “Christian Center”, a space administered by this Church where food rations are offered to homeless people.

In particular, the following incidents were reported:

1. A windowpane was damaged and broken
2. Fire was set on the outside area in front of the entrance on the sidewalk which resulted in damaging the entrance door.

As referred to in the document Ref.: E17011/24-2-2017 by the legal representative of the Church of the Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki, it is possible that these incidents were caused by homeless people who receive food aid by the "Christian Center".

B. Judaism

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 Eliezer⁵¹:

“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 klm 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”⁵². With regard to the nature and action of the Jewish Museum of Greece, Mr. M. Matsas, President of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Museum of Greece states:

“In cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece has evolved into a unique educational center in Greece⁵³ since it:

- *organizes training seminars throughout Greece addressed to educators with a view to enabling them to acquire the cognitive skills and optimal teaching methods to teach the Holocaust*
- *co-organizes school contests on the Holocaust rewarding the winners with an educational visit to the Auschwitz Museum*

⁵¹ <http://ejpress.org/the-jewish-community-in-greece-the-oldest-community-in-europe/>

⁵² <https://www.jewishmuseum.gr/en/12389/>

⁵³ The Hellenic Parliament rewarded the significant work of the Jewish Museum of Greece in terms of research, publications, exhibitions, culture and education, and recognized it as equal to public research centers and the scientific research conducted by the Jewish Museum as part of the overall research effort of Greece (Law 4310/2014 article 3, Official Government Gazette A' 258). It is worth noting that in 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat General for Religious Affairs and the Jewish Museum of Greece was signed and in 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by three parties: the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and Yad Vashem foundation.

- *participates in the project carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, recently, by the Hellenic Parliament on establishing in the Auschwitz Museum a permanent Greek National Exhibition of the Holocaust in Greece*
- *implements far-reaching projects, such as publishing the corpus of all inscriptions recording and corroborating the history of Greek Judaism”*

As a result of the long history of Greek Judaism, before World War II, Jewish communities existed in 28 Greek cities (Didymoticho, New Orestiada – Soufli, Alexandroupolis, Komotini, Xanthi, Kavala, Drama, Serres, Thessaloniki, Veria, Kastoria, Florina, Trikala, Larissa, Volos, Chalkis, Athens, Patra, Agrinio, Ioannina, Preveza, Arta, Corfu, Zakynthos, Chania, Rhodes and Kos). There were 77,377⁵⁴ 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.

January 27⁵⁵ was established by **Law 3218/2004** (Official Government Gazette A’12) 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, **the Presidential Decree 31/2005** (Official Government Gazette A’ 51) was issued on “Events on January 27, Remembrance Day for the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust”.

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

Currently there are 8 active Jewish communities in Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Volos, Ioannina, Trikala, Chalkis, Corfu). Since 1970⁵⁶ the communities of Rhodes, Veria, Kavala and Karditsa remain inactive under a managing committee appointed by the Minister of Education because they total less than 20 families, according to Emergency Law 367/1945 (Official Government Gazette A’ 143) as amended by Law Decree 301/1969 (Official Government Gazette A’ 195).

⁵⁴ http://www.kis.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=362&Itemid=74

⁵⁵ On January 27, 1945, the Aushwitz-Brikenau 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 full text of the Resolution is available at: <http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/docs/res607.shtml>

⁵⁶ See Moses Konstantinis “Jewish Communities of Greece after the Holocaust” p. 32, (http://www.kis.gr/files/CONSTANTINIS_TELIKO_gia_site.pdf)

Eleven Synagogues operate currently in the active Jewish communities for the religious needs of their members. Two Synagogues operate in Athens, three⁵⁷ in Thessaloniki, one in Larissa, one in Volos, one in Ioannina, one in Trikala, one in Chalkis and one in Corfu. Three Synagogues operate in the inactive Jewish communities: one in Rhodes, one in Kavala and one in Veria. In Crete, the only remaining Synagogue is the Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Chania. By **Law 2456/1920** (Official Government Gazette number A' 173) adopted under the premiership of Eleftherios Venizelos, it has been laid down that Jewish communities are "Legal persons governed by public law"⁵⁸.

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

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

By **Emergency Law 367/1945** (Official Government Gazette number A' 143) the Jewish Communities have been formed again by the Greek State aiming at guaranteeing their existence. This Emergency Law has been adopted because the losses that the communities had suffered by the Nazis had made the implementation of Law 2456/1920 problematic.

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

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

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

⁵⁷ <http://www.ict.gr/>

⁵⁸ See Press Release by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of January 12, 2015 regarding the Legal personality of the Jewish Communities and the Jewish Schools "Communication from the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. G.Kalantzis, on the legal personality of Jewish Communities and the Central Board of Jewish Communities, of Jewish schools and their taxation"
http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/Press_Release_Taxation_Jewish_communities_final.pdf

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

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

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

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

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs exercises supervision of these bodies pursuant to **Presidential Decree 353/1997** (Official Government Gazette A' 239).

Synagogues, referred to above, Jewish cemeteries (not only the ones currently existing in Jewish Communities but also in areas where they existed before the Holocaust), Jewish schools and Memorials to honor the Greek Jews murdered in the Holocaust are all religious sites of the Jewish Communities in Greece.

It is noted that in 2016 five acts of violence against Jewish religious sites in Greece were recorded and they are mainly anti-Semitic (in the case of the desecration of the Holocaust Memorial in Athens reservations are maintained because the slogan sprayed on it was illegible). That means that they make reference to specific motives and ideologies which are the same that led to the Holocaust and the murder of 6 million people. In fact, two of the 2016 incidents took place in a worship place⁵⁹ (desecration of the Jewish Synagogue of Ioannina with spraying swastikas **twice** within the last year).

In order to provide a better view especially on anti-Semitism below are cited extracts from the speech⁶⁰ of Mr. D. Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and the speech⁶¹ of Mr. M. Moses, President of the Athens Jewish Community at the

⁵⁹ See Figure 13 section III.B.2 "Comparative representation of incidents of years 2015 and 2016 by type of religious site

⁶⁰ The extracts from the speech of Mr. D. Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, can be found at: https://kis.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1609:-2017&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23 (Date of access August 25, 2017)

⁶¹ The speech of Mr. M. Moses, President of the Athens Jewish Community, can be found at: <http://athjcom.gr/news/%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BB%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85->

ceremony for the “Remembrance Day for Jewish Greek Heroes and Martyrs of the Holocaust” which took place in Athens on January 30, 2017 and from the speech⁶² of the Most Rev. Ignatios, Metropolitan of Demetrias and Almyros on “The responsibility of the Church towards diversity” which was delivered in Larissa on January 27, 2015, on the occasion of the National Remembrance Day for Jewish Greek Heroes and Martyrs of the Holocaust.

A. Extract from the speech of Mr. D. Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece on January 30, 2017

“Is the Holocaust a wake-up bell that was not heard? Is the Holocaust the lesson that we did not learn? Today – despite the horrific events around us- I am standing here and I CHOOSE TO SAY: NO! Our hope for a better future is SOLID: It is based on the people and institutions that react to obscurantism. YES, I believe that. And my courage compensates for my worries; I can hope that the world, our society, will not slide into barbaric intolerance and racism. WE OWE it to the six million Jews of Europe who were exterminated in the name of hatred. We owe it to the memory of our fathers who became “numbers” but above all, we owe it to our children and grand-children: to remain alert, to anticipate, to create and to hope! But first and foremost to REMEMBER!”

B. Extract from the speech of Mr. M. Moses, President of the Athens Jewish Community on January 30, 2017

“In the recent past, within less than a year, in Greece we have read and heard the following: “In this banking system two basic poles are the players. One is the Jewish lobby, strong, powerful in the U.S.A. and beyond! Behind each important deal there is a Jew”, “I have made mistakes, but who hasn’t? Even God made the mistake to create the Jews who killed Jesus”,

“On the other hand, we need to decide what we prefer: make an effort to include Golden Dawn into the environment of Democracy or a continuous conflict? In my opinion, the essence of a convergence must come first”,

“The persistence of the Jews in the Holocaust memory serves a purpose, to recognize their special nature, their uniqueness, their contribution into the global stage, their impact on the evolutionary process of the world and of course of our country”, “The Jews managed to identify the Holocaust with the tragic fate of their nation. With patience and perseverance they managed to take ownership of the Holocaust in order to claim justice for themselves”.

The identity of the persons who made these statements is of no importance in this ceremony. What is important is that through these statements, and other similar to those, four common characteristics emerge: 1. They are expressed by persons who are in contact with and influence public opinion, in other words they are opinion makers; 2. They nearly always withdraw their statement with the usual excuse “erroneously” or they recognize a distortion of their statement due to conspiracy; 3. They communicate their message intelligently, for

[%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%AD%CE%B4%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%85-%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%81%CE%B1%CE%B7%CE%BB%CE%B9%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE%CF%82/](#) (Date of access August 25, 2017)

⁶² The speech of Most Rev. Ignatios, Metropolitan of Demetrias and Almyros, can be found at: <https://imd.gr/2015/01/%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85-%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B2-%CE%BC%CE%B7%CF%84%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%AF%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%B4%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B7%CF%84%CF%81%CE%B9%CE%AC/> (Date of access August 25, 2017)

instance they do not deny the Holocaust, this attitude is out of date, but instead they question the value of memory and they criticize memory as exaggerated, self-serving and exploiting; 4. They easily reproduce anti-Semitic stereotypes, fostering justice to those who diligently and fanatically support them and they contribute to making public opinion resist less against extremist views, racism and prejudice”.

C. Extracts from the speech of Most Rev. Ignatios, Metropolitan of Demetrias and Almyros on January 27, 2015

“Herein precisely lies the great lesson that we must learn from the tragedy of the Holocaust: atrocities are committed not only by uncivilized, primitive, and perverse monsters, but also by “normal” people, civilized and educated, affectionate fathers, good husbands and conscientious professionals, just like the German Nazis [...]

Consequently, when the ecclesial self-consciousness is alive and expressed in specific manifestations of ecclesiastical life, it witnesses to the example of Jesus Christ Himself, who drew close to those who were suffering, persecuted, socially and ethnically outcast as the “cursed” of the earth, giving a clear example of how we, His disciples and ministers, ought to live together if we truly desire and look forward to eternal life. You cannot love God Whom you cannot see and hate your fellow man, with whom you must share your daily life and the earth’s resources, to para- phrase John the Evangelist. Is it possible, then, to claim, as the Church or as individual believers that we are following the sacrificial example of our Founder and practicing His salvific message, when we embrace in-humane ideologies that are contrary to all of the above? Anti-Semitism is not about some economic theory, which can lead to individual social injustices, but rather a threat that invalidates the very definition of man as such, inasmuch as it turns him into an object, dehumanizing him and invaliding his personal otherness, which is a non-negotiable truth of the Christian faith, with roots that spring from the life of the Holy Trinity and the Kingdom. [...]

Those waxing nostalgic for Hitler- like policies and advocates of the most inhumane ideologies have seized the opportunity to exploit the problems and fears of our fellow citizens, attempting to sow hatred and intolerance toward anyone who is different and ultimately anyone who passionately resists the de- humanization of the human person. [...]

As aptly noted, “the Church’s responsibility lies not only in the fact that it embraces and stands in solidarity with those in need—irrespective of racial, ethnic or religious origin—but that, with all its pastoral, theological, and practical powers, it publicly testifies that it will not consent to or tolerate, even through its silence, any fascist and nationalistic practices, but will cast out from the Church the fear-mongering rhetoric and slogans of hatred toward other people ...,” such as, in this case, our Jewish brothers and fellow citizens. [...]

Thus, whenever we hear anti-Semitic cries — even from within ecclesiastical circles — with the pretext of patriotism for Greece and love for the Greek people, it is imperative that we oppose them vehemently not only on the basis of the foundational principles of the Gospel, but also on numerous examples of the contemporary self-consciousness of the Church, which have proclaimed with no uncertainty that racism and anti-Semitism — from wherever and whomever they may arise — in no way express the faith and self-consciousness of the Church. The consciousness of the Church over the years is expressed by the example of great hierarchs, such as Archbishop Damaskinos, Metropolitan of Zakynthos Chrysostomos and our late predecessor Ioakeim, to whom further reference was made, as well as many other examples by anonymous clergy and faithful laypersons alike, who

in their own way and being motivated by genuine Christian sentiments contributed to the salvation of thousands of Greek Jews. This is the tradition of the Orthodox Church in Greece and this tradition we shall continue to follow against many self-proclaimed arbiters”.

For the year **2016**, the following incidents have been recorded:

N°	1.
Place	Synagogue Ioannina
Date	May 4, 2016
Brief description	Swastika was carved with a sharp object on the metallic front door of the Synagogue
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor’s Office at the Court of First Instance of Ioannina

N°	2.
Place	Holocaust Memorial, Athens
Date	June 9/10, 2016
Brief description	Unintelligible word was written with a marker on the Memorial
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor in charge of racist attacks
Remarks	As referred to in the document Ref.: 218/15.5.2017 by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece this was: “an intelligible graffiti (P8KO) which – according to reports in the press [...] - has been investigated by the police concluding that it is likely to be anti-Semitic, since the Slovenian word PEKO means “baking”

N°	3.
Place	Synagogue Ioannina
Date	September 11/12, 2016
Brief description	Spray painting of swastikas on the outside stone wall around the Synagogue and on a wall of a house adjacent to it.
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	The Jewish community of Ioannina immediately informed the Police Directorate of Ioannina and all the necessary action was taken. It was also requested that the Synagogue be adequately guarded to avoid similar incidents in the future. The procedural documents against persons unknown for aggravated damage (Penal Code, article 382) and for infringement of the laws against racism (Law 927/79 and Law 4285/14) were submitted to the Public Prosecutor’s Office at the Court of First Instance of Ioannina and the case is in a stage of

	preliminary investigation
Remarks	The communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ⁶³ (dated September 13, 2016) regarding this incident is as follows: <i>“We strongly condemn the desecration of the Jewish Synagogue in Ioannina. This barbaric act is an insult to the memory of Greek Jews and all our fellow citizens who were victims of Fascism and it amounts to a direct attack on the values of the democratic Greek society. The Greek authorities will take all appropriate steps to arrest and punish the perpetrators of this appalling act and are determined not to allow similar incidents to be repeated”</i> .

N ^o	4.
Place	Bronze plaque in memory of the Holocaust in Toumba area, Thessaloniki
Date	September 15, 2016
Brief description	Attempt to remove the plaque using tools. Damage was caused.
Perpetrator(s)	A Greek national
Police/Procedural action	The person arrested was referred to the Public Prosecutor’s Office at the Court of First Instance of Thessaloniki and the procedural documents were submitted

N ^o	5.
Place	Old Jewish Cemetery in the area of Nea Ionia, Volos, Magnesia
Date	November 22/23, 2016
Brief description	Vandalism with slogans on the outside wall of the Cemetery reading: “Jews and anarchists, a fraternal relationship – Greeks’ Force (Ελλήνων Δύναμις)”, “Victory 3-θ. Army (Νίκη 3-θ. Αρμυ)” and “hebr (εβρ)”
Perpetrator(s)	Unidentified
Police/Procedural action	Preliminary investigation carried out by the Public Security Division of Volos. The procedural documents were submitted to the Public Prosecutor’s Office at the Court of First Instance of Volos

⁶³ <http://www.mfa.gr/epikairoτητα/diloseis-omilies/anakoinose-upourgeiou-exoterikon-gia-te-bebelose-tes-ebraikes-sunagoges-ioanninon.html>

C. Islam

1. Muslim Minority in Thrace

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

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

Therefore, the minority in Thrace is of religious nature. 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.

Three Muftiates operate at present in Didymoticho, Xanthi and Komotini. The Muftiates are separate public service structures equivalent to General Directorates and they are under the authority of the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (**Royal Decree of Dec.12, 1952; Law 1920/1991, article 7**, Official Gazette A’ 11; **Law 3536/2007** Official Gazette A’ 42; **Law 4235/2014 article 68**, Official Gazette A’ 32). The Mufti, who is Head of the Muftiate, has the position of General Director and is paid accordingly, he is appointed by a Presidential Decree with a ten-year mandate and he has religious, administrative and judicial competence according to Sharia solely on personal law (**Law 1920/1991** Official Gazette A’ 11 which ratified the Act of Legislative Content of Dec. 24, 1990).

The Muslims in Thrace exercise their religious duties in numerous mosques which are over 260 in the area. **The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs has satisfied all requests for works for repair or extension of old mosques as well as for building new ones.** It is noted that the repair of historical mosques, such as the Mosque “Beyazit” in Didymoticho is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Moreover, by **article 27 of Law 4067/2012** (Official Gazette A’ 79) specific provisions were established for simplifying urban planning procedures which are laid down for the repair or building of mosques in buildings located in a Waqf in Thrace.

The Greek State has demonstrated special attention to resolve longstanding problems regarding mosques in particular in mountain areas of Thrace due to lack of property titles and street planning for almost all of them. By **article 48 of Law 4178/2013** (Official Gazette A’ 174), urban planning issues arising regarding mosques were solved. These issues regard mosques located in areas within legal settlements but without street planning, or they

regard issuing of building permits or permits to repair mosques (currently this is allowed only in areas with an approved street planning), or generally in legalizing existing buildings and architectural parts such as minarets which have been built in the past but without a relevant 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, tekke, masjid, cem, cemevi), certain cases of malfunction in carrying out repairs or constructions of expansions or annexes, as well as the dense cultural richness of the wider area in recent years, set up a “Committee for resolving planning matters for mosques of the Muslim minority in Thrace”(Online Publication Number ΩΕΣ64653ΠΣ-NTT). Members of this Committee were the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the Head of the Directorate for Religious Administration of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, a representative of each Muftiate of the Muslim minority in Thrace, a representative of each Waqf management committee of the Muslim minority in Thrace, a representative of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a representative of the Ministry of Environment and Energy and a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

In the context of the work of this Committee, it appeared appropriate for the relevant Ministries (Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Energy and Ministry of Culture and Sports) to issue a joint circular with a view to gathering, codifying and grouping the existing legislation, clarifying the authorization procedure with a detailed list of the necessary supporting documents and urban studies where appropriate (i.e. to demolish an existing building and to build a new one, to construct an annex building, to make small-scale repairs and deviations of building height etc.) to the benefit of all concerned.

Following the one-year cooperation of the three relevant Ministries, the Building Services of Thrace and the Department for traditional agglomerations and listed buildings of the Directorate of Environment and Culture of the State Secretariat of Macedonia-Thrace, a **circular was issued on the “Authorization procedure for issuing a building permit to Islamic places of worship/prayer in Thrace (mosques, tekke, masjid, cem, cemevi)” (Online Publication Number 780Γ4653ΠΣ-Z3X)** (see Section I.B.2). The full text of the circular can be found on the website of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs⁶⁴.

An explicit reference is made in this circular regarding the obligation to protect the cultural heritage as derived from international conventions⁶⁵. In particular, in order for newer buildings to be integrated in a protection scheme, the competent bodies designate them since it is through this procedure that the protection scheme is activated. Especially in Thrace, where the majority of Islamic places of worship/prayer are close to 100-years-old, it is necessary to clarify on a case-by-case assessment if the place of worship/prayer is subject to the provisions of Law 3028/2002.

⁶⁴ http://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/10_04_17egyklios.pdf

⁶⁵ UNESCO Convention of 1972, Granada Convention 1985

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 mosques⁶⁶; one of them operates on a daily basis as a Mosque and one operates as a Mosque in Ramadan and in Eid Al-Adha. In Kos there are 6 mosques classified as archeological sites⁶⁷ and there are two mosques operating on a daily basis.

Mosques and Islamic cemeteries are under the management committees of the Managing bodies of the Waqf in Rhodes and in Kos respectively which initially were set up as “Special Councils” according to the **decree (Ref. 12/2-5-1929)** by the Italian Governor of the Islands of the Aegean⁶⁸. Currently, the Management Boards of the Managing bodies of the Waqf property in Rhodes and Kos are formed of five members and they are set up by a decision of the South Aegean region Administration every two years. Their members are Greek Muslims, permanent residents of Rhodes or Kos respectively.

Particular mention should be made to the funding by the Ministry of Culture and Sports for restoring historical mosques in the area, such as the Recep Pasha Mosque, the Sintrivan Mosque and the Mosque of Mehmet Aga in Rhodes.

With the support of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs the Suleiman Mosque in Rhodes – which operates as a museum- is made available each year to the Managing body of the Waqf property in Rhodes for the Eid al-Fitr prayer and the Eid al-Adha prayer.

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 which date back to the Ottoman period. Many of those have been restored, such as the Fethiye Mosque in the Roman Agora in Athens⁶⁹, the Yeni Mosque in Mytilene⁷⁰, the Zincirli Mosque in Serres and the Mosque in “Dikastirion” square in Drama⁷¹. In other mosques damages due to the ravages of time are being restored.

Some mosques operate as museums after their restoration, such as the Emir Zade Mosque in Chalkis where a byzantine collection is housed, the Mosque of the Lower Fountain or Tzisdarakis Mosque in Athens which was built in 1759 and since 1918 it houses the Museum of Greek Folk Art⁷² and the Küçük Hassan Mosque in Chania which operates as a cultural area.

An indicative list is shown in Table 5 of the Annex.

⁶⁶ http://listedmonuments.culture.gr/fek.php?ID_FEKYA=19581&v17=

⁶⁷ http://listedmonuments.culture.gr/fek.php?ID_FEKYA=19018

⁶⁸ See also decree by the Army Commander of the Dodecanese (Ref: 19/29-4-1947) as ratified by the Resolution 34 (ΑΔ') of the 4th Revisionary Hellenic Parliament (Official Government Gazette Α' 262/27-11-1947)

⁶⁹ See also document Ref.: 45637/23-9-2014 (Online Publication Number 7ΙΣΧΦ-1ΗΙ) “Funding and distribution of NSRF projects” Ministry of Development and Competitiveness

⁷⁰ http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/2/gh251.jsp?obj_id=1704&era=4&group=7

⁷¹ www.dimos-dramas.gr/portaldrama/uploadfiles/ep_sxedio2012_2014.xls

⁷² <http://www.melt.gr/gr/to-mouseio/i-istoria-tou-mouseiou/>

The Ministry of Culture and Sports seeks to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage of Greece (and has edited special publications in the past⁷³ concerning these efforts) in which the monuments of the Ottoman period and especially the Islamic monuments are included of course.

c. Islamic houses of prayer

For the first time in 2013, applications for a permit to establish and to operate an Islamic worship place were filed and they were all satisfied, except for those whose supporting documentation was incomplete. In 2016 an application for a permit for an Islamic house of prayer was filed (House of Prayer of the Religious Community “MINHAJ-UL-QURAN THIVA) which was granted. Therefore, the total number of Islamic houses of prayer in Greece (not including Thrace and the Dodecanese) is 4.

Since 2011 the Greek State makes spaces available⁷⁴ at the Peace and Friendship Stadium and at the Olympic Sports Athletic Center of Athens in order to ensure that Muslims will be able to practice their religious duties during the Great Islamic Celebration marking the end of Ramadan and Ibrahim’s sacrifice.

Additionally, each year Muslims honor the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad with a parade in Athens; this is authorized by the Greek authorities and protected by the Hellenic Police.

3. Islamic Mosque in Athens

By **Law 3512/2006** (Official Gazette A’ 264) the necessary regulatory framework to establish and operate an Islamic Mosque in Attica was established for the first time in national legislation. The Mosque will be under public supervision, so as to provide Muslims residing in the Attica area (Greeks and non-Greeks) with the possibility to exercise their religious duties in accordance to their religion.

By the adoption of **Law 4014/2011** (Official Government Gazette A’ 209), **Law 4327/2015** (Official Government Gazette A’ 50), **Law 4414/2016** (Official Government Gazette A’ 149) and **Law 4473/2017** (Official Government Gazette A’ 78) several administrative and urban planning matters were settled and as a result the construction of the Mosque is in the process of being completed.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the Greek State’s support is manifested in a constant and permanent manner, not only in the construction of the Mosque, but also in granting public property for use, exercising responsibility for the proper operation of the Mosque (appointment of Management committee, etc.). Thus, the initiative undertaken by the State ensures the unhindered full access and use of this space by all religious Muslims in a non-discriminatory, inclusive manner⁷⁵.

⁷³ Ottoman Architecture in Greece, Collective work, 2009

⁷⁴ See Press Release by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs: “Muslims’ religious practice at the end of Ramadan (Eid-al-Fitr)” at <http://www.minedu.gov.gr/gepo-menu-m/2015-09-16-09-19-00/28413-tesesi-ton-thriskeftikon-kathikonton-ton-mousoulmanon-kata-tin-eorti-tis-lysis-tis-nisteias-tou-ramazaniou-id-al-fitr-2>

⁷⁵ See Assessment Report for the consequences of the regulations of Law 4414/2016 (article 35)

4. Significant events in 2016

a. Although not related to a religious place, it is worth mentioning that a fire broke out in a land close to the house of the former locum tenens of the Muftiate of Didymoteiho, in the area Sidiro, Soufli, Alexandroupoli. On March 28, 2016, at around 2:50 a.m., inhabitants of the village Sidiro noticed a small fire in a land within 80 m. of the residence of the former locum tenens of the Muftiate of Didymoteiho who hadn't noticed it) and called the Fire Department of Soufli. It was detected that the fire was caused by an improvised incendiary device. The Public Security Division of the Hellenic Police in Alexandroupoli conducted a preliminary investigation and the procedural documents are submitted to the Public Prosecutor's office.

b. Another incident published in the press which took place on September 25 to 26 at night time in Tymbaki, Moires, Heraklion, Crete, was that leaflets of religious content were scattered on streets; the leaflets were signed "Muslim fraternity of Crete" and contained verses of the Quran translated in Greek.

Police investigation found such leaflets on the ground outside the school complex (Middle School – High School) of Tymbaki and certain inhabitants reported that leaflets were thrown on other streets of the area.

Police investigation by the Police Station of Moires, also found that certain Pakistanis collected about twenty of these leaflets from the streets early in the morning on September 26, 2016, because the letterhead logo on the leaflets was the word Allah in Arabic and therefore it should not be thrown on the ground, stepped on or dirtied. Additionally, it was found that no organization named "Muslim Fraternity of Crete" exists in Crete; the relevant procedural documents have been submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office of Heraklion.

For the year **2016** the following incident has been reported:

N°	1.
Place	Old Medresse, area Kamares, Kavala
Date	April 15, 2016
Brief Description	Four pigs' heads were placed on a wall of the area which is being restored and the slogan "Turkish agents out" was sprayed in black paint on the wall
Perpetrator(s)	Unknown
Police/ Procedural action	Preliminary investigation
Remarks	Regarding the restoration and re-use of the space, see the Decision by the Municipality of Kavala Ref.: AAY298, 27/1/2014: "NSRF – Restoration of the old Medresse in Kamares and its re-use as space for cultural events to enhance the surrounding environment and develop the area between the street of the old aqueduct and Lambrou Katsoni street" (Online Publication Number ΩΓΦΠΩΕ6-6ΗΣ)

D. Other Religions

During **2016** no incidents against religious sites of other religions have been reported.

III. GEOGRAPHICAL DISPLAY & STATISTICAL PRESENTATION

A. Geographical display of incidents of 2016

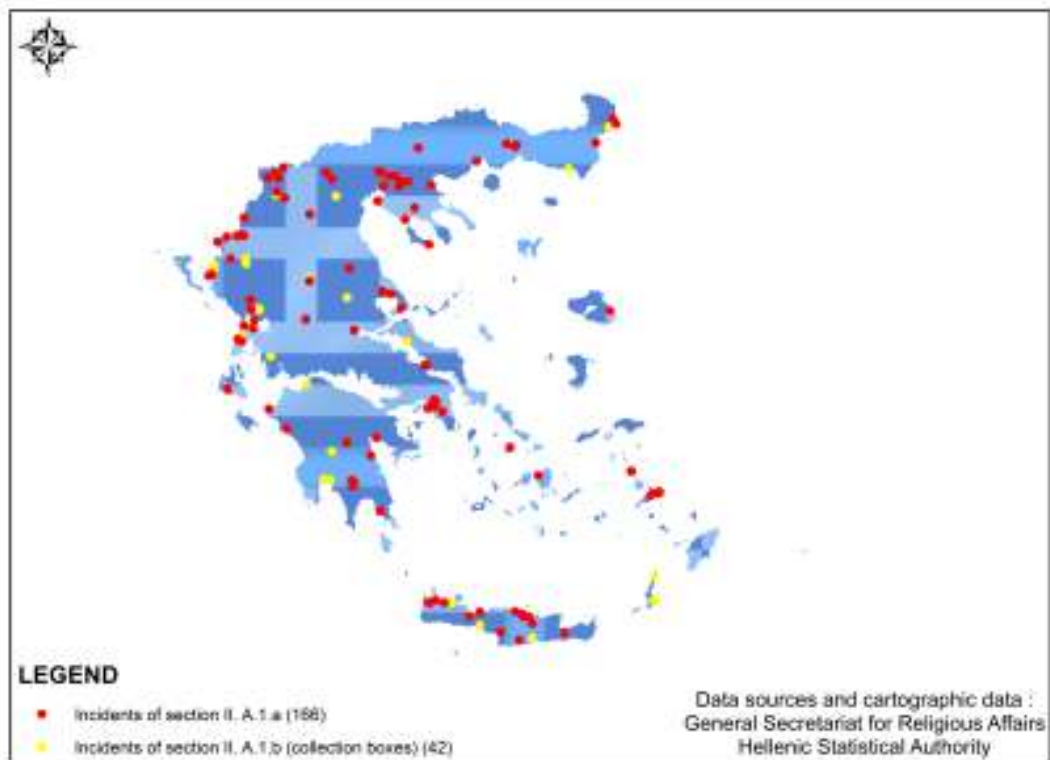


Figure 1. Orthodox Church

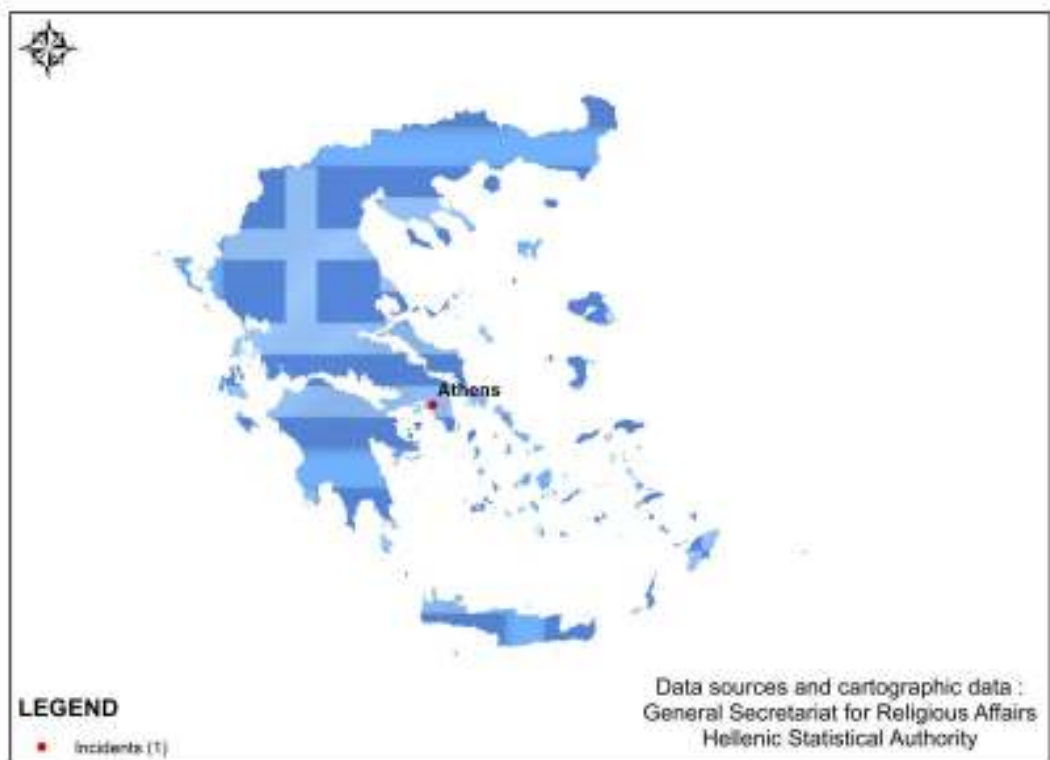


Figure 2. Catholic Church

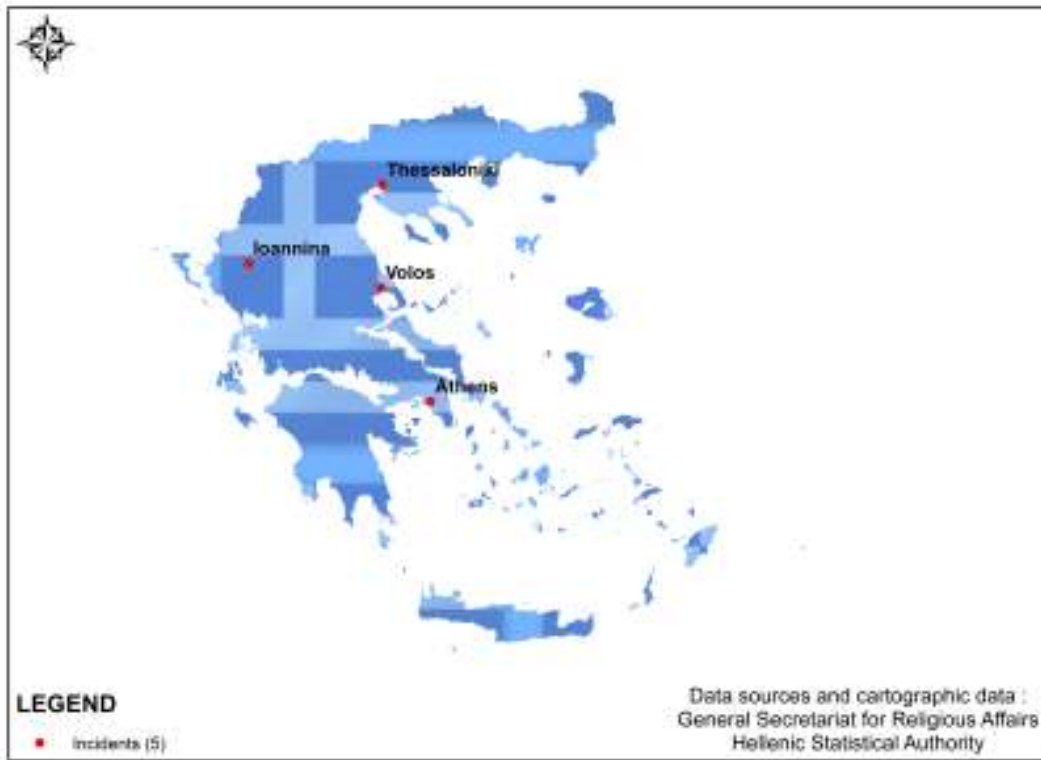


Figure 3. Judaism

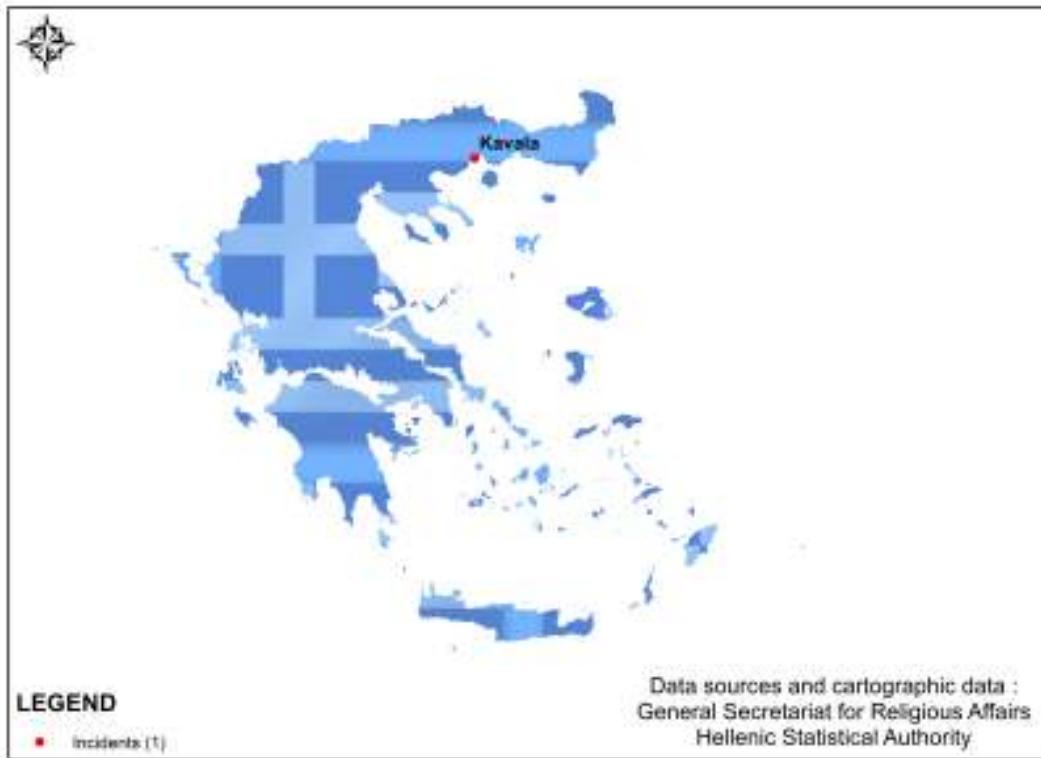


Figure 4. Islam

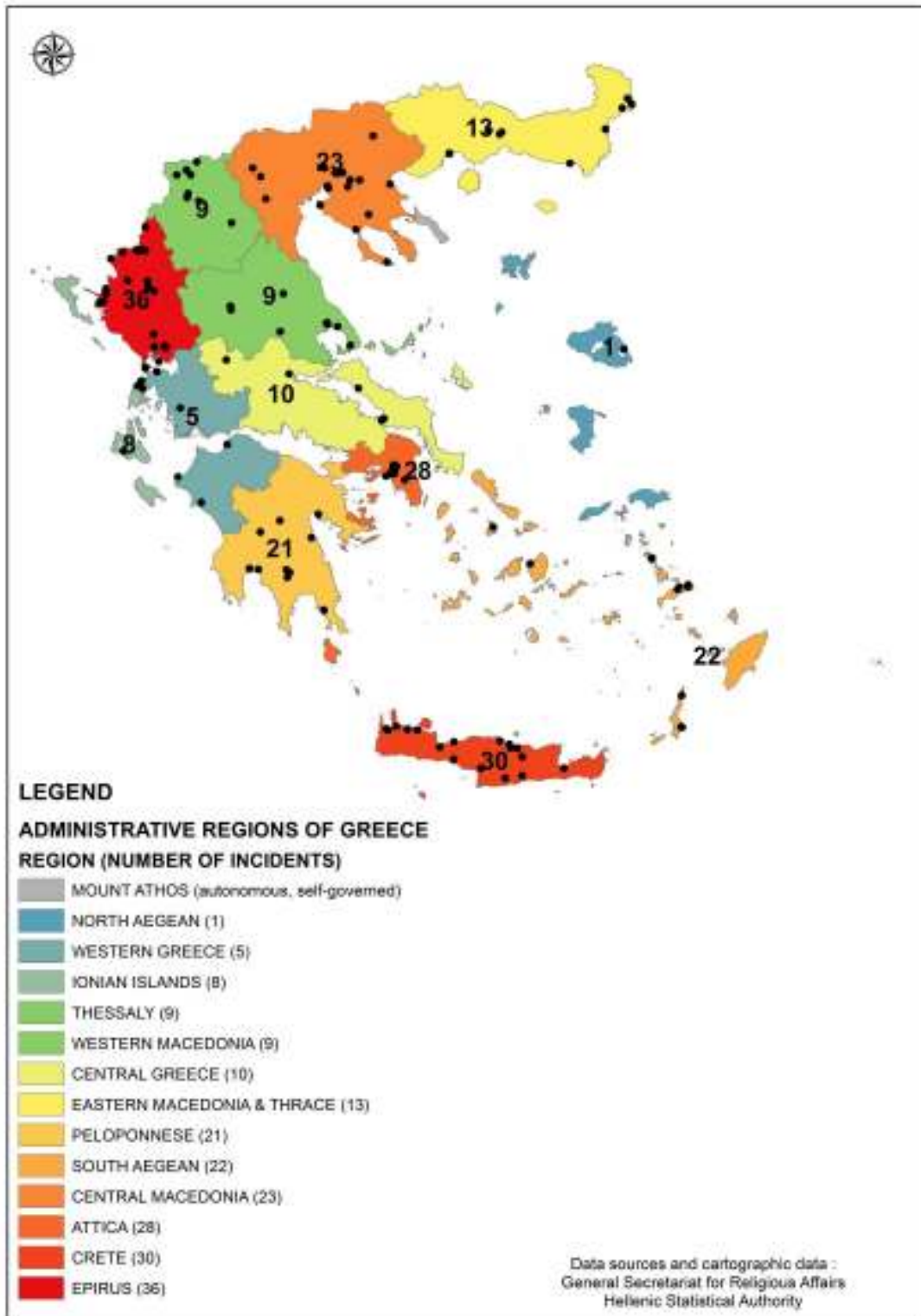


Figure 5. Geographical display of the total number of incidents against all Religions by Region

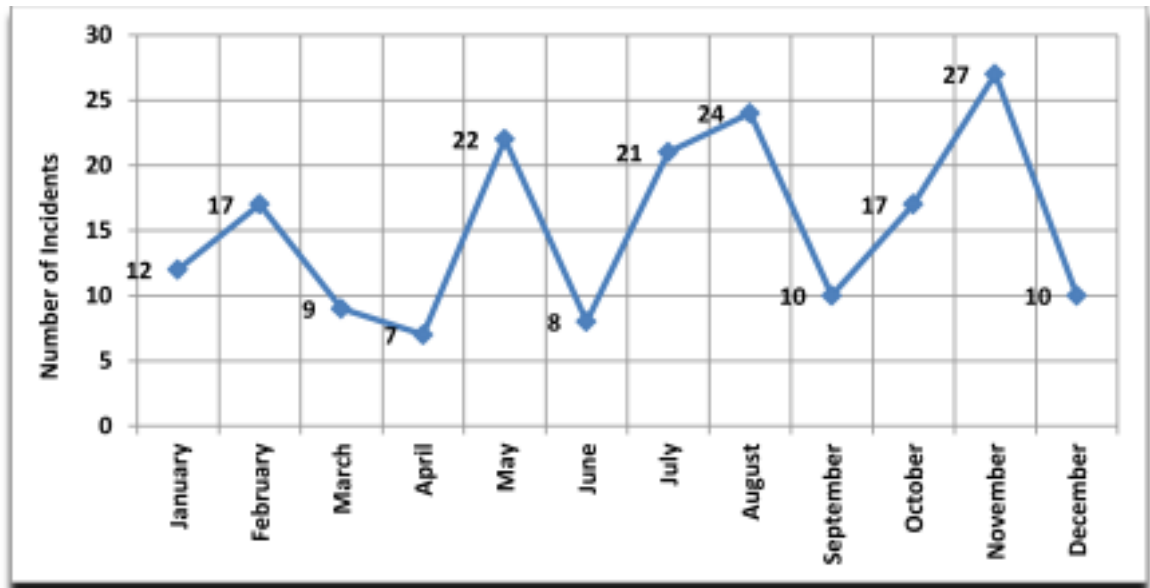


Figure 6. Total number of incidents against all Religions by month⁷⁶

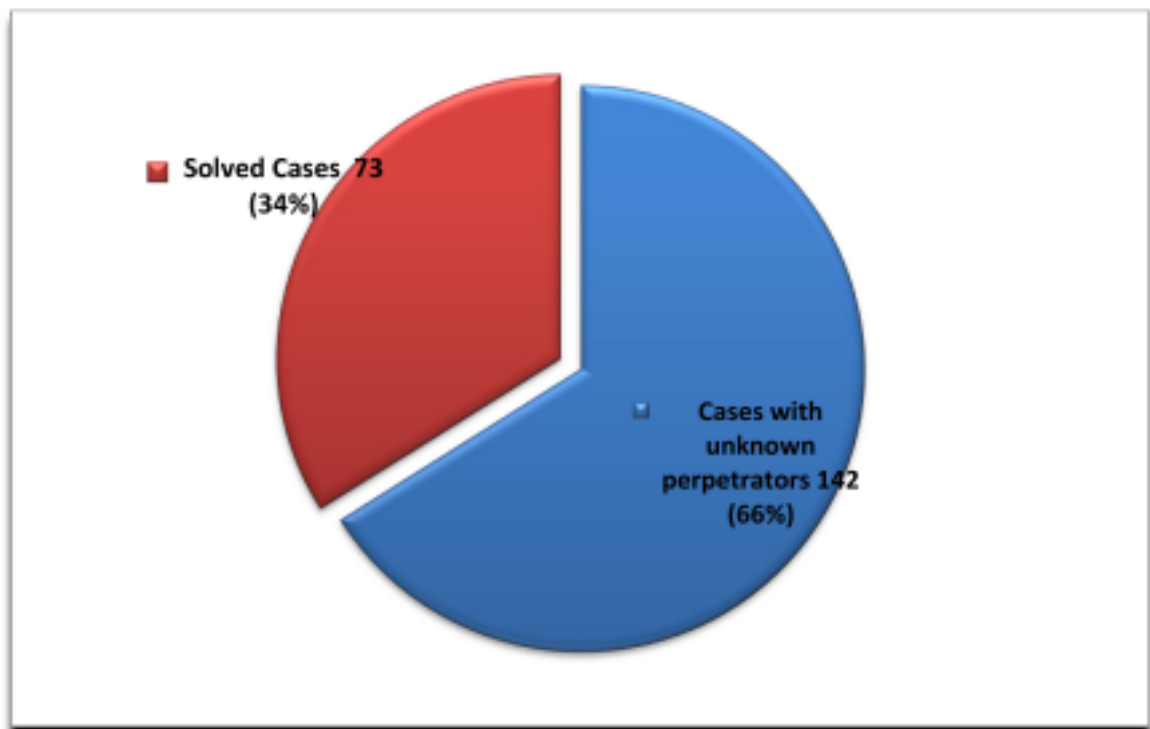


Figure 7. Solved and unsolved cases of incidents against all Religions in absolute numbers and percentages

⁷⁶ This regards only incidents with specified dates

B. Statistical presentation by Religion

1. Christianity

a. Orthodox Church

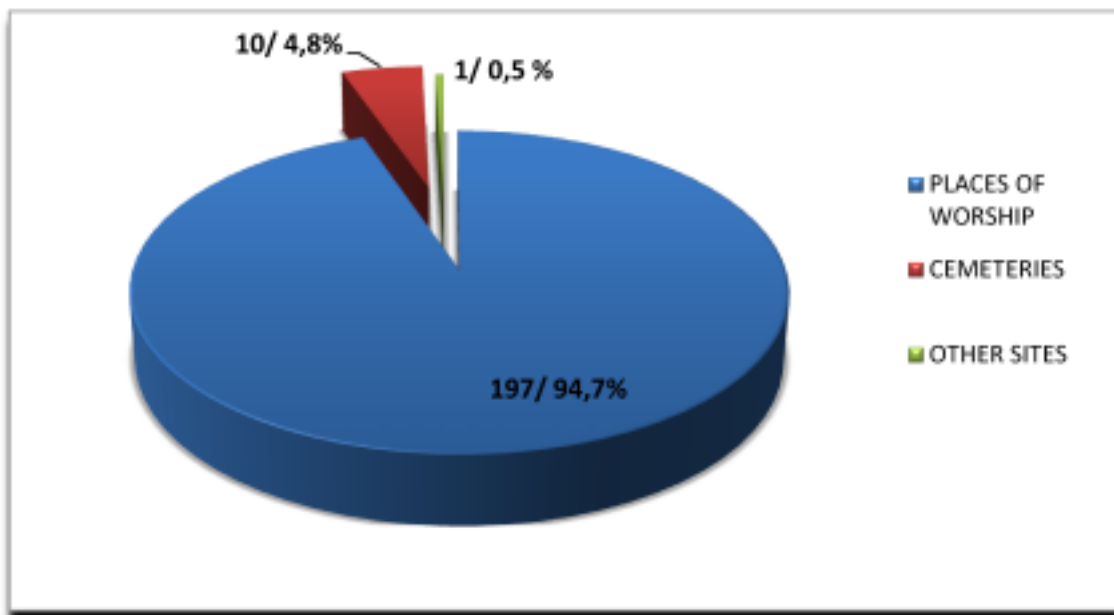


Figure 8. Incidents by type of site in absolute numbers and percentages

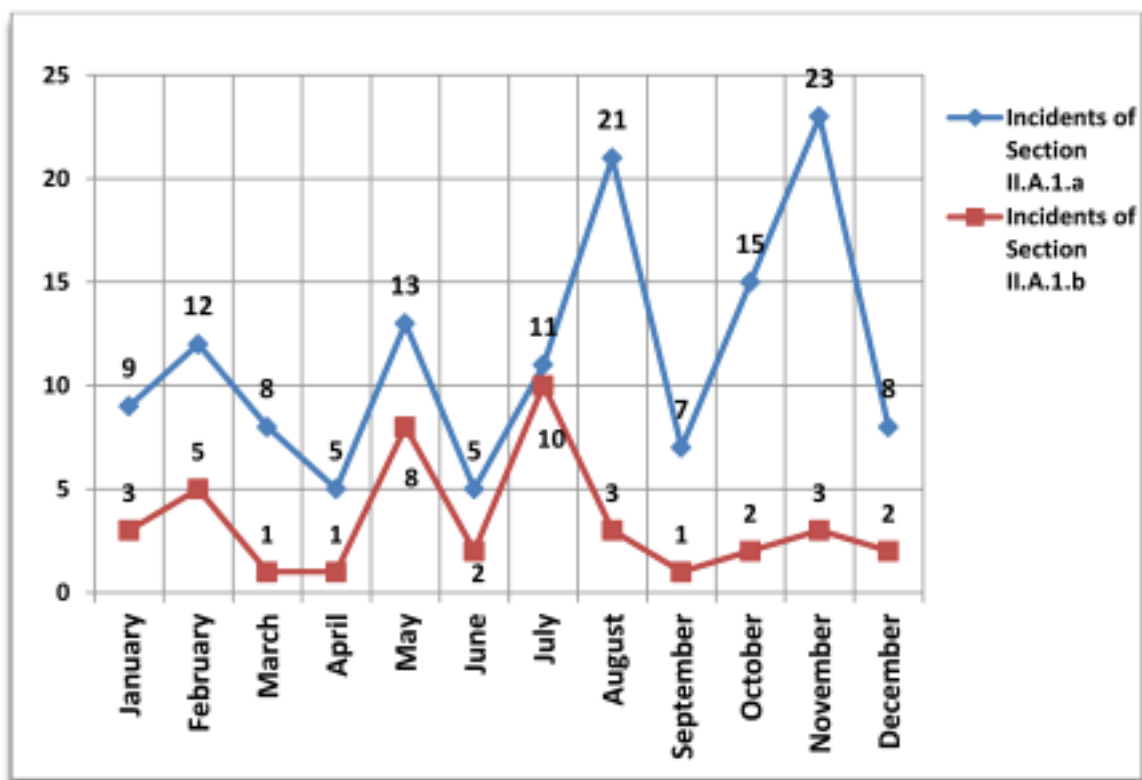


Figure 9. Incidents of 2016 by month

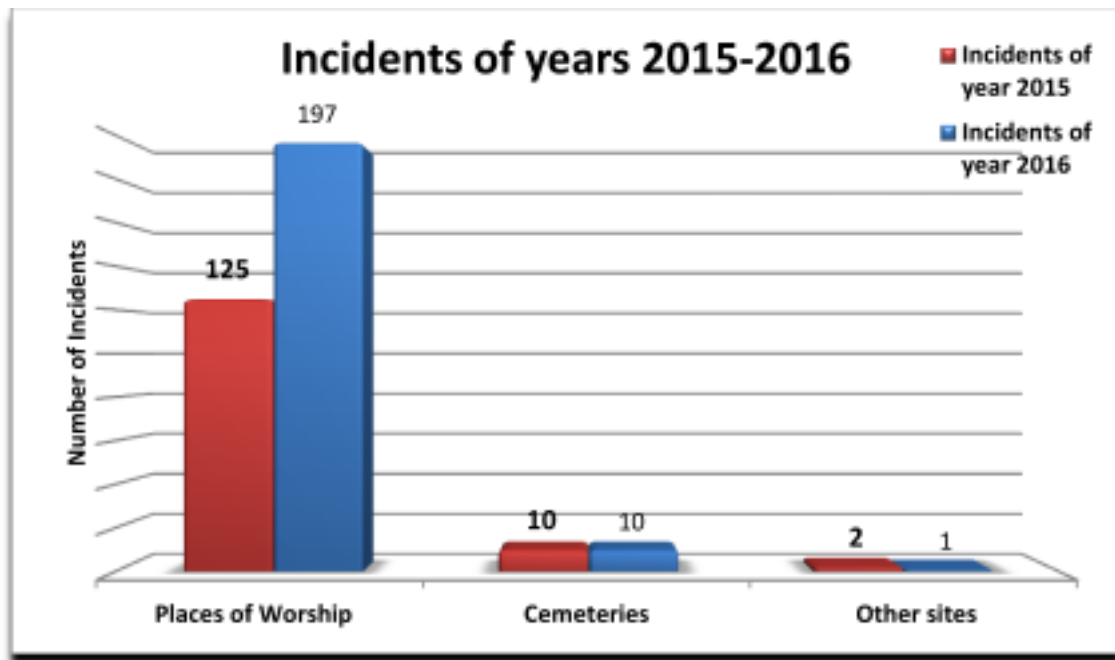


Figure 10. Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015 and 2016 by site

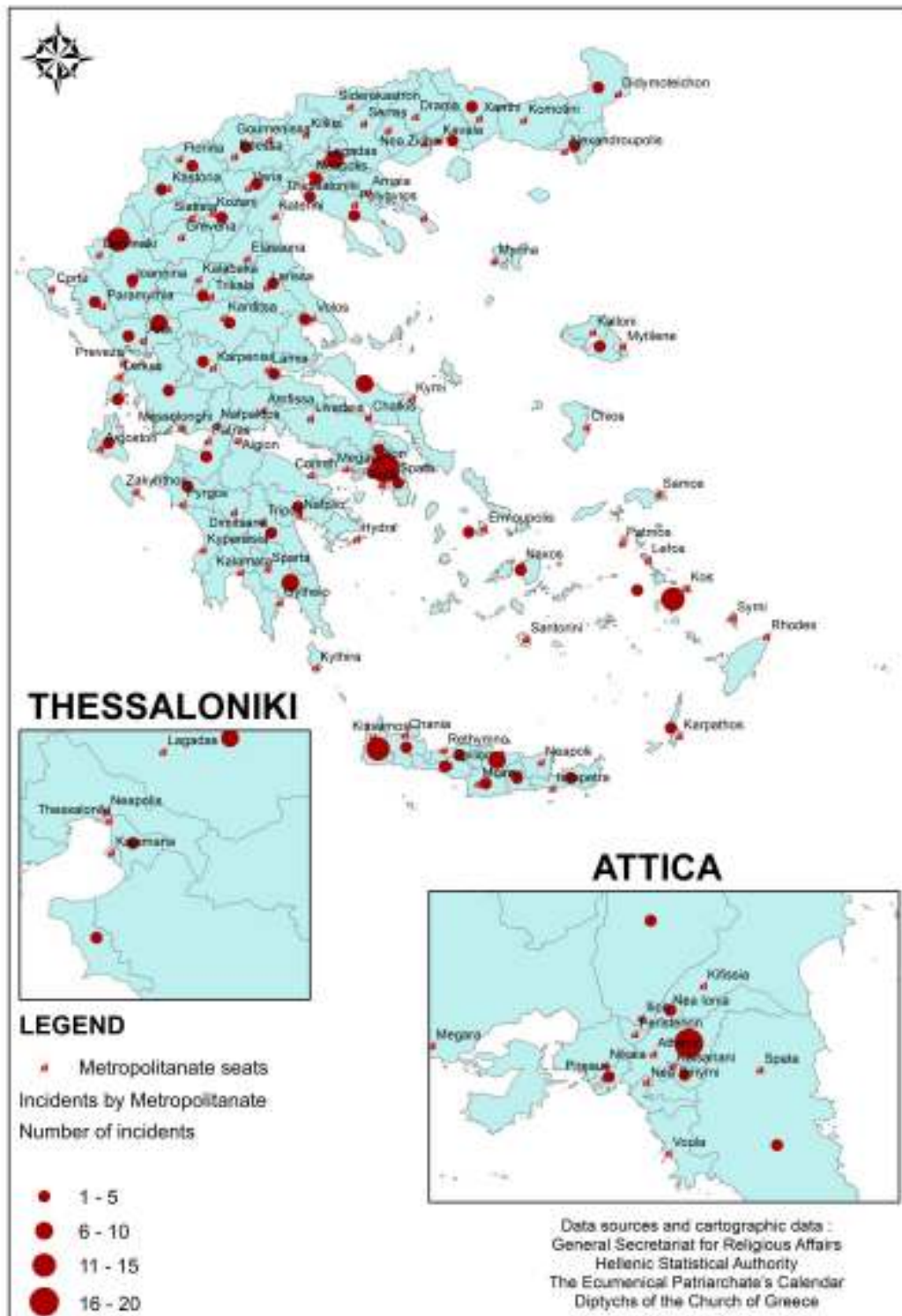


Figure 11. Incidents of 2016 by Holy Metropolitanate

b. Catholic Church

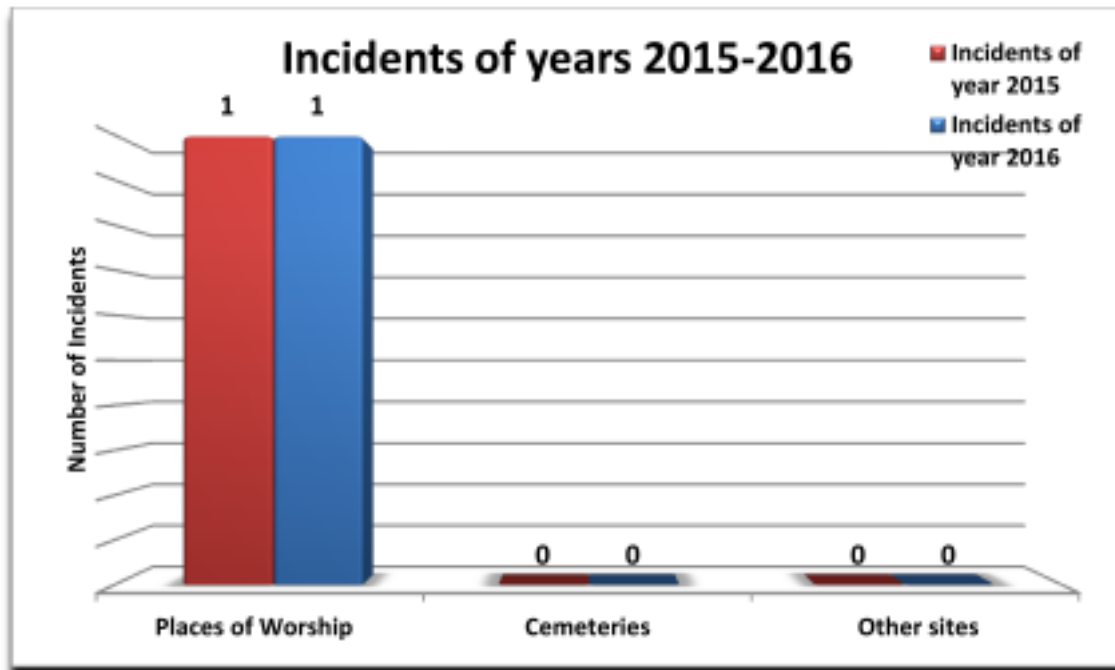


Figure 12. Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015 and 2016 by site

2. Judaism

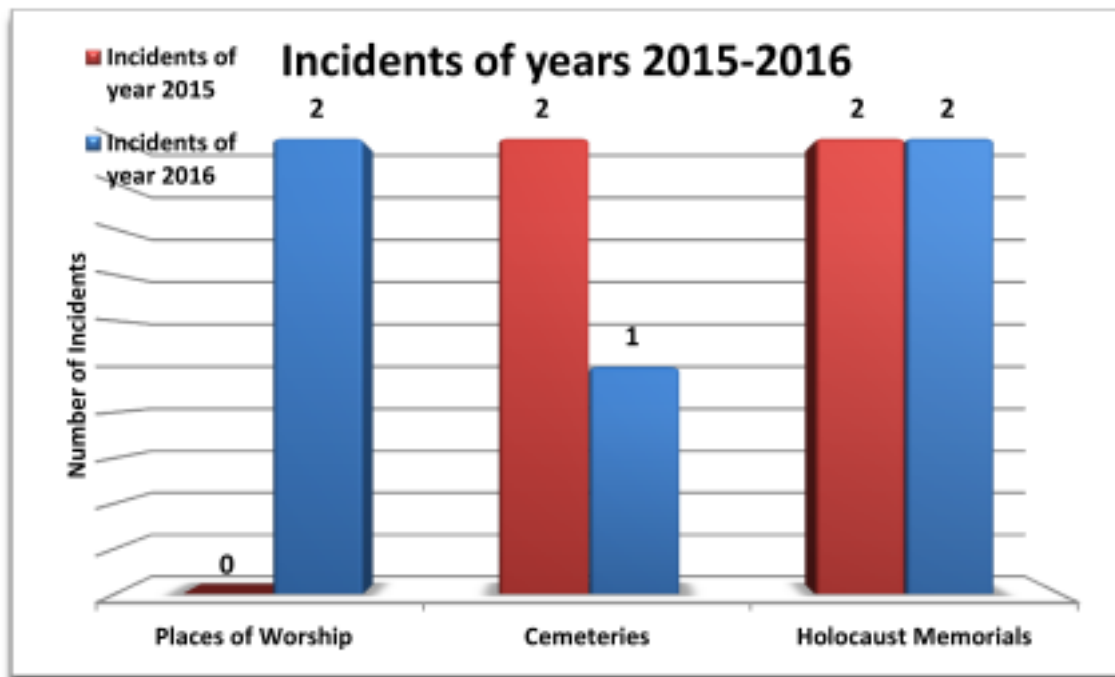


Figure 13. Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015 and 2016 by site

3. Islam

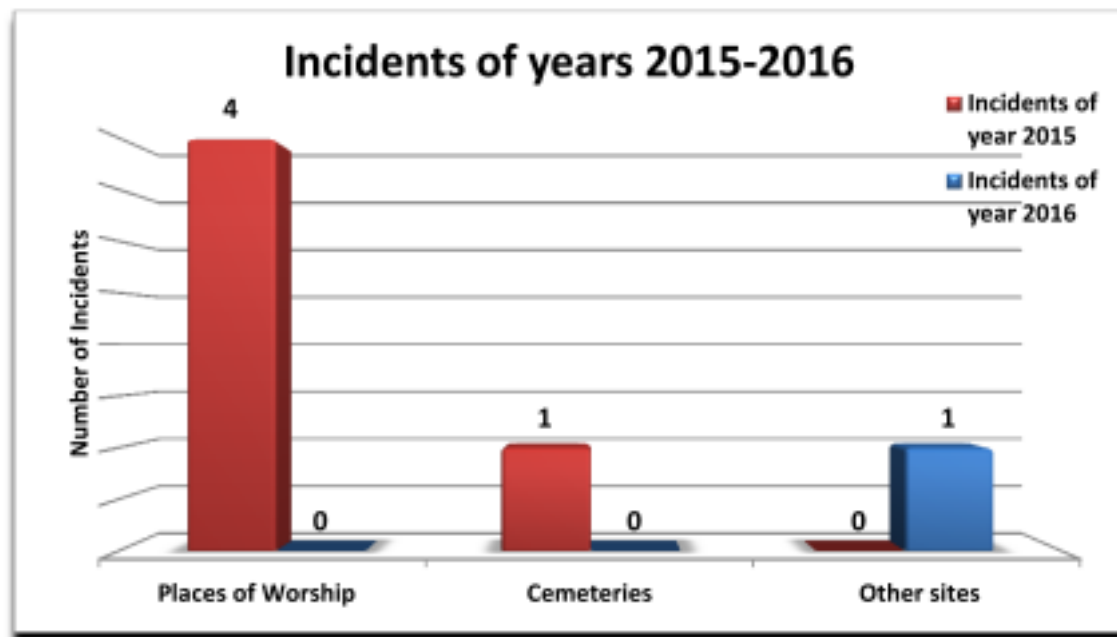


Figure 14. Comparative presentation of incidents of years 2015 and 2016 by site

IV. ANNEX

TABLE 1. Map of Holy Metropolitanates of the Orthodox Church of Greece

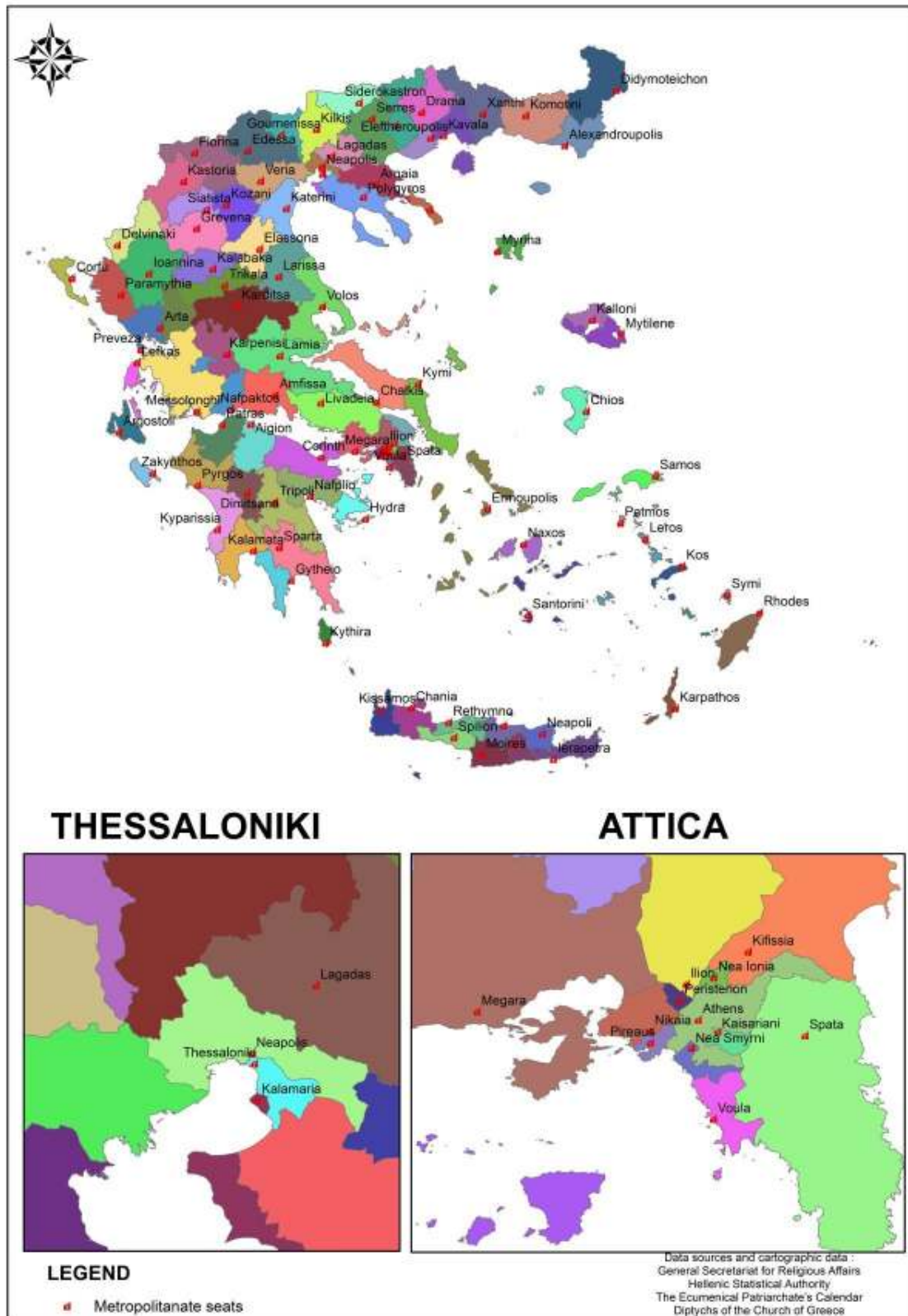


TABLE 2. Numerical Data on the Orthodox Church in Greece

CHURCH OF GREECE (TOTAL: 82 Metropolitanates)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Athens	Athens	145	7
2	Aitolia and Acarnania	Messolonghi	215	19
3	Alexandroupolis	Alexandroupolis	61	3
4	Argolis	Nafplion	78	7
5	Arta	Arta	97	4
6	Chalkis	Chalkis	144	12
7	Chios, Psara and Inousses	Chios	109	16
8	Demetrias and Almyros	Volos	142	14
9	Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli	Didymoteichon	105	2
10	Drama	Drama	105	3
11	Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa	Delvinaki	96	3
12	Edessa, Pella and Almopia	Edessa	140	8
13	Elassona	Elassona	61	8
14	Eleia and Oleni	Pyrgos	220	4
15	Eleftheroupolis	Eleftheroupolis	39	4
16	Filippioi, Neapolis and Thasos	Kavala	95	4
17	Florina, Prespai and Eordaia	Florina	119	7
18	Fokis	Amfissa	110	5
19	Fthiotis	Lamia	245	18
20	Glyfada, Elliniko, Voula, Vouliagmeni and Vari	Voula	20	1
21	Gortys and Megalopolis	Dimitsana	148	13
22	Goumenissa, Axiopolis and Polykastron	Goumenissa	48	2
23	Grevena	Grevena	97	1
24	Ierissos, Aghion Oros and Ardamerion	Arnaia	52	3
25	Ilion, Acharnai and Petroupolis	Ilion	47	3
26	Ioannina	Ioannina	249	11
27	Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos	Kaisariani	9	3
28	Kalavryta and Aigialeia	Aigion	162	14
29	Karpenision	Karpenision	97	3
30	Karystia and Skyros	Kymi	95	5
31	Kassandra	Polygyros	79	6
32	Kastoria	Kastoria	123	8
33	Kefalonia	Argostoli	153	7
34	Kerkyra, Paxoi and Diapontioi Nisoi	Kerkyra	183	17
35	Kifisia, Amarousio and Oropos	Kifisia	63	11
36	Kitros, Katerini and Platamon	Katerini	82	6

37	Korinthos, Sikion, Zemenon, Tarsos and Polyfengos	Korinthos	164	17
38	Kythira and Antikythira	Chora of Kythira	31	1
39	Lagadas, Liti and Rentina	Lagadas	61	6
40	Larisa and Tyrnavos	Larisa	119	6
41	Lefkas and Ithaki	Lefkas	66	4
42	Lemnos and Aghios Ephstratios	Myrina, Lemnos	37	0
43	Mani	Gytheion	114	5
44	Mantineia and Kynouria	Tripoli	157	13
45	Maroneia and Komotini	Komotini	71	4
46	Megara and Salamis	Megara	32	15
47	Mesogaia and Lavreotiki	Spata	64	8
48	Messinia	Kalamata	224	9
49	Methymna	Kalloni, Lesvos	37	3
50	Monemvasia and Sparta	Sparta	142	7
51	Mytilini, Eressos and Plomarion	Mytilini	72	4
52	Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios	Nafpaktos	94	2
53	Nea Ionia, Philadelphia, Heraklion and Chalkidon	Nea Ionia	22	2
54	Nea Krini and Kalamaria	Kalamaria	17	0
55	Nea Smyrni	Nea Smyrni	19	0
56	Neapolis and Stavroupolis	Neapolis	54	3
57	Nikaia	Nikaia	40	1
58	Nikopolis and Preveza	Preveza	131	4
59	Paramythia, Philiata, Geromerion and Parga	Paramythia	150	3
60	Paronaxia	Naxos	44	4
61	Patrai	Patrai	189	9
62	Piraeus	Piraeus	30	1
63	Peristerion	Peristerion	14	1
64	Poliana and Kilkis	Kilkis	120	2
65	Samos, Ikaria and Korsoi	Samos	117	18
66	Serrai and Nigrita	Serrai	118	5
67	Servia and Kozani	Kozani	95	5
68	Siderokastron	Siderokastron	69	7
69	Sisanion and Siatista	Siatista	87	10
70	Stagoi and Meteora	Kalabaka	71	12
71	Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos	Ermoupolis	129	13
72	Thera, Amorgos and Nisoi	Thera	33	3
73	Thessaliotis and Fanariofersala	Karditsa	234	14
74	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	43	2
75	Thevai and Levadeia	Levadeia	111	23
76	Trikki and Stagoi	Trikala	128	5

77	Triphylia and Olympia	Kyparissia	159	6
78	Veria, Naousa and Kampania	Veria	110	8
79	Xanthi and Peritheorion	Xanthi	86	4
80	Ydra, Spetsai and Aigina	Ydra	52	12
81	Zakynthos and Strophades	Zakynthos	61	4
82	Zichnai and Nevrokopion	Nea Zichni	69	5
TOTAL			8.120	552
CHURCH OF CRETE (TOTAL: 9 Metropolitanates)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Crete	Heraklion	127	9
2	Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos	Arkalochori	91	4
3	Gortyna and Arkadia	Moirai	108	6
4	Ierapytni and Sitia	Ierapetra	86	5
5	Kissamos and Selino	Kissamos	80	3
6	Kydonia and Apokoronos	Chania	108	6
7	Lambi, Syvritos and Sfakia	Spili Rethymnis	78	6
8	Petra and Cherronisos	Neapolis	80	11
9	Rethymno and Avlopotamos	Rethymno	101	10
TOTAL			859	60
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF THE DODECANESE (TOTAL: 5 Metropolitanates & 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)		SEAT	N° of PARISHES	N° of MONASTERIES
1	Karpathos and Kasos	Apereion, Karpathos	20	4
2	Kos and Nisyros	Kos	24	7
3	Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea	Leros	36	7
4	Rhodes	Rhodes	64	9
5	Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	Symi	18	5
6	Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	Patmos	10	4
TOTAL			172	36
GRAND TOTAL: 97 (96 Metropolitanates and 1 Patriarchal Exarchate)			9.151	648
			Grand Total of Parish and Monastery Churches : 9.799	

TABLE 3. Catholic Dioceses in Greece

Source: website⁷⁷ of the Catholic Church in Greece and Press Office of the Bishop's Conference of the Catholic Hierarchy in Greece.



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

Seat in Tinos

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Corfu Zante and Cefalonia, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Corfu

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Athens, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Athens

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Rodos, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Rodos - Apostolic Administrator : Catholic Archbishop of Athens

(Dodecanese)

Catholic Diocese of Syros, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Syros

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

Catholic Diocese of Thira (Santorini), Religious Legal Person

Seat in Thira

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

Catholic Diocese of Crete, Religious Legal Person

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

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

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

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

Apostolic Vicariate of Thessalonica, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Thessalonica - Apostolic Administrator: Catholic Archbishop of Corfu

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

Exarch of Byzantine Rite, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Athens

Ordinariat of Armenian Rite, Religious Legal Person

Seat in Athens

⁷⁷ <http://www.cathecclesia.gr/hellas/index.php/dioceses>

TABLE 4. Number of Parishes and Monasteries of the Catholic Church in Greece

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

TABLE 5. Indicative list of Mosques classified as monuments

INDICATIVE LIST OF MOSQUES IN GREECE (EXCEPT THE REGION OF THRACE AND THE ISLANDS RHODES AND KOS) CLASSIFIED AS MONUMENTS					
(You can see relevant information and regulatory framework in Greek by clicking on the name of the monument)					
N ^o	NAME OF MONUMENT	Prefecture	Municipality	Use	Restoration
1	Mosque	ARGOLIS	ARGOS-MYCENAE		
2	Mosque	ARGOLIS	NAFPLIO	Since 1839 it operates as a Catholic Church	
3	Mosque	ARGOLIS	NAFPLIO	Operates as an art gallery	Restored in 1990
4	Imaret Mosque	ARTA	ARTA		
5	Feyzullah Mosque	ARTA	ARTA		
6	Gazi Omer Mosque	BOEOTIA	LIVADEIA	In July 2016 the property was acquired by the municipality of Livadeia (for 2000,000€) with a view to have it restored and to host cultural events	Restoration is underway
7	Mosque	CHANIA	CHANIA		
8	Yusuf Pasha Mosque	CHANIA	CHANIA	Museum	
9	Mosque with fountain	CHANIA	CHANIA		Fully restored
10	Kucuk Hassan Mosque (Yiali)	CHANIA	CHANIA	Exhibition area	Fully restored
11	Mosque	CHIOS	CHIOS	Byzantine Museum of Chios	3 rd Community Support Framework (CSF) Ministry of Culture (1,766,698 €) + Minaret from eligible expenditure (600,000 €)
12	Osmaniye Mosque (Frangomachala)	CHIOS	CHIOS	Ceramics workshop by the Ephorate of Antiquities	
13	Bajrakli Mosque	CHIOS	CHIOS		
14	Mosque	DRAMA	DRAMA	Reconstruction with a view to house an art gallery	Municipality of Drama (Act 1.2.5.8.) Restoration Project: Repair and restoration of the Mosque in "Dikastirion" square 750,000 €
15	Mosque	DRAMA	DRAMA		
16	Mosque	DRAMA	KATO NEVROKOPI		
17	Mosque	EVIA	CHALKIS	Byzantine art collection is housed	Fully restored
18	Hünkar Mosque and Cemetery	HERAKLION	HERAKLION	Museum	
19	Mahmud Celebi	IMATHIA	VERIA		

	Mosque				
20	Hünkar Mosque	IMATHIA	VERIA		
21	Orta Mosque	IMATHIA	VERIA		
22	Medrese Mosque	IMATHIA	VERIA		
23	Aslan Pasha Mosque	IOANNINA	IOANNINA	Municipal Museum	Fully restored
24	Mosque	IOANNINA	KONITSA		
25	Veli Pasha Mosque	IOANNINA	IOANNINA		
26	Kalu Tsesme Mosque	IOANNINA	IOANNINA		
27	Halil Bei Mosque	KAVALA	KAVALA	It formerly housed the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Municipality of Kavala	Fully restored
28	Kursunlu Mosque (Kursum Mosque)	KASTORIA	KASTORIA		
29	Mosque	LARISA	ELASSON	Intended to house museum	Fully restored
30	Mosque	LARISA	LARISA	It houses the Archeological Museum of Larisa	Restored
31	Bajrakli Mosque	LARISA	LARISA		
32	Mosque	LASITHI	IERAPETRA		Fully restored
33	Mosque	LESVOS	LESVOS		
34	Mosque	LESVOS	LESVOS		
35	Mosque	LESVOS	LESVOS		
36	Mosque	LESVOS	LESVOS		Restoration project by the 14 th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture
37	Yeni Mosque	LESVOS	LESVOS		Since February 2000 restoration works begun for the restructuring and enhancement of the historical center of Mytilene by the Municipality of Mytilene under supervision of the 14th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities
38	Valide Mosque	LESVOS	LESVOS		
39	Mosque	MESSINIA	TRIFILIA		
40	Iskender Bey Mosque	PELLA	PELLA		
41	Ahmet Bey Mosque	PELLA	PELLA		MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY: delimitation of protection zone around the Mosque and restoration project to be carried out by the Ministry of Culture
42	Yeni Mosque	PELLA	EDESSA		

43	Eski Mosque	PREVEZA	PREVEZA		
44	Yeni Mosque	PREVEZA	PREVEZA	Claimed to be privately owned	
45	Mosque of the Lower Fountain (Tzisdarakis)	REGIONAL UNIT OF CENTRAL ATHENS	ATHENS	Since 1918 it houses the Museum of Greek Folk Arts	
46	Fethiye Mosque (Mosque of the Wheat Bazar or of the Conqueror)	REGIONAL UNIT OF CENTRAL ATHENS	ATHENS		Funding of 100.000€ (Ref.: 45637/23-9-2014 (Online Publication Number: 71ΞΦ-1Η) "FUNDING AND DISTRIBUTION OF NSRFs" Ministry of Development and Competitiveness)
47	Mosque	RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO		
48	Kara Mousha Pasha Mosque and fountain (Monastery of the Franciscan order dedicated to Saint Barbara)	RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO	Intended use: Information center on local architecture	Restored by the 28 th Ephorate of Byzantine and post Byzantine Antiquities
49	Mosque Neratzes and minaret	RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO	Music Conservatory	Fully restored
50	Mosque of the Great Gate (Megali Porta) (Valide Sultana)	RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO		
51	Fortezza Mosque (Castelli)	RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO		
52	Tekke Mastaba (Veli Pasha Mosque)	RETHYMNO	RETHYMNO		
53	Mustafa Bey Mosque	SERRES	SERRES		
54	Zincirli Mosque	SERRES	SERRES	Cultural Center	Fully restored
55	Ahmed Pasha Mosque (Agia Sophia)	SERRES	SERRES		Partially restored
56	Mosque	SPORADES	SKIATHOS		
57	Mosque and Minaret	THESSALONIKI	THERMI		
58	Hamza Bey Mosque	THESSALONIKI	THESSALONIKI	A Museum will be housed	Restoration works in process
59	Yeni Mosque	THESSALONIKI	THESSALONIKI	Exhibition site	
60	Aladja Imaret Mosque	THESSALONIKI	THESSALONIKI	Cultural and Exhibition area	
61	Mosque of "Skala"	THESSALONIKI	THESSALONIKI		
62	Mosque of Mustafa Zihni Pasha	THESSALONIKI	THESSALONIKI		

TABLE 6. Participants in the Network for recording incidents against religious sites in Greece

This Report was drawn up with data collected thanks to the cooperation of the Network for recording incidents against religious sites, established by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. The participants of the Network, whom we thank once again, are as follows:

A. Religious Communities

RELIGION	Public Law Bodies /Ecclesiastical Legal Persons/ Religious Legal Persons /Religious Communities
CHRISTIANITY	Orthodox Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church of Greece • Church of Crete • Metropolitanate of Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo • Metropolitanate of Rhodes • Metropolitanate of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea • Metropolitanate of Kos and Nisyros • Metropolitanate of Karpathos and Kasos
	Catholic Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, article 13. Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (Religious Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Greek Evangelical Church of Ioannina (Religious Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Evangelical Church of Corinth
	Armenian Orthodox Church in Greece (Ecclesiastical Legal Person, article 13 Law 4301/2014)
	Armenian Community of Komotini
	Christian Evangelical Church
	“Jesus Christ is the Answer to Life” International Church
	Biblical Baptist Church
	Apostolic Church of Christ (member of the Synod of Greek Pentecostal Churches)
	Church of Christians Greece
	Free Apostolic Church
	Redeemed Christian Church of God
	Choice of Life Christian Church
	Abundant Grace Christian Church- Apostolate
	German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece – Thessaloniki Parish
	Lamb of God World Outreach Ministries
	Christ Pentecostal Church
Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ	
JUDAISM	Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece
ISLAM	Muftiate of Komotini

	Muftiate of Xanthi
	Muftiate of Didymoteicho
	Waqf of Rhodes
	Waqf of Kos
	Worship house DAROL JANATA (PARADISE)
	Worship house of Greek Muslims
BUDDHISM	Tibetan Buddhism- Karma Kagyu - Diamond Way
HINDUISM	SARBAT DA BHALA – WELFARE OF ALL
BAHA'I	National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Greece

B. State bodies

Hellenic Police:
Public Security Division / Department of Social Issues and Combating Racism
Police Directorate of Aitolia
Police Directorate of Alexandroupolis
Police Directorate of Argolida
Police Directorate of Arcadia
Police Directorate of Arta
Police Directorate of Attica / Security Division of Athens / Department of State Security
Police Directorate of Attica/ State Security Division/ Department against racist violence
Police Directorate of Attica/ State Security Division/ 2nd Department for protection of the State and Democracy
General Regional Police Directorate of Crete
Police Directorate of Chania
Police Directorate of Heraklion
Police Directorate of Imathia
Police Directorate of Ioannina
Police Directorate of Kavala
Police Directorate of Larisa
Police Directorate of Lasithi
Police Directorate of Lesvos
Police Directorate of Pella
Police Directorate of Thesprotia
Police Station of Leros
Public Prosecutor's Offices
Alexandroupolis
Athens
Eleia
Heraklion, Crete
Ioannina
Kefalinea
Larisa
Lasithi
Messolonghi

Nafplion
Preveza
Rethymno
Thesprotia
Trikala
Veria
Volos
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
A7 Directorate for North America
D3 Directorate for the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe
D4 Directorate for Human Rights, Minorities, Refugees and Migrants
E2 Directorate for Religious and Ecclesiastical Affairs
Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
Directorate of Legislative work, International Relations and International Judicial Cooperation / Department of the European Union and International Organizations
Ministry of Culture and Sports
Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities / Department for Supervision of Scientific Institutions in Greece and abroad and for Coordination of International Cooperation and Organizations

TABLE 7. Indicative Photographs

CHRISTIANITY

Orthodox Church

Sources: Holy Metropolitanate of Gortyna and Arkadia, Department's archive

Church of Michael the Archangel (Michael Arhagelou) in Lagoli, Tymbaki, Municipality of Faistos, Heraklion, Crete

Date: December 16, 2016 (See Section II.A.1.a, number 137)



The phrase "Allah is the Greater" in arabic is written on the wall



Damage caused by the fire



Damage caused by the fire



Responsibility claim for the attack at the Monastery of the Holy Incorporeal Taxiarchs with improvised incendiary devices (See number 68)⁷⁸



Responsibility claim for intruding into the episcopal residence at the Holy Metropolitanate of Thessaloniki (See number 10)⁸⁰



Responsibility claim for arson attack at the church of the Prophet Elias in Thessaloniki (See number 133)⁷⁹



Responsibility claim for the attack at the church of Saint Dimitrios at the port of Heraklion (See number 64)⁸¹

⁷⁸ <https://athens.indymedia.org/post/1562161/>
⁷⁹ <https://athens.indymedia.org/post/1567314/>

⁸⁰ <https://athens.indymedia.org/post/1554902/>
⁸¹ <https://athens.indymedia.org/post/1561832/>

Catholic Church

Source: Press Office of the Bishop's Conference of the Catholic Hierarchy in Greece

Parish church of the Sacred Heart of our Savior. Date: August 8, 2016 (see Section II.A.2)



Main entrance of the Church



Window on the left side of the Church where one of the windowpanes was broken



Interior view of the same window



The metal grating which was lifted and carried for several meters and was used in the end as a lever for breaking the door



The left side door where the support blocks are broken; the perpetrator got into the Church through this door. A beam was placed horizontally after the incident.



The metal container (baptismal font) that was filled with flammable material.



On the right side, under the icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is placed the keyboard. This is where the container with the flammable material was placed.

JUDAISM

Source: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (<http://www.kis.gr>)



Ioannina, September 12, 2016

Outside wall around the Synagogue of Ioannina - Spray painting of swastikas (See Section II.B. Number 3)



Synagogue of Ioannina - Swastika carved on the door (See II.B. Number 1)

Swastika was carved with a sharp object on the metal door of the Synagogue entrance (May 4, 2016).

TABLE 8. Press Releases

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece condemned attacks against Christian sites⁸².

ΤΟ ΚΙΣΕ ΚΑΤΑΔΙΚΑΖΕΙ ΤΙΣ ΕΠΙΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΤΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΩΝ ΧΩΡΩΝ – ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ 

Παροικιά, 12 Αυγούστου 2016

Σε συνέχεια των επιθέσεων εναντίον ιερών χριστιανικών ναών, και με αφορμή τη βομβιστική επίθεση στην Μονή Πετράκη, το Κεντρικό Ισραηλικό Συμβούλιο Ελλάδος καταδικάζει απερίφραστα τους βανδαλισμούς και απέστειλε την παρακάτω επιστολή συμπαραστάσης προς τον Μακαριώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αθηνών και Πάσης Ελλάδος κ. Ιερώνυμο:

Μακαριώτατε,

Με θλίψη παρατηρούμε τις τελευταίες ημέρες ιερών ναών ανά τη χώρα να γίνονται στόχος βίαιων επιθέσεων. Η επίθεση στα γραφεία της Ιεράς Συνόδου της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος, στην Ιερά Μονή Ασωμάτων Πετράκη, αποτελεί το πιο πρόσφατο γεγονός σε αυτή τη θλιβερή αλυσίδα. Ενώπιον αυτών των γεγονότων η στάση όλων μας οφείλει να είναι κοινή και απόλυτη: η αποδοκιμασία της βίας και η υπεράσπιση του λατρευτικού δικαιώματος κάθε ανθρώπου.

Οι Έλληνες Εβραίοι γνωρίζουμε, δυστυχώς, καλά τι σημαίνει για έναν πιστό η βεβήλωση ενός τόπου λατρείας. Έχουμε βιώσει πολλές φορές αυτό το οδυνηρό συναίσθημα. Σε μια περίοδο που η θρησκεία βρίσκεται διαρκώς στο στόχαστρο, οφείλουμε να υπερασπιζόμαστε με σθένος το δικαίωμα του καθενός στην πίστη. Το μίσος και η μισαλλοδοξία δεν έχουν θέση σε μια κοινωνία που θέλει να θεωράσει τον σεβασμό μας στα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα.

Μακαριώτατε,

Συμμεριζόμαστε τη δική σας θλίψη για τη βεβήλωση ιερών Χριστιανικών χώρων διότι οι πράξεις αυτές προσβάλλουν τον ίδιο τον πολιτισμό μας.

Μετά τιμής,

Ο Πρόεδρος **Μωυσής Κωνσταντίνης**

Ο Γεν. Γραμματέας **Μαρσέλ Σολομών**


Αθήνα, 9 Αυγούστου 2016

ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟ ΙΣΡΑΗΛΙΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

Σχετικά:

Επιστολή της Ιεράς Συνόδου της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος προς το ΚΙΣΕ

The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece thanked the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece⁸³

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟ ΚΙΣΕ 

Σε συνέχεια της επιστολής συμπαραστάσης που απέστειλε το ΚΙΣΕ στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αθηνών και Πάσης Ελλάδος κ. Ιερώνυμο καταδικάζοντας την εμπρηστική επίθεση στην Μονή Πετράκη, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος και Πρόεδρος της Ιεράς Συνόδου απέστειλε προς τον Πρόεδρο του ΚΙΣΕ κ. Μωυσή Κωνσταντίνη την παρακάτω ευχαριστήρια επιστολή:

Αξιότιμε κ. Πρόεδρέ,

Συνοδική Απόφαση, Αληθεία εν τη Συνεδρία της Διαρκούς Ιεράς Συνόδου της 18ης μηνός Αυγούστου ε.ε., γνωρίζομεν υμίν ότι η Ιερά Σύνοδος, διεξελθούσα το υπ' αριθμ. 391/9 δ.2016 υμέτρον έγγραφον αλληλεγγύης και συμπαραστάσεως μετά την εμπρηστικήν επίθεσιν εις τον αύλειον χώρον της Ιεράς Συνόδου της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος και τας πρότερον επισυμβάσας εις ιερούς Ναούς τραπεζοκρατικής ενταξίας, ένω αλοθύμως ευχαριστήσασ υμάς δια τα εκφρασθέντα αισθήματα συμπάθειας και αποδοκιμασίας τούτων των Αιτηρών περιστατικών βίας κατά ιερών χώρων, ιεροπραξιών, θρησκευτικών λειτουργιών και πιστών.

Η συγκινητική υμέτερα επιστολή, ήης ήγγισεν υμάς βαθύως και πολυτίμως, αποκτά ιδιαίτερον αξίαν εις διηθνούς συνθήκας οδύσεως της βίας και του φανατισμού, υποβαθμίσεως πανανθρωπίνων αξιών και περιφρονήσεως των οσίων και των ιερών, καθ' ως δέομεθα εκ καρδίας όπως διαλάβητε η ερήνη των τέκνων του Θεού και επιστρέψωσιν αι πεπλανημένοι εις επίγνωσιν της αληθείας δια της απείρου Χάρους και του ελέους Αυτού.

Επί δε πύθαις, ευγνωμόνας δια την άμεσον συμπαραστάσιν και το ευγενές ενδιαφέρον υμών, ευχόμεθα πλουσίαν την ενίσχυσιν εις την ενάσκασιν των υμέτρων καθηκόντων, ευόδωσιν εις τα αγαθά έργα τα οποία επιτελείτε και διατελούμεν μετ εγκαρδίων αισθημάτων εκτιμήσεως.

⁸² https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=658:greek-jews-condemn-attacks-against-christian-churches-in-greece-kis-letter-to-the-archbishop-of-athens&catid=9:deltiatypoy&Itemid=32

⁸³ http://www.kis.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1477:2016-09-08-07-55-57&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

Press Release by the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece on the attack at the Church of Saint Gregorios Palamas in Thessaloniki (See number 60)⁸⁴

«Για την εισβολή και πράξεις βίας εντός του Ιερού Ναού Αγ. Γρηγορίου Παλαμά της Ιεράς Μητροπόλεως Θεσσαλονίκης (31.7.2016)»
(1/8/2016).

Επιθυμούμε να ευχαριστήσουμε όσα Κοινοβουλευτικά Κόμματα έσπευσαν να καταδικάσουν απερίφραστα την εισβολή, τη διακοπή της Θείας Λειτουργίας και τις πράξεις βίας κατά θρησκευτικών λειτουργιών και πιστών μέσα στον Ιερό Ναό Αγ. Γρηγορίου Παλαμά στην Θεσσαλονίκη χθες (31.7.2016).

Επισημαίνουμε βεβαίως και την ως τώρα απουσία οποιασδήποτε δήλωσης καταδίκης της επίθεσης από τους καθ' ύλην αρμόδιους για τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα, την προστασία των πολιτών και τα θρησκευόμενα Υπουργούς.

Η εύλογη επίσης σιωπή επιστημονικών και ακτιβιστικών ενώσεων και συμβουλίων, που έχουν ως αντικείμενο τις δημόσιες παρεμβάσεις και πολιτικές για τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα στην χώρα μας, δείχνει ότι μάλλον δεν ασκούνται από τις βιαιοπραγίες, όταν στρέφονται κατά της ορθόδοξης χριστιανικής πλειοψηφίας. Οφείλουμε, τουλάχιστον, να τους αναγνωρίσουμε το προσόν της ειλικρίνειας.

Τέλος, στους «αντιεξουσιαστές», που νόμισαν ότι βεβηλώνοντας την κυριακάτικη προσευχή έδωσαν κτύπημα στην εξουσία, δεν θα απευθύνουμε τις καταδικαστικές δηλώσεις, που συνηθίζονται σε αυτές τις περιπτώσεις. Αφού ουδείς πέτυχε να τους εμπνεύσει σεβασμό για ο,τιδήποτε στη ζωή τους, μόνο την λύπη μας διατυπώνουμε, λέγοντάς τους: Είστε η αποτυχία μας. Η αποτυχία μας ως κοινωνίας, ως σχολείου, ως οικογένειας, ως δημοκρατίας.

Εκ του Γραφείου Τύπου της Ιεράς Συνόδου

Press Release by the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece on the attack at the Monastery of the Holy Incorporeal Taxiarchs (Asomaton) Petraki, Athens (See number 68)⁸⁵

«Επίθεση στον προαύλειο χώρο του κτιρίου της Ιεράς Συνόδου»
(8/8/2016).

Μετά την εισβολή σε Ιερό Ναό της Θεσσαλονίκης και επιθέσεις σε άλλους Ιερούς Ναούς, σήμερα στις 3:00 π.μ. ομάδα αγνώστων επιτέθηκε με περίπου 10 βόμβες μολότωφ στον προαύλειο χώρο του κτιρίου της Ιεράς Συνόδου. Το κτίριο της Ιεράς Συνόδου δεν έχει οποιαδήποτε αστυνομική προστασία. Από την νυκτερινή επίθεση καταστράφηκε ένα υπηρεσιακό αυτοκίνητο και το ιδιωτικό αυτοκίνητο υπαλλήλου. Η άμεση επέμβαση της Πυροσβεστικής Υπηρεσίας απέτρεψε τα χειρότερα. Μακάρι να γίνει πλήρως κατανοητό στην κοινωνία μας ότι οι τρομοκρατικές ενέργειες δεν εξυπηρετούν κανέναν και να επικρατήσει η ειρήνη και η καταλλαγή του Θεού μεταξύ των ανθρώπων. Ευχόμαστε ο Θεός να συγχωρεί τους δράστες.

Εκ του Γραφείου Τύπου της Ιεράς Συνόδου

⁸⁴ http://www.ecclesia.gr/greek/holysynod/holysynod.asp?id=2141&what_sub=d_typou

⁸⁵ http://www.ecclesia.gr/greek/holysynod/holysynod.asp?id=2142&what_sub=d_typou

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