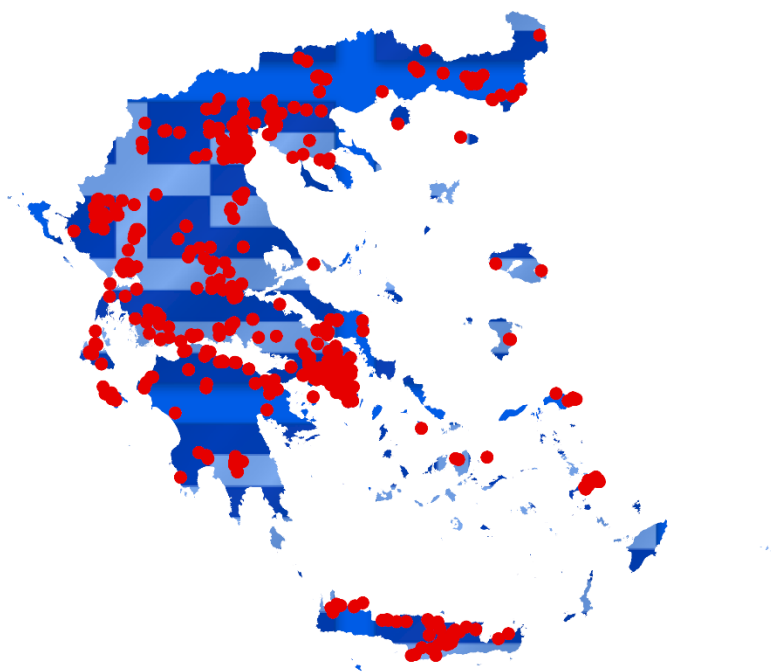




HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, AND SPORTS  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
DIRECTORATE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND INTERFAITH  
RELATIONS  
DEPARTMENT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

# ACTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE



**REPORT 2023**

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

<https://arcg.is/1Hqurm>



**Cover page:** Geographical display of all incidents presented in the 2023 Report. Original map-layout source: Hellenic Statistical Authority

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

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



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COURTESY AND NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Translated and adapted by Isidora Prokopiou

***“I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of thy house; and the place where thy glory dwelleth”***  
(Psalm 25,8)

**כְּבוֹדְךָ מִשְׁכָּן, וּמִקוֹם; בֵּיתְךָ מֵעוֹן, אֶהְבֵּתִי--יְהוָה**  
(תהלים ח)

***“Domine dilexi decorem domus tuae et locum habitationis gloriae tuae”***  
(Psalm 25,8)

**مَجْدِكَ مَسْكَنٍ وَمَوْضِعِ بَيْتِكَ مَحَلَّ أَحَبَبْتُ رَبُّ يَا**  
(مز امیر ۸)

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## Introductory note

In 2023, nine (9) years were completed since the first edition of the Report on acts against religious sites. The following table summarizes the data for the period 2015-2023.

**Number of acts against religious sites and their distribution by religious community,  
2015 - 2023**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total	%
Orthodox Church	137	208	525	563	504	374	370	564	591	3.836	95,97%
True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)			1		3	4	3	1	6	18	0,45%
Catholic Church	1	1	2	1	3	7				15	0,36%
Ethiopian Orthodox Church			1							1	0,03%
Armenian Evangelical Church			4							4	0,10%
Jehovah's Christian Witnesses			4	3	4			2	2	15	0,36%
Judaism	4	5	11	20	5	10	3	1	6	65	1,63%
Islam	5	1	8	2	5	9	2	8	3	43	1,08%
Total	147	215	556	589	524	404	378	576	608	3.997	

The most significant findings from the data collected over the past nine years are twofold:

- a) the vast majority of incidents involve material damage, and
- b) the perpetrators of acts against religious sites are very rarely driven by religious motives.

An exception to this general trend concerns the Orthodox Church, which is the only religious community that has twice been targeted by attacks involving explosive devices intended not to cause material damage, but to inflict human casualties. According to available information, the motive behind the first attack was purely political, as the perpetrators were affiliated with the anarchist movement. The perpetrator of the second attack, while influenced by far-right conspiracy theories, was additionally motivated by religious beliefs. He specifically targeted the Holy Synod, which he accused of having “*betrayed*” Orthodoxy.

It is precisely in light of the influence of totalitarian and conspiratorial ideologies in Greek society that incidents involving Greek Jewry—who are second only to the Orthodox Church in the number of recorded acts against religious sites—must be understood. Antisemitism remains a constant threat to both democracy and rational discourse.

However, the fact that most incidents recorded in the Report each year are not religiously motivated is indeed encouraging and a cause for optimism. Safeguarding this positive development is a shared responsibility of both the State and the religious communities. Respect for the rule of law, the promotion of interfaith dialogue, and collaboration among religious communities in order to address poverty, domestic violence and other social challenges, as well as support for legal immigrants and refugees toward their successful integration into the Greek society, are essential to protecting an achievement of which Greece can rightfully be proud.

***George Kalantzis***

***Secretary General for Religious Affairs***

## Content Summary

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

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

In total, 608 incidents targeting sites of religious significance were recorded for the year 2023, broken down by religion as follows:

- Christianity: 599 incidents of all types (vandalism, break-ins, thefts, robberies, acts of sacrilege, desecration of graves, grave robbing, arson, and other forms of desecration).

Specifically:

- Orthodox Church: 591 incidents, accounting for 97.20% of the total.
- True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists): 6 incidents, accounting for 0.99% of the total.
- Jehovah's Witnesses: 2 incidents, accounting for 0.33% of the total.
- Judaism: 6 antisemitic incidents, accounting for 0.99% of the total.
- Islam: 3 incidents, accounting for 0.49% of the total.

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

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



# I. INTRODUCTION



# A. General Secretariat for Religious Affairs

## 1. Overview

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

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

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

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

Subsequently, in 1829, within the education and ecclesiastical policy of Ioannis Kapodistrias, a Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs and Public Education was established, bringing together two inseparable bodies that serve a single purpose: the moral education of the citizens which is the fundament for the social and political growth of the nation, as stated by Kapodistrias himself<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The second part includes Public Education matters, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a) The Minister's Cabinet,

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

In 1951, by Emergency Law 1671 (A' 33), the Ministry of Religious Affairs and National Education is renamed Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs; this has been the name of the Ministry since 2009<sup>2</sup>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## 2. Regulatory framework in force

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

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

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

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

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs includes two Directorates:

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

## B. Protection of religious freedom

### 1. Regulatory framework

Since 1821 all Greek constitutional texts in addition to recognizing the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as the prevailing religion in Greece<sup>3</sup>, ensured the freedom of religious observance of all other known religions. The freedom of religious conscience was explicitly enshrined in the Constitution of 1927 and since then the word tolerance was substituted by the expression “religious freedom”. The consolidation of religious freedom is very significant because it constitutes an individual **right** which shall not be hindered by the State and the State shall take all appropriate measures (legislative, administrative etc.) to ensure the free exercise of this right<sup>4</sup>. According to the commonly held view, the individual right of religious freedom includes the concept of religious conscience and the freedom of observance<sup>5</sup>.

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

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

Particularly with regard to the exemption from the fulfilment of obligations to the State or the refusal to comply with the laws due to religious beliefs, an extract is quoted as follows from Judgement 2706/1977 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State: These provisions enshrine in Greece the individual right to religious freedom, both as freedom of religious

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **2. The meaning of the term "prevailing religion"**

The distinction between the "prevailing religion" in Greece and all "known religions" is stated in the Constitution in force as well in all previous Constitutions since the foundation of the

modern Greek state. As stated in Article 3 of the Constitution: *“1. The prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ [...]”*.

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

According to Professor Evaggelos Venizelos: *“... the term “prevailing religion” contains on the one hand a historic and cultural content which is of no legal relevance, and on the other a factual content of legal relevance since it describes the orthodox church as the largest collective body of exercising religious freedom under all conditions and always by reference to the list of all other constitutional rights...”*<sup>6</sup>.

The view that the “prevailing religion” does not have the meaning of state religion or official religion is widely accepted nowadays as well as that the Constitution does not mandate dominance of a particular religion<sup>7</sup>.

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

Moreover, in the judgment 926/2018 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State, it is stated that : *“[...] Article 3 of the Constitution, which is subject to review in accordance with Article 110 (1), refers to the actual fact that the religion of the Eastern Orthodox Church is the religion of the majority of Greek people and it is included in Greek constitutions since the Revolution and was included since then in the Constitution also of 1975 mainly for historical reasons (see Minutes of the Hellenic Parliament for the Revision of the Constitution – Plenary Session p. 402). This provision is of limited regulatory content which is connected in particular with establishing official religious holidays to facilitate interested citizens in exercising their religious duties (see judgement 100/2017 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State) etc. It has been deemed by the aforementioned judgements 2280-2285/2001 of the Plenary Session of the Court that this provision of Article 3 which is included in Part One, section II of the*

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

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

*Constitution regarding the relations between Church and the State, does not affect the right of freedom of religion enshrined in Article 13 included in Part Two of the Constitution on individual and social rights, and does not grant privileged treatment for Greek Orthodox Christians on exercising this right. This would be contrary to the special provision of Article 13 (1) by which equal treatment and enjoyment of civil rights independently of religious beliefs is established [...].”*

Reason 16 of judgment 1749/2019 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State states that the term “prevailing” religion included in Article 3(1) of the Constitution referring to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as well as the invocation to the Holy, Homooousios and Consubstantial Aghia Triada on the heading of the Constitution, is linked with the critical role of the Orthodox Church in the course of history of Hellenism, in particular during the period of Ottoman rule, before national independence. This is also an ascertainment that this is the religion of the vast majority of the Greek population and there are regulatory consequences due to that, such as establishment of certain Christian holidays as compulsory holidays at national and local level, in the public and private sector (cf. judgment 660, 926/2018 of the Plenary Session of the Council of State).

### **3. Prohibition of proselytism**

In Article 13 (2)(3) of the Constitution it is established that proselytism is prohibited. This applies to the prevailing religion and also to any other religion. Even before the adoption of the Constitution and of the Penal Code, a sanction for proselytism was provided for by law<sup>8</sup>.

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

According to a reference made by the Minister of Justice<sup>9</sup> at the time during the debates on Article 13 of the Constitution in force by the fifth Revisional Parliament, the constitutional legislator understood as proselytism only the *“attempt to penetrate the religious conscience of heterodox or persons of different religions by illegal or immoral means, by abusing a relationship of dependence or by promising benefits of any kind”*. Consequently, it appears that the type of proselytism prohibited by the Constitution and subject to criminal sanctions is the attempt to intrude on the religious beliefs of a person by unlawful means, notably inducement or by fraudulent means.

Therefore, on the basis of the above, (a) confessing one’s own religious belief in public; (b) persuading with arguments someone to change their religious beliefs; (c) preaching; (d)

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<sup>8</sup> Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §596 (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα, Σάκκουλας 1991, §596)

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

holding missions to people of a different denomination or religion; (e) publishing, selling and dispatching printed documents; and (f) holding public and/or open speeches with free attendance and departure and a clear indication of any declaration of religion or doctrine for which the dissemination is made, **do not constitute proselytism**<sup>10</sup>.

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

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

One of the main changes in the new Penal Code is that the provisions of the following Articles are repealed: Article 198 on malicious blasphemy, Article 199 on insulting religion and Article 201 on insulting the memory of the dead (Chapter Z' on jeopardizing religious peace). In Chapter Z', only Article 200 on disturbance of religious assemblies is still in force. In accordance with Article 200: 1. Malicious attempt or intention to disturb any assembly for worship or practice tolerable by the state organized by a religion is subject to imprisonment for up to two years. 2. The same sanction is provided for as regards acting in an insulting, inappropriate manner in a church or in a place assigned for a religious assembly tolerable by the state.

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

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

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

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

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<sup>10</sup> Dagtoglou. P. op.cit. §597 (Π.Δ. Δαγτόγλου, Συνταγματικό Δίκαιο – Ατομικά Δικαιώματα, Σάκκουλας 1991, §597)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

*a. Bishopric buildings*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, according to para. 1 of Article 341 of the recent Law 4957/2022 (A' 141) concerning the building permits for Churches and ecclesiastical properties of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos: *"For the building permits of Churches and ecclesiastical properties of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, Article 12 of Law 4258/2014 (A' 94), and Article 32*

*of Law 4495/2017 (A' 167), as well as the provisions of Section II of Law 4858/2021 (A' 220) shall be applied".*

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

In accordance to the regulations of the first chapter of **Law 4301/2014** (Official Government Gazette A' 223) and the establishment of a new form of collective religious organization, namely the ecclesiastical and religious legal persons, all religious communities (except for those expressly excluded according to Article 16 of Law 4301/2014, that is the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete, the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos - and in general every Orthodox ecclesiastical jurisdiction (klima)<sup>11</sup> - the Jewish Communities and the religious Muslim communities in the regions under the jurisdiction of the Muftiates in Thrace) may be organized as legal persons of this form governed by private law in accordance with the provisions of this law. In the provisions of the aforementioned law it is provided for that the religious and ecclesiastical legal persons may establish and operate worship places in their own name (Article 9). A permit for establishing and operating a worship place may be issued for religious communities that have not received legal personality as referred to in Law 4301/2014.

In the regulatory framework in force for the construction and authorization of places of worship (temples and houses of prayer) the general regulations of **Emergency Law 1363/1938** (Official Government Gazette A' 305) as amended by the regulations of **Emergency Law 1672/1939** (Official Government Gazette A' 123), of the **Royal Decree of 20-5/2-6-1939** implementing it (Official Government Gazette A' 220) and **Article 27 of Law 3467/2006** (Official Government Gazette A' 128) as well as the [joint circular 105456/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number Ψ56646MTΛH-IO9\)](#), which updated the **joint circulars** 69230/A3/6-5-2014 (Online Publication Number ΒΙΦΘ9-T0T) and 118939/01/19-7-2016 (Online Publication Number 76774653ΠΣ-5Ω9)<sup>12</sup>, and also incorporated the circular 128231/01/2-8-2016 (Online Publication Number: ΨΔ014653ΠΣ-ΓΕΙ) are in force. These regulations do not apply to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ (Church of Greece, Church of Crete, Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese and Mount Athos), as foreseen in Article 3 of the Constitution, for which specific provisions apply. In particular as concerns building permits for Islamic places of worship and/ or prayer in Thrace (Mosques, Tekkes, Masjids, Jems, Cemevis) [the joint circular 105510/01/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: 60X646MTΛH-OY6\)](#), which replaced the **joint circular 57071/01/3-4-2017** (Online Publication Number: 780Γ4653ΠΣ-Z3X) applies.

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

<sup>12</sup> This [circular](#) as well as a [summary list](#) of the necessary documents are available in English on the webpage of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic.

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

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

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

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

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

As it is accepted by all legal theory and case-law: *“Freedom of worship does not enshrine the absolute right for believers to worship God where they want and when they want, without complying with the law nor does it enshrine a particular right to practice rites of worship in a designated area. It merely guarantees the right for believers of all religions and denominations to worship God in their own way and with the means chosen by themselves and imposed by*

*the rules of their religion without unjustified obstacles and arbitrary interference by the State.”* (opinion by Antonis Maniatakis entitled: *“Constitutional protection of cultural property and freedom of worship in response to the use of the Rotonda”* Thessaloniki 05-03-1995<sup>13</sup>).

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

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

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

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

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

**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,

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<sup>13</sup> Published in Journal *Law and Nature* (Νόμος και Φύση), 1995 and can also be found at:

<http://www.constitutionalism.gr/maniatakis-rotonda/>

“exclusive”, as referred to in Article 2, indent 7, and “general” in Article 3 indent 8, urban areas, as referred to in Article 4, indent 12, tourist areas as referred to in Article 8, indent 10). In accordance with these provisions, a religious site (house of prayer, temple) may operate legally in an Urban Development Plan area where such use is provided for.

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

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

**D.** Rules on fire safety, i.e. the provisions of **Fire Fighting Regulation 3/2015** (Official Government Gazette B’ 529/2015), **Fire Protection Regulation for Buildings, Presidential Decree 71/1988** (Official Government Gazette A’ 32) as well as the **Fire Fighting Regulation 13/2013** (Official Government Gazette B’ 1586) in force. In accordance with the aforementioned legal provisions, designated requirements on fire safety measures must be followed– depending on the date of the application of the building permit and on the number of people gathered- both for the assembly areas for fewer than fifty persons and those for over fifty persons. It is explicitly mentioned that buildings or parts of buildings where people gather for religious events and activities (in accordance with the relevant regulation of the Building Code) explicitly referring to temples (Article 1, Fire Fighting Regulation 3/1981, Official Government Gazette B’ 20) are included in the abovementioned places. Compliance with the relevant regulations is evidenced by the fire safety certificate issued by the competent firefighting authority.

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

Additionally, the rules of public order generally applicable clearly include the general fiscal provisions relating to taxes, penalties and specific obligations not only with regard to taxpayers (natural persons, legal persons, associations, societies etc.) but also with regard to non-taxpayers, as defined in Article 11 (3) of **Law 4174/2013 “Tax procedures and other provisions”** (Official Government Gazette A’ 170) in force, stating that: *“3. Tax administration may issue a VAT identification number to a tax-exempt person, if this is required by other*

*provisions. In particular, Tax administration shall issue a VAT identification number at the request of any natural person or legal person or legal entity if a financial transaction is carried out with national general government entities, credit institutions and payment institutions. All issues related to the application of the aforementioned indent as well as all additional details may be set up by decision of the Secretary General” as well as all the relevant regulatory decisions pursuant to this authorization.*

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

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

Before the planning authorities issue a permit to **construct** a temple or a worship place of any religious community (except for those within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution), a permit by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic 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, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic before the issuing of the building permit by the competent building authority in order to request the issuing of the relevant administrative act by the Directorate of Religious Administration on the authorization to construct.

It is clarified that the **authorization to construct** issued at the pre-building stage **shall under no circumstances be considered an authorization to establish and operate**. Therefore, it does not grant permission for the operation of the worship place and is limited solely to authorizing the reconstruction work on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic. This authorization is issued by the Directorate of Religious Administration before the beginning of the building works and only following an examination of the conditions defined by Article 13, paragraph 2 of the Constitution on free practice of worship (*“All known religions shall be free and their rites of worship shall be performed unhindered and under the protection of the law. The practice of rites of worship is not allowed to offend public order or morality. Proselytism is prohibited”*) and the provisions in force of Law 1363/38 and Law 1672/39, and it does not replace the authorization to establish and operate (separate and distinct from the one cited above) which is issued in a second step and

concerns the operating possibility of an existing building to serve the aim for which it was built. Therefore, following the issuing of a building permit and the completion of the necessary building works, all interested parties should be addressed again to the Directorate for Religious Administration to submit the file with the necessary supporting documents in order to receive then the necessary authorization to establish and operate a temple.

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

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

In order to settle this problem that has been unsolved for many years creating serious practical issues in terms of the relations between the religious communities and the public agencies, and of the everyday operation and mission of these communities, the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs initially issued the circular 176169/Θ1/19-10-2018, the provisions of which have now been incorporated into the current joint circular [105456/Θ1/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: Ψ56646MTΛH-IO9\)](#), and, specifically for Muslim places of prayer/worship in Thrace, in the joint circular [105510/Θ1/31-8-2021 \(Online Publication Number: 6OX646MTΛH-OY6\)](#). According to the relevant provisions, all religious communities may request an act of declaratory effect, especially as regards worship places for which no permit has been issued for their establishment and operation. In this way, these worship places will operate legally and their religious ministers will be included in the Register held by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. **The condition to be fulfilled in order to apply for this act is that the worship places have been operating in a constant and uninterrupted manner in this specific building or in part of the building for a long period of time and at least since August 9, 1955, or before, to the present day.**

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

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

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



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

As a result of the positive acceptance of the published Reports, the Network of cooperation for recording incidents was further expanded gradually, with the participation of more religious communities which is particularly significant for extracting primary data, regarding offences against sites of specific religious communities as well as lack of such acts within the reference year.

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

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

More specifically, for the year 2022, the data was mostly provided by the official correspondence with the Network participants, Press Releases and Communiqués by the Hellenic Police and news and articles published in the daily press as indexed by the Press Office of the Ministry and news published in electronic media.

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

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

<b>BUDDHISM</b>	Tibetan Buddhism-Karma Kagyu-Diamond Way
<b>HINDUISM</b>	SARBAT DA BHALA-Welfare of All
<b>BAHA'I</b>	National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Greece
<b>GREEK NATIONAL RELIGION</b>	Worship House of Greek National Religion
<b>B. State Bodies</b>	
<b>Hellenic Police:</b> Public Security Division / Hellenic Police Headquarters	
<b>Public Prosecutor's Offices</b>	
<b>Ministry of Justice of the Hellenic Republic</b>	
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic:</b>	
A7 Directorate for North America	
D3 Directorate for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe	
D4 Directorate for Human Rights, Minorities, Refugees and Migrants	
E2 Directorate for Religious and Ecclesiastical Affairs	
<b>Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic:</b> Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities/Department for Supervision of Scientific Institutions in Greece and abroad and for Coordination of International Cooperation and Organizations	



## II. INCIDENTS



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

## A. Christianity

### 1. Orthodox Church

#### a. Introduction

The Orthodox Church in Greece is not a single administrative unit; it consists of ecclesiastical structures sharing a common reference point: their relation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The term **“Orthodox Church in Greece”** designates: a) the **Church of Greece** which is autocephalous and consists of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and eighty one (81) Holy Metropolises, b) the semi-autonomous **Church of Crete**, which, according to the canon law is under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, consisting of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and eight (8) Holy Metropolises, c) the **Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Dodecanese** (5 Holy Metropolises<sup>14</sup> and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos<sup>15</sup>) which, according to the canon law come directly under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, spiritually and administratively and d) the Aghion Oros (Mount Athos) which is a self-governed part of the Greek State as established by the Hellenic Constitution, spiritually under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Holy Metropolises and the Parishes (which are the basic subdivisions of the ecclesiastical organizational structure) are legal persons governed by public law<sup>16</sup>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The legal status of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese remained unregulated since 1947 with obvious negative results for the State, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Clergy and ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and, of course, the citizens who embrace Orthodoxy. **Law 4957/2022** (A’ 141) is the first law that regulated in a comprehensive and systematically structured manner the status of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese since the liberation and the union of the Dodecanese with Greece (Article 14 of Decree Law 423/1947 [A’ 226], Article 1 of Law 518/1948 [A’ 7]). This is a reform of equivalent importance as Law 590/1977 (A’ 146) and Law 4149/1961 (A’ 41).

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

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

*thereof is effected by the Charter of Aghion Oros which, with the cooperation of the State representative, shall be drawn up and voted by the twenty Holy Monasteries and ratified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Parliament of the Hellenes. 4. Faithful observance of the regime of Aghion Oros entities shall in the spiritual field be under the supreme supervision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and, in the administrative, under the supervision of the State, which shall also be exclusively responsible for safeguarding public order and security. 5. The afore-mentioned powers of the State shall be exercised through a governor whose rights and duties shall be determined by law. The law shall likewise determine the judicial power exercised by the monastic authorities and the Holy Community, as well as the customs and taxation privileges of Aghion Oros”.*

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

### **a1. The payroll of the Clergy**

The State of its own volition, because of the special value and moral importance attached to the Clergy, the undoubted contribution of the Orthodox Church to the national struggles for freedom and independence, the support to everyone -without discrimination of gender, religion, race, etc.<sup>17</sup>-, the free disposition of church property for national or public benefit purposes and anticipating the continuation of the entire contribution of the Clergy, decided with **Emergency Law 536 /1945** (A’ 226) to cover the salaries of a certain number of Parish priests (6,000) of the Orthodox Church and by **Law 1041/1980** (A’ 75) the salaries of the Metropolitans. **Emergency Law 536/1945** (A’ 226) was amended by **Decree Law 4242/1962** (A’ 135), **Law 3220/2004** (A’ 15) and **Law 4111/2013** (A’ 18), confirming the timelessness of the State's commitment and the reasons that led to the payroll of a certain number of Parish priests.

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

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

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<sup>17</sup> The most recent case in which the Orthodox Church played a very important role in maintaining social cohesion with the support of all people without any discrimination is the period of the deepest economic crisis that Greece has experienced since 1945 and the immigration crisis.

536/1945 (A' 226). *The expenditure shall be within the Medium-Term Framework of Financial Strategy*".

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

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

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

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



According to the Regulatory Impact Analysis, “*Para. 16 constitutes a breakthrough in the history of the payroll of the Clergy by the State (a similar provision exists in Article 347 para. 14 and Article 348 para.13 of the plan for the clerics of the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, respectively). It provides, for the first time, that clerics who are paid by the State and against whom a criminal prosecution has been brought for any felony or for the offences referred to in the said paragraph shall receive only 50% of their salaries, upon the issuance of a relevant act by the payroll clearing officer. The felonies and the offences referred to in this paragraph are of such social demerit that they offend and tarnish the special moral value which the average member of society requires of the religious minister, and not only to the religion to which they belong, but also of all religious ministers of any religion in general. The provision of para. 16 shall take effect from the publication of the Law and shall not have retroactive effect. It is noted that the legislator cannot interfere in the internal functioning of religious communities and therefore cannot impose penalties related to the mandatory or potential leave and suspension of priests from their religious duties. Such penalties shall be imposed only by the competent ecclesiastical bodies. It seems appropriate that the protection of the particular moral value and spiritual and social significance of the clerical ministry should require with the prosecution, as a minimum measure, the temporary reduction or complete cessation of their salary if they are convicted by an irrevocable court judgment (para. 18)*<sup>18</sup>” (p. 567).

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

## **b. Numerical data**

The existing Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece are listed in detail in the [Addendum \(table iii\)](#).

According to the data in the possession of the Directorate for Religious Administration, **the existing parish churches and monastery churches for the total of the Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece, amount to nine thousand eight hundred thirty (9,830).** Chapels, pilgrimage, private and cemetery Churches, as well as other religious sites do not factor in this figure.

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

In the year **2023**, 5 Presidential Decrees were published regarding the transfer of the headquarters of Parishes, and 1 Presidential Decree for the modification and codification of the Organization of the Holy Monastery. Additionally, on December 31, 2023, the publication

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<sup>18</sup> The Regulatory Impact Analysis is available here: [12010980.pdf \(hellenicparliament.gr\)](#)

of 2 Presidential Decrees for the establishment of Holy Monasteries in Holy Metropolises of the Orthodox Church in Greece was pending.

### c. Incidents

The religious sites of the Orthodox Church for this Report include all types of Churches<sup>19</sup>, Monasteries, religious monuments (such as the Areopagus where Apostle Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians, wayside shrines), as well as Ecclesiastical schools and cemeteries.

The incidents presented below are those that were reported to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs within the framework of the Network of cooperation and therefore in no way constitute an exhaustive record of all incidents that took place against religious sites of the Orthodox Church during the reporting year. **These include particularly serious criminal acts, such as the use of explosive devices and arson, all types of desecrations, robberies involving violence, corpse and tomb desecrations, vandalism, the writing of hate slogans, and other manifestations of religious intolerance against the Orthodox Church** (cf. e.g. the incidents: 103, 105, 142, 169, 212, 223, 235, 243, 283, 333, 334, 376, 401, 413, 429, 433, 465, 471, 472, 477, 479, 491 [disruption of a religious gathering at Aghios Panteleimon Church in Athens], 499, 542, 565, 575, 576).

No	1.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Eresos, Lesvos
Date	1st January 2023
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of perpetrators. Dossier

No	2.
Location	Church of Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou, Vathylakkos, Kozani
Date	3 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	3.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Achillios, Larissa
Date	Between 20 December 2022 and 4 January 2023
Brief description	Exterior damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	4.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Apostoloi, Skoutelonas, Kolymbari, Chania
Date	1st week of January 2023
Brief description	Painted insults and threatening messages against priests on the exteriors and walls of the Church

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<sup>19</sup> According to Article 1 of the Regulation of the Holy Synod 8/79 “On Holy Churches and Parishes” the Churches of the Greek Orthodox Church are divided into a) parish churches, including their chapels, b) Pilgrimage Churches or Churches of public benefit purpose and Church foundations, c) Private Churches, d) Cemetery Churches.

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	5.
Location	Church of Aghios Maximos Graikos, Arta
Date	7 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	6.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Afrati, Euboea
Date	7 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	7.
Location	Church of Aghios Thomas, Tsopela, Ioannina
Date	7 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint. Preliminary investigation

Nº	8.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Melissourgioi, Arta
Date	7 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint. Preliminary investigation

Nº	9.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Pramanda, Ioannina
Date	7 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the Church, the Sanctuary and the offertory box; theft of money and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint. Preliminary investigation

Nº	10.
Location	Private Chapel of Aghios Nektarios, Nea Politia, Attica
Date	Between 1st December 2022 and 8 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	11.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Demetrios, Spata, Attica
Date	8 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of money and damage to an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

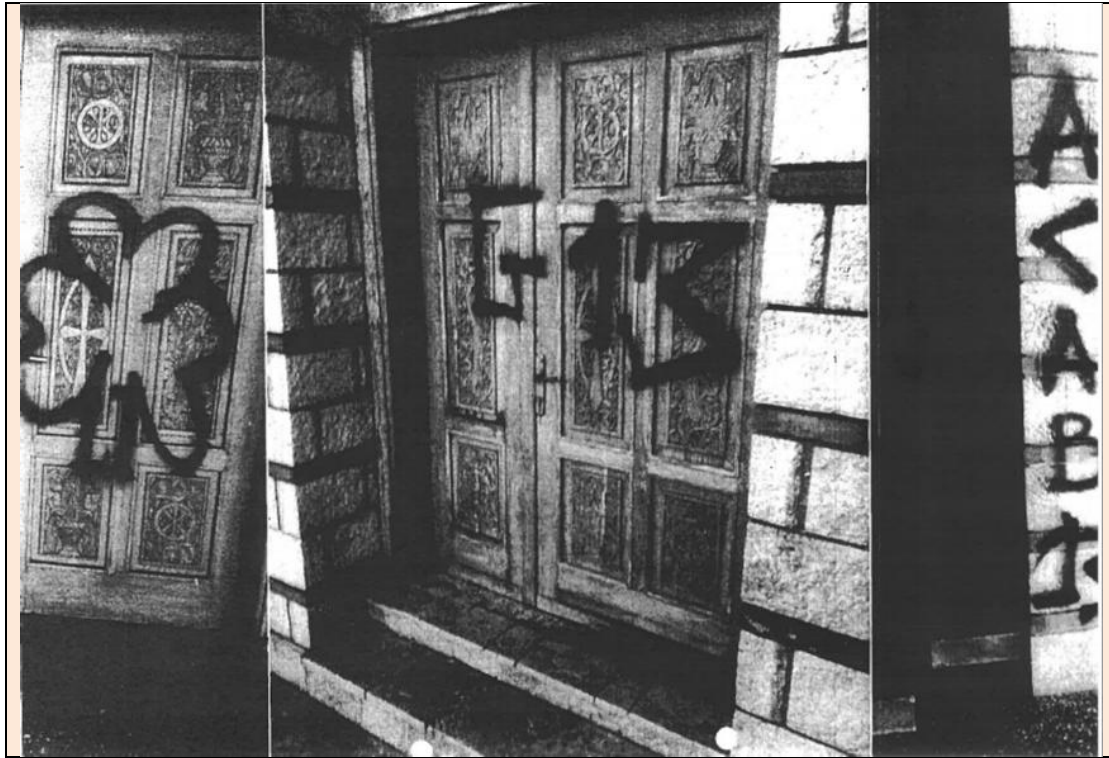
No	12.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Aghios Georgios, Karditsa
Date	9 January 2023
Brief description	Breaking of Church windows and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	None

No	13.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Domokos Fthiotida Railway Station
Date	10 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	14.
Location	Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos Vrochotinou, Monastiraki, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	10 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of old irons and 1 motor from the courtyard of the Monastery; forcible entry through the main door of the Monastery; theft of money from an offertory box. Break-in; damage to an adjacent warehouse; theft of catering and electrical equipment
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	15.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi, Koropi, Attica
Date	10 January 2023
Brief description	Breaking a window and causing damage to the interior of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	16.
Location	Church of the Annunciation, Igoumenitsa
Date	10 January 2023
Brief description	A group of perpetrators vandalized the external doors of the Church by writing slogans
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint. The perpetrators were arrested, apologized, no charges were brought and they were released
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	17.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Chrysovitza, Ioannina
Date	11 January 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage to property
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	18.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Solomos, Korinthia
Date	11/12 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in; breaking into the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	19.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Kato Volimes, Zakynthos
Date	15 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of valuable votive offerings and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier and arrest warrants

No	20.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kalovatos, Arta
Date	15 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	21.
Location	Chapel of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Kirkizates, Arta
Date	17 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	22.
Location	Church of the Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Granitsa, Ioannina
Date	17/18 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	23.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kirkizates, Arta
Date	18 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	24.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Lefkothea, Ioannina
Date	Between 15 and 20 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	25.
Location	Church of the Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Kato Vassilika, Farsala
Date	21 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a copper baptismal font
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	26.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi, Chryso, Serres
Date	Between 20 and 23 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	27.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Amfissa, Fokida
Date	Between 21 and 23 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	28.
Location	Church of Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou, Vathylakkos, Kozani
Date	23 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	29.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Fanourios, Nea Alikarnassos, Heraklion, Crete
Date	23/24 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	30.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Chalkida, Euboea
Date	25 January 2023
Brief description	Damage in the area around the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	31.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Achillios, Larissa
Date	25 January 2023
Brief description	Paint damage in the surrounding area of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	32.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Acharnes, Attica
Date	26 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells weighing 800 kg each
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	33.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Loutro, Karditsa
Date	26/27 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Dossier
Police/procedural actions	Unidentified

No	34.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Exochora, Zakynthos
Date	27 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of valuable votive offerings and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Issue of arrest warrants

No	35.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Limogardi, Fthiotida
Date	Between 9 and 28 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	36.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Radovizi, Ioannina
Date	Between 22 and 28 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	37.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kiliomenos, Zakynthos
Date	28 January 2023
Brief description	Theft of metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Issue of arrest warrants

No	38.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Ktimeni, Karditsa
Date	28 January 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage to the doors of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	39.
Location	Church of Aghios Stephanos, Mavromati, Karditsa
Date	28/29 January 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	40.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Korinos, Pieria
Date	End of January 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	41.
Location	Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Lofiskos, Thessaloniki
Date	January 2023
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells (80kg and 140kg)
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	42.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Acharnes, Attica
Date	2 February 2023



Brief description	Theft of 1 bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	43.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Vasileios, Vouliagmeni, Attica
Date	2 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	44.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Kalogonia, Lakonia
Date	5/6 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Arrest of one of the perpetrators

Nº	45.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Panteleimon, Evosmos, Thessaloniki
Date	6 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested. Dossier

Nº	46.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Kypseli, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	6 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the warehouse and the Cultural Center of the Church
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of one of the perpetrators

Nº	47.
Location	Cemetery of the Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Pylos
Date	6 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in of a cemetery warehouse and theft of 150 kg of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

Nº	48.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Porto Rafti, Attica
Date	6 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money from the offertory box and the Philoptochos Fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	49.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Melissochori, Thessaloniki

Date	6/7 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	50.
Location	Monastery of Katerinous, Gavalou, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	7/8 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; breaking of the protective glass cover of the icon of the Virgin Mary and theft of its votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	51.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Pallini, Attica
Date	8 February 2023
Brief description	The perpetrator, who was noticed by the priest of the Church, entered the Sanctuary and then left through a window of the women's gallery, before the arrival of the police forces; no theft
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	52.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Ampelonas, Larissa
Date	Between 1st and 9 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of metal ecclesiastical objects and sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	53.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Exochi, Pieria
Date	Between 7 and 9 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	54.
Location	Cemetery, Elaphos, Pieria
Date	Between 7 and 9 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	55.
Location	Church of Aghios Therapon, Aghioi Anargyroi, Arta
Date	9 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box and the Philoptochos Fund
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	56.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Ampelonas, Larissa
Date	9 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of votive offerings and damage to the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	57.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kostakioi, Arta
Date	9 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the offertory box, the Philoptochos Fund and a Church cabinet; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	58.
Location	Church of Aghios Loukas, Vasiliko, Euboea
Date	10 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	59.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Paleo Eleftherochori, Pieria
Date	10/11 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	60.
Location	Church of the Holy Archangels, Neo Petritsi, Serres
Date	10/11 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	61.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Riachovo, Ioannina
Date	11/12 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	62.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Mazaraki, Ioannina
Date	11/12 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	63.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vrontismeni, Ioannina

Date	11/12 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	64.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Areti, Ioannina
Date	11/12 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	65.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Chalkiades, Arta
Date	12 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	66.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Demetrios, Serres
Date	13 February 2023
Brief description	Attempted theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

№	67.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Kypseli, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	13 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of one of the perpetrators

№	68.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Evangelismos, Larissa
Date	13 February 2023
Brief description	Breaking into an offertory box; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	69.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Amfithea, Arta
Date	14 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	70.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Faneromeni, Karyotika, Korinthia
Date	14 February 2023

Brief description	Entry through an unsecured window into the dormitories of the Monastery; search of all the premises; theft of a sum of money
Perpetrator/s	4 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	71.
Location	Chapel of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Svoronos, Pieria
Date	Mid-February 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	72.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Imera, Kozani
Date	16 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage and theft of metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	73.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Sparto, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	17 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	74.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Zevgaraki, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	17/18 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	75.
Location	Church of Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou, Vathylakkos, Kozani
Date	18 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	76.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Vasileios, Vouliagmeni, Attica
Date	20 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	77.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Aghios Georgios Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	21 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; breaking into an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	78.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Messolonghi, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	21 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	79.
Location	Church of Apostolos Pavlos, Megali Chora, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	21 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box and the Philoptochos Fund
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	80.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Riza, Aetolia-Acarmania
Date	22 February 2023
Brief description	Damage to the interior of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	81.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Pylea, Thessaloniki
Date	23 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	82.
Location	Church of the Wisdom of God, Xanthi
Date	23 February 2023
Brief description	Attempted theft of Philoptochos fund boxes
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of one of the perpetrators

No	83.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes - Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou - Aghia Skepi, Triada, Euboea
Date	23 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of icons and metal ecclesiastical objects
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	84.
Location	Church of Aghios Markos, Kleisoura, Kastoria
Date	Between 1st January and 25 February 2023
Brief description	Theft of an ecclesiastical relic (1872)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	85.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Polychronios, Nea Trapezounta, Pieria
Date	24/25 February 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	86.
Location	Chapel of Apostolos Thomas, Nea Trapezounta, Pieria
Date	24/25 February 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	87.
Location	Church of Panagia Eleousa, Kalyvia, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	26 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of one of the perpetrators

№	88.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Haidari, Attica
Date	26 February 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door of the Chapel of the Church located in its basement and disturbance of the interior; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	89.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi, Platani, Kos
Date	27 February 2023
Brief description	Damage and starting a fire in the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	90.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Messolonghi, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	27 February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	91.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Mastro, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	27/28 February 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box and theft of money from the Philoptochos fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	92.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Aikaterini, Feres, Alexandroupolis
Date	28 February 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	93-94. (two incidents)
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Elaphos, Pieria
Date	February 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	95.
Location	Pilgrimage Church of Aghios Vasileios, Sparta
Date	February 2023
Brief description	Theft of two external air conditioning units
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	96.
Location	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Agrileza, Schimatari
Date	Between 23 February and 1st March 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	97.
Location	Church of Aghios Alexandros, Feres, Alexandroupolis
Date	1st March 2023
Brief description	Theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	98.
Location	Church of Aghia Anna, Flambouro, Serres
Date	4 March 2023
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	99.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Eklissochori, Ioannina



Date	4/5 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	100.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Pistiana, Arta
Date	5 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	101.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Glykorrizo, Arta
Date	5 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	102.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Fotino, Arta
Date	5 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	103.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Timotheos, Gerakas, Attica
Date	6 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the fence of a Monastery; immobilization and causing bodily harm to a monk. Breaking the door of the abbot's room; causing slight bodily harm; theft of a sum of money. Theft of the recorder where the surveillance camera footage was stored
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	104.
Location	Church of Aghia Foteini, Chalkida, Euboea
Date	7 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; attempted break-in of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	105.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Fanourios, Ilion, Attica
Date	7 March 2023
Brief description	Inscription on the entrance wall of the Church of the slogan (in greek): <i>FROM IRAN TO HERE, BOOTIN' THE CLERGY IN THE REAR</i> and the symbol of Anarchy
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	106.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kokkinochoma, Ioannina
Date	Between 5 and 8 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	107.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Aghioi Pantes, Zakynthos
Date	8 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of valuable votive offerings and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Issue of arrest warrants

No	108.
Location	Church of Aghia Aikaterini, Akropotamia, Arta
Date	8 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking a window and searching the area; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	109.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Glykorrizo, Arta
Date	10 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	110.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Rachi, Arta
Date	10 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	111.
Location	Church of Aghios Fanourios, Glykorrizo, Arta
Date	10 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of votive offerings and money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	112.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ano Milia, Pieria
Date	10 March 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	113.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas, Ano Milia, Pieria
Date	10 March 2023

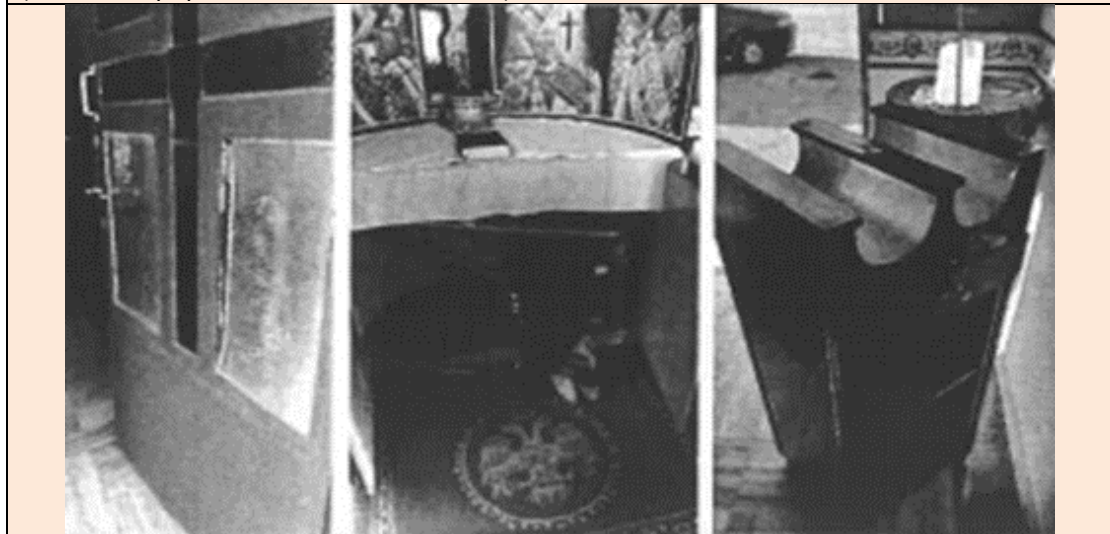
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	114.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Amfithea, Arta
Date	11 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking a window; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	115.
Location	Church of Aghia Matrona, Chios
Date	11 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage and theft of liturgical vessels
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	116.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	11 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	117.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Paleo Keramidi, Pieria
Date	11/12 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	118.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Anthochori, Dodoni
Date	12 March 2023

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

Nº	119.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Athanasios, Makrisi, Fthiotida
Date	13 March 2023
Brief description	Removal of the Crucified's Form from the Cross
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	120.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Mesaia Milia, Pieria
Date	Between 12 and 14 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	121.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Dimitropoulo, Achaia
Date	Between 12 and 15 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of an outdoor air conditioning unit
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	122.
Location	Church of the Most Holy Theotokos, Kallithea, Zakynthos
Date	15 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of valuable votive offerings; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Issue of arrest warrants

Nº	123.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Gazi, Heraklion
Date	First half of March 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the Church and theft of seats from its exterior
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	124.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Lazochori, Veroia
Date	16 March 2023
Brief description	Two horses were left free in the churchyard to graze, causing damage (breaking a door's glass) and leaving manure behind
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>



(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	125.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Aghios Georgios, Sidirokastro, Serres
Date	17 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of liturgical and sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of the perpetrator

No	126.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vasilopoulo, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	16/17 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	127.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Gonnoi, Larissa
Date	17 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	128.
Location	Cemetery, Areti, Ilia
Date	17 March 2023
Brief description	Major damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	129.
Location	Church of Aghios Sozon, Voutiani, Lakonia
Date	18 March 2023
Brief description	Vandalism and destruction of a window; theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	130.
Location	Church of Aghios Pavlos, Pigaidakia, Heraklion
Date	18 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	131-132. (two incidents)
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Moschochori, Pieria
Date	Between 17 and 19 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	133.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kallithea, Pieria
Date	18/19 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	134.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Kalomodion, Arta
Date	19 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking a window; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	135.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Arta
Date	19 March 2023
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	136.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Grammeni, Fthiotida
Date	Between 20 February and 20 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of icons, metal ecclesiastical objects, and wire mesh
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	137.
Location	Church of Aghia Eirini, Palea Fokaia, Attica, Greece
Date	19/20 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from the Philoptochos fund; destruction of the alarm system
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	138.
Location	Pilgrimage Shrine of the Church of Aghios Pavlos, Kos
Date	20 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage of the door of the shrine
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	139.
Location	Pilgrimage Shrine of the Chapel of Panagia Faneromeni, Kos
Date	20 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the shrine; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	140.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Lygia, Korinthia
Date	20/21 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in of an offertory box; theft of money and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	1 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	141.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ano Milia, Pieria
Date	21 March 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	142.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Kastelli, Heraklion
Date	Between 14 and 22 March 2023
Brief description	Desecration of the Church by throwing horse excrement in front of the Altar and dry branches inside and outside the Church; theft of 4 icons and writing with a marker on the door of the Church the phrase (in greek): <i>IT IS AN INSULT TO MY SOUL. WHAT I AM LIVING THROUGH. HERE, THE GOOD MONEY. ALL THE MONEY, ALL THE KILOS, AND VICE-VERSA. I WILL NOT ACCEPT IT. WHATEVER YOU MEAN, MR. DIMITRIADIS. WHOEVER WORSHIPS CORRUPTION, WHAT ARE THEY? THEY CAME TO WORSHIP. NOT TO MENTION, TO EAT THE GRASS</i>
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete)	



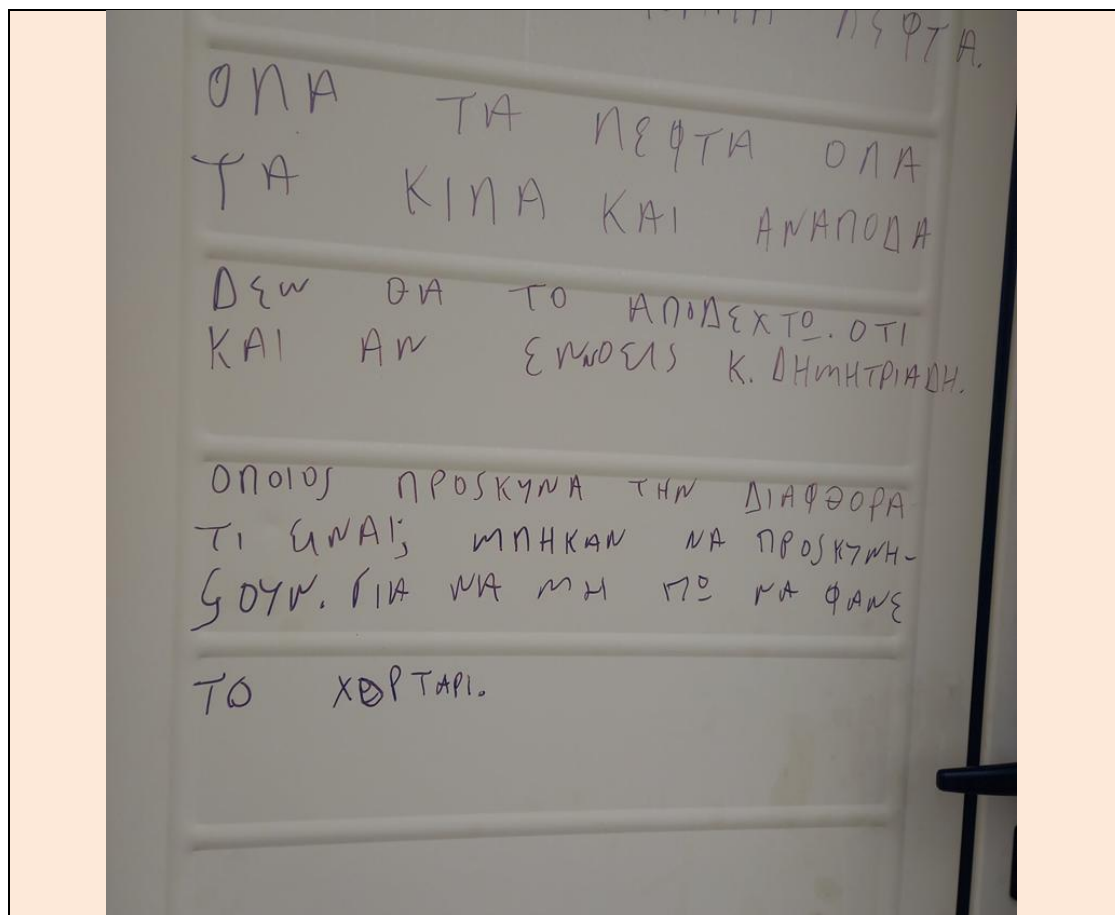


ΕΙΝΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΒΟΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΨΥΧΗΣ  
ΜΟΥ. ΑΥΤΑ ΠΟΥ ΖΩ.

ΕΙΔΩ ΤΑ ΚΑΛΑ ΠΕΦΤΑ

ΟΝΑ ΤΑ ΠΕΦΤΑ ΟΛΑ  
ΤΑ ΚΙΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΑΠΟΔΑ

ΔΕΩ ΘΑ ΤΟ ΑΠΟΔΕΧΤΟ. ΟΤΙ  
ΚΑΙ ΑΝ ΕΠΙΘΕΙΣ Κ. ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟ







No	143.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Polychronios, Nea Trapezounta, Pieria
Date	22 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	144.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Kyriaki, Varympompi, Attica
Date	22 March 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box; damage
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested. 18-month prison sentence

No	145.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Potamies, Heraklion
Date	23 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	146.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Rapsani, Larissa
Date	Between 22 and 24 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier


No	147.
Location	Church of Aghios Gerasimos, Mikri Milia, Pieria
Date	Between 18 and 25 March 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	148.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Sevasti, Pieria
Date	Between 20 and 25 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of electrical appliances and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	149.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Paleo Keramidi, Pieria
Date	Between 21 and 26 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	150.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kallithea, Pieria
Date	25/26 March 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	151.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Feres, Alexandroupolis
Date	26 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	152.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	26 March 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

No	153.
Location	Cathedral of the Annunciation, Athens, Greece
Date	27 March 2023
Brief description	Vandalism of small scale. Inscription on the marble columns and the entrance wall of the Church's portico
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	154.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Gerasimos, Schisto, Attica
Date	28 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	155.
Location	Church of Evangelistria, Nikaia, Attica
Date	28/29 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of ecclesiastical objects and theft of money

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	156.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Schisto, Attica
Date	29 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	157.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Vereniki, Ioannina
Date	Between 28 and 30 March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	158.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Livadi, Pieria
Date	30 March 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	159.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Riviotissa, Lakonia
Date	30 March 2023
Brief description	Destruction of the roof of the Church's warehouse
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	160-163. (four incidents)
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ritini, Pieria
Date	March 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	164-167. (four incidents)
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Ritini, Pieria
Date	March 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	168.
Location	Chapel of the Holy Three Martyrs, Thessaloniki
Date	March 2023
Brief description	Theft of an external air conditioning unit
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	169.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Kritomati, Koronochori, Naxos
Date	1st April 2023
Brief description	The perpetrators entered the Church's premises, poured flammable liquid on the wooden door, and set it on fire, resulting in the complete destruction of the door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	170.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Trilofo, Pieria
Date	1/2 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of an electrical appliance (audio console)
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	171.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Trilofo, Pieria
Date	1/2 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	172.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Kyriaki, Moschochori, Fthiotida
Date	2/3 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	173.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ritini, Pieria
Date	3/4 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	174.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Paleo Keramidi, Pieria
Date	4/5 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	175.
Location	Church of Aghioi Timotheos and Mavra, Machairado, Zakynthos
Date	5 April 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break the external door
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Issue of arrest warrants

No	176.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Aghia Triada, Thessaloniki

Date	5 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	177.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Nea Peramos, Attica
Date	5 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	178.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Megara, Attica
Date	5 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of an amplifier
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	179.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Megara, Attica
Date	5 April 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	180.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Sfendami, Pieria
Date	6/7 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of batteries and photovoltaic components; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	181.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Sfendami, Pieria
Date	6/7 April 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	182.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sfendami, Pieria
Date	6/7 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of a metal box with money
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	183.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Pantokratoras, Zakynthos
Date	7 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of valuable votive offerings and theft of money from an offertory box



Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. Issue of arrest warrants

No	184.
Location	Church of Aghia Glykeria, Petroupoli, Attica
Date	7 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of the Philoptochos fund; damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	185.
Location	Private Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Megara, Attica
Date	7 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	186.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	7 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	187.
Location	Church of Aghios Taxiarchis, Mandra, Attica
Date	8 April 2023
Brief description	Vandalism of bells and their metal support with paint
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	188.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Paleokastro, Chalkidiki

Date	Between 9 March and 9 April 2023
Brief description	Damage to the interior of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	189.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Athanasios, Kalyvia, Fthiotida
Date	8/9 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	190.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Divarata, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	191.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Logarata, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; damage; theft of money; breaking of glass panes of icon votive stands; and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	192.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Ferentinata, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; damage; and breaking of glass panes of icon votive stands
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	193.
Location	Church of the Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Antipata, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; damage; theft of money; breaking of glass panes of icon votive stands; and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	194.
Location	Church of Aghios Christophoros, Farsa, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023

Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; damage; theft of money; breaking of glass panes of icon votive stands; and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

Nº	195.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos and the Most Holy Theotokos, Dilinata, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

Nº	196.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Lourdata, Kefalonia
Date	10 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	3 Albanian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

Nº	197.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Vasileios, Vouliagmeni, Attica
Date	10/11 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	198.
Location	Cemetery, Omonia, Serres
Date	11 April 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

Nº	199.
Location	Pilgrimage Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Ampelokipi, Thessaloniki
Date	11 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of 1 icon, which was returned after two days
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	200.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kastania, Pieria
Date	11/12 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	201.
Location	Church of the Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Kastania, Pieria

Date	11/12 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	202.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Platani, Pella
Date	12 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

Nº	203.
Location	Parish Hall of the Church of Aghios Fanourios, Houmeri, Heraklion
Date	13 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	204.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi, Lagonisi, Attica
Date	13 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from the offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	205.
Location	Church of Aghios Theodoros, Nipiditos, Heraklion
Date	13 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	206.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Agrinio, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	13 April 2024
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	207.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Thessaloniki
Date	14 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of copper pipes from outdoor air conditioning units
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	208.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Tymfristis, Fthiotida
Date	14 April 2023

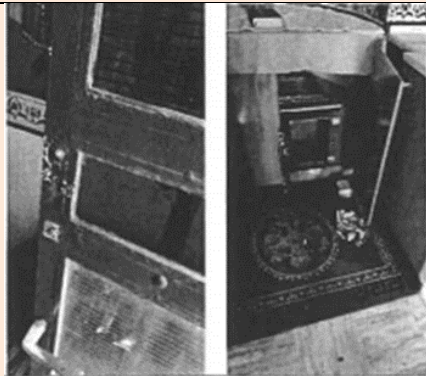
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 1 surveillance camera
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	209.
Location	Shrine of Aghios Nektarios, Kamariza, Lavrio, Attica
Date	14 April 2023
Brief description	During the Holy Service of the Epitaph the perpetrators broke into the residence of the Parish Priest, through the wooden balcony door, where the shrine is located, and by causing disturbance in all the areas, they stole 3 sacramental pectoral crosses
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	210.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Asprangeloi, Ioannina
Date	15 April 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	211.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Ritini, Pieria
Date	15/16 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	212.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Athens
Date	16 April 2023
Brief description	Discharge of fireworks and improvised explosive devices
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	213.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	16 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

No	214.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Kato Steni, Euboea
Date	17 April 2023
Brief description	Attempted theft of the Church's safe, causing damage to it
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	215.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Mandra, Attica
Date	17 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money, valuable votive offerings and sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	216.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Raphael, Kassanoi, Heraklion
Date	18 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	217.
Location	Church of Archangelos Michael, Makrigialos, Pieria
Date	18 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of a metal ecclesiastical object (lectern)
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	218.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Alonia, Pieria
Date	18 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of a metal ecclesiastical object (lectern)
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	219.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Neos Voutzas, Attica
Date	18 April 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier. The attempt was recorded by a closed-circuit camera, the footage of which was handed over to the police

No	220.
Location	Cemetery Church, Aronas, Pieria
Date	18/19 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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№	221.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Afrati, Euboea
Date	19 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	222.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Krestena, Ilia
Date	20 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	223.
Location	Municipal cemetery, Examilia, Korinthia
Date	20 April 2023
Brief description	Desecration of over 100 graves
Perpetrator/s	5 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

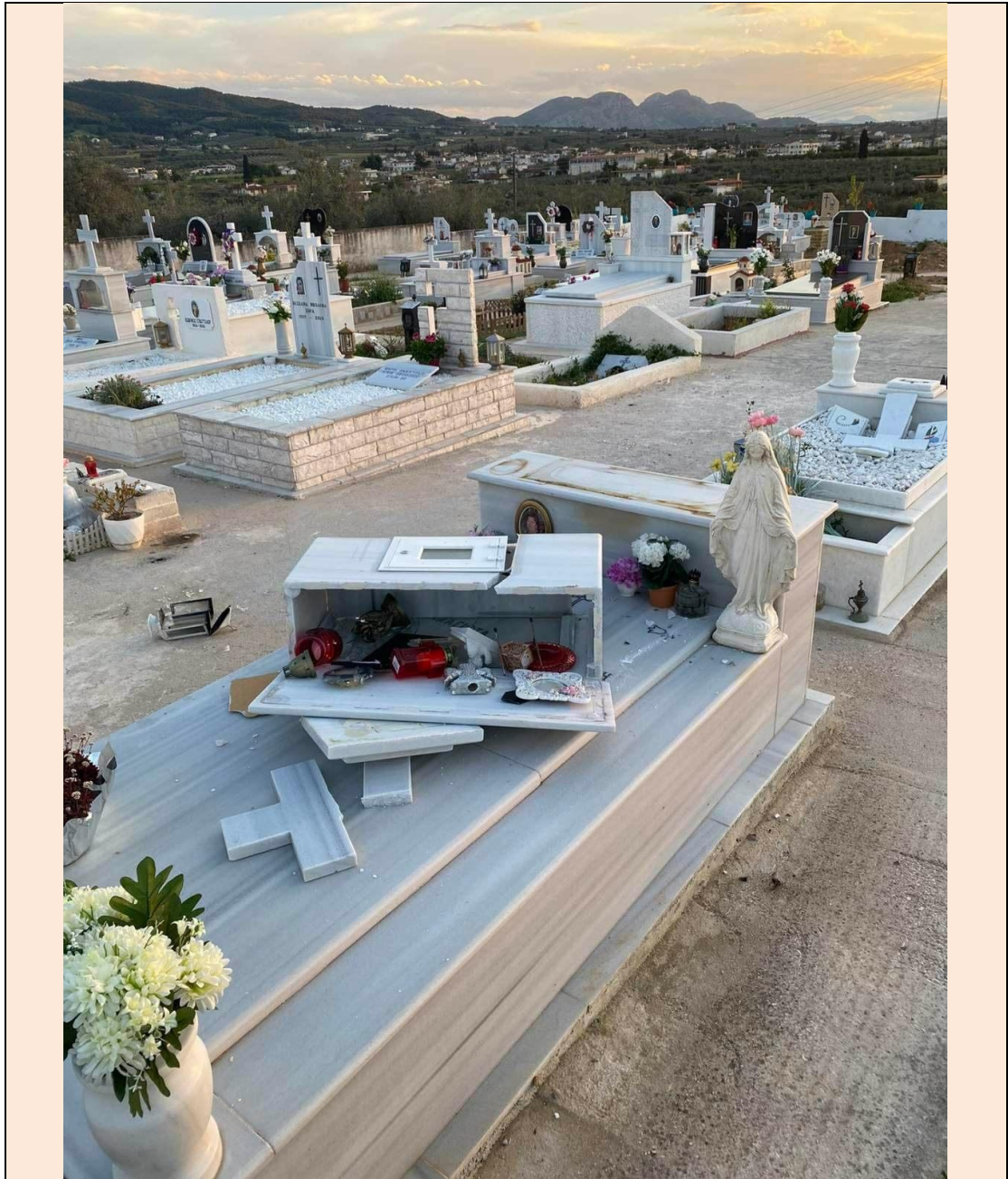


(Photos: korinthostv.gr - republished with permission)





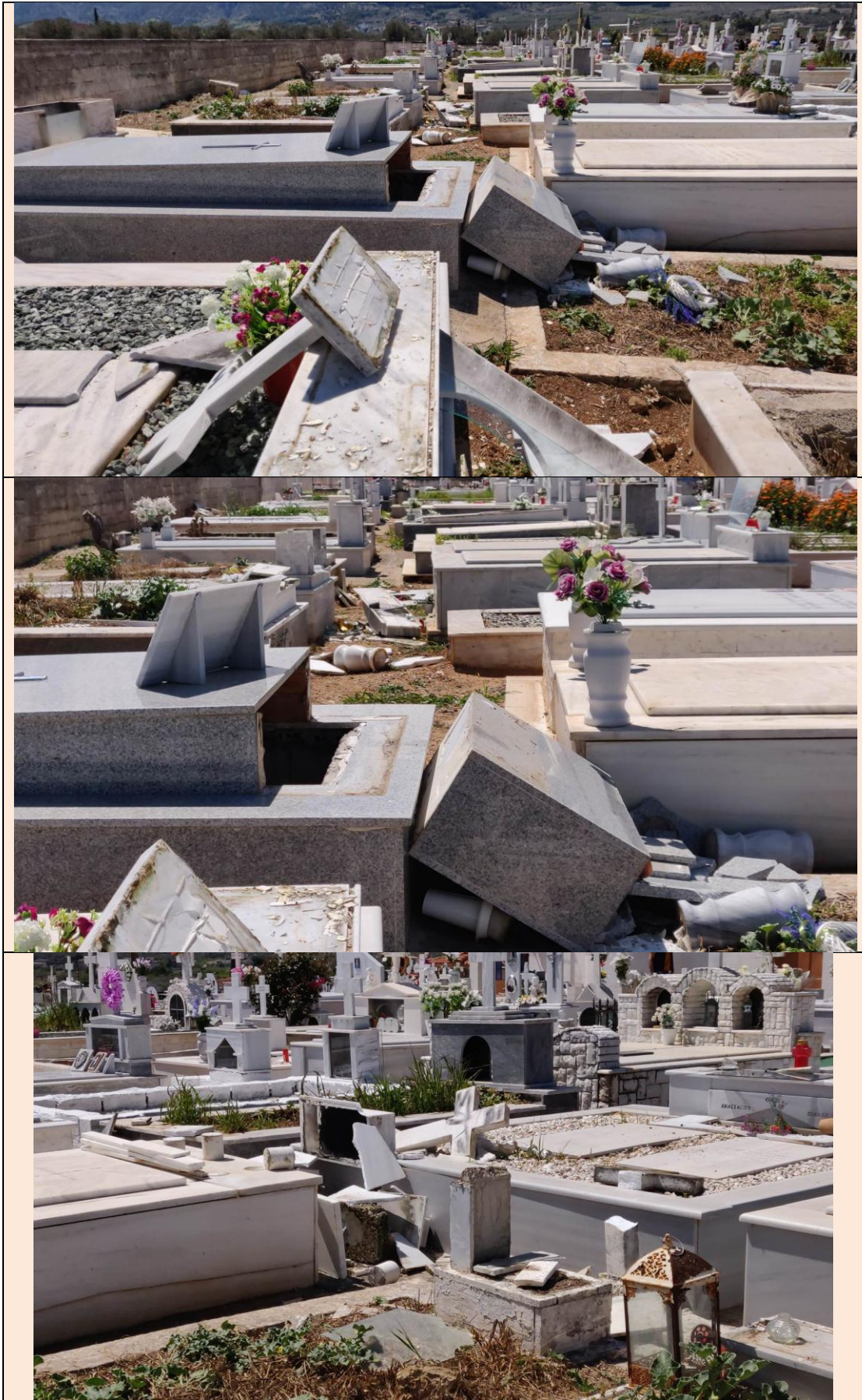
















No	224.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Paleo Keramidi, Pieria
Date	20/21 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	225.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Paranympchoi, Heraklion
Date	17/22 April 2023

Brief description	Break-in and attempted theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	
	

No	226.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos, Koumarionas, Samos
Date	21/22 April 2023
Brief description	Damage to the main door and window of the Church; entry; no theft
Perpetrator/s	4 Palestinians
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	227.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Elaphos, Pieria
Date	Between 20 and 23 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	228.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Elatochori, Pieria
Date	Between 21 and 23 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	229.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Markopoulo, Attica
Date	Between 21 and 23 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	230.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ritini, Pieria
Date	22/23 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	231.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Perista, Pieria
Date	22/23 April 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	232.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Kifissia, Attica
Date	23 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; breaking of a bulletproof protective glass pane of the icon; theft of all votive offerings; breaking into the cabinet and side doors of the Church; removal of the external alarm siren; and theft of the priest's personal belongings and the Church's administrative books

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	233.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Moschochori, Pieria
Date	Between 14 and 24 April 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	234.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Variko, Pieria
Date	23/24 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	235.
Location	Chapel of Paleopanagia, Ano Steni, Euboea
Date	24 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and damage to religious frescoes on the interior walls
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	236.
Location	Church of the Holy Cross, Loures, Heraklion
Date	24/25 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

(Photos: Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete)







No	237.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Demetrios, Gerakas, Attica
Date	26 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	238.
Location	Cemetery Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Gerakas, Attica
Date	26 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	239.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Machaira, Heraklion
Date	27 April 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and an offertory box; and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	240.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Varympompi, Attica
Date	27/28 April 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation



No	241.
Location	Chapel of Profitis Ilias, Aghios Ilias, Kastoria
Date	Between 27 and 30 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	242.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ritini, Pieria
Date	30 April 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	243.
Location	Cemetery, Zografou, Attica
Date	30 April 2023
Brief description	Movement of the marble slab sealing the ossuary; breaking of the lock; removal of 2 metal boxes containing bones
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	244.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Gounaris, Lakonia
Date	30 April 2023
Brief description	Vandalism; destruction of a door; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	245.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Ano Askos, Thessaloniki
Date	April 2023
Brief description	Theft of bells of the Cemetery and Aghios Ioannis' Chapels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	246.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Metochion of the Holy Monastery of Profitis Ilias, Erythres, Attica
Date	April 2023
Brief description	Damage and destruction to the door of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Repeated complaints were filed with the competent Police Department and a complaint was submitted against unknown persons. Nevertheless, the acts of vandalism continued. The competent Archaeological Service intervened, requesting the police authorities to take measures for safeguarding and increasing police patrols around the Church-Monument

No	247.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Metochion of the Monastery of Profitis Ilias, Erythres, Attica
Date	April 2023
Brief description	Damage and destruction to the door of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Repeated complaints were filed with the competent Police Department and a complaint was submitted against unknown persons. Nevertheless, the acts of vandalism continued. The competent Archaeological Service intervened, requesting the police authorities to take measures for safeguarding and increasing police patrols around the Church-Monument

No	248.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Metochion of the Monastery of Profitis Ilias, Erythres, Attica
Date	April 2023
Brief description	Damage and destruction to the door of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Repeated complaints were filed with the competent Police Department and a complaint was submitted against unknown persons. Nevertheless, the acts of vandalism continued. The competent Archaeological Service intervened, requesting the police authorities to take measures for safeguarding and increasing police patrols around the Church-Monument

No	249.
Location	Chapel of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Krya Nera, Kastoria
Date	Between 23 April and 3 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	250.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Pefka, Paleochori, Attica
Date	4 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of valuable votive offerings; and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	251.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Kalamaria, Thessaloniki
Date	5 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	252.
Location	Shrine of Aghios Nektarios, Kamariza, Lavrio, Attica

Date	5 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in of an exhibition hall; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	253.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Patsides, Heraklion
Date	5 May 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the parish office door and cabinets; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	254.
Location	Church of Aghia Aikaterini, Patsides, Heraklion
Date	Between 4 and 6 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	255.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Kallithea, Attica
Date	6 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	256.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Charalambos and Aghioi Anargyroi of Nymphs Hill, Aghios Stephanos, Attica
Date	Between 4 and 7 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the Church and the offertory box; theft of money. Vandalism in the interior of the Church, in the Sanctuary and in the Holy Altar; damage; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	257.
Location	Church of Aghios Minas, Thessaloniki
Date	8 May 2023
Brief description	After midnight two perpetrators climbed from the adjacent abandoned shops to the bell tower of the Church, broke several tiles on the tiled roof, the door leading to the women's gallery of the Church and a camera that recorded their movements. They created a mess inside the Church because they could not find money. The alarm of the Church was activated, the Church officials were notified, as well as the police and the fire brigade. In the early hours of the morning one of the two surrendered, while the other tried to escape, but the police arrested him after a chase
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	258.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos (Panagia Mesosporitissa), Kitsi, Koropi, Attica (Byzantine Monument)
Date	9 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and damage to the interior of the Church. In particular, part of the railing was destroyed, damage was caused to it by throwing stones, litter was found inside
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	The Police were officially notified in writing through the Ephorate of Antiquities and a request was submitted for the conduct of systematic patrols, primarily during the afternoon and evening hours, to protect the monument

No	259.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas Aetolos, Trikala
Date	9/10 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	260.
Location	Church of the Pammegistoi Taxiarches, Acharnes, Attica
Date	10/11 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	261.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Grimpovo, Ioannina
Date	Between 9 and 12 May 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	262.
Location	Church of Panagia Kamariani, Gerani, Rethymno
Date	12 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek and Bulgarian nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	263.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Fanourios, Zefiri, Attica
Date	16 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	264.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Papagos, Attica
Date	19 May 2023

Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	265.
Location	Cemetery, Elliniko, Attica
Date	19 May 2023
Brief description	Inscription on the outer fence – cemetery wall (in greek): <i>BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS – CENTERS OF RESISTANCE EVERYWHERE</i> along with the Anarchy symbol, and <i>NO HOPE IN ELECTIONS, PARTICIPATION IN STRUGGLES</i> also accompanied by the Anarchy symbol
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	266.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Tefeli, Heraklion
Date	Between 14 and 20 May 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	267.
Location	Pilgrimage Church of Panagia Eleftherotria Kokkinara, Kifissia, Attica
Date	20 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint and submission of relevant digital material

Nº	268.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Acharnes, Attica
Date	21 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of air conditioner copper pipes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	269.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Acharnes, Attica
Date	20/21 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	270.
Location	Church of Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou, Vathylakkos, Kozani
Date	Between 27 February and 22 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	271.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Vathy, Samos
Date	23 May 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Palestinian
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	272.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Thrakomakedones, Attica
Date	23 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	273.
Location	Church of Aghia Skepi, Ptolemaida, Kozani
Date	25 May 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	274.
Location	Church of Aghios Christophoros, Dafni, Attica
Date	25/26 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of votive offerings; breaking into the offertory boxes; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	275.
Location	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Saviour of the Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos ("Panagouda"), Thessaloniki
Date	27 May 2023
Brief description	Destruction of the main entrance of the Church; destruction of the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	276.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Evangelistria (Metochion of the Holy Sepulchre), Mytilinioi, Samos
Date	27 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Palestinians
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	277.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Arkitsa, Fthiotida
Date	28 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of liturgical objects
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	278.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Aghioi Anargyroi, Attica
Date	28 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	279.
Location	Church of Aghia Aikaterini, Mandra, Attica
Date	28 May 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	280.
Location	Private Church of Panagia Vrontiani, Paleokastro, Samos
Date	29 May 2023
Brief description	Damage, attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	6 Palestinians
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	281.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Paleokastro, Samos
Date	30 May 2023
Brief description	Breaking of the main door of the Church and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Palestinians
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	282.
Location	Church of the Beheading of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Palaiochastro, Samos
Date	30 May 2023
Brief description	Breaking of the main door of the Church and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	4 Palestinians
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	283.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Nea Alikarnassos, Kos
Date	May
Brief description	Signs of firearm damage were detected on the dome and the bell tower
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	284.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Grammeni, Fthiotida
Date	Between 10 May 2023 and 1 June 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of 1 metal candelabrum
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	285.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Ilion, Attica
Date	1st June 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of the Philoptochos fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	286.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Gonies, Heraklion
Date	Between 28 May and 2 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	287.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis of Rila, Aghioi Anargyroi, Attica
Date	2 June 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	288.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Thrakomakedones, Attica
Date	2 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from the Philoptochos fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	289.
Location	Chapel of Zoodochos Pigi, Chryso, Serres
Date	4 June 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in of an offertory box and damage
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	290.
Location	Church of Aghia Anna, Acharnes, Attica
Date	5 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box and the Philoptochos fund
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	291.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Alalkomenes, Boeotia
Date	6 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of 1 bell weighing 100 kg
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	292.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Agrinio, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	6 June 2023



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

№	293.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Koumaria, Imathia
Date	6 June 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and excavation of its foundation site
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



№	294.
Location	Cemetery, Alexandroupolis
Date	7 June 2023
Brief description	Breaking into approximately 20 tomb cabinets and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	295.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Toumba, Thessaloniki
Date	9 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	296.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Kato Patisia, Attica
Date	11 June 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door; theft of money from the the Philoptochos fund and from the offertory box for the benefit of the Church; theft of the glass pane from the iconostasis icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	297.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Mathia, Heraklion

Date	11 June 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	298.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios - Aghioi Anargyroi - Aghia Foteini, Prompona Grove, Patissia, Attica
Date	12 June 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	299.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Haidari, Attica
Date	13 June 2023
Brief description	Cutting of the window protective grilles; entry into the Church; disturbance of the area; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	300.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Mikro Monastiri, Thessaloniki
Date	13/14 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	301.
Location	Church of Panagia of Vlaherna, Pallini, Attica
Date	14 June 2023
Brief description	The perpetrator entered the Church, which was open, as a pilgrim and stole a small metal offertory box with money. The event was filmed by the Church's security camera
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	302.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Kassanoi, Heraklion
Date	First half of June 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	303.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Megali Gefyra, Pieria
Date	17 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell weighing 200 kg
Perpetrator/s	5 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	304.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis the Theologian, Keratea, Attica
Date	17 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a metal gate from the outer courtyard of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	305.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas Aetolos, Maroussi, Attica
Date	17 June 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through one of the side doors of the Church and into the Parish Council Office; breach of the office's interior door leading into the Church; theft of money from the Philoptochos fund and the Church construction fund; attempted break-in of the safe; damage to the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	306.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Athanasios, Veroia, Imathia
Date	18 June 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through a window and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	307.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Kolonos, Attica
Date	18 June 2023
Brief description	Breaking into an office located inside the Church; theft of money; theft and destruction of the camera recorder and the UPS from the office; theft of the external siren
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	308.
Location	Church of Aghioi Pantes, Paradisi, Kos
Date	19 June 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the door. Alarm activated upon entering the Church and escape of one perpetrator
Perpetrator/s	2 foreign nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of one perpetrator

No	309.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Haidari, Attica
Date	20 June 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main entrance of the Church; breaking of an office door; breaking into a safe; theft of money and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	310.
Location	Church of Aghios Fanourios, Zefiri, Attica
Date	20 June 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	311.
Location	Parish Office of the Church of Aghioi Pantes, Mathia, Heraklion
Date	22 June 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	312.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Ryakia, Pieria
Date	22 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell weighing fifty kg
Perpetrator/s	5 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	313.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Alepochori, Attica
Date	Between 18 and 23 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a safe containing a sum of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	314.
Location	Cemetery Chapel, Mandalo, Pella
Date	Between 21 and 24 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	315.
Location	Cemetery Chapel, Mandalo, Pella
Date	Between 21 and 24 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	316.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kitros, Pieria
Date	25 June 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell weighing 200 kg
Perpetrator/s	5 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	317.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos, Goudi, Attica

Date	25 June 2023
Brief description	Breaking of a window grille and theft of personal belongings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	318.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Amfiklia, Fthiotida
Date	Between 18 and 27 June 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	319.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Vageniti, Ioannina
Date	27/28 June 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	320.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Avlona, Attica
Date	Between 24 and 29 June 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	321.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Nea Alikarnassos, Kos
Date	June 2023
Brief description	Signs of firearm damage were detected on the dome and the bell tower
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	322.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kavalari, Thessaloniki
Date	June 2023
Brief description	Breaking into a box; burglary of the priest's residence; theft of personal valuables
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

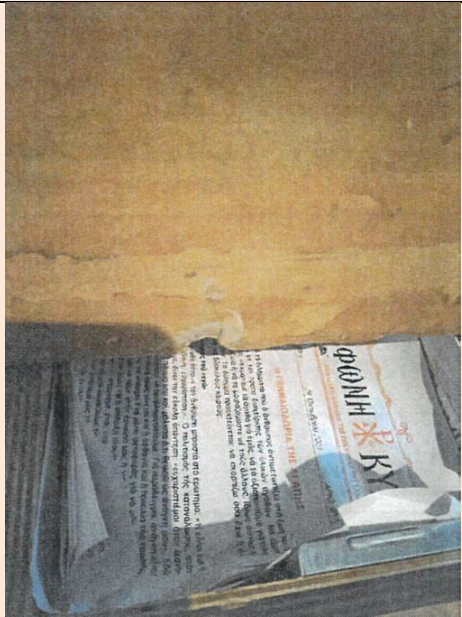
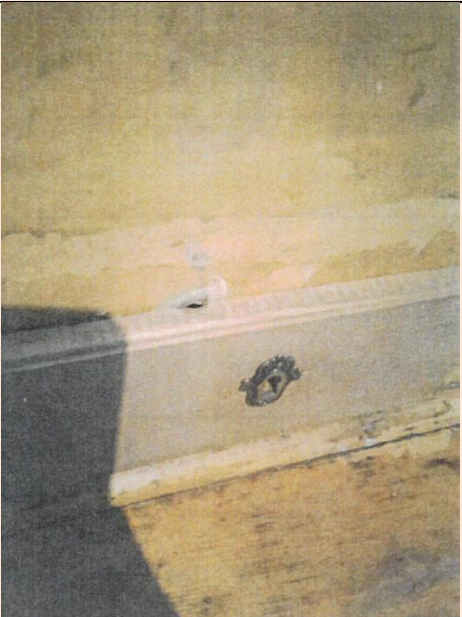
Nº	323.
Location	Pilgrimage Church of Aghios Demetrios, Patron Saint, Thessaloniki
Date	June 2023
Brief description	Destruction of ornamental plant containers in the Church courtyard and soiling of the area by scattering soil
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	No complaint was made



(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	324.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Fourni, Lassithi
Date	1st July 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money



Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete)	
	

No	325.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Kastelli, Fourni, Lassithi
Date	1st July 2023
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete)	
	

No	326.
Location	Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Myrsini, Ilia
Date	Between 27 June and 2 July 2023
Brief description	Entry into the Church; break-in of an adjacent warehouse; damage; theft of electrical appliances
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	327.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Glyka Nera, Attica
Date	2 July 2023
Brief description	Detachment of the window protective grilles on the south side of the Church, dismantling of the alarm system and cameras; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	328.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Glyka Nera, Attica
Date	3 July 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church Office by removing the protective window grille; damage was caused by breaking the cabinet locks; theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	329.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Rodia Heraklion
Date	3 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	330.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Chania, Crete
Date	4 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	331.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Myrsini, Ilia
Date	5 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	332.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Mpara, Trikala



Date	5 July 2023
Brief description	Theft of three knives and one spear
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	333.
Location	Shrine in the name of the Most Holy Theotokos, Nea Santa, Rhodope
Date	6 July 2023
Brief description	Destruction of the Shrine
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



№	334.
Location	Shrine in the name of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Nea Santa, Rhodope
Date	6 July 2023
Brief description	Destruction of the Shrine
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	335.
Location	Church of Aghios Fanourios and Timios Prodromos, Thessaloniki
Date	7 July 2023
Brief description	Damage to the exterior with the theft of part of the Church's gutters
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	336.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi Kosmas and Damianos, Elliniko, Attica
Date	Between 2 and 8 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	337.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	9 July 2023
Brief description	Two minors broke into the main entrance of the Chapel and the offertory box, likely stealing a small amount of money. They fled immediately when they were spotted by a passing priest
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	338.
Location	Church of Aghia Kyriaki, Achaia
Date	10 July 2023
Brief description	Attempted theft of a sum of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	339.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Theodoroi, Klathmonos Square, Athens
Date	11 July 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the window of the Sanctuary; theft of the Philoptochos fund boxes; arson; destruction of the wooden vestibule of the main entrance; destruction of fabrics (linen) of the Ministry of Culture conservators; and surface damage from soot on the frescoes of the dome and the ceiling of the main entrance of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	340.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Aghioi Anargyroi, Attica
Date	11/12 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	341.
Location	Cemetery of the Church of Aghios Nektarios, Gorgopotamos, Fthiotida
Date	Between 1st and 15 July 2023
Brief description	Theft of 35 metal candle holders from the graves in the cemetery
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	342.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Aghioi Anargyroi, Attica
Date	15 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of one of the perpetrators

No	343.
Location	Church of Panagia Chrysafitissa, Chryssafa, Lakonia
Date	15 July 2023
Brief description	Theft of a pectoral cross; theft of the sound equipment; destruction of the Church door lock
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	344.
Location	Church of Panagia Odigitria, Tithorea, Fthiotida
Date	15/16 July 2023
Brief description	Theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	345.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Paleochori, Imathia
Date	16 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	346.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Peratia, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	Between 16 and 20 July 2023
Brief description	Damage to the door and the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	347.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Agrinio, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	22 July 2023
Brief description	Breaking of the railing and shattering of the window glass; theft of money from the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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No	348.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Sofades, Karditsa
Date	22 July 2023
Brief description	Entry into the Church, which was open; theft of an undetermined amount of money from the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	349.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Vardates, Fthiotida
Date	22/23 July 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	350.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Sitia, Lassithi
Date	22/23 July 2023
Brief description	Entry through a window of a building located beneath the Church, without signs of forced entry; theft of money from the offertory box and the Parish Priest's office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	351.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Kirillos, Orestiada, Evros
Date	26 July 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the offertory box with an electric screwdriver; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	352.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Thiseio, Attica
Date	26 July 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the main entrance door of the Church; forced entry and damage to the main entrance door of the Church kitchen; forced entry into a utility room; breaking into the main entrance door of the Parish Community Center
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	353.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Acharnes, Attica
Date	26/27 July 2023
Brief description	Theft of the library box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	354.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Arfara, Messinia
Date	28 July 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	355.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Rapsani, Larissa
Date	28 July 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door, which was secured internally with a wooden bar; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	356.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Acharnes, Attica
Date	28/29 July 2023
Brief description	Theft of a laptop and a sum of money from the office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	357.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	30 July 2023
Brief description	Two minors broke into the main entrance of the Chapel. The closed-circuit television recorded the face of one of the two perpetrators, who did not recover any money due to the activation of the alarm and fled
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)



No	358.
Location	Church of Timios Prodromos, Paleochori, Imathia
Date	30/31 July 2023
Brief description	Breaking of a window – skylight; theft of 1 briefcase, which contained documents and orders intended for the Church's archive; theft of an undetermined amount of money from the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	359.
Location	Church of Aghios Kosmas Aetolos, Arta
Date	July 2023
Brief description	Theft of electrical equipment
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	360.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Koleni, Chania
Date	July 2023
Brief description	Sabotage of the Church windows by breaking the glass and attempted break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national and 1 Albanian national
Police/procedural actions	The Police were called and they collected fingerprints and other evidence from the Church premises. A case file was opened following a complaint against unknown individuals. The perpetrators were arrested a few days later by the Police

No	361.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Acharnes, Attica
Date	2 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of two donation boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	362.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Kounina, Achaia
Date	5/6 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	363.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Maleme, Chania
Date	7 August 2023
Brief description	Breaking into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	364.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Kamatero, Attica
Date	8 August 2023

Brief description	Breaking of a window grille and searching the premises of the office; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	365.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Haidari, Attica
Date	9 August 2023
Brief description	Breaking the lock of the main door; theft of money from the offertory box of the Church and 1 safe, which contained money, valuable votive offerings and all the spare keys of the Church from the Parish Priest's office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	366.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Kamatero, Attica
Date	10 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	367.
Location	Cemetery Church of Profitis Ilias, Leontari, Karditsa
Date	10/11 August 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main entrance door of the Church and theft of two sound amplifiers
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	368.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Thassos, Kavala
Date	12 August 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through a door and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

№	369.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Haidari, Attica
Date	13 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in at office window near the Church entrance; protective bars cut, window forced open, disorder caused; large sum of money stolen
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	370.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Katholiko, Achaia
Date	14/15 August 2023
Brief description	Breaking into a side door; theft of money and personal belongings of a clergyman

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	371.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Aneza, Arta
Date	15 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	372.
Location	Monastery of Odigitria, Church of Aghios Georgios, Phaistos, Heraklion
Date	16 August 2023
Brief description	Breakage of an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

Nº	373.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Leptokarya, Ioannina
Date	Between 12 and 17 August 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main entrance and theft of a candelabrum
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	374.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anna, Alexandroupolis
Date	18 August 2023
Brief description	Two minors broke into the main entrance of the Chapel. A closed-circuit surveillance system captured the face of one of the two robbers, who on this occasion was wearing a hood. They did not manage to steal any money due to the alarm being triggered and fled the scene
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	375.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Elefsina, Attica
Date	19 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	376.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Vasileios, Rouf, Attica
Date	19 August 2023
Brief description	Threat of arson
Perpetrator/s	1 foreign national
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	377.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Vathy, Samos



Date	19/20 August 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through a window of an adjacent Church hall; theft of money as well as various food items from a refrigerator
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	378.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Sitia, Lassithi
Date	20/21 August 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church, the office and the offertory box; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	379.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Mikro Monastiri, Thessaloniki
Date	21 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box; damage to the windows of the Church and the Holy Altar
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	380.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Sykies, Euboea
Date	21/22 August 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the auxiliary area of the Church and theft of 150 kg of olive oil
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	381.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Georgios, Selinari, Lassithi
Date	22 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of two silver candelabra
Perpetrator/s	Two Italian nationals, a man and a woman
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of the perpetrators. Return of the stolen goods on 23/8/2023

No	382.
Location	Monastery of Hosios Loukas, Steirion, Thebes, Boeotia
Date	23 August 2023
Brief description	Outbreak of fire in the courtyard of the Holy Monastery
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	383.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Zofria, Attica
Date	24 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the Church and the adjacent Parish Office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	A written report from the Parish Priest stating that the Police did not respond to his phone call
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№	384.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Arkassades, Lakonia
Date	24 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of a bell; destruction of a window
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	385.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghia Triada, Sperchiada, Fthiotida
Date	Between 10 and 25 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	386.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Platy, Imathia
Date	24/25 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	387.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Gounaris, Lakonia
Date	25 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of two outdoor air conditioning units
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	388.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Ampelokipoi, Attica
Date	25/26 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	389.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Ochthia, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	26 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	390.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis the Theologian, Mesa Moulia, Lassithi
Date	Between 20 and 27 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money and valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	391.
Location	Chapel of the Church of Kyrillos and Methodios, Evosmos, Thessaloniki
Date	27 August 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	392.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Kypseli, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	27 August 2023
Brief description	Breaking into a door with a sharp object
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	393.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Mytilini Lesvos
Date	27 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	394.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Feres, Alexandroupolis
Date	28 August 2023
Brief description	Shattering of window glass without breach of other areas of the Church
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	395.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon and Aghia Anna, Kryoneri, Attica
Date	28 August 2023
Brief description	Destruction of an alarm; shattering of the door glass; and theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	396.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Platystomo, Fthiotida
Date	28/29 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	397.
Location	Cemetery, Omonoia, Serres
Date	29 August 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into the offertory box of the Cemetery
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	398.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Vathy, Samos
Date	29/30 August 2023
Brief description	Forced entry through a window in the Church's guesthouse (archontariki) and theft of one television and four boxes of alcoholic beverages
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	399.
Location	Cemetery of the Church of Aghios Georgios, Xiropigado, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	30 August 2023
Brief description	Theft of 1 metal censer and 1 metal candlestick from tombs
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	400.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Kamatero, Attica
Date	30 August 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	401.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Thomas, Kalorrouma, Chania
Date	31 August 2023
Brief description	Spilling of blood of unknown origin on the Holy Altar of the Church on the floor, the windows, and the icons; and transfer of a wooden cross to the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	402.
Location	Metropolitan Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Alexandria, Imathia
Date	31 August 2023
Brief description	Shattering of a window - transom of the auxiliary door of the Church; breaking of the protective glass of the icon; theft of offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	403.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Municipality of Minoa Pediadas, Heraklion, Crete
Date	Second half of August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	404.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios Panagias, Municipality of Minoa Pediadas, Heraklion, Crete
Date	Second half of August 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	405.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Varvara in Psychiko - Halandri, Attica
Date	July-August
Brief description	Forced entry through the doors; theft of an undetermined amount of money from the Philoptochos Funds; theft of money from the office of the Church; theft of old icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	406.
Location	Shrine of the Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Damage to the shrine in front of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	407.
Location	Chapel Shrine of Aghios Stylianos, Paradisi, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Destruction of the shrine in front of the Chapel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	408.
Location	Monastery of Profitis Ilias, Paradisi, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Break-in and complete destruction of the door, despite the fact that the key was on the door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	409.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos of Antimacheia Castle, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Breaking into an offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	410.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos of Kardamaini, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Breaking into a shrine and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	411.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi of Kardamaini, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Breaking into the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	412.
Location	Cemetery Church of the Taxiarches of Kardamaini, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Breaking into the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	413.
Location	Monastery of Aghia Eirini, Kardamena, Kos
Date	Summer
Brief description	Desecration of the Church and lighting a fire inside it
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified foreign nationals — undocumented migrants
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	414.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos of Polythea, Municipality of Minoa Pediadas, Heraklion, Crete
Date	Beginning of September 2023
Brief description	Theft of valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	415.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Acharnes, Attica
Date	1 September 2023
Brief description	Breaking a window; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	416.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kymina, Thessaloniki
Date	1/2 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in through the outer gate and main entrance causing damage; theft of an air conditioning unit along with its external component
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	417.
Location	Church of “Panagia Axion Estin”, Lefka, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	2 September 2023
Brief description	Shattering of the window pane
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	418.
Location	Church of Aghios Matthaïos - Sinaites, Heraklion, Crete
Date	5 September 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the office of the Church and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek and Bulgarian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	419.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Corinth
Date	5/6 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	420.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou and Aghios Paisios, Monovrisi, Serres
Date	7 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	421.
Location	Voulkanou Monastery, Ancient Messini, Messinia
Date	7 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	422.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Venerato, Heraklion
Date	8 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and attempted theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	423.
Location	Church of Aghios Eleftherios, Thebes, Boeotia
Date	10 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	424.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Melissia, Attica
Date	10 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in by causing damage; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	425.
Location	Church of Aghia Marina, Thiseio, Attica

Date	11 September 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the shrine outside the Church and theft of the holy icon of Aghia Marina
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	426.
Location	Church of Aghios Spyridon, Kamatero, Attica
Date	12 September 2023
Brief description	Shattering of a window glass and theft of money from the two offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	427.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos and Aghios Nektarios, Mandra, Attica
Date	12 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of a safe with valuable votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	428.
Location	Cemetery, Arethousa, Thessaloniki
Date	12/13 September 2023
Brief description	Destruction of a grave
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier


№	429.
Location	Cemetery of Aghios Nikolaos, Amfissa, Fokida
Date	13 September 2023
Brief description	Damage to ossuaries inside the ossuary room and removal of the bones, without any items being stolen
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	430.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Stimagka, Korinthia
Date	13 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	431.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Pefko, Kalavryta
Date	13 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money and offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint



No	432.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos and Aghioi Apostoloi, Zaviani, Achaia
Date	14 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	433.
Location	Church of Aghios Andreas, Salamina
Date	16 September 2023
Brief description	Vandalism of the bust of the late Metropolitan Ignatios of Larissa and Tyrnavos with black paint
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier against an unidentified perpetrator for damage to foreign property
(Photo: Metropolis of Larissa and Tyrnavos)	
Comments	<p><a href="#"><u>Announcement of the Metropolis of Larissa and Tyrnavos</u></a></p> <p><i>With feelings of horror and revulsion, the Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tyrnavos condemns the vandalism of the bust of the late Metropolitan of Larissa and Tyrnavos, Ignatios, located in the courtyard of the Church of Aghios Andreas in his birthplace, Salamina.</i></p> <p><i>At a time when the Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tyrnavos, without fanfare or display, is giving a titanic struggle -beyond its strength- to relieve those afflicted and keep the people in their homeland, certain individuals found the opportunity to insult the meek and blameless Ignatios after his passing.</i></p> <p><i>We protest against this immoral behaviour and pray that the so-called “known unknowns” may one day, at the very least, learn a shred of respect. Shame!</i></p>

No	434.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Komma, Lamia
Date	16/17 September 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the collection box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	435.
Location	Church of Aghios Christophoros, Dafni, Attica
Date	19 September 2023
Brief description	Breaking into a bell tower door; entry into the Church; theft of a baptismal font
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	436.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Haïdari Forest, Attica
Date	19 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in through a window of the Church community center located in the semi-basement of the Church; breaking of offertory boxes; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	437.
Location	Metropolitan Church of Evangelistria, Patras, Achaia
Date	20 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of a wallet from a drawer on the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	438.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Ano Sychaina, Achaia
Date	20 September 2023
Brief description	Tampering with the padlock of the shrine stand and theft of a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	439.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kalotaritissa, Donousa, Cyclades
Date	Between 10 August and 21 September 2023
Brief description	Entry into the Church through an unsecured door and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	440.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Vathy, Samos
Date	20/21 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	441.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Pidima, Messinia
Date	21 September 2023

Brief description	Break-in through the roof and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	442.
Location	Cemetery, Pallini, Attica
Date	21 September 2023
Brief description	Desecration of graves and theft of metal objects from them
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	443.
Location	Church of the Three Hierarchs, Nikaia, Attica
Date	21 September 2023
Brief description	Illegal entry into the Church office; theft of money and a pectoral cross from the drawer
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	444.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Dafni, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	23 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	445.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Foteino, Ioannina
Date	Between 26 August and 24 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of metal ecclesiastical items
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	446.
Location	Church of the Holy Three Martyrs, Thessaloniki
Date	23/24 September 2023
Brief description	Destruction of an outdoor air conditioning unit
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	447.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Thessaloniki
Date	24 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	448.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos, Skiathos
Date	24 September 2023

Brief description	Entry through an unsecured window and attempted theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	449.
Location	Cemetery, Loutra Ypatis, Fthiotida
Date	24 September 2023
Brief description	Damage; theft of candles and censers and desecration of tombs
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	450.
Location	Cemetery of the "Resurrection of the Lord", Pylea, Thessaloniki
Date	Between 15 and 25 September 2023
Brief description	Desecration of graves and theft of metal objects from them
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	451.
Location	Church of Aghios Serapheim and Aghioi Apostoloi, Ioannina
Date	25 September 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in of a cabinet, but the perpetrator was noticed and arrested; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	452.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Skiathos, Magnesia
Date	26 September 2023
Brief description	Entry into the Church, while it was open and accessible to the public; breaking of a small safe; theft of an undetermined amount of money in coins
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	453.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Perivolakia, Rafina
Date	26 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in of the Church office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	454.
Location	Cemetery, Peania, Attica
Date	26 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of bronze candles
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation
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№	455.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Omonoia, Serres
Date	27 September 2023
Brief description	Forced entry through an external door and office door; attempt to remove the safe from the storage room
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	456.
Location	Church of the Nativity of Christ, Kamatero, Attica
Date	29 September 2023
Brief description	Breach of window protective grilles and shattering of the window glass; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	457.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Moschochori, Fthiotida
Date	Between 23 and 30 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	458.
Location	Cemetery of the Church of Aghios Georgios, Agrilia, Fthiotida
Date	29/30 September 2023
Brief description	Theft of bronze candelabra and censers from graves
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	459.
Location	Church of Aghios Theodoros, Vathy, Samos
Date	30 September 2023
Brief description	Illegal entry into the Church community center; no theft
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	460.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, N. Faliro, Attica
Date	30 September 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	461.
Location	Chapel Asomatou, Paradisi, Kos
Date	September
Brief description	Vandalism and destruction of the exterior walls and the courtyard by throwing paint and littering
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Complaint
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№	462.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Vari, Attica
Date	4 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft and damage inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	463.
Location	Chapel of Profitis Ilias, Aghia Marina, Ioannina
Date	Between 31 July and 5 October 2023
Brief description	Theft of 10 icons
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	464.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Vari, Attica
Date	7 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft and damage inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	465.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Arkochori, Imathia
Date	7/8 October 2023
Brief description	Vandalism and damage inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	466.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Ano Kraniona, Kastoria
Date	Between 13 September and 9 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of icons dating back to 1860
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	467.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Ioannis the Russian, Sikies, Thessaloniki
Date	6/7 October 2023
Brief description	Damage and theft of mechanisms and materials from two external air conditioning units of the Chapel
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	468.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Efthymios, Neoi Epivates, Thessaloniki
Date	8/9 October 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	469.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Kastania, Karditsa
Date	9 October 2023
Brief description	Entry into the Church, which was open to the public; and theft of two metal candelabra
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	470.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Vari, Attica
Date	9/10 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft and damage inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	471.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Stomio Oxyliothou, Euboea
Date	10 October 2023
Brief description	Damage inside the Church by the use of red paint and the inscription of slogans in favor of the twelve Olympian Gods
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	472.
Location	Church of Profitis Elissaios, Stomio Oxyliothou, Euboea
Date	10 October 2023
Brief description	Damage inside the Church by the use of red paint and the inscription of slogans in favor of the twelve Olympian Gods
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	473.
Location	Church of Aghia Matrona, Nea Erythraia, Attica
Date	10 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	474.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Vathy, Aegina
Date	10 October 2023
Brief description	Discovery of smoke bomb remnants inside the Church. According to the Priest's statement, the smoke bomb was likely from the summer, although the Church had been closed for approximately 3 months
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	475.
Location	Church of the Meeting of the Lord, Akrata, Achaia
Date	10 October 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main entrance



Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	476.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Akrata, Achaia
Date	10 October 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main entrance
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	477.
Location	Chapel of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, Giapyli, Kos
Date	12 October 2023
Brief description	Damage by painting the wall and the steps of the courtyard
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	478.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Glyfada, Attica
Date	12 October 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	479.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Gounaris, Lakonia
Date	12 October 2023
Brief description	Destruction of the main door; destruction of the coverings of the Altar, Antimension, and Clerical Books
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	480.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Prionia, Grevena
Date	Between 7 and 13 October 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the central door and theft of a post-Byzantine period icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	481.
Location	Church of Panagia Myrtidiotissa, Alimos, Attica
Date	13 October 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in and damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	482.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios and Hossia Evgenia, Peristeri, Attica
Date	14 October 2023

Brief description	Attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

Nº	483.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Vyronas, Attica
Date	15 October 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	484.
Location	Church of Michael the Archangel, Patsideros, Heraklion, Crete
Date	First half of October 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

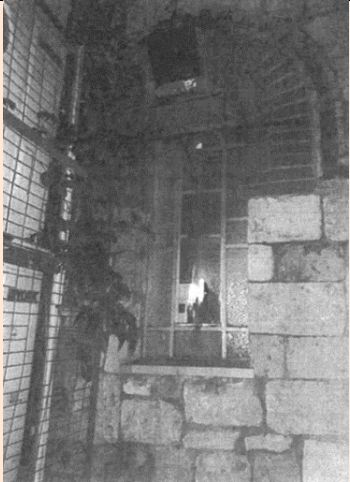

Nº	485.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Rachonas, Thessaloniki
Date	15/16 October 2023
Brief description	Damage to the main and south entrance. Partial disturbance was observed inside the Church; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	486.
Location	Voulkanou Monastery, Ancient Messini, Messinia
Date	16 October 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

Nº	487.
Location	Church of Aghios Dionysios Areopagitis, Athens, Attica
Date	16 October 2023
Brief description	Damage to the main door of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	488.
Location	Church of Aghios Charalambos, Voutsimo, Achaia
Date	17/18 October 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the main door and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

Nº	489.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Daphni, Attica
Date	18 October 2023

Brief description	Break-in through a window; damage to the window grilles and panes; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	
	

No	490.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Vasileios, Rouf, Athens, Attica
Date	18 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	491.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Athens, Attica
Date	19 October 2023
Brief description	The perpetrator refused to leave after the Vespers service, threw the Church's liturgical books on the floor, knelt down and read from a book with Arabic script, and then shouted the phrase "Allahu Akbar"
Perpetrator/s	1 Syrian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested
Comments	<p><a href="#">20-10-23 Statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. George Kalantzis, on the incident at the Church of Aghios Panteleimon in Athens</a></p> <p>Regarding the incident that occurred yesterday at the Church of Aghios Panteleimon in Athens, the Secretary General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. George Kalantzis, made the following statement:</p> <p><i>Yesterday a new and absolutely condemnable incident against Orthodox Christians took place at the Church of Aghios Panteleimon in Athens. The Hellenic Police once again acted promptly and effectively in fulfilling its duty.</i></p>




	<p><i>As is evident from the data detailed annually in the Ministry's reports concerning acts against religious sites in Greece, the Orthodox Church consistently and by far remains the primary victim of attacks in Greece.</i></p> <p><i>It is also the only religious community to have suffered a terrorist attack intended to cause casualties: on December 27, 2018, with the placement of an explosive device by anarchists at the entrance of the Church of Aghios Dionysios in Athens; and on April 21, 2020, with the placement of an explosive device by an overly devout Christian holding radical beliefs, who referred to himself as a "Warrior of God" at the Petraki Monastery, where the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece is housed.</i></p> <p><i>The Greek State was, is and will undoubtedly continue to stand by the Orthodox Church, as well as all religious communities, in the defense of religious freedom and the active promotion of the values of mutual respect and dialogue.</i></p>
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No	492.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Xanthi
Date	20 October 2023
Brief description	Shattering of glass panes of the windows of the Church and the Parish Office; disturbance of the interior; and theft of money from an offertory box. Breaking into the storage room of the Chapel of Aghios Minas (which is located in the courtyard of the Church), and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	493.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kastelli, Achaia
Date	Between 7 and 23 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box. Break-in at the guest house (archontariki)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	494.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Aghioi Anargyroi, Attica
Date	24 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage to the doors and interiors of the Church and offices; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	495.
Location	Cemetery Church of Aghios Georgios, Ampelouzos, Heraklion
Date	24 October 2023
Brief description	Theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified

Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete)	
	

No	496.
Location	Church of Aghios Vasileios, Amygdalia, Fokida
Date	25 October 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	497.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Theodosios, Panariti, Argolida
Date	28 October 2023
Brief description	Breaking into monastic cells; theft of cash, a mobile phone, bank cards, and two silver pectoral crosses
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	498.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Peplos, Alexandroupolis
Date	Between 26 and 28 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	499.
Location	Church of Aghioi Timotheos and Mavra, Ilioupolis, Attica
Date	28 October 2023
Brief description	Inscription with black paint (spray paint) on the central wooden door of the Church of the phrase (in greek): <i>ARE YOU THE CAPITALISM?</i> and on the marble floor (in front of the door) the phrase <i>YOU ARE THE ENEMY</i>
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	500.
Location	Private Chapel of Aghia Euphrosyni, Eleonas, Fokida
Date	Between 27 and 29 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	501.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Paleomanina, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	28/29 October 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	502.
Location	Church of Zoodochos Pigi, Petroto, Thessaloniki
Date	October 2023
Brief description	Break-in of an offertory box; damage; theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	503.
Location	Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Aghia Efthymia, Fokida
Date	Between 1st and 3 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	504.
Location	Church of Aghia Anastasia, Corinth
Date	3 November 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the door of the Church Sunday School room and theft of money. Forcible entry through the side entrance of the Church; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	505.
Location	Church of Aghia Sophia, Pentapoli, Fokida
Date	4/5 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	506.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Malandrino, Fokida
Date	4/5 November 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	507.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Xirokrini, Thessaloniki
Date	5 November 2023
Brief description	Two phone calls were made to the Emergency Service of the Hellenic Police within a 10-minute interval, claiming that two bombs had been placed inside the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

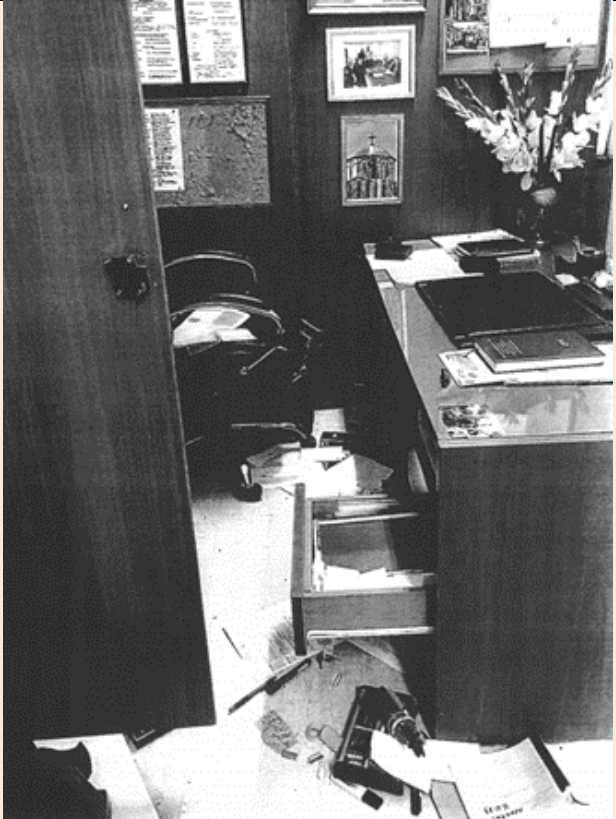
No	508.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Nikolaos, Parish of Panagia Kamariotissa, Samothrace
Date	7 November 2023
Brief description	Breaking into an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	509.
Location	Church of Aghios Antonios, Tanagra, Boeotia
Date	7/8 November 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	510.
Location	Church of the Metastasis of the Theotokos, Kato Almyri, Korinthia
Date	8 November 2023



Brief description	Breaking into the main door; theft of money from the offertory box and theft of votive offerings and a small silver cross
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	511.
Location	Church of Aghioi Apostoloi Petros and Pavlos, Ymittos, Attica
Date	8/9 November 2023
Brief description	A Church door was forcibly opened; damage to cabinets and desks; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	

№	512.
Location	Church of Profitis Ilias, Vari, Attica
Date	8/9 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	513.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Arsakeio, Rhodope
Date	9 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	2 unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	514.
Location	Church of Panagia Eleftherotria, Rethymno
Date	10 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	515.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Mati, Attica
Date	10 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	516.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Efpaleio, Fokida
Date	10/11 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of votive offerings from the revered icon of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	517.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kyrianna, Rethymno
Date	11 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	518.
Location	Cemetery, Skydra, Pella
Date	11 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in of a warehouse; damage; theft of a metal box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	519.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Papagos, Attica
Date	12 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	520.
Location	Monastery of Aghios Ioannis the Theologian, Aetochori, Alexandroupolis
Date	12 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage and theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	521.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Nikaia, Attica
Date	12/13 November 2023

Brief description	Break-in; damage; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

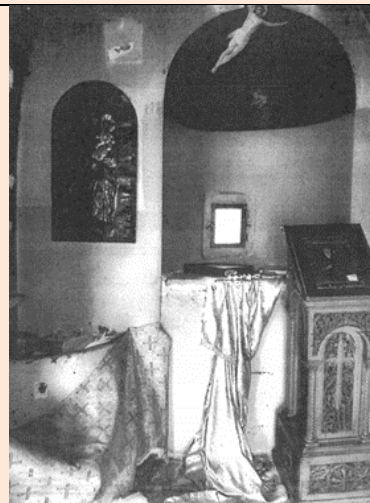
№	522.
Location	Church of the Presentation of the Lord, Ano Amfia, Messinia
Date	13 November 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door; damage; theft of money from the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	523.
Location	Church of Aghios Petros the Apostle, Ampelakia, Salamina
Date	13 November 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

№	524.
Location	Church of Aghioi Theodoroi, Krokees, Lakonia
Date	15 November 2023
Brief description	Destruction of the western door of the Church and theft of four candelabra
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

№	525.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Athanasios Athonites, Thiseio, Attica
Date	Between 13 and 17 November 2023
Brief description	Breaking into a central metal door; theft of metal parts of the candelabra; damage to the walls
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)





No	526.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Anthohori, Rhodope
Date	Between 12 and 18 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in; damage and theft of an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	527.
Location	Church of Aghia Foteini, Athens, Attica
Date	18 November 2023
Brief description	Damage to electrical and plumbing installations, external air conditioning units and a table used during the Divine Liturgy
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

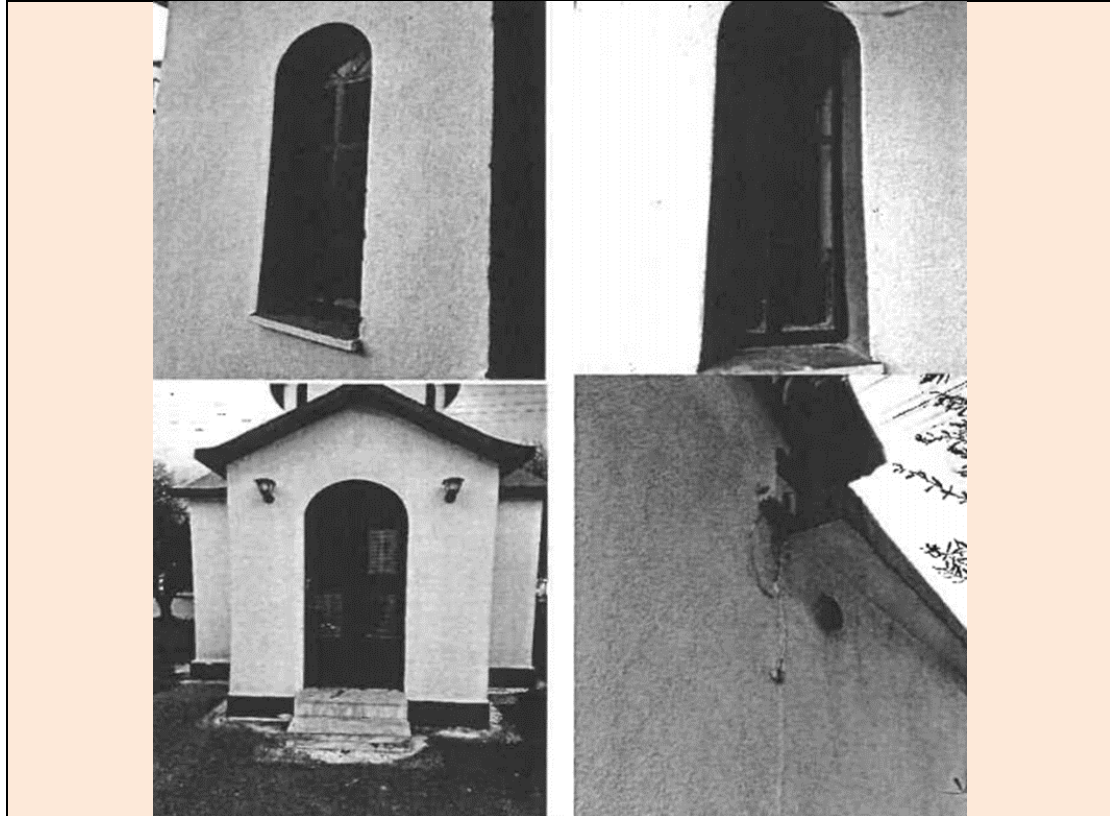
No	528.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Lazaros, Kavalari, Thessaloniki
Date	18/19 November 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money; damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	529.
Location	Church of Aghia Varvara, Rethymno, Crete
Date	19 November 2023
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured door and attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	530.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Megara, Attica
Date	24 November 2023
Brief description	Unauthorized entry and exit without the removal of any objects

Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	531.
Location	Chapel of Aghioi Ioakeim and Anni, Alexandroupolis
Date	24 November 2023
Brief description	A closed circuit recorded an attempt to break-in by breaking the door glass, one of the two locks, the window glass, and cutting the electricity supply to the Chapel. The perpetrators fled the scene, likely triggered by the activation of the alarm
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint
(Photos: Holy Synod of the Church of Greece)	



No	532.
Location	Church of Aghia Triada, Protato, Rhodope
Date	Between 21 and 25 November 2023
Brief description	Breaking the glass of a door; entry into the Church; theft of objects of non-religious worship; theft of a sum of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	533.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Arsakeio, Rhodope
Date	Between 23 and 25 November 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the main door and theft of a small quantity of oil
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national

Police/procedural actions	Dossier
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No	534.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Aetolofos, Rhodope
Date	Between 24 and 27 November 2023
Brief description	Damage to the main door and side window without the removal of any objects
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	535.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Nea Santa, Rhodope
Date	26/27 November 2023
Brief description	Damage to a side entrance of the Church; entry into the Church; theft of money from the offertory box; theft of a small amount of oil
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	536.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Iasio, Rhodope
Date	Between 22 and 29 November 2023
Brief description	Damage to a side window; theft of non-religious objects and a small amount of money
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	537.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Platanias, Chania
Date	29 November 2023
Brief description	Damage; theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	538.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Skala, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	29 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	539.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Agnanda, Arta
Date	Between 20 and 30 November 2023
Brief description	Theft of a microphone installation
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	540.
Location	Church of Aghios Panteleimon, Loutro, Karditsa
Date	29/30 November 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money

Perpetrator/s	4 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	Arrest of 3 of the perpetrators

No	541.
Location	Shrine of the Chapel of Aghios Gerasimos, Paradisi, Kos
Date	November
Brief description	Vandalism and destruction of a shrine due to an attempt to break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	542.
Location	Church of Aghia Foteini, Chalepa, Ierapetra
Date	Between the end of November and 1st December 2023
Brief description	Damage to the interior of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	543.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Veroia, Imathia
Date	1st December 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in of the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	544.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Megara, Attica
Date	1st December 2023
Brief description	Break-in and removal of an empty safe
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	545.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Derveni, Korinthia
Date	3/4 December 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church, the offertory box and the offices; theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	546.
Location	Church of Aghia Aikaterini, Triantaika, Aetolia-Acarnania
Date	4 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in through a window
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	547.
Location	Church of Aghios Tryphonas, Evrinos, Rhodope
Date	Between 16 November and 5 December 2023
Brief description	Damage was inflicted on 2 entrances; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier



No	548.
Location	Church of Aghios Nektarios, Kontakeika, Samos
Date	5 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	549.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Megara, Attica
Date	6 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no theft
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	550.
Location	Church of Aghios Nikolaos, Melissa, Karditsa
Date	7 December 2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church and the offertory box; theft of money and a brass baptismal font
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	551.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Haidari, Attica
Date	7 December 2023
Brief description	Breaking a window; theft of money from the offertory box and the office of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	552.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Lykotrypa, Acharnon, Attica
Date	7 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in at the Church office
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	553.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Piraeus, Attica
Date	7 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in and removal of door handles from the Church doors
Perpetrator/s	3 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	554.
Location	Church of Aghios Demetrios, Aghioi Anargyroi, Attica
Date	9 December 2023
Brief description	Removal of a wooden cross from an outdoor area
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

№	555.
Location	Church of Aghios Artemios, Chios
Date	10 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of a votive offering
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	556.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Aghios Nikolaos, Chalkidiki
Date	14 December 2023
Brief description	Damage to the offertory box and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	557.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Loutro, Imathia
Date	14 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	558.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos, Marathon, Attica
Date	15 December 2023
Brief description	Alarm deactivation; break-in at the Church office; damage to property; theft of a safe
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	559.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Elafina, Imathia
Date	Between 14 and 16 December 2023
Brief description	Entry through an unsecured/unlocked main entrance; theft of 6 wooden Byzantine icons from the 18 <sup>th</sup> century, which were placed on the Church's iconostasis
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

№	560.
Location	Church of Panagia Pantanassa, Kourtesi, Ilia
Date	16 December 2023
Brief description	Forcible entry through the main door of the Church; damage; theft of a microphone installation
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

№	561.
Location	Church of Aghios Theodoros, Vathy, Samos
Date	16 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of forty ecclesiastical calendars from the interior of the Church, with a total value of 200€
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	562.
Location	Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, Mertikeika, Korinthia
Date	16/17 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of sacred vessels
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	563.
Location	Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Perigiali Korinthia
Date	17 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	564.
Location	Church of Saint Matthew – Sinai Fathers, Heraklion Crete
Date	18 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in through a window and attempted theft in the Church office
Perpetrator/s	4 Greek and Bulgarian nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	565.
Location	Chapel of Profitis Ilias, Haradra, Imathia
Date	19 December 2023
Brief description	Damage caused to the frescoes of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

No	566.
Location	Church of Aghia Paraskevi, Agnanda, Arta
Date	Between 28 October and 20 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of 2 icons and an incense burner
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	567.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Marathon, Attica
Date	20 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in and theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	568.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Paraskevi, Malakasa junction, Attica
Date	21 December 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	569.
Location	Chapel of Panagia Thrinodousa, Olynthos, Chalkidiki
Date	22 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Romanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	570.
Location	Monastery of Hosios Arsenios, Vatopedi, Chalkidiki
Date	22 December 2023
Brief description	Attempted theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Romanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	571.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Georgios, Nikiti, Chalkidiki
Date	22 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of money from an offertory box
Perpetrator/s	1 Romanian national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested

No	572.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Chalkida, Euboea
Date	22 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in; theft of money and votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	573.
Location	Church of Aghioi Anargyroi, Nea Artaki, Euboea
Date	22 December 2023
Brief description	Break-in; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	574.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Mourines, Achaia
Date	24 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of 2 bells
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	575.
Location	Metochion of the Holy Cross in Tavronitis, Kissamos, Chania of the Monastery of the Annunciation of the Mother of the Beloved in Patmos
Date	Between 20 and 25 December 2023
Brief description	Damage to the exteriors and walls of the Church where insulting slogans and threatening messages against priests were written with paint. No attempt to break in; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	576.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Astrika, Kissamos, Chania
Date	Between 20 and 25 December 2023
Brief description	Damage to the exteriors and walls of the Church where insulting slogans and threatening messages against priests were written with paint. No attempt to break in; no items were reported missing
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

No	577.
Location	Chapel of Aghios Athanasios, Preveza
Date	Between 30 November and 26 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of an icon
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	578.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Nea Plagia, Chalkidiki
Date	27/28 December 2023
Brief description	Breaking into a main door; damage to an offertory box; and theft of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	579.
Location	Church of Aghios Polycarpus, Menemeni, Thessaloniki
Date	28 December 2023
Brief description	Attempt to break into the offertory box
Perpetrator/s	2 Greek nationals
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	580.
Location	Chapel of Aghia Anna, Chalkida, Euboea
Date	29 December 2023
Brief description	Removal of two aluminium doors and two aluminium windows; damage to the interior of the Church
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

No	581.
Location	Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Naxos
Date	29 December 2023
Brief description	Entry through the main entrance; theft of money from an offertory box; theft of sacred vessels from the Sanctuary
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	582.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Diocese of Kissamos, Chania
Date	Between 25 and 30 December 2023

Brief description	Break-in at the Church, the interior of which showed clear signs of a search for valuable items and sabotage of the cabinets. It was found that woven veils and towels used during the celebration of the Sacraments had been stolen
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	583.
Location	Cemetery Church of Profitis Ilias, Episkopi, Kissamos, Chania
Date	Between 25 and 30 December 2023
Brief description	Theft of an incense burner
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Preliminary investigation

Nº	584.
Location	Shrine of the Chapel of Aghioi Anargyroi, Paradisi, Kos
Date	2023
Brief description	Vandalism and destruction of the shrine due to an attempt to break in through the door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	585.
Location	Chapel of Asomatos, Palaio Pyli, Kos
Date	2023
Brief description	Forced entry through the Church doors and damage to the window coverings (screens)
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Complaint

Nº	586.
Location	Cemetery, Vartholomio, Ilia
Date	2023
Brief description	Damage
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Relevant material from the security cameras was handed over to the competent Police Department for examination

Nº	587.
Location	Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, Vartholomio, Ilia
Date	2023
Brief description	Damage to doors and offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Relevant material from the security cameras was handed over to the competent Police Department for examination

Nº	588.
Location	Church of Aghios Ioannis Chrysostomos, Kourouklata, Kefalonia

Date	2023
Brief description	Breaking into the Church; breaking of an offertory box and theft of money; shattering of protective glass panes of icons and theft of votive offerings
Perpetrator/s	<i>Data not available</i>
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrators were arrested

No	589-591. (three cases)
Location	Monastery of Aghios Ioannis Chrysostomos, Chora, Naxos
Date	2023
Brief description	On the first occasion, the perpetrators entered the surrounding area of the Monastery by forcing open the side metal entrance gate, without causing further damage. On the second occasion, they entered the surrounding area of the Monastery by breaching its stone enclosure wall, again without causing further damage. On the third occasion, the perpetrators entered the surrounding area of the Monastery by once again forcing open the side metal entrance gate and unsuccessfully attempted to break into the wooden entrance of the Monastery
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>

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

#### **Archdiocese of Crete**

At the Parish Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Mastampas, Heraklion, on June 18, 19 and 22, July 6 and 27, October 18 and 27, November 3, 2023, as well as on other undocumented dates, serious damage was observed, including breakages, obscene slogans and graffiti, garbage at the main entrance of the Church, and acts that offend public decency—even during times when sacred services are being conducted.

These incidents are usually caused by groups of young people and have led to complaints from local residents against the Church, due to the frequency of such occurrences.

Despite meetings between local authorities and the Hellenic Police, the problem has not been effectively addressed.



Parish Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Mastampas, Heraklion



### **Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia**

Breaking into Chapel offertory boxes.

### **Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros**

Repeated break-in at the door and destruction of the frame and lock at the Hermitage Chapel (Skenourion Kathisma) of the Parish of Aghioi Pantes in Paradeisi, Kos, during the summer of 2023. The incident was reported to the Security Department of Kos.

### **Metropolis of Thessaloniki**

Throughout the year repeated acts of vandalism and damage (including breaking of marble, destruction of the candelabrum, burning of the icon of the Theotokos) were reported inside the Chapel of the Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos (adjacent to the Church of Panagia Dexia) committed by unknown individuals. No report was filed with the Police.

### **Regional Unit of Rhodope (see also incidents 333 and 334)**

Vandalism of roadside shrines in mountainous Rhodope, along the provincial road Nea Santa-Dereio, by unknown individuals.<sup>20</sup>

According to relevant information from the Hellenic Police, these incidents had not been reported to any local Police Department. However, in at least two (2) shrines, the damage had been repaired at an unspecified time.

### **Regional Unit of Evros**

Pro-Turkish slogans were written by unknown individuals on the day of the Epiphany, in areas surrounding a Church.

Specifically, according to information from the Hellenic Police, at 09:00 on 06-01-2023, it was reported to the relevant Police Department that in the village of Savra, Didymoteicho, Evros, between the evening hours of 05-01-2023 and 09:00 on 06-01-2023, unknown perpetrator(s) had written in red paint the words "ERDOGAN" and "TOURGAİ" at four different points in the center of the village (on the road surface, a courtyard of a private residence, a bus stop and an abandoned warehouse), thereby causing minor damage.

A case file was formed against unknown perpetrators for violation of Article 378 of the Penal Code (damage to property) and submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office of Orestiada. As the damage in question concerned the courtyard of a private residence near the Church, the incident was not included in the relevant tables of incidents against places of religious importance of the Orthodox Church.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://xronos.gr/reportaz/agnostoi-bandalisan-ekklisakia-eikonostasia-stin-oreini-Rhodope>

d. Addendum

i. Charts and Maps of incidents

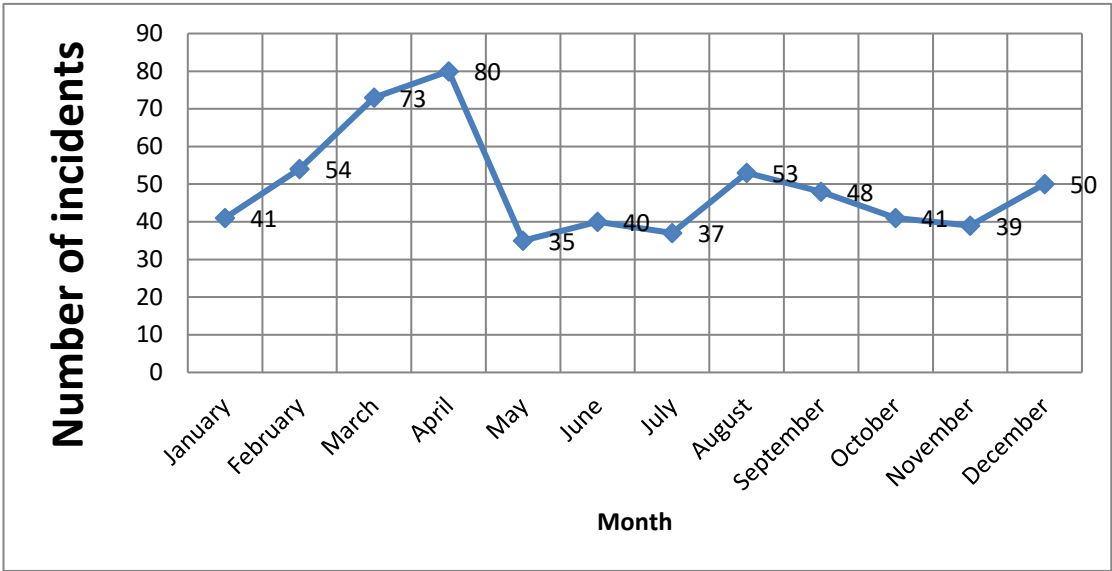


Figure 1: Incidents by month

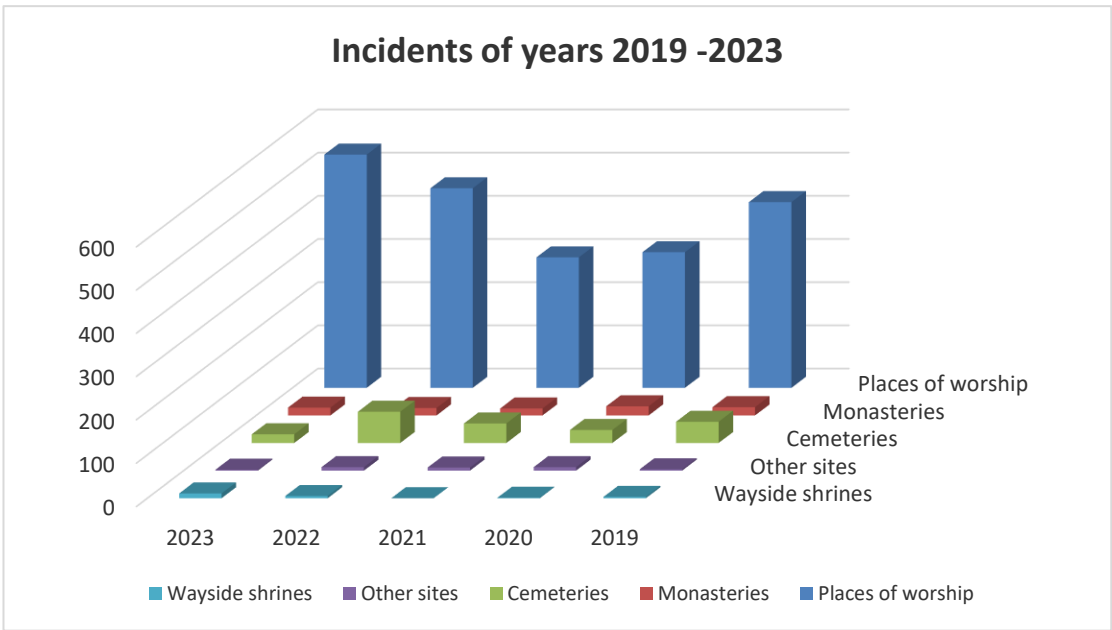


Figure 2: Comparative presentation of incidents by site

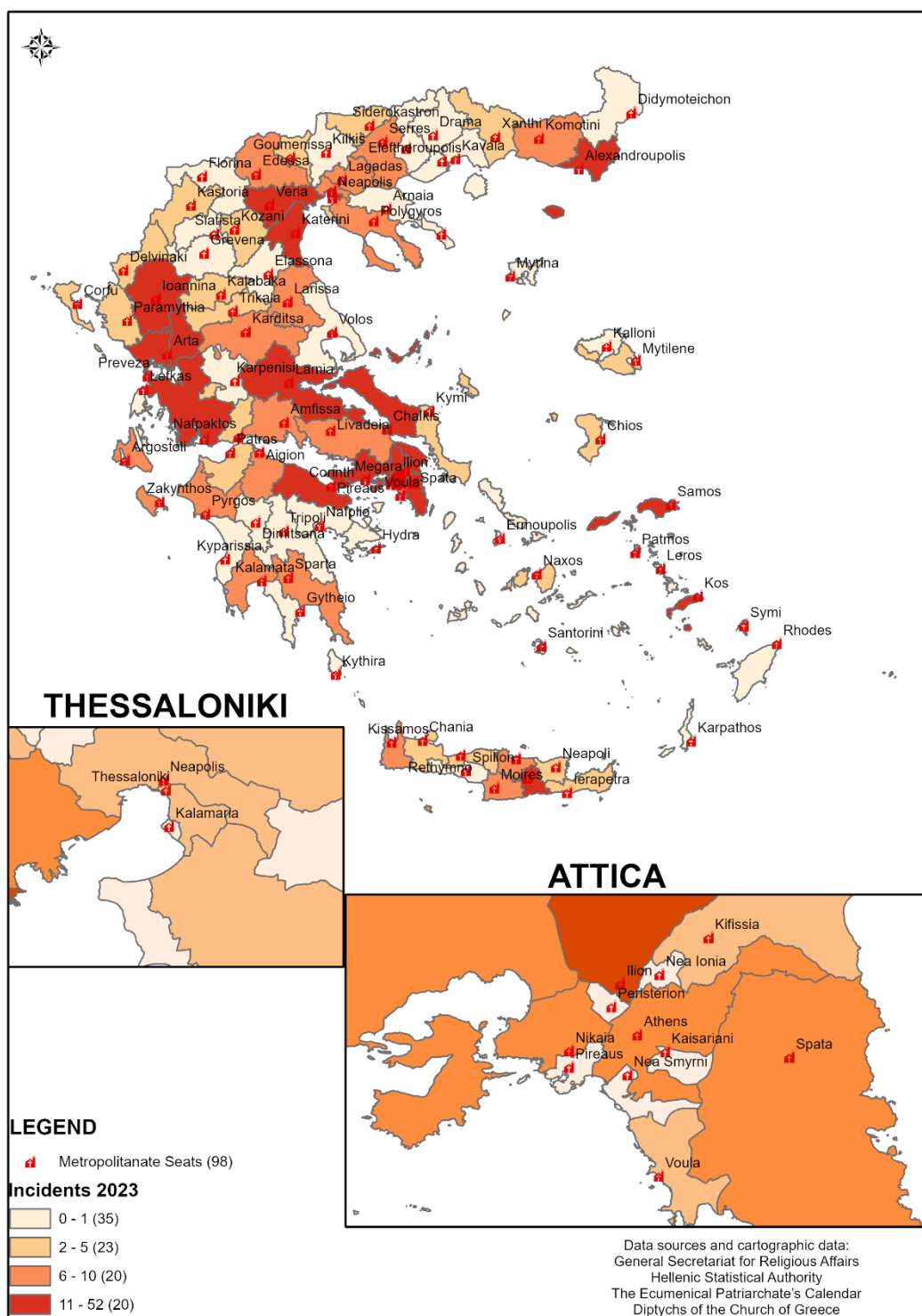
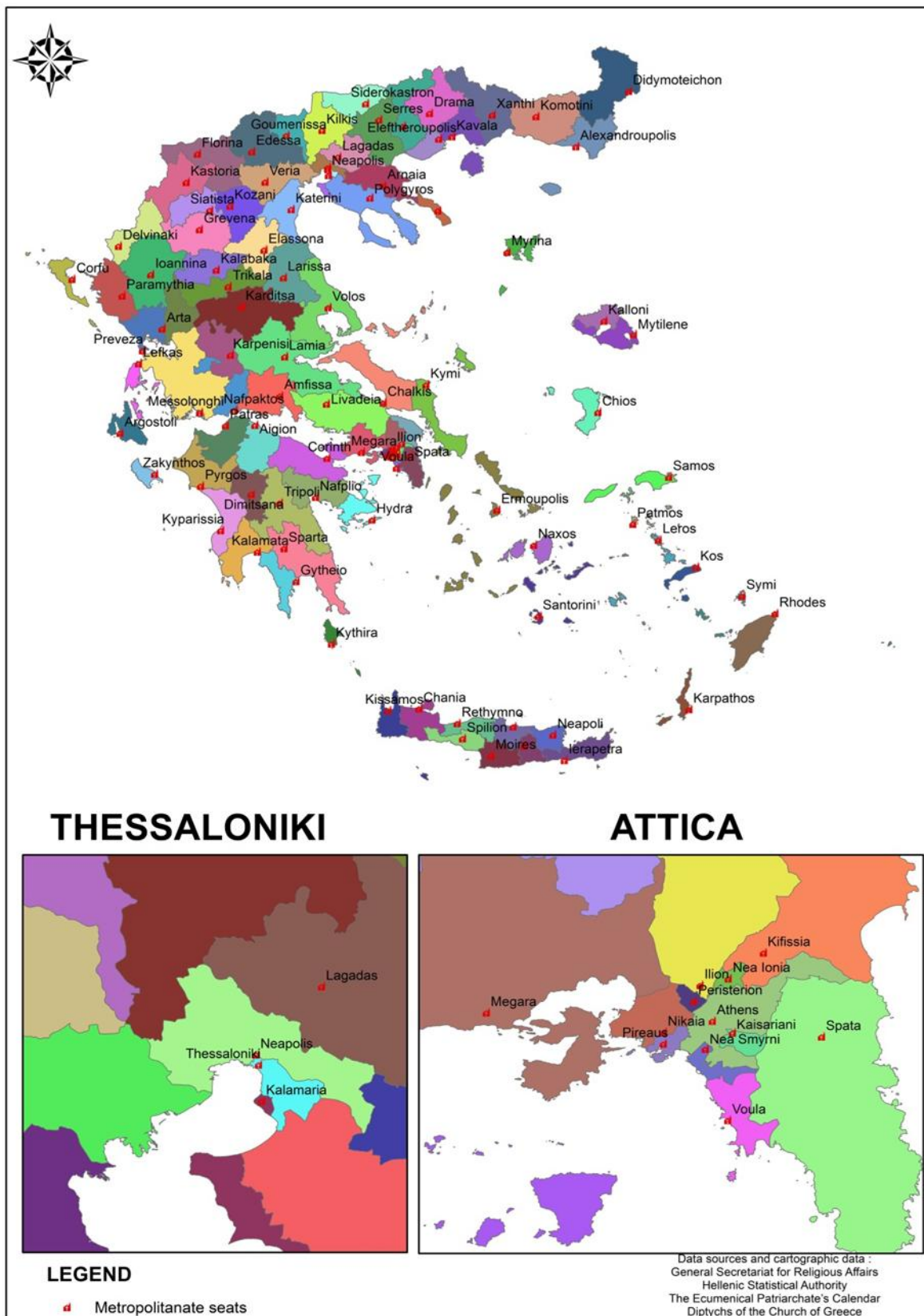


Figure 3: Incidents by Holy Metropolis

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



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

CHURCH OF GREECE		SEAT	No of PARISHES	No of MONASTERIES
1	Holy Archdiocese of Athens	Athens	145	8
2	Aetolia and Acarnania	Missolonghi	215	19
3	Alexandroupolis	Alexandroupolis	61	3
4	Argolis	Nafplion	78	7
5	Arta	Arta	97	4
6	Chalkis	Chalkis	145	12
7	Chios, Psara and Inousses	Chios	109	16
8	Demetrias and Almyros	Volos	142	14
9	Didymoteichon, Orestias and Soufli	Didymoteichon	106	3
10	Drama	Drama	107	3
11	Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa	Delvinaki	96	3
12	Edessa, Pella and Almopia	Edessa	140	8
13	Elassona	Elassona	61	9
14	Eleia and Oleni	Pyrgos	220	4
15	Eleftheroupolis	Eleftheroupolis	39	4
16	Filippoi, Neapolis and Thasos	Kavala	95	4
17	Florina, Prespai and Eordaia	Florina	119	8
18	Fokis	Amfissa	110	6
19	Fthiotis	Lamia	245	18
20	Glyfada, Elliniko, Voula, Vouliagmeni and Vari	Voula	20	1
21	Gortys and Megalopolis	Dimitsana	148	15
22	Goumenissa, Axiopolis and Polykastron	Goumenissa	48	2

23	Grevena	Grevena	97	1
24	Ierissos, Aghion Oros and Ardamerion	Arnaia	52	3
25	Ilion, Acharnai and Petroupolis	Ilion	47	3
26	Ioannina	Ioannina	249	11
27	Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos	Kaisariani	9	3
28	Kalavryta and Aigialeia	Aigion	162	14
29	Karpenision	Karpenision	97	4
30	Karystia and Skyros	Kymi	95	5
31	Kassandreia	Polygyros	79	6
32	Kastoria	Kastoria	123	8
33	Kefalinia	Argostoli	153	7
34	Kerkyra, Paxoi and Diapontioi Nisoi	Kerkyra	183	17
35	Kifissia, Amarousio and Oropos	Kifissia	63	11
36	Kitros, Katerini and Platamon	Katerini	84	6
37	Korinthos, Sikion, Zemenon, Tarsos and Polyfengos	Korinthos	164	17
38	Kythira and Antikythira	Chora of Kythira	31	1
39	Lagadas, Liti and Rentina	Lagadas	61	6
40	Larissa and Tyrnavos	Larissa	119	6
41	Lefkas and Ithaki	Lefkas	66	4
42	Lemnos and Aghios Ephstratios	Myrina, Lemnos	37	0
43	Mani	Gytheion	114	5
44	Mantineia and Kynouria	Tripoli	157	13
45	Maroneia and Komotini	Komotini	71	4
46	Megara and Salamis	Megara	32	15
47	Mesogaia and Lavreotiki	Spata	64	8

48	Messinia	Kalamata	224	9
49	Methymna	Kalloni, Lesvos	37	3
50	Monemvassia and Sparta	Sparta	142	7
51	Mytilini, Eressos and Plomarion	Mytilini	72	4
52	Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlasios	Nafpaktos	94	2
53	Nea Ionia, Philadelphia, Heraklion and Chalkidon	Nea Ionia	22	2
54	Nea Krini and Kalamaria	Kalamaria	21	1
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, Philia, Geromerion and Parga	Paramythia	150	3
60	Paronaxia	Naxos	44	4
61	Patrai	Patrai	189	9
62	Piraeus	Piraeus	30	1
63	Peristerion	Peristerion	18	1
64	Poliana and Kilgis	Kilgis	120	3
65	Samos, Ikaria and Korsoi	Samos	117	18
66	Serrai and Nigrita	Serrai	118	5
67	Servia and Kozani	Kozani	96	5
68	Siderokastron	Siderokastron	69	7
69	Sisanion and Siatista	Siatista	87	11
70	Stagori and Meteora	Kalabaka	71	15
71	Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos	Ermoupolis	129	13
72	Thira, Amorgos and Nisoi	Thira	33	3



73	Thessaliotis and Fanariofersala	Karditsa	234	14
74	Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki	43	2
75	Thevai and Levadeia	Levadeia	113	23
76	Trikki, Gardiki and Pyli	Trikala	128	5
77	Triphylia and Olympia	Kyparissia	159	6
78	Veria, Naousa and Kampania	Veria	110	8
79	Xanthi and Peritheorion	Xanthi	86	4
80	Hydra, Spetsai and Aigina	Hydra	52	12
81	Zakynthos and Strophades	Zakynthos	61	4
82	Zichnai and Nevrokopion	Nea Zichni	69	5
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8,137</b>	<b>566</b>
<b>CHURCH OF CRETE</b>		<b>SEAT</b>	<b>No of PARISHES</b>	<b>No of MONASTERIES</b>
1	Holy Archdiocese of Crete	Heraklion	127	9
2	Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos	Arkalochori	91	4
3	Gortyna and Arcadia	Moirai	108	6
4	Ierapytni and Sitia	Ierapetra	86	5
5	Kissamos and Selino	Kissamos	80	3
6	Kydonia and Apokoronos	Chania	108	6
7	Lambi, Syvritos and Sfakia	Spili Rethymnis	78	6
8	Petra and Cherronisos	Neapolis	80	11
9	Rethymno and Avlopotamos	Rethymno	101	10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>859</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCES OF THE DODECANESE</b>		<b>SEAT</b>	<b>No of PARISHES</b>	<b>No of MONASTERIES</b>
1	Karpathos and Kasos	Apereion, Karpathos	20	4

2	Kos and Nisyros	Kos	24	7
3	Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea	Leros	36	7
4	Rhodes	Rhodes	64	9
5	Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	Symi	18	5
6	Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	Patmos	10	4
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>172</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>			<b>9,168</b>	<b>662</b>
			<b>Grand Total of Parish and Monastery Churches: 9,830</b>	

**iv. 26-07-2023: Arrest of a 61-year-old Greek national for bomb and arson attacks on buildings in Attica**

In connection with the attempted arson at the premises of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece (Monastery of Petraki) in April 2020<sup>21</sup>, we include below the Press Release issued on 26-07-2023 by the Headquarters of the Hellenic Police, which refers, among other things, to the resolution of that case:

**“HELLENIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

*Athens, 26 July 2023*

**PRESS RELEASE**

**61-year-old Greek national arrested for bomb and arson attacks on buildings in Attica**

*Four cases of attacks solved. Numerous improvised explosive devices, a large quantity of homemade explosive materials, and eight shotguns were seized.*

*A 61-year-old Greek national was arrested in the morning hours of Tuesday, July 25, 2023, in a region of Attica by the State Security Sub-Directorate of the Attica Police Security Directorate, for carrying out bomb and arson attacks using improvised explosive devices on buildings in various locations across Attica.*

*Specifically, he is accused of bomb attacks committed:*

- on 13-07-2023, targeting buildings housing the Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree and the Grand Lodge of Greece in central Athens,*
- on 02-03-2023, targeting the building of the Justice of the Peace Court (Eirinodikeio) of Kropia, as well as an attempted arson attack on the Directorate of Secondary Education of Eastern Attica, located in Gerakas, and*
- on 21-04-2020 targeting the building of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece in the center of Athens.*

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<sup>21</sup> See ACTS AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN GREECE – REPORT 2020, p. 81, incident number 126.

*The identification of the suspect resulted from appropriate utilization of intelligence, investigative, and forensic data in collaboration with the Special Violent Crime Squad. Through combined analysis, his involvement in the above-mentioned cases was confirmed.*

*During the arrest operation, the suspect offered strong resistance. Subsequent searches were carried out at his residence in the presence of a judicial officer, during which the following items were found and seized:*

- *numerous improvised explosive devices,*
- *a large quantity of homemade explosive substances,*
- *components, equipment, and materials suitable for the construction of improvised explosive devices,*
- *8 shotguns,*
- *homemade ammunition,*
- *thousands of hunting cartridges,*
- *large quantities of reloading materials,*
- *firecrackers,*
- *a computer and printer,*
- *leaflets/flyers,*
- *18 mobile phones stored in a suitcase,*
- *a wig and clothing used during the execution of a bomb attack.*

*A case file was prepared against him for attempted arson, repeated use of explosives endangering human life, repeated manufacture and possession of large quantities of explosives, incendiary materials, bombs and devices, property damage, violence against public officials and judicial personnel, incitement to commit crimes, violent acts or division via the internet, as well as violations of legislation concerning flares, fireworks, and weapons.*

*The arrestee was referred to the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.*

#### **v. Institute for National and Religious Affairs (INRA) (Thessaloniki)**

*Below is the official Press Release issued by the Institute for National and Religious Affairs (INRA) regarding the act of vandalism that took place on May 25, 2023<sup>22</sup>:*

*"Anarchist Vandals Target the Historic 'Melathron of Anastasios and Ioulia Mpilli', the Headquarters of the Institute for National and Religious Affairs (INRA), in Ano Poli, Thessaloniki.*

*At 1:30 a.m. on May 25, 2023, two masked anarchists—captured on the building's security cameras—threw black paint-filled vials into the ornate outdoor amphitheater of the 1898 neoclassical building, known as the jewel of Ano Poli, defiling objects of folk art.*

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<sup>22</sup> See the official website of the Institute for National and Religious Affairs (INRA): "New Terrorist Attack on the Institute for National and Religious Affairs." For the previous terrorist attack against the INRA in 2022, see more in detail:

<https://www.ant1news.gr/eidiseis/article/4/628214/tromokratia-profylakistikan-oi-anarxikoi-gia-ta-gkazakia-se-idryma>

*An act of vandalism against Culture. It is worth noting that on February 8, 2022, individuals of the same ideological background threw Molotov cocktails at the entrance and façade of the Melathron in an attempt to set it ablaze. At that time, three perpetrators belonging to the “Anarchist Action Organization” were arrested and remanded in custody.*

*Public support for the Institute was widespread. We recall the words of His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece, Honorary Supreme President of the INRA, which still resonate today as a “Social Manifesto.” He wrote to the Institute:*

*“There is an attempt to redefine the human being from the ground up, in entirely new terms. What dominates is what has aptly been called the ‘Revolution of Anything.’ Nihilism leads to violence and destruction. We all seek to be heard—about the values that shape and enrich our vision for the future of our society and our homeland.”*

*On behalf of the Board of Directors of the INRA,  
Prof. Athanasios An. Angelopoulos  
Managing Director of the Institute for National and Religious Affairs*

## **vi. Historical religious sites of the Orthodox Church**

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

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

Unfortunately, a significant part of the Byzantine Christian churches and monasteries of Athens were destroyed and looted, especially during the Regency period (1833-1835) and then during the reign of Otto. Thus, after the publication of the “Declaration on the Independence of the Greek Church” (**Royal Decree of 23-7/1-8 1833**), a series of decrees dissolved those monasteries (almost 400) that had no more than six monks<sup>23</sup> and confiscated their property. The **Royal Decree of 27-5/9-6 1836 (A’ 22)** stipulated that the movable and immovable property of the dissolved monasteries would be sold for the construction of a university, while the ruined parish churches (including the private ones), including the land on which they were located, would be given to the municipalities, to be sold by auction and the money should be used for welfare projects. This policy, which to a certain extent was

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<sup>23</sup> See Troianos, S., et al. (1984), section 2.1.4. (Σπ. Τρωιάνου έ.α., §2.1.4)

combined with the transfer of the capital of the State from Nafplio to Athens (Royal Decree of 18-30/9/1834, A' 36) and the attempt to rebuild it, had devastating consequences for the preservation of the Byzantine churches of Athens, the majority of which were demolished in order to sell off their respective plots of land and to serve the urban planning of the city.

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

## 2. Catholic Church in Greece

### a. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

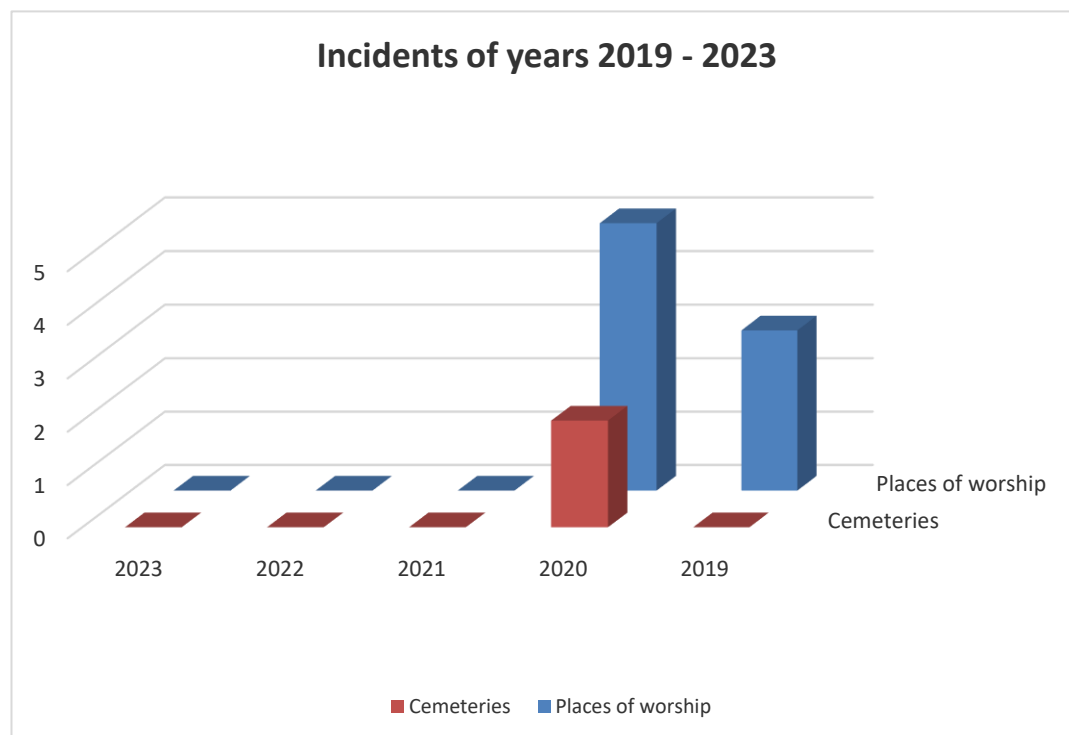
#### **b. Incidents**

No incidents were reported.



### c. Addendum

#### i. Statistical presentation



**Figure 4: Comparative presentation of incidents by site**

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

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

### iii. Catholic Dioceses in Greece

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



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

*Seat in Tinos.*

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

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

*Seat in Kerkyra*

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

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

*Seat in Athens.*

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

**Catholic Archdiocese of Rhodes, Religious Legal Person.**

*Seat in Rhodes.*

It includes the Dodecanese.

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

*Seat in Syros.*

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

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

*Seat in Thira.*

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

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

*Seat in Chania.*

*It includes the entire island of Crete.*

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

*Seat in Chios.*

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

**Apostolic Vicariate of Thessaloniki, Religious Legal Person.**

*Seat in Thessaloniki*

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

**Exarch of Byzantine Rite, Religious Legal Person.**

*Seat in Athens.*

**Ordinariat of Armenian Rite, Religious Legal Person.**

*Seat in Athens.*

### 3. Other Christian Religious Communities

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

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

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

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

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

According to the latest available information (**October 2024**), there are **six hundred twenty-four (624)** worship places of Christian Religious Communities which include those of **the Anglican Church (4), the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt (4), the Armenian Orthodox Church (10), the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (1), the German speaking Evangelical Church in Greece (3), the Greek Evangelical Church (38), the Fellowship of Greek Free Evangelical Churches (47), the Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki (2), the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (8), the Christian Assyrian Church (1), the Armenian Evangelical Church (1), the Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost (91), the Apostolic Church of Pentecost (17), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) (3), the Adventist Church (8), the Jehovah's Christian Witnesses (112), the True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists) (198)** and other religious groups with a smaller number of adherents.

During the year **2023, twenty-five (25)** applications for an authorization to establish and operate a house of prayer or temple were submitted, **fourteen (14)** were accepted, **two (2)** were rejected and **nine (9)** were pending as of December 31, 2023 due to incomplete supporting documents.

It is also noted that **nine (9)** authorizations to establish and operate houses of prayer were revoked in the year **2023** due to their discontinuance.

The following incidents were reported:

#### **True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)**

No	1.
Location	Monastery of Panagia Gorgoypikoou, Mandra, Attica
Date	15 January 2023
Brief description	Trespassing of the Monastery's fenced perimeter (barbed wire) and theft of two copper cauldrons from the storage area
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	2.
Location	Church of Agios Eleftherios, Aspropyrgos, Attica
Date	9 April 2023
Brief description	Forced entry through the door and theft of the Philoptochos Fund box
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	3.
Location	Church of Aghios Athanasios, Nea Philadelphia, Attica
Date	16 April 2023
Brief description	Forced entry through the central door lock of the Church and theft of three offertory boxes, which contained a large sum of money
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	4.
Location	Church of Aghios Georgios, Kifissia, Attica
Date	20 April 2023
Brief description	Attempted break-in through the Church's central door
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	5.
Location	Church of Agios Eleftherios, Aspropyrgos, Attica
Date	8 August 2023
Brief description	Forced entry through a Church window and theft of an undetermined amount of money from offertory boxes
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

No	6.
Location	Church of Aghia Eirini Chrysovalantou, Piraeus
Date	12 August 2023
Brief description	Forced entry through a skylight and subsequent theft of ecclesiastical candlesticks
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

#### Jehovah's Christian Witnesses in Greece

No	1.
Location	Place of Worship, Maniatika, Piraeus
Date	21 March 2023
Brief description	Theft of one tablet-type portable computer
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested in flagrante delicto and brought before the competent Public Prosecutor

No	2.
Location	Worship Place, Neoi Epivates, Thessaloniki
Date	15/16 June 2023
Brief description	Damage caused to entrance and perimeter lighting, security cameras, window and door frames, and locks, followed by the theft of one television set, two wireless microphones, and three wired microphones
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	Dossier

## B. Judaism

### 1. Introduction

A concise and comprehensive overview of the route of Greek Jews can be found in the article [The Jewish Community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe](#) by Victor Eliezer<sup>24</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

*“In cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, the Jewish Museum of Greece has evolved into a unique educational center in Greece<sup>25</sup> since it:*

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<sup>24</sup> Eliezer, Victor. The Jewish community in Greece, the oldest community in Europe. Published in European Jewish Press, 4/5/2017.

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

- *organizes training seminars throughout Greece addressed to educators with a view to enabling them to acquire the cognitive skills and optimal teaching methods to teach the Holocaust*
- *co-organizes school contests on the Holocaust rewarding the winners with an educational visit to the Auschwitz Museum*
- *participates in the project carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic 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 Orestia – Soufli, Alexandroupolis, Komotini, Xanthi, Kavala, Drama, Serres, Thessaloniki, Veria, Kastoria, Florina, Trikala, Larissa, Volos, Chalkis, Athens, Patra, Agrinio, Ioannina, Preveza, Arta, Kerkyra, Zakynthos, Chania, Rhodes and Kos). There were 77,377 Greek Jews and the greater concentration of population was in Thessaloniki.

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

Currently, there are 8 active Jewish communities in Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Volos, Ioannina, Trikala, Chalkis, Kerkyra). Since 1970<sup>26</sup> the communities of Rhodes, Veria, Kavala and Karditsa remain inactive under a Managing Committee appointed by the Minister of Education because they total less than 20 families, according to Emergency Law 367/1945 (Official Government Gazette A’ 143) as amended by Law Decree 301/1969 (Official Government Gazette A’ 195).

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

## 2. Legal framework

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By **Law 3218/2004** (Official Government Gazette, A' 12), January 27<sup>28</sup> was designated as *"Remembrance Day for the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust"* to honor Greek Jews murdered by German Nazis. In the case of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace the total elimination of Greek Jews who lived there was caused by the Bulgarian occupation authorities, ally of Nazi Germany. Pursuant to the provisions of this law, **Presidential Decree 31/2005** (Official Government Gazette A' 51) was issued on *"Organizing commemoration events on January 27, Remembrance Day for the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust"*.

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

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

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

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

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

By **Law 4235/2014** (A' 32) Jewish Communities maintain all benefits of L.E.P.L., but they have the full right of autonomous government (while for other L.E.P.L. the internal organization is

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

designated by the State). Additionally, the regulations voted for L.E.P.L. after the entry into force of Law 4235/2014 shall not apply to Jewish Communities, unless it is expressly provided for that they regard them. The same regulation applies to the Orthodox Church.

**Law 4285/2014** (A' 191), as an amendment to **Law 927/1979** *"On condemning acts or actions aimed at racial discrimination"*, to include among the punishable acts provided for therein the approval, trivialization or malicious denial of the Holocaust<sup>29</sup>.

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

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

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

By **Presidential Decree YΣ98/2017** *"Approval of the special urban planning study of the Real Estate Property owned by GAIA OSE SA "ΓΑΙΑ ΟΣΕ ΑΕ" for the creation of a Holocaust Museum in the area of the Thessaloniki Commercial Station, in the Municipality of Thessaloniki, Regional unit of Thessaloniki"* the relevant study was approved.

By the Circular **176169/01/19-10-2018** *"Procedure for the recognition of a place of worship, existing before 1955, of a formal or informal form of organization, religion and denomination of religious communities"* by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs the problem of the non-existence of permits regarding houses of prayer for the Synagogues and more generally the places of worship of the historical religious communities in Greece was resolved.

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

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

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

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

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<sup>29</sup> Article 2 para. 1 of Law 927/79, as in force: "Whoever intentionally, publicly, orally or through the press, via the Internet or by any other means or manner, condones, trivializes or maliciously denies the existence or gravity of crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the Holocaust and crimes of Nazism that have been recognized by decisions of international courts or the Greek Parliament and such conduct is directed against a group of persons or a member of a group of persons identified on the basis of race, colour, religion, genealogical background, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender characteristics or disability, when such conduct is manifested in a manner that may incite violence or hatred or involves a threatening or abusive nature against such a group or its member, shall be punishable by the penalties provided for in paragraph 1 of the preceding Article."

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

By para. 6 of Article 1 of the **Prime Minister's Decision Y 13/2020** (B' 664) *"the supervision of the realization of the Greek Holocaust Museum and the national activities of the Greek Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in the year 2021"* were added to the responsibilities of the Vice President of the Government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also, on July 2, 2018 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, the Jewish Museum of

Greece and the international organization OSCE/ODIHR aiming at providing security to Jewish communities and organizations as well as identifying, recording and fighting racist and antisemitic crime and organizing a pilot training program for members of the Hellenic Police Divisions and Services.

Other actions of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs for the awareness of the school community against antisemitism, which took place in 2023, are the following:

- The Olga Lengyel Institute, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, provides grants (€300 each) to schools implementing educational programs on the Holocaust. The funds are intended to cover material and technical needs related to the program. During the 2022–2023 school year, 7 grants were awarded.
- From 28 February to 2 March 2023, a Holocaust seminar entitled “The Holocaust as a Starting Point” was held in Sofia, with the participation of 40 educators from Greece, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria. The seminar was organized by Mémorial de la Shoah, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews (North Macedonia), and the Bulgarian History Teachers’ Association.
- From 5 to 8 March 2023, a training seminar titled “Lessons from the Past – Actions for the Future: Teaching about the Holocaust and Social Justice” was held in Athens. It was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece and the Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.
- On 6 March 2023, the Greek translation of Olga Lengyel’s book “Five Chimneys: A Woman Survivor’s True Story of Auschwitz” was officially presented. The translation, editing, and publication were funded by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, in collaboration with the Jewish Museum of Greece, the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece, and the Hellenic National Printing House. The book will be distributed free of charge to educators and schools.
- On 28–30 March 2023, the first joint educational seminar on Sephardic History and Culture entitled “The Holocaust as a starting point” was held in Lisbon, with the participation of 50 educators from Greece, North Macedonia, Portugal, Spain, and Croatia. The seminar was organized by the Mémorial de la Shoah in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews (North Macedonia), Memoshoa, Eurom, the Education & Teacher Training Agency, and the Government of Catalonia.
- From 28 to 30 April 2023, a seminar for educators was held in Warsaw under the theme “20th-Century Jewish History and Digital Storytelling: Diverse Perspectives in Holocaust Education.” The event was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece, Centropa (Hamburg), and the Galicia Jewish Museum (Krakow), with the support of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.
- On 25 May 2023, a teacher training seminar titled “Transformations: Workshop for overcoming antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in Greece” was held in Athens. The seminar was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (Belgium), and KIGA (Germany).
- From 3 to 6 July 2023, a seminar titled “The Fate of Children during the Holocaust in France, 1940–1944” was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece, Yad Vashem, and Maison d’Izieu, with the support and funding of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. 25 Greek educators participated in the seminar.
- On 23 July 2023, the inauguration of the renovated Synagogue of the island of Kos took place. The Secretary General for Religious Affairs stated: “The Jewish synagogue,

once a sacred place of worship and communion with God, became a place of silence and purposelessness following the extermination of the Greek Jews of Kos during the Holocaust and the dramatic numerical decline of the island's Jewish community. The Municipality preserved the site and its memory and kept it alive through cultural activities, making today's event possible. Its dual function—as both a place of culture and of worship of God—is an exemplary model that transcends the island's boundaries and is a source of pride for us all.”

- On 4–5 December 2023, a seminar entitled “Educating against antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination in Greece: essential elements for teacher training” was held in Athens. The seminar, which was co-organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, UNESCO, the Jewish Museum of Greece, and the OSCE/ODIHR, was attended by 52 educators and education professionals from across Greece.

### 3. Incidents

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

In the year 2023, six (6) incidents of an explicitly antisemitic nature were recorded, driven by an ideology that led to the Holocaust and the murder of six million of our fellow human beings. As indicated by the dates of the incidents, the first two occurred prior to the terrorist attack carried out by the organization “Hamas” on 7 October 2023, while the remaining four followed it.

No	1.
Location	New Railway Station, Thessaloniki
Date	10 January 2023
Brief description	Vandalism of the mural on the Holocaust and the deportation of the Jews of Thessaloniki, which is located at the New Railway Station of the city
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
Comments	<p>Statement by the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KISE):</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">THE MURAL OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE THESSALONICA JEWS WAS VANDALIZED</a></u></b></p> <p><i>Antisemitic vandals roam freely and defile, with impunity, every effort to preserve the Holocaust Memorial in Thessaloniki.</i></p> <p><i>For the second time, the mural commemorating the deportation of the Jews of Thessaloniki to the German extermination camps Auschwitz-Birkenau, created by the “Vardaris Neighborhood Group” and adorning the fence of the new railway station of Thessaloniki, with views from the pre-war and occupation periods, was vandalized in Thessaloniki.</i></p> <p><i>This time Nazi nostalgics declared their intentions and anti-Jewish hatred with swastikas and fascist symbols. This is the second antisemitic incident in a few days, after the desecration of the Monument dedicated to</i></p>

	<p><i>the Jewish cemetery of Thessaloniki at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH).</i></p> <p><i>We repeat, tolerating antisemitism means tolerating neo-Nazism and the erosion of the values of a democratic society, a state governed by the rule of law, because antisemitism begins with actions against Jews, but it does not stop with Jews.</i></p> <p><i>Statements of condemnation are not enough! It is unacceptable for the perpetrators of the vandalism of the memorial to remain unapprehended and we call, once again, on the Authorities to take action to ensure their arrest and prosecution.</i></p> <p><i>Athens, 11 January 2023</i></p> <p><b>CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE</b></p>
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No	2.
Location	Jewish Martyrs Square, Thessaloniki
Date	31 January 2023
Brief description	Vandalism of the Square sign
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>


No	3.
Location	New Railway Station, Thessaloniki
Date	23 October 2023
Brief description	A second act of vandalism within the same year targeted the Holocaust mural depicting the deportation of the Jews of Thessaloniki, located at the New Railway Station of Thessaloniki, with the repeated graffiti of the slogan (in greek) "Jews = Nazis" in multiple places on the mural
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
Comments	<p><a href="#"><u>STATEMENT BY THE CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE (KISE) ON THE SURGE OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS TRIGGERED BY THE HAMAS-ISRAEL WAR</u></a></p> <p><i>The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece expresses the concern of Greek Jewry over the antisemitic incidents recorded in recent days as a consequence of the war between Israel and the terrorist organization Hamas.</i></p> <p><i>Both the graffiti defacing the Holocaust mural at the New Railway Station in Thessaloniki and the damage inflicted on a shop owned by a Greek Jew are deeply shocking.</i></p> <p><i>The era of tolerance toward antisemitism is definitively over, and neither in Greece nor in Europe</i></p>



	<p>can free and democratic voices allow the return of pogroms against the Jewish people.</p> <p>Athens, 23 October 2023</p> <p>CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE</p>
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(Photos: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KISE))



No	4.
Location	Holocaust Memorial, Kavala
Date	8 November 2023
Brief description	Vandalism of the Holocaust Memorial of the Jews of Kavala, located in the city center, through the throwing of black paint
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
(Photos: Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KISE))	

No	5.
Location	Holocaust Memorial, Larissa
Date	20 November 2023
Brief description	Desecration of the Holocaust Memorial in Larissa with a large banner reading (in greek) <i>IT WAS A HOLOCAUST, IT IS A GENOCIDE, ALWAYS WITH PALESTINE</i> , by the group “Open Assembly Spora.” The group posted related photographs and a statement on its social media account in which it draws a comparison between “Gaza and Auschwitz”
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	<i>Data not available</i>
Photos:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0G4PmtDCDpjBmWvTfu2rg3U3LXTaTSprMLZmFg3QJ4yJ89vNavqxi9Sk9c9De2xhl&amp;id=100030921476632">https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0G4PmtDCDpjBmWvTfu2rg3U3LXTaTSprMLZmFg3QJ4yJ89vNavqxi9Sk9c9De2xhl&amp;id=100030921476632</a>



No	6.
Location	Synagogue, Ioannina
Date	23 November 2023
Brief description	Throwing of two eggs into the courtyard of the Synagogue
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national
Police/procedural actions	A case file was formed and submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Court of First Instance of Ioannina



## 4. Addendum

### a. Statistical presentation

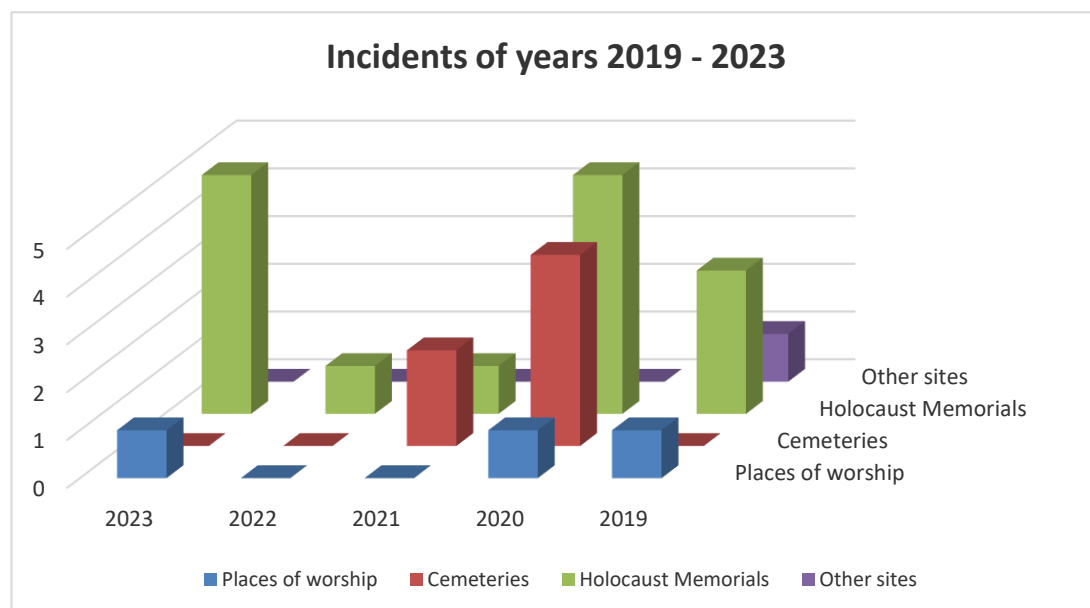


Figure 5: Comparative presentation of incidents by site

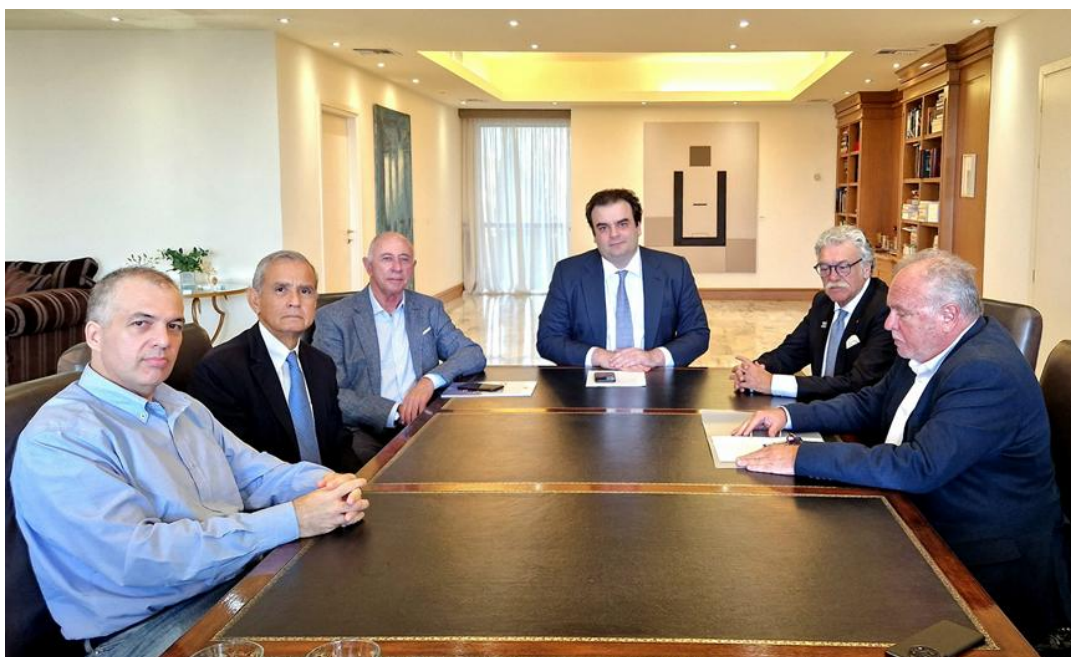
### b. Statement by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, in response to a recent announcement by OLME regarding the events in the Middle East (6 November 2023)

*“Today I met with the members of the Presidium of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, in light of a recent announcement by OLME regarding the events in the Middle East.*

*For us, the role of the school is to cultivate the values of humanism, democracy, responsibility toward others, dialogue, and respect for diversity. It is not to manipulate the free thinking of students, nor to distinguish between them based on gender, origin, religion, or any other element of identity. It is certainly not to categorize the victims of terrorism or war as either innocent or guilty.*

*Antisemitism — and any form of blind fanaticism — stands in direct opposition to the values we uphold. That is why the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports is already in the process of implementing a national plan to combat it, as was announced in the government’s policy statements.*

*The overwhelming majority of teachers and educators work hard for a better school — for an open school, free from partisan ideas and practices, and above all, free from the mentality and vocabulary of the past. We stand by all of them and offer our full support in the important work they carry out.”*



## C. Islam

### 1. Muslim Minority in Thrace

#### a. Introduction

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

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

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

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

#### b. Muftiates in Thrace

The Muftiate of Didymoticho, the Muftiate of Xanthi and the Muftiate of Komotini are separate public service structures equivalent to General Directorates and they are under the authority of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. Operational expenditures are charged to the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic. The financial and management audits of the Muftiates are carried out by the General Directorate for Financial Audits of the Ministry of Finance of the Hellenic Republic, in accordance with the provisions in force, following a joint decision by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and the Minister of Economy and Finance.

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

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

**Law 4964/2022 (A' 150):**

1. provided, for the first time, a modern and comprehensive legal framework for the Muftiates and Muftis in Thrace, fully compatible with the Constitution, but also with the country's international obligations, as defined by the Lausanne Treaty, the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights), but also the case law of the CoE and the ECHR (European Court of Human Rights)
2. resolved a number of problems that had been identified in practice and which, either due to ambiguity of provisions that were previously in force, or simply due to a change of circumstances, complicated the situation and essentially prevented the proper functioning of the Muftiates, the service of the religious needs of the Muslim minority in Thrace, the effective management of its religious affairs, and the proper exercise of the Muftis' judicial powers.
3. established a complete framework for the organization and operation of the Muftiate, with authorization to issue Presidential Decrees, with provisions for covering expenses for their work, their accommodation, security, the transfer of human resources, travel, printed publications, the creation of websites, etc.. In this way, the financial independence of the institution is decisively promoted, while at the same time the overall work of Muftiates and Muftis is facilitated, the impact of the work on the local community is broadened and their image and prestige is enhanced, locally, regionally and on a national scale.
4. contrary to what was the case until its adoption, no longer emphasizes the person of each Mufti, but the institution of the Muftiate, as a public service, exactly so that the services to the citizen are not recorded as a follow-up of a person, but as coming from an institution, the good functioning of which the State promotes, strengthens and guarantees.
5. Included provisions to protect the prestige of the Muftis on an individual level, with provisions for the living arrangements of their families, but also for the protection of the Muftis themselves, through the establishment of incompatibilities, in order to limit the risk of reproaches against them and to avoid any questioning of their morality.
6. established financial support, as well as the possibility to serve as Counselors to the competent Ministry, also for those who have served as Muftis and have left. In this way, the State shows that it assists, trusts and invests in those who have played such an important role.
7. described, for the first time, the triple status of the Mufti in our country, since, unlike in other EU member states (where the sacred Islamic law-Sharia is not applied at all), here the Mufti is a religious minister, he has judicial powers and he is the head of a public service (civil servant). It is the co-existence of these three qualities in the same person that imposes a separate responsibility on the State in relation to the manner of his selection and functioning.
8. introduced important innovations in relation to the selection process for Muftis, all of which work in favour of their widest possible acceptance as persons of increased prestige, with special ties to the citizens they are called upon to serve. The key person in the selection process is no longer the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace (as the successor of the Prefect), but the Locum Tenens Mufti. The contribution of a numerically and qualitatively enlarged Advisory Committee is of decisive importance. It consists of 33 members of the Muslim minority who are selected, without any involvement of the State, through a public drawing of lots and who are drawn from the teachers of the Undergraduate Program of Islamic Studies or the Medresses (Islamic Religious Schools) in Thrace, the Imams, the Islamic Religion teachers and eminent theologians. The Advisory



Committee examines the candidatures and decides whether or not each candidate is qualified to assume the duties of the Mufti. It then submits to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports the alphabetical list of those who are adequate, and it is on the proposal of the latter that the Mufti is appointed by Presidential Decree.

9. retained all the positive changes that had been adopted in relation to **Law 1920/1991 (A' 11)** and in particular the optionality of recourse to the Mufti for personal law issues of members of the Muslim minority in Thrace ([Law 4511/2018 \(A' 2\)](#)). **Law 4511/2018** was an extremely important step in the direction of equality and democratic rights, with full respect for the identity, religious faith and specific characteristics of the Muslim minority in Thrace, and was implemented with broad consensus of all parties (except the party "Golden Dawn").

All of the above innovations and a number of individual regulations described in detail in the Law, contribute to the creation of an institution that operates with guarantees of legitimacy, transparency, independence and effectiveness, headed by persons of prestige, whom the State guarantees to provide with excellent conditions for the performance of their duties, with adequate financial and logistical support. And all this, with full respect for the principles of Islam, the International Treaties and the EU's legislation in force.

For the procedural rules in cases under the jurisdiction of the Mufti, the following [Presidential Decree 52/2019 \(A' 90\)](#) shall continue to apply on "*Procedural rules on cases under the jurisdiction of the Muftis in Thrace - Establishment, organization and operation of the Directorate for cases under the Mufti's jurisdiction at the Muftiates in Thrace*". The scope of the Presidential Decree is a) to establish necessary rules of procedure on cases under the jurisdiction of the Mufti and issuing of the Mufti's ruling and b) to regulate matters of organization and operation of the Directorate for cases under the Mufti's jurisdiction, as well as procedures for filling vacancies of staff (permanent employees, employees on private law contracts of indefinite duration or political appointees) at the Muftiates.

### **c. Mosques in Thrace**

The Muslims in Thrace exercise their religious duties in mosques numbering **over 260** in the area. **The Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic has satisfied all requests for building works for repair or extension of old Mosques as well as for building new ones.** It is noted that the repair and conservation of historical Mosques is funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic.

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

The Greek State has demonstrated special attention to resolve longstanding problems regarding mosques, in particular in the mountain areas of Thrace, due to lack of property titles and urban planning for almost all of them. By **Article 48 of Law 4178/2013 (A' 174)**, urban planning matters regarding mosques were solved. These matters concern mosques located in areas within legal settlements but without street planning, or they concern the issuance of building permits or permits to repair mosques (currently only allowed in areas with an approved urban plan), or generally in legalizing existing buildings and architectural parts such as minarets, which have been built in the past but without a corresponding permit.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic taking into account the Muslim minority in Thrace, the large number of the existing Islamic worship places (Mosques, Tekkes, Masjids, Jems, Cemevis), certain cases of malfunction in carrying out repairs or constructions of extensions or annexes at the existing places of prayer,

as well as the dense cultural richness of the wider area in recent years, set up in April 12, 2016 a “Committee for resolving planning matters for mosques of the Muslim minority in Thrace”(Online Publication Number ΩΕΣ64653ΠΣ-ΝΤΓ). Members of this Committee were the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the Head of the Directorate for Religious Administration of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, a representative of each Muftiate of the Muslim minority in Thrace, a representative of each Waqf Managing Committee of the Muslim minority in Thrace, a representative of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, a representative of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic, and a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic.

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

Following the one-year cooperation of the three competent Ministries, the Building Services of Thrace and the Department for traditional agglomerations and listed buildings of the Directorate of the Environment and Culture of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior/Sector Macedonia-Thrace, a circular was issued on the “Authorization procedure for issuing a building permit to Islamic places of prayer/worship in Thrace (Mosques, Tekkes, Masjids, Jems, Cemevis)” (Online Publication Number 78ΘΓ4653ΠΣ-Z3X), **the provisions of which were updated and incorporated into the joint circular** [“Circular on Islamic places of worship in Thrace \(Mosques-Tekkes-Masjids-Jems/Cemevis\) \(Ref. Number: 105510/Θ1/31.08.2021 Online Publication Number: 6ΘX646MTAH-0Y6\)”](#).

An explicit reference is made in this circular regarding the obligation to protect the cultural heritage as derived from international conventions<sup>30</sup> and the national regulatory framework<sup>31</sup>. In particular, in order for modern monuments to be integrated in a protection scheme, the competent bodies should designate them as such, since it is through this designation procedure that the protection scheme is activated. Especially in Thrace, where the majority of the Islamic places of prayer/worship are almost a hundred years old, it is necessary to clarify on a case-by-case assessment, if the place of prayer/worship is subject to the provisions of Law 3028/2002 “On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general”.

#### **d. Alevi of Thrace**

The Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace submitted to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic their “Confession of Faith and Application for permit for religious practice of the Alevi Muslims of Thrace” requesting a permit to operate the Tekke of Roussa in Evros prefecture as place of prayer for Alevi.

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<sup>30</sup> UNESCO Convention of 1972, Granada Convention of 1985

<sup>31</sup> Constitution of Greece, Articles 24 (1) and (6); Law 3018/2002

According to the information prescribed in this application, Alevism is an independent branch of Islam. The fundamental characteristics of Alevism which arise from the general interpretation of the Quran are:

- Love and respect to all people,
- Tolerance for other religions and ethnic groups,
- Respect for work and workers,
- Equality between men and women,
- Monogamy.

Religious practice takes place in sites called Jem or Cemevi and Tekke (Meydan Evi) and not in Mosques. The Alevi religious minister, Dede, leads the religious services.

According to the Committee of Alevi Muslims of Thrace, at present there are approximately 3,500 Alevis in the prefecture of Evros in particular, as well as in the prefecture of Rodopi.

Every year, ancestral “*sacrifice rituals*” are organized to honor and commemorate the tragedy of Hussein and to symbolize the persecutions of Alevis over time. The following feasts are organized:

- Annual Kurban in the Tekke of Roussa Mursala on November 8
- Kurban in a number of villages: Roussa, Goniko, Ourania, Mesimeri, Mikro Dereio, Sidirous, Hamilo, Ano Mikraki
- Kirk Kurban in Chloi, Rodopi prefecture
- Ali Baba Kurban in Ano Kambi, Rodopi prefecture
- Sinan Baba and Hassan Baba in Megalo Dereio
- Atmezar Kurban in Kehro, Rodopi prefecture
- Gaziler Kurban in Chloi, Rodopi prefecture
- Kiose Kioi Kurban in Spano, Evros prefecture and
- The feast “*Hilia*” that takes place every summer in the homonymous location (usually the first weekend of August) and includes wrestling competitions in which residents from the surrounding villages participate.

The Tekke of Roussa (Seyyid Ali Sultan Tekke) is the most important in the Balkans. It has a history of approximately seven centuries and has always been an assembly place for Dervishes (and in particular the Bektashi order). It is a monument of great religious and cultural value.

In addition, by Ministerial Decision 31811/Θ1/19-3-2021 (Online Publication Number: ΩΔ4646ΜΤΛΗ-15Μ), a permit to establish and operate a house of prayer (cemevi) was granted to the religious community under the name “*Alevis of Megalo Derio*”. Furthermore, by Ministerial Decision 48425/Θ1/13.5.2024 (Online Publication Number: ΨΕ2Π46ΝΚΠΔ-09Β), a permit was granted for the establishment and operation of a second Alevi house of prayer (cemevi) to the Waqf Committee of the Goniko Mosque in the Regional Unit of Evros, thereby making Greece one of the few countries in Europe that have recognized the Alevis as a distinct religious community.

## 2. Muslims outside Thrace

### a. Mosques in Rhodes and Kos

In addition to the region of Thrace where the Treaty of Lausanne is in force, Islamic religious places operate in the Dodecanese and in particular in Rhodes and Kos.

In Rhodes there are [7 historical Mosques](#); one of them operates on a daily basis as a Mosque and one operates as a Mosque during Ramadan and on Eid Al-Adha. In Kos there are 6 Mosques classified as [archaeological sites](#) and there is a Mosque operating on a daily basis.

Mosques and Islamic cemeteries are under the Management Boards of the Managing Bodies of the Waqfs in Rhodes and Kos respectively. Articles 117 “*Managing Bodies of the Waqf Properties of Kos and Rhodes*” and Article 118 “*Private Waqfs of Rhodes and Kos*” of **Law 4821/2021** (A’ 134) resolved the long-standing problem since 1947 of the legal personality, administration and operation of the Managing Bodies of Waqfs in Rhodes and Kos and the Private Waqfs of Rhodes and Kos as until the enactment of this law the legislative framework that had been introduced during the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese with the **Decree 12/2-5-1929** by the Italian Governor of the Islands of the Aegean Islands<sup>32</sup> was still in force.

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

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

Specifically, according to relevant information from the Office of the Secretary General of Culture, the Islamic monuments of Rhodes and Kos for which restoration studies have recently been approved, restoration works are currently underway, or restoration has been completed, are the following:

#### **RHODES**

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

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

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<sup>32</sup> Cf. decree by the Army Commander of the Dodecanese (Ref: 19/29-4-1947) as ratified by Resolution ΑΔ’ of the 4<sup>th</sup> Revisionary Hellenic Parliament (Official Government Gazette A’ 262/27-11-1947)

## KOS

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

On Friday, 22 November 2024, the inauguration ceremony marking the commencement of the mosque's restoration works took place. Among those present were the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kos and Nisyros, Mr. Nathanael; the Secretary General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. George Kalantzis; former Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr. Ioannis Pappas; the Mayor of Kos, Mr. Theodosios Nikitaras; the Deputy Regional Governor for Digital Development, Mr. Charalampos Navrozidis; the Head of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese, Ms. Michailidou; the Fire Service Commander of Kos, Mr. Mavridis; the President and Treasurer of the Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in Komotini, Mr. Isa and Mr. Emin; the President of the Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in Didymoteicho, Mr. Molla; the Treasurer of the Managing Committee of the Islamic Property in Xanthi, Mr. Kasapoglou; the President of the Waqf Committee of the Islamic Property in Alexandroupolis, Mr. Chatzikerimoglou; the President of the Waqf of Rhodes, Mr. Vintimi; the Secretary General of the Technical Chamber of Greece, Mr. Giannikouris; the President of the Technical Chamber of Kos, Mr. Chrysoulakis; the President of the Taxi Owners Association of Kos, Mr. Kinas; among others.<sup>33</sup>

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

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

4) *Mosque in Platani*. The mosque is operational, as its restoration works have been completed. The project was funded by the South Aegean Region, which undertook its financing through a programmatic agreement between the Ministry of Culture, the South Aegean Region, and the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Kos.

On **Friday, 12 January 2024**, the inauguration of the **Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque in Platani**, Kos, took place, attended by the Regional Governor of the South Aegean, Mr. Georgios Hatzimarkos, and the President of the Waqf of Kos, Ms. Elvan Kotzaoglan. Among those in attendance were the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kos and Nisyros, Mr. Nathanael; the Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr. Ioannis Pappas; the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. George Kalantzis; the Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Georgios Didaskalou; the Deputy Regional Governor for Education, Mr. Giannis Kritikos; the Deputy Regional Governor of Kos, Ms. Konstantina Svinou; the Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor, Mr. Stamatis Kampourakis; the Deputy Mayor for Education, Ms. Katerina Chatzithoma-Kypraiou; the Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Ms. Stamatia Kantartzi; the Fire Department Lieutenant Colonel, Mr. Grigorios Mavridis; the Mayor's Special Advisor on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, the Kos Diaspora, and the Primary Sector, Ms. Sevi Vlachou; the Chief of Police, Mr. Vlassis Stratigis; the General Director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage and Director of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities at

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<sup>33</sup><https://www.vakoufko.gr/nea-kai-anakoinoseis/eidiseis/teleti-egkainion-tis-enarxis-ton-ergasion-apokatastasis-tou-temenous-nftefterntar-stin-plateia-eleftherias/>

*the Ministry of Culture, Ms. Olympia Vikatou, and Ms. Ioulia Papageorgiou, respectively; the Head of the Cyclades Ephorate of Antiquities, Mr. Dimitris Athanasoulis; political figure affiliated with the New Democracy party, Ms. Eleftheria Ftaklaki; former President of the Technical Chamber of Dodecanese, Mr. Antonios Giannikouris; and the President of the Technical Chamber of Kos, Mr. Georgios Chrysoulakis, and from the Muslim community, in addition to the Imam of Kos, Irfan Trampa, the Presidents of the Waqfs of Rhodes and Komotini, Vintimis Salih and Selim Isa, respectively<sup>34</sup>.*

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

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

With the support of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs the Suleiman Mosque in Rhodes – which operates as a Museum- is made available each year to the Managing Body of the Waqf property in Rhodes for the Eid al-Fitr prayer (for the end of the fast of Ramadan) and the Eid al-Adha prayer (for the Sacrifice of Abraham). Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the operation of the site had continued with strict adherence to sanitary protocols to address the epidemiological risks<sup>35</sup>. At the request of the Managing Body of the Waqf Property in Rhodes and by decision of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic, the Suleiman Mosque remained open during August 2024 as a site accessible to visitors.

By Acts **182953/01/22-11-2019** (Online Publication Number Ω5MY46MTΛH-ZΦ7), **182982/01/22-11-2019** (Online Publication Number 6X1H46MTΛH-BT2) and **182990/01/22-11-2019** (Online Publication Number Ω27Λ46MTΛH-0XN) issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, it was established that the Islamic places of worship “*IBRAHIM PASHA MOSQUE*” (Managing Bodies of the Waqf property in Rhodes) as well as “*DEFTERDAR MOSQUE*” and “*HASSAN PASHA MOSQUE*” (Managing Bodies of the Waqf property in Kos), were operating legally.

The legal operation of the above sites was established in accordance with the provisions of the Circular **176169/01/19-10-2018** issued by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs (Online Publication Number ΩA3Y4653ΠΣ-8B3) on “*Procedure for recognizing a worship place existing before 1955 (except for the ones under the jurisdiction, “klima”, of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as referred to in Article 3 of the Constitution)*”. Therefore, a matter remaining unaddressed for a long time was finally settled with regard to these places of worship, which have been operating without interruption for a long time to this day. Thus, the

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<sup>34</sup><https://www.vakoufko.gr/en/nea-kai-anakoinoseis/eidiseis/ta-egkainia-tou-temenous-gazi-chasan-pasa-sto-platani-tis-ko/>

<sup>35</sup>See Decision of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic No. 179884/20-4-2022 (Online Publication Number Ω2ΨΞ4653Π4-07Ω).



concern of the State to ensure the unhindered enjoyment of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of adherents and religious communities was demonstrated in practice.

Also, with the **19136/01/18.2.2021** Ministerial Decision (Online Publication Number: ΨΤ6Α46ΜΤΛΗ-ΒΩΖ) the Managing Body of the Waqf Property of Kos was granted approval for the temporary operation, the use as a place of worship, for the wedding-events hall due to the impossibility of using the existing mosque in the village of Platani in Kos.

Finally, pursuant to Law **4821/2021** (Α' 134), the joint Decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance of the Hellenic Republic **88878/01/19-7-2022** on the "*Regulation of the operation of the L.E.P.L. under the names "MANAGING BODY OF THE WAQF PROPERTY IN KOS" and "MANAGING BODY OF THE WAQF PROPERTY IN RHODES"* (Β' 3960/26-7-2022) was published.

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

## **b. Other Mosques in Greece**

Other than the above-mentioned Mosques in Thrace, Rhodes and Kos there are at least 60 Islamic sites in Greece. Many of those have been restored, such as the Fethiye Mosque in the Roman Agora in Athens which is accessible as an exhibition gallery since August 2017, the [Yeni Mosque](#) in Mytilene, the Zincirli Mosque in Serres. Others are currently under restoration due to damage resulting from the passage of time and natural deterioration, such as, for example, the Valide Mosque, the oldest mosque in Mytilene, with funding of € 1.2 million from the special development plan for the islands of the Aegean implemented by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lesvos; the Beyazit Mosque in Didymoticho following the fire of March 22, 2017; the construction work on the Hünkâr Mosque in Edessa.

Certain mosques, following their restoration, operate as cultural exhibition venues, such as the Emir Zade Mosque in Chalkida, the Lower Fountain (or Tzisdarakis) Mosque in Athens, the Küçük Hassan Mosque in the city of Chania, and the Yeni Mosque in Thessaloniki. Notably, the latter, following its allocation by the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, was used for the first time in 2024 during the Feasts of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

The Mosque of Athens at its own expense, sent the esteemed Imam Taha Abdelghalil, a member of its Religious Committee, to lead the Eid al-Fitr Feast (April 10, 2024). In his sermon, the Imam stated, among other things:

*"My dear ones, today is a celebration... the Feast of Eid al-Fitr. **What is the purpose of this celebration?** The purpose is gratitude. **Why should we be grateful?** 1 – We must be grateful to God for the joy He has given us... 2 – We must be grateful to God because, through fasting and prayer, He forgives our sins... 3 – We must be grateful to Allah because fasting is the means by which we are forgiven by Him. **How should we express our gratitude?** (some*



***practical aspects of the celebration***: 1 – We express our gratitude **by being kind to our relatives**. 2 – We express our gratitude **by being kind to our fellow human beings**. 3 – We express our gratitude **by showing happiness within our community**. 4 – We express our gratitude **by continuing worship after Ramadan**. 5 – We express our gratitude **by thanking anyone who has done good for us**. As we all know, the Prophet Muhammad says, ‘Whoever does not thank people, does not thank God’... In this regard, we thank the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports of the Hellenic Republic, as well as all those who contributed to such an initiative that brings life to cultural monuments... We thank our Greece for the facilities and services it provides to its Muslim citizens and to Muslims residing here... Any similar initiative in the future will be warmly welcomed by us... **May God protect our country, Greece—its government and its people...**”

An indicative list is included in the Addendum of this section.

The Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic seeks to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage of Greece in which Islamic monuments are included. Additional efforts are made to that end and special publications have been edited in the past<sup>36</sup>.

### **c. Islamic Houses of Prayer**

For the first time in 2013, applications for permits to establish and operate an Islamic worship place were submitted, and were all approved, except for those lacking the necessary supporting documentation. In **2023, four (4)** Islamic Houses of Prayer were licensed (1. “FAIZAN E MADINA-THE GIFT OF MADINA”, 2. “MASJID AL-SAHABA – COMPANIONS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD – SUNNI MUSLIMS”, 3. “AL FOURQAN – SUNNI MUSLIMS”, 4. “MASJID ANAS RADIALLAHU ANHU – ALLAH (GOD) IS PLEASED WITH THE ONE WHO BRINGS PEACE TO OTHERS – SUNNI MUSLIMS”) Additionally, three permits for Islamic Houses of Prayer were revoked because the minimum legal requirements for the safe gathering of people were not met. As a result, the safety of the religious community during worship could not be ensured, nor could the rights, safety, and quality of life of local residents be adequately protected. **According to current data (as of December 2023), the total number of Islamic Houses of Prayer throughout the country, excluding Thrace and the Dodecanese, is fifteen (15).**

It is noted that, in order to facilitate the unhindered performance of religious duties by Muslims during the major Islamic festivals — Eid al-Fitr (the Feast of Breaking the Fast, marking the end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (the Feast of the Sacrifice, commemorating Abraham’s devotion to God) — the Greek State has, since 2011<sup>37</sup>, provided spaces free of charge at the Peace and Friendship Stadium and the Athens Olympic Sports Complex. In 2020, however, this arrangement was suspended as part of the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the opening of the Mosque of Athens on November 2, 2020, the reasons for granting such concessions no longer applied.

Additionally, every year (except in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), a procession is held in Athens by Muslims to commemorate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. This event takes place with the permission of the Greek authorities and under the protection of the Hellenic Police.

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<sup>36</sup> The Ottoman Architecture in Greece – Collective work, December 2009 (Η ΟΘΩΜΑΝΙΚΗ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ – ΣΥΛΛΟΓΙΚΟ, Δεκέμβριος 2009)

<sup>37</sup> See the Press Releases of [17-5-2018](#) and [8-5-2019](#) of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs on the subject: “Muslims’ religious practice at the end of Ramadan (Eid-al-Fitr)” and the [16-8-2018](#) and [25-7-2019](#) Press Releases on: “Performing prayer on Eid al Adha” (Feast of the Sacrifice, commemorating Abraham’s devotion to God).

### 3. Mosque of Athens

With the provisions of **Law 3512/2006** (A' 264), the necessary regulatory framework for the establishment and operation of an Islamic Mosque in Attica, under public supervision, was introduced for the first time in national legislation. The aim was to enable Muslims residing in the greater Athens area (both Greek citizens and foreigners) to perform their religious practices in a manner appropriate to their faith.

With the enactment of **Laws 4014/2011** (A' 209), **4327/2015** (A' 50), **4414/2016** (A' 149) and **4473/2017** (A' 78), various administrative and urban planning issues were resolved. As a result, the construction of the building of the Mosque of Athens and its surrounding area—covering approximately 4 acres (16,000 square meters)—was completed around mid-2019. The building and its surrounding area were presented to the Muslim community of Athens on June 7, 2019.

By Ministerial Decision **135952/01/11-8-2017** (Y.O.Δ.Δ. 401- Online Publication Number: 7FAB4653PΣ-1ΣΘ) the first Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens” was appointed.

The Joint Ministerial Decision by the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Minister of Finance on “Rules of Procedure of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens” **151436/01/13-9-2018** was issued providing for, inter alia, the following:

- the possibility, by decision of the Management Board, to establish non-remunerated religious committees of consultative nature, composed of members or non-members of the Board, for the improved operation of the Mosque. Specifically, members of these committees may include public servants, Muslims legally residing in Attica, faculty members of Universities or graduates of the Undergraduate Programme of Islamic Studies of the Faculty of Theology of the School of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and religious ministers serving at Islamic worship places in Attica who have been authorized by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic (Article 17),
- the possibility, by decision of the Management Board, to form volunteer groups composed of Muslims legally residing in Attica and members of the Muslim communities of Attica who wish to offer their services temporarily and free of charge, in order to support the proper operation of the Mosque of Athens—particularly during the periods of major Islamic holidays and periods of increased attendance (Article 18),
- the daily operation of the Mosque of Athens. Its opening hours are from thirty minutes before the time of the first prayer conducted by the Imam to thirty minutes after the last prayer of the day. During the holy Islamic month of Ramadan and the Festival of the Sacrifice of Abraham (Eid Al Adha), the Mosque of Athens operates on a 24-hour basis. All adherents are free to enter the Mosque during opening hours and scheduled prayer times to perform their religious duties (Article 19) and
- the procedure and conditions under which the Mosque may be made available for a limited time to individual Muslim communities of Attica (Article 20).

On May 20, 2019 [the Presidential Decree 42/2019 \(A' 74\)](#) “Organization of the Legal Entity of Private Law “Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens” was published. The Organization of the Legal Entity specifically defines, even by way of derogation from the provisions applicable to the public sector, its structure and operation, the number, positions, categories, qualifications, status and duties of the staff employed, as well as their disciplinary

law, the topics of studies, projects, leasing or renting of real estate and provision of services related to the operation and maintenance of the Mosque and the procurement of supplies, its financial management and its inclusion in the appropriate accounting management system and any other detail necessary for its regular operation and the achievement of its purpose.

Law **4589/19** (A' 13) Article 72 (1) regulates in detail matters regarding revenue from donations to the Legal Entity of Private Law and **Law 4610/19 (A' 70)** Article 217 regulates the matter of the Islamic Religious Minister (Imam)'s remuneration. By Ministerial Decision **149184/01/3-11-2020**, a Religious Minister (Imam) was appointed at the Mosque of Athens.

Following the expiration of the term of office the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law "*Administration Committee of the Mosque of Athens*", its new composition was appointed by Ministerial Decision 109537/01/25-8-2020 (YOΔΔ 697- Online Publication Number: 6ΨΞ446MTΛH-BNE).

The Mosque of Athens began operating on Monday November 2, 2020, according to the relevant announcement made by the President of the Management Board of the Legal Entity of Private Law concerned:

*"The Mosque began to operate today, November 2, 2020, in accordance with the legislation applicable regarding the places of worship, as referred to in Joint Ministerial Decision Δ1α/Γ.Π.οικ./67924 on social distancing and other measures taken in Greece to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Official Gazette B' 4709/23-10-2020).*

*The Management Board of the Mosque of Athens will communicate the date of the inaugural ceremony when this will be possible depending on the developments in the fight against the pandemic".*

The State has, of its own volition, assumed responsibility for the remuneration of the Imam of the Mosque of Athens.

With para. 1 of Article 350 of **Law 4957/2022** (A' 141), the mission of the Legal Entity of Private Law was reformulated, its position as a religious center of the Muslims of Attica was clarified and the relevant legislative framework was amended, in order to ensure increased credibility and transparency of the institutions, improved risk management and consequent improvement of the services provided.

With para. 4 of Article 6 of **Law 3512/2006** (A' 264) as added by para. 7 of Article 350 of **Law 4957/2022** (A' 141), the "*Religious Committee of the Mosque of Athens*" was established. Its purpose is to assist in an advisory capacity the Management Board of the L.E.P.L. for the fulfilment of its objectives as defined in the founding law. The five regular and alternate members were appointed for a one-year term of office by the Management Board's decision 5/30.1.2023 (Y.O.Δ.Δ. 131/17.2.2023).

Finally, Article 66 of Law 5128/2024 (A' 118) introduced, among other provisions, a clause allowing the Management Board, by means of a specially reasoned decision—revocable at any time—to assign responsibilities and specific duties related to the implementation, application, management, and execution of the legal entity's objectives to a regular or alternate member, excluding the President and Vice President. This measure aims to enable faster resolution of emerging issues and to improve the services provided by the Mosque to the public.

#### 4. Incidents

No	1.
Location	Bath Mosque, Thermes, Xanthi
Date	15 June 2023

Brief description	Unauthorized entry into the interior of the Bath Mosque, disruption of the premises and acts of vandalism against religious items. Specifically, four Qurans were torn, and the curtain that was placed at the designated elevated area (Minbar), from which the Imam reads the Quran and delivers sermons, was removed. The curtain was later found on the fence surrounding the Mosque.
Perpetrator/s	1 French national
Police/procedural actions	The perpetrator was arrested in flagrante delicto and brought before the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Xanthi. The case was tried by the Three-Member Court of First Instance of Xanthi, which imposed a two-year prison sentence and a monetary fine, both suspended for three years. The defendant was also ordered to pay court costs. An appeal has been filed by the defendant, and the case is scheduled to be heard in December 2024 before the Three-Member Court of Appeals for Misdemeanors of Thrace
Comments	<p><a href="#"><u>Statement by the Muftiate of Xanthi</u></a>  <b><i>Sorrow over the vandalism at the Bath Mosque in Thermes by a French citizen.</i></b></p> <p><i>With abhorrence and profound sorrow, we were informed that this afternoon, a French citizen entered the Bath Mosque in Thermes, Xanthi, and carried out acts of vandalism against sacred objects.</i></p> <p><i>We pray that the Most Merciful Allah forgives this man and enlightens him so that he may recognize his wrongdoing. In Thrace, Muslims and Christians respect one another, celebrate each other's joys, and stand by one another in times of sorrow.</i></p> <p><i>We will all stand together to defend this unique model of coexistence, which serves as an example for all of Europe. We are confident that Greek justice system will fulfill its duty, just as the Hellenic Police already has.</i></p> <p><a href="#"><u>15-06-23 Statement by Secretary General, Mr. George Kalantzis, regarding the incident at the Bath Mosque in Xanthi</u></a></p> <p><i>The profane acts committed at a mosque in the wider Xanthi area are entirely and unequivocally condemnable.</i></p> <p><i>They bring deep sorrow to us all but simultaneously strengthen our resolve to continue along the path of</i></p>

	<p><i>absolute respect for the religious freedom of our Muslim fellow citizens in Thrace—a freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of Greece.</i></p> <p><i>Warm congratulations are due to the Hellenic Police for their immediate intervention, the arrest of the foreign perpetrator, and the prompt initiation of legal proceedings.</i></p> <p><i>Respect for places of worship of all religious communities is a non-negotiable value for Greece.</i></p> <p><b><u>Press Release by the Holy Metropolis of Xanthi</u></b></p> <p><i>Condemning the displayed disrespect towards a place of worship at the Mosque in the village of Thermes by a foreign visitor to this border region, we declare to all that Xanthi and Thrace constitute a global model of peaceful coexistence among peoples of different faiths—coexistence founded on genuine mutual respect.</i></p> <p><i>We will not allow anyone to disturb this balance.</i></p> <p>ISSUED BY THE HOLY METROPOLIS OF XANTHI</p>
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No	2. (see also Addendum, Section b.)
Location	Muslim Cemeteries, Polyanthos, Rodopi
Date	Between 14 August and 2 September 2023
Brief description	Damage was caused to a total of 12 graves
Perpetrator/s	1 Greek national (male)
Police/procedural actions	A case file was compiled and submitted to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Rodopi
Comments	<p><a href="#">03-09-23 Statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. George Kalantzis, regarding the vandalism of graves at the Muslim cemetery in Polyanthos, Rodopi</a></p> <p><i>“The vandalism of graves at the Muslim cemetery in Polyanthos, in the region of Rodopi, is a disgrace and an act of desecration that is condemned by us all. As soon as it was informed, the Hellenic Police initiated an investigation to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. We hope this investigation will also shed light on the motives behind such an incomprehensible act. Polyanthos was recently severely tested by the large wildfire, and its residents stood united in supporting the firefighting forces in their efforts. The Greek State stands as a guarantor that this unity will not be threatened by anyone.”</i></p>

	<p><a href="#"><u>16-09-2023 Announcement by the PRESS OFFICE of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace regarding the damage at the Muslim cemetery</u></a>  16/09/2023  PRESS OFFICE – EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE  Komotini, 16 September 2023</p> <p><b>ANNOUNCEMENT</b>  <i>Regarding the incident of damage that took place at the Muslim cemetery in the village of Polyanthos, Rodopi, during the period from 14 August to 2 September 2023, the General Regional Police Directorate of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace announces that, in the context of the ongoing preliminary investigation carried out by officers of the competent services of the Rodopi Police Directorate, the identity of the perpetrator was established.</i></p> <p><i>The perpetrator is a male Greek national of the Muslim faith and a resident of the aforementioned village. He confessed to all of his actions, attributing them to personal disputes with other residents of the village. The perpetrator was not arrested due to the expiration of the in flagrante delicto period and the absence of formal complaints from the victims.</i></p>
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No	3.
Location	Mosque, Pilima, Xanthi
Date	29 September 2023
Brief description	Threatening messages written in Turkish on the outer walls of the Mosque as well as on the concrete pillars of the courtyard gate, targeting the life of the Imam, the Muezzin, and the Waqf Committee
Perpetrator/s	Unidentified
Police/procedural actions	The Most Learned Acting Mufti of Xanthi reported to the Xanthi Police Department, where he provided a statement detailing his findings during a visit to the Mosque and requested a full investigation into the incident, as well as the prosecution of the perpetrators
Comments	<p><a href="#"><u>30-09-23 Statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, Mr. George Kalantzis, concerning the desecration of the Mosque in Pilima, Xanthi</u></a></p> <p>Regarding the desecration of the Mosque in the village of Pilima, Xanthi, the Secretary General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, Mr. George Kalantzis, made the following statement:</p>



	<p><i>“The desecration of the Mosque in the village of Pilima, Xanthi, through the writing of slogans in Turkish and the placement of bullet casings as a warning to the Imam, the Muezzin, and the Waqf Committee, urging them to abandon the Mufti and align with known extralegal centers and parallel structures—as stated in the official announcement by the Muftiate of Xanthi—constitutes an unprecedented act, wholly condemnable and foreign to the spirit of Thrace and its people, regardless of religious affiliation. We are confident that the Hellenic Police, as it has done in the past, will fulfill its duty and identify the perpetrator(s). [...]”</i></p> <p><b><u>Muftiate of Xanthi – Social Media Statement</u></b> 30 September 2023</p> <p><i>On Friday, 29 September 2023, we were saddened to learn that at the Holy Mosque in the village of Pilima, Xanthi, unidentified individuals had written threatening messages in Turkish against the lives of the Imam, the Muezzin, and the Vakouf Committee on the exterior walls of the Mosque as well as on the concrete pillars of the courtyard gate. Additionally, four bullet casings wrapped and secured with electrical tape were affixed to the courtyard door—a clear threat to their lives, pointing to foreign parastatal forces operating outside the framework of lawful authority.</i></p> <p><i>These threats and the placement of the bullet casings were issued as a four-day ultimatum, during which the Imam, the Muezzin, and the Waqf Committee were to abandon the Mufti and align themselves with representatives of extralegal centers. This is a serious threat and a direct violation of the religious freedom of the Muslims of Thrace, perpetrated by foreign forces.</i></p> <p><i>In response, the Most Learned Acting Mufti of Xanthi, Nezden Hemseri, immediately visited the Holy Mosque and personally confirmed the distressing events. He then proceeded to the Xanthi Security Department, where he gave a formal statement detailing his observations and called for the full clarification of the case and the criminal prosecution of those responsible.</i></p> <p><i>We expect the Greek State to enforce the law and, above all, to protect the religious freedom of the Muslims of Thrace from parastatal mechanisms that</i></p>
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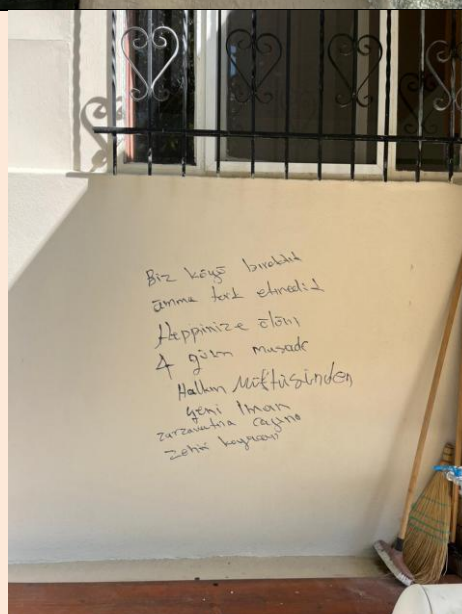
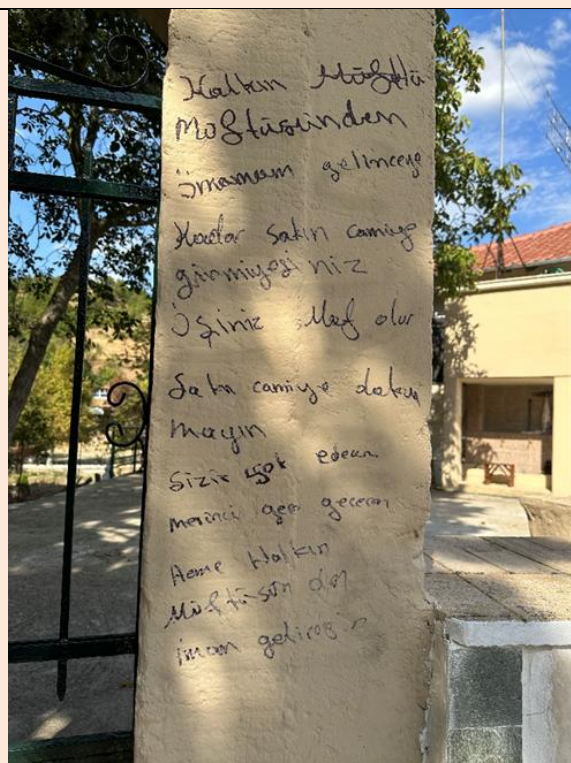


have no place in Greece. The people of Thrace—Christians and Muslims alike—are proud, hardworking, honest, and democratic citizens who have no connection to terrorism or extremism.

The Muftiate of Xanthi has received heartfelt messages of solidarity from our fellow Muslim citizens, who are fully aware that Mosques are places of worship of Allah, not of politics. Our Mosques are places of unity, not division.

MUFTIATE OF XANTHI

(Photos: Muftiate of Xanthi)





## 5. Addendum

### a. Statistical presentation

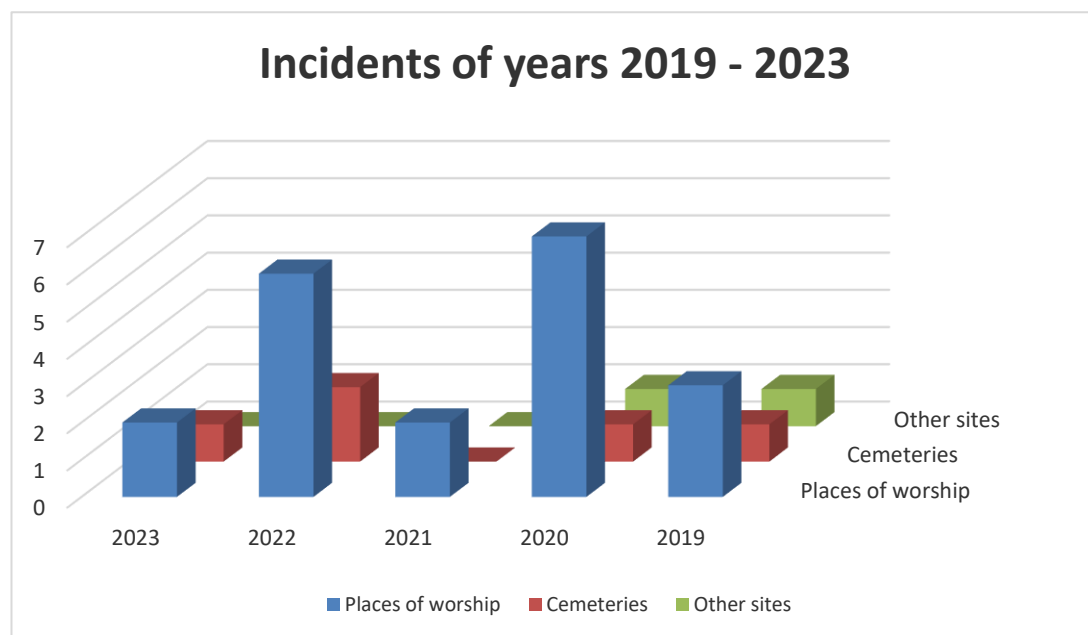


Figure 6: Comparative presentation of incidents by site

### b. Remarks by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, Mr. George Kalantzis, regarding the perpetrators of the incidents targeting Muslim religious sites (See the statement by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs dated 30 September 2023)

*"[...] The incident of 29 September 2023 is the third episode in the past four months in Thrace, in which either no residents of Thrace were involved (in the incident of 15 June 2023, the perpetrator was a foreign national and was convicted), or the matter concerned internal Muslim disputes (the incident of 3 September 2023 resulted from family disagreements among Muslims).*

*Greece remains firmly committed to the principles enshrined in its Constitution, particularly Article 13, which fully protects and guarantees religious freedom for all".*

### c. Circular Regarding the Public Holidays of Minority Schools During Muslim Religious Festivals

The Office for Minority Education of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace issued Circular No. Φ.8.2/23.7/11397/27-9-2022, titled: *"Public Holidays of Minority Schools During Muslim Religious Festivals."* According to the Circular, for the calendar year 2023, Minority Schools, in addition to other official holidays, will also observe holidays on the following Muslim religious festivals:

1. 26/27 January 2023 – Regaip Kandili (Thursday)
2. 17/18 February 2023 – Miraç Kandili (Saturday)



3. 6/7 March 2023 – Berat Kandili (Tuesday)
4. 20 to 24 April 2023 – Ramazan Şeker Bayramı (Thursday to Monday)
5. 27 June to 1 July 2023 – Kurban Bayramı (Tuesday to Saturday)
6. 26/27 September 2023 – Mevlid Kandili (Wednesday)

According to the circular, for the Kandil nights, the school holiday is observed **on the day following the holy night**, except in the case of **Regaip Kandili**, for which the holiday is observed **on the preceding day**.

**d. Article by His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Messina titled: “Tolerance of Religious Otherness” (Newspaper Eleftheros Typos, 08/08/2023)**

*“The deplorable act of desecration and insult against sacred books of a particular religious community is not merely an act that reflects a lack of respect for every form and expression of religious otherness, nor simply an affront to the individual and collective right to practice one’s religion and to exercise freedom of religious conscience.*

*Nor is it simply another instance of contempt and repulsion toward religious symbols and the principles and values that are enshrined in the founding documents of international and European organizations and unions. Such actions tarnish mutual respect among citizens and undermine the peaceful coexistence within a multicultural and multireligious society.*

*What is particularly troubling about these actions is, on the one hand, the legal devaluation that now prevails following the abolition of Articles 198, 199, and 201 of the Penal Code—articles through which the State once expressed its concern for the protection of religious diversity and the achievement of religious peace within society. On the other hand, there is the prevailing perception that any action not deemed punishable or reprehensible by law is, by default, socially and morally acceptable or appropriate, thus providing a convenient alibi rooted in the existing legal vacuum or in the evaluative interpretation of such actions.*

*Beyond all this, the ethos of every human society calls for a form of tolerance that is not merely an expression of passive forbearance or respect. It is a way of life vis-à-vis the other—the religiously different—without manifesting a sense of superiority that humiliates or dominates the ‘other,’ the ‘different,’ that is, the one who does not share our religious beliefs. Otherwise, social confusion arises between majority and minority, between the power of one over the other, the ‘tolerance’ of the majority toward the minority, or the claims of the minority against the majority.*

*Of course, we are also facing a mistaken view if we consider tolerance of religious otherness to be merely a matter of numerical superiority and not a matter of qualitative stance. In the authentic sense of tolerance, the ‘other’ becomes the necessary counterpart for the self, and the self an irreplaceable element in the existence of the other, in accordance with the principle: ‘Let no one seek his own good, but that of the other’ (1 Corinthians 10:23–24).*

*The standard of such an attitude leads us ‘not only to learn to bear with one another... but also to care for one another as we would for ourselves’ (Maximus the Confessor, PG 20, 725). It exhorts us to endure persecution with patience (1 Corinthians 4:12), to forgive while bearing with one another (Colossians 3:13), never forgetting that true love ‘does not seek its own’ (1 Corinthians 13:5).*

**e. Announcement by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs regarding the observance of Muslim religious duties during Ramadan and the Feast of Breaking the Fast (Eid al-Fitr) (21-03-23)**

*“The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs wishes Muslims a blessed Ramadan, hoping it will be a month of love, charity, and good deeds.*

*Organizations or associations in areas of the country where no designated prayer spaces for Muslims have been provided are invited to contact their local municipalities, in order to be granted enclosed spaces suitable for performing prayers, in accordance with the current public health protection measures related to COVID-19.*

*Given that the Mosque of Athens is in operation, there is no need for the Municipality of Athens or neighboring municipalities to allocate additional spaces for prayer.*

*Specifically, the Mosque of Athens, located at 114 Iera Odos, Votanikos, will remain open for prayer during the Holy Month as follows:*

- 1. From March 23, 2023, to April 10, 2023, the mosque will be open from the second prayer (Dhuhr) until the end of Taraouih.*
- 2. From April 11, 2023, to April 20, 2023, the mosque will be open from the second prayer (Dhuhr) until the first prayer (Fajr).*
- 3. From April 11, 2023, to April 20, 2023, worshippers may stay in the mosque for I'tikāf from the fourth prayer (Maghrib) until the first prayer (Fajr).*
- 4. All worshippers are welcome to attend the Taraouih prayers.*

*In addition, worshippers can watch the prayers and Taraouih live after 21:00 via the website of the Mosque of Athens: <https://www.mosqueofathens.gov.gr/>*

*To better inform services, institutions, and private individuals who may be involved in supporting our Muslim fellow citizens during Ramadan, it is reminded that during the fast (approximately from sunrise to sunset), no food or drink is permitted, with certain exceptions detailed elsewhere. It should also be noted that prayer times are not uniform across the country but vary by location.*

*Indicatively, the prayer times in six (6) regions of the country, as submitted to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs by the Mosque of Athens, the Muftis of Thrace, and Muslim religious officials of authorized places of worship, are listed below:*

*Ramadan Prayer Times – Athens*

*Ramadan Prayer Times – Didymoteicho*

*Ramadan Prayer Times – Komotini*

*Ramadan Prayer Times – Xanthi*

*Ramadan Prayer Times – Kos*

*Ramadan Prayer Times – Rhodes*

#### **f. Indicative list of Islamic monuments in Greece<sup>38</sup>**

The Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic is implementing a multidimensional project for the restoration and promotion of Islamic monuments with national and community resources. Many of these monuments are now open to the public, hosting remarkable exhibitions. At present, remarkable projects are underway at important Islamic monuments, funded by national resources or co-funded programmes (NSRF, Recovery and Resilience Fund) and in several cases in cooperation with local authorities.

The following updated (until September 2024) list includes the most important Islamic monuments of the Greek territory, which are either currently open to the public or in which work is being carried out or planned in order to make them open to the public as soon as possible and obviously does not constitute an exhaustive list of Islamic monuments in Greece.

##### **Stereia Ellada**

Athens, Fethiye Mosque (Mosque of the Wheat Bazar)

Athens, Mosque of the Lower Fountain (Tzisdarakis)

Athens, Medresse (Islamic Religious School, Aioulou and Pelopida st.)

Athens, Küçük Mosque, Mousaiou square, Plaka

Livadia, Gazi Omer Bey Mosque

Chalkis Emir Zade Mosque and fountain

Palaeochora Karystos, Minaret in the Church of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour

Nafpaktos, Fethiye Mosque

Nafpaktos, Vezir Mosque and ottoman fountains

Nafpaktos, Baths at the Vezir Mosque area (18th century)

##### **Peloponnese**

Nafplio, Trianon or Old Mosque of the Constitution square

Nafplio, “Vouleftiko” Mosque

Nafplio, Medresse (Islamic Religious School), also known as “Leonardo Prison”

Nafplio, Catholic church (“Fragoklisia”), Mosque

Argos, Church of Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni, Mosque

Corinth, Akrokorinthos, Mosque

Corinth, Ancient Corinth, Mausoleum (known as “Tekke”)

Monemvassia, Castle of Monemvassia, Mosque

Pylos, Niokastro, Mosque (or Church of the Transfiguration of our Savior)

Kyparissia, Mosque

##### **Epirus**

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<sup>38</sup> Source: Department of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic.

Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Mosque  
 Ioannina, Castle, İç Kale, Fethiye Mosque  
 Ioannina, Medresse (Islamic Religious School) Aslan Pasha, Castle  
 Ioannina, Castle, Aslan Pasha Kitchens (NE Acropolis)  
 Ioannina, Castle, Library of the Castle (NE Acropolis)  
 Ioannina, Castle, Bath (NE Acropolis)  
 Ioannina, Castle, access to the NE Acropolis (Master Plan)  
 Ioannina, Kaloutsiani, Kalou Cesme Mosque  
 Arta, Marati area, Faik Pasha Mosque, also known as the “Imaret”  
 Arta, Marati area, Faik Pasha Türbe  
 Arta, Feyzullah Mosque  
 Konitsa, Kato Konitsa, three Türbes  
 Thesprotia, Doliani, an arched building, probably a mosque, on the southern tower of the ancient fortification

### **Thessaly**

Larissa, 31 August st., Yeni Mosque  
 Larissa, Bajrakli Mosque  
 Ellassona, Varosi, Mosque  
 Tempi, Hasan Baba Tekke  
 Asprogeia, Farsala, Durpali Sultan Tekke, Dervish Monastery  
 Trikala, Aghios Konstantinos, Osman Shah (Koursoum) Mosque  
 Trikala, General Sarafis st., Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

### **Macedonia**

Thessaloniki, at the intersection of Venizelou and Egnatia streets, Hamza Bey Mosque, also known as “Alkazar”  
 Thessaloniki, Rotunda monument, Minaret of the Rotunda  
 Thessaloniki, Yeni Mosque (Old Archaeological museum)  
 Thessaloniki, above Kassandrou Street, northeast of the Basilica of Saint Demetrios, Alaca Imaret, also known as the “Ishak Pasha” Mosque  
 Thessaloniki, Terpsithea square, Mausoleum Musa Baba  
 Kavala, Ibrahim Pasha Mosque  
 Kavala, Halil Bey Mosque and Medresse (Islamic Religious School)  
 Kavala, Imaret  
 Serres, Mehmet Bey Mosque (or Aghia Sophia)  
 Serres, Mustafa Bey Mosque  
 Serres, Zincirli Mosque  
 Drama, Dikastirion square Mosque (Arap Mosque)



Drama, Mosque Agamemnonos and Armen st. (Santirvan Mosque)

Kato Nevrokopi, Exohi, Mosque

Drama, Mosque of Xiropotamos, Church of Aghia Triada (former Mosque)

Drama, former Mosque, Church of Aghios Nikolaos

Giannitsa, Mausoleum Gazi Evrenos

Giannitsa, “Mescit” or Türbe Ahmet Bey

Giannitsa, Ahmet Bey Mosque or Sheikh Ilahi Mosque

Giannitsa, Iskender Bey Mosque

Edessa, at the intersection of Stratou, K. Palaiologou, P. Ferraïou, Ioanninon, and Lykourgou Streets, Yeni Mosque

Edessa, Hünkar Mosque

Veria, Orta Mosque

Veria, Mahmud Çelebi Mosque (16th-17th c.)

Veria, Musa Çelebi Medresse (Islamic Religious School) Mosque

Veria, Old Metropolis- Eski Metropol, Hünkar Mosque

Veria, Northwestern addition and Minaret of the Mosque of the Old Metropolis

Kastoria, Medresse (Islamic Religious School) and Library Ahmet Pasha

Kastoria, Kursum Mosque

Katerini, Abdullah Pasha Tekke

Kilkis, Messia, Aghioi Konstantinos and Eleni Church (an ottoman mausoleum inside)

Stageira, Archaeological site of the medieval town of Sidirokafsia, Complex of the small bath and Mosque

### **Thrace**

Xanthi, Genisea, Mustafa Pasha Mosque

Xanthi, Mosque in Myki

Xanthi, Genisea, Kasaba Mosque (or Tsarsi)

Xanthi, Selino, Kütüklü Baba Tekke

Komotini, historical center, Yeni Mosque (possibly late 16th century)

Komotini, Imaret

Komotini, Eski Mosque (possibly 14th or 15th century)

Komotini, Tekke Pos-Pos (19th c.)

Komotini, Serdarmahale and Tabakhane Mosques (possibly 16th–17th century)

Komotini, Kayali Mosque and Medresse (Islamic Religious School) (early 18th century, possibly 1730)

Komotini, Selvili Mosque (or “Broken Mosque”), west of the Komotini fortress

Didymoteicho, Mehmet Çelebi Mosque (or Great Mosque)

Didymoteicho, Oruç Pasha Mausoleum (1417 or 1426)

Soufli, Roussa, Tekke of Seyyid Ali Sultan or Roussa Tekke

### **North-East Aegean**

Lesvos, Mytilene, Epano Skala, Valide Mosque

Lesvos, Mytilene, Ermou st., Yeni Mosque

Lesvos, Mytilene, Mesaio Kastro, Medresse (Islamic Religious School)

Lesvos, Mytilene, Kastro, Tekke

Chios, Metzitie Mosque

Chios, Kara Ali Cemetery

Chios, Osmaniye Mosque, Fragkomahala (1892)

Chios, Castle, Bajrakli Mosque or Hamidiye Mosque (1892)

### **Dodecanese**

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Suleiman Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Platonos st., Ibrahim Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Dorieos Square, Reçep Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Arionos Square, Mustafa Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Alexandridou Square, Hamza Bey Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Socratous st., Mehmet Agha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Sindrivan Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Ali Hilmi Pasha Mosque

Rhodes, Medieval Town, Imaret (locally known as “Palio Syssitio” – charitable institution and poorhouse) and Church of the Holy Apostles

Rhodes, Murat Reis complex, cemetery, Mosque, Tekke

Kos, Loggia Square, Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque

Kos, Eleftherias Square, Defterdar Mosque

Kos, Gazi Hassan Pasha Mosque in Platani

Kos, Moruk Mosque

Kos, Atik Mosque

Kastellorizo, Kavos area, Mosque

### **Crete**

Heraklion, Old Town, Vezir Mosque (Aghios Titos)

Heraklion, Kommeno Mpenteni area, Three Men Tekke

Heraklion, Mihrab, Abdurrahman Agha Mosque

Heraklion, Nea Alatsata, Tekke Mosque of Khorasani Zadeh of the Bektashis

Heraklion Prefecture, Settlement of Fortezza (Inadiye or Candia Nova or New Fortress)

Chania, Venetian Castle, Küçük Hasan Mosque (or Yiali Mosque)

Chania, Old Town, Splantzia Square, Minaret of the Ibrahim Sultan Mosque or Hünkar Mosque, adjacent to the Church of Aghios Nikolaos

Chania, Mevlevi Dervishes Tekke

Rethymno, Fortezza Fortress, Ibrahim Sultan Mosque

Rethymno, Old Town, Gazi Deli Hussein Pasha Mosque complex

Rethymno, Old Town, Kara Mousha Pasha Mosque

Rethymno, Old Town, Valide Sultana Mosque

Rethymno, New Town, Veli Pasha Mosque complex

Rethymno, Mikrasiaton Square, Türbe

Ierapetra, Kato Mera, Mosque Square, Mosque and Fountain

## D. Other Religions

According to the information available to the Directorate of Religious Administration, the existing legally authorized worship places of other religious communities are as follows: **Buddhist (4), Hindu (3), Baha'i (6), Hellenic Ethnic Religion (1), Ancient Hellenic Religion (1) and Scientology (1).**

No incidents have been reported against sites of other Religions.



### **III. GEOGRAPHICAL DISPLAY & STATISTICAL PRESENTATION**



## A. Geographical display of incidents by Religious Community

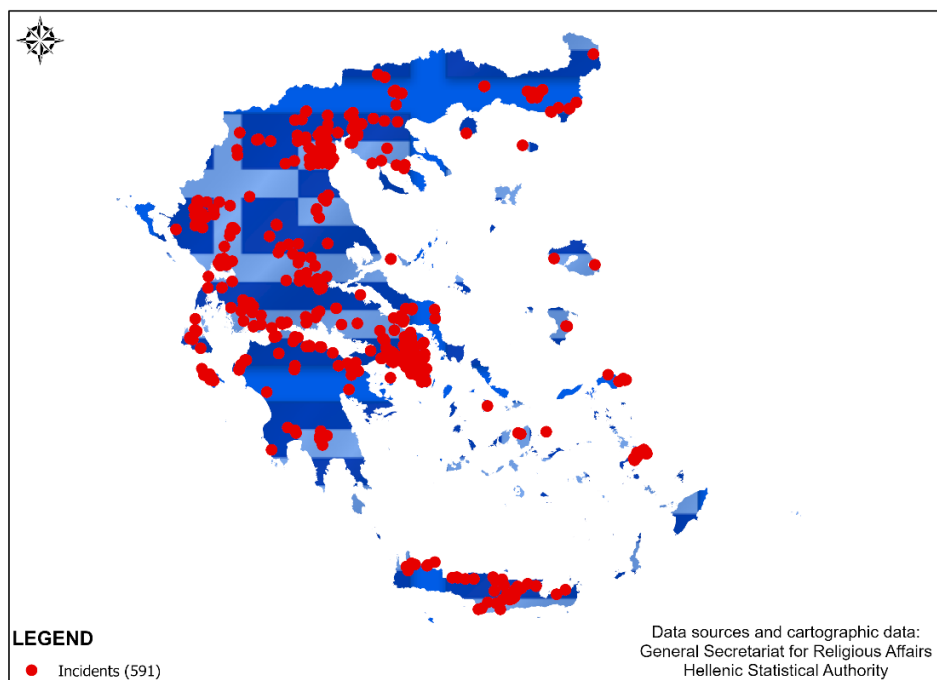


Figure 7: Orthodox Church

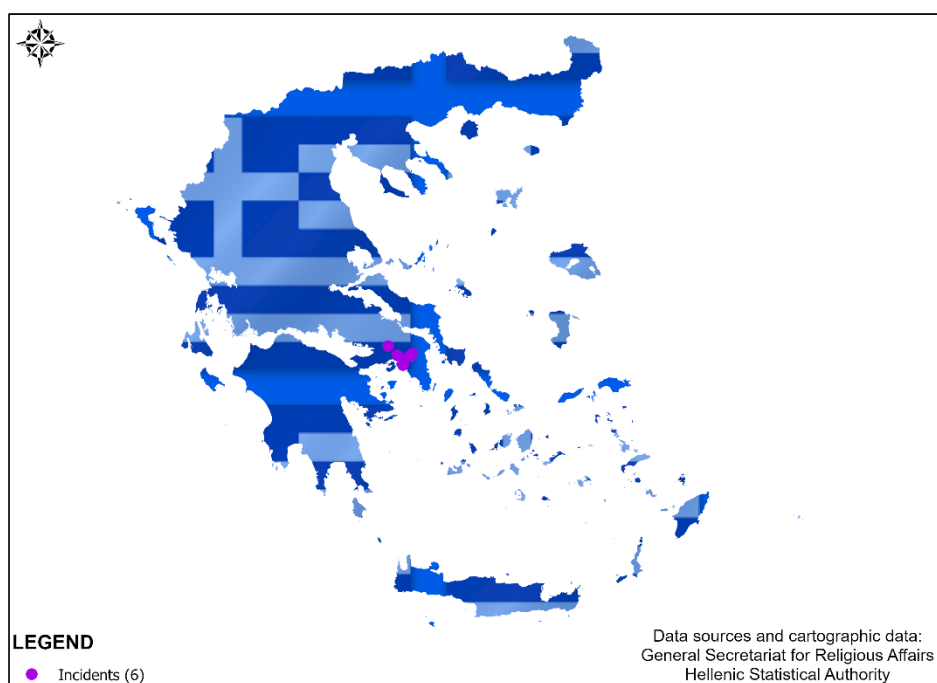
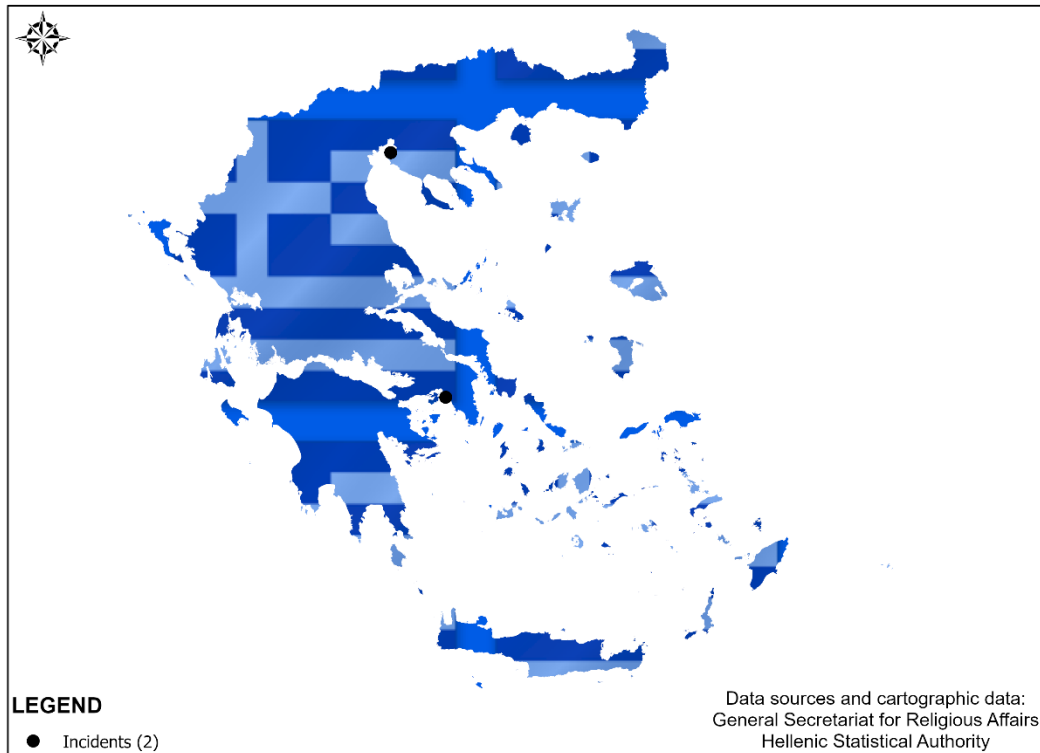
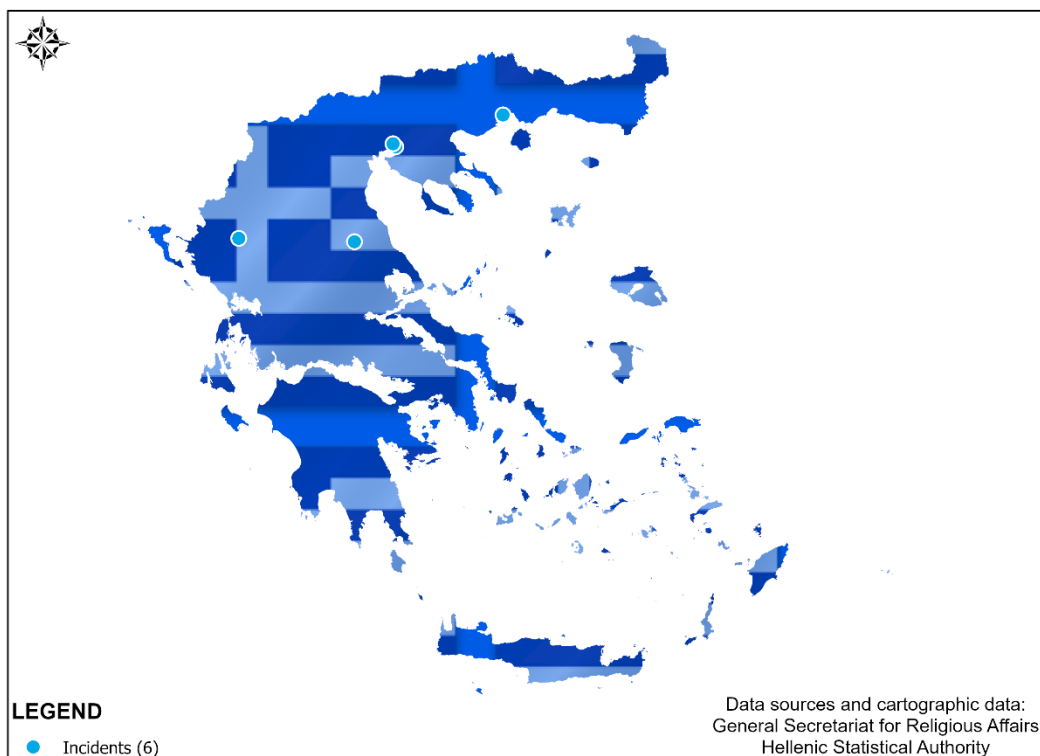


Figure 8: True Orthodox Christians (Old Calendarists)

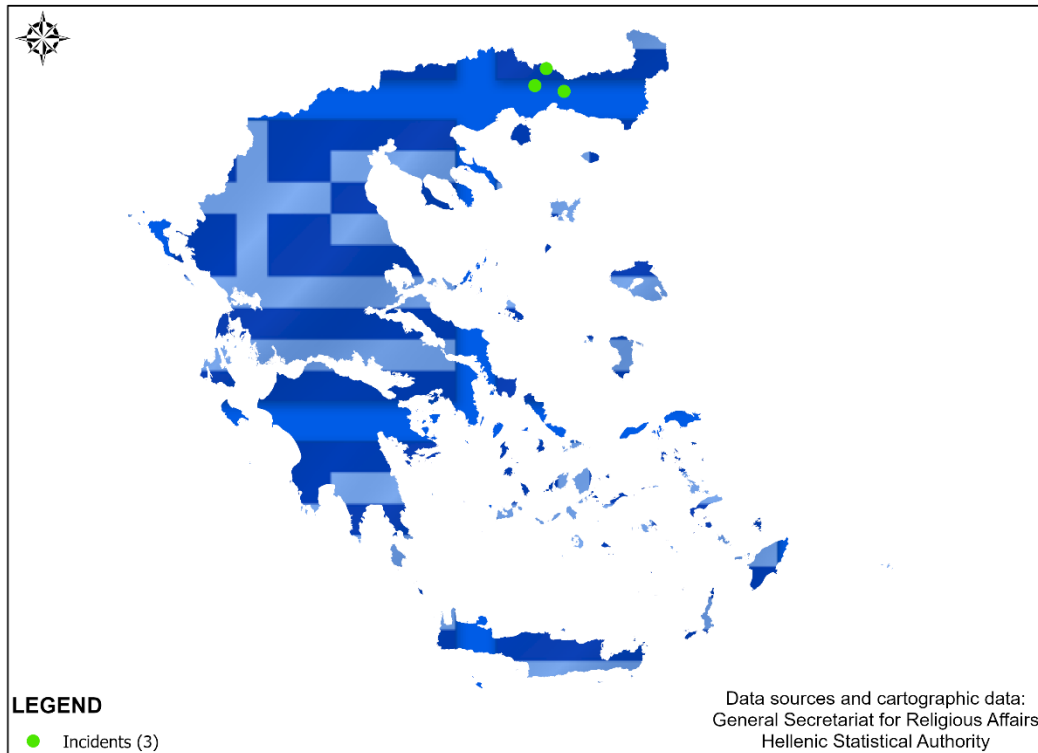


**Figure 9: Jehovah's Christian Witnesses**

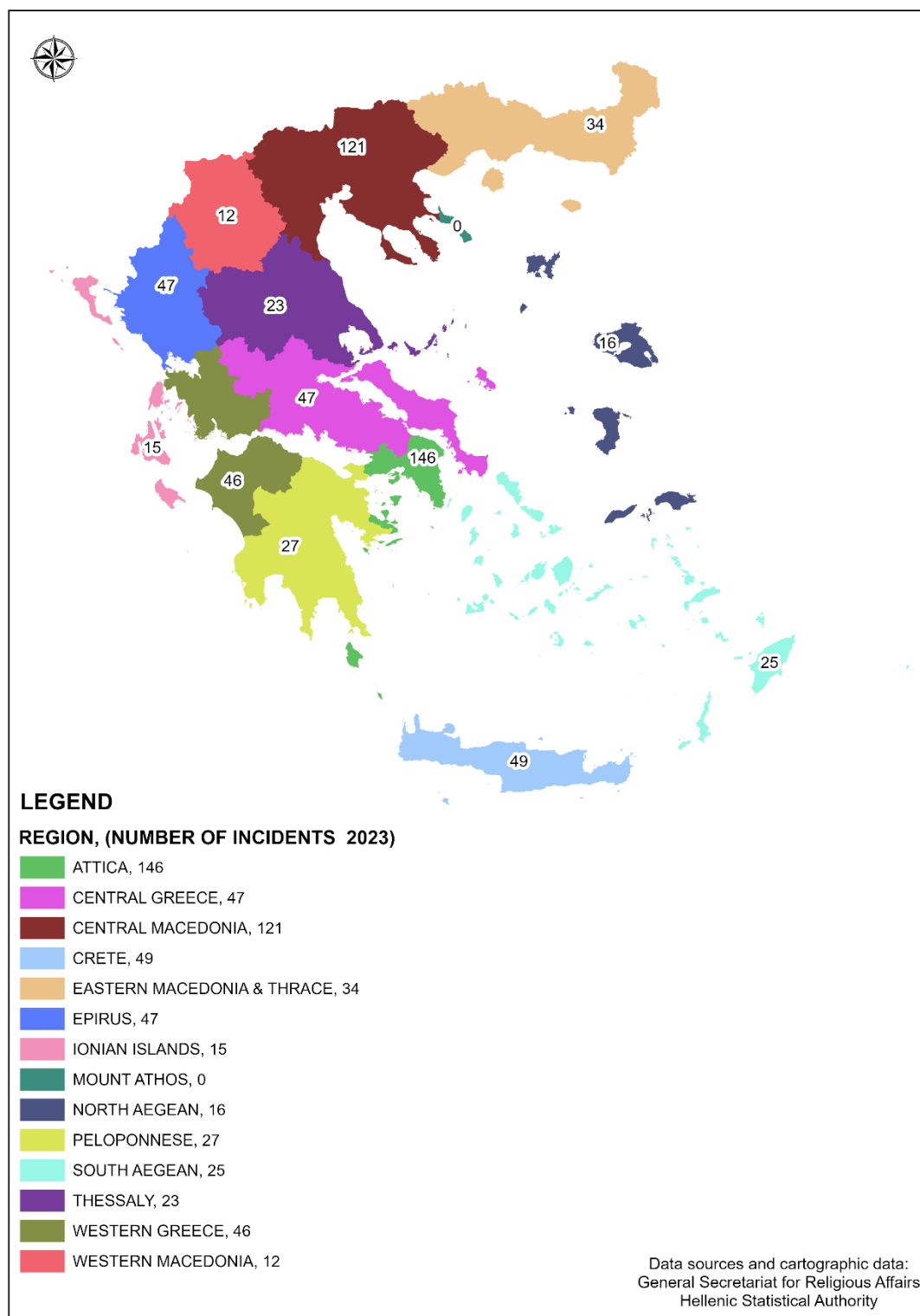


**Figure 10: Judaism**





**Figure 11: Islam**



**Figure 12: Geographical display of the total number of Incidents against all Religions by Administrative Region**

## B. Statistical presentation of total number of incidents

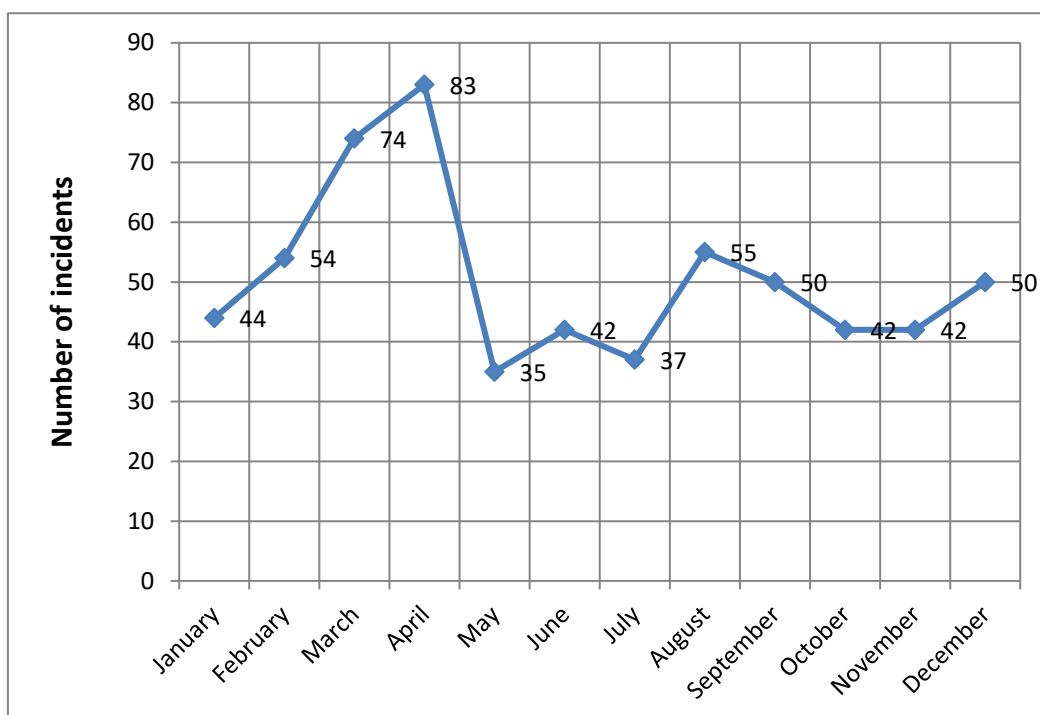


Figure 13: Total number of incidents against all Religions by month

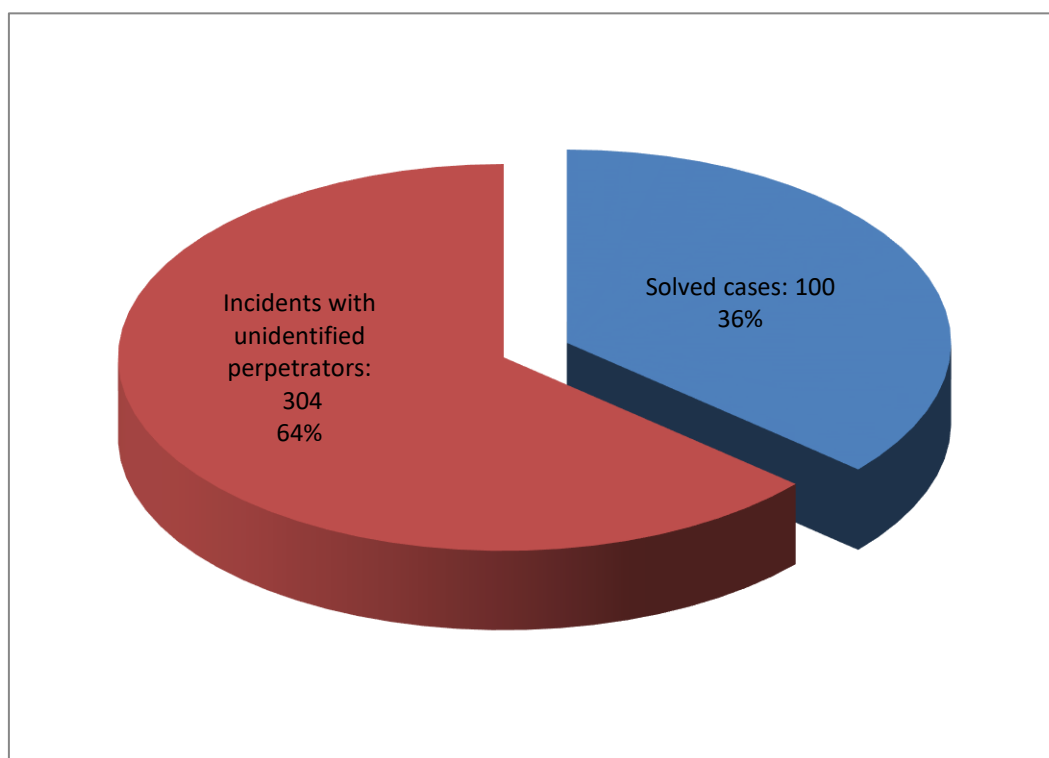


Figure 14: Solved and unsolved cases of incidents of all Religions

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