OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2016 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/bulgaria

For more information about ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, visit: hatecrime.osce.org/our-methodology

1 2016

Summary

Bulgaria regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Bulgaria implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme from 2012 until 2017. Bulgaria also took part in ODIHR's project on "Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime", helping to develop a joint training programme for police and prosecutors that was piloted in the country. Bulgaria has also made efforts to improve hate crime identification, recording and data collection systems through ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme. ODIHR completed a review of Bulgaria's hate crime legislation in 2018.

Hate crime data collection in Bulgaria
Support for hate crime victims in Bulgaria
Hate crime capacity building in Bulgaria
Bulgaria's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR observes that the law enforcement agencies of Bulgaria have not recorded the bias motivations of hate crimes.

Official Data

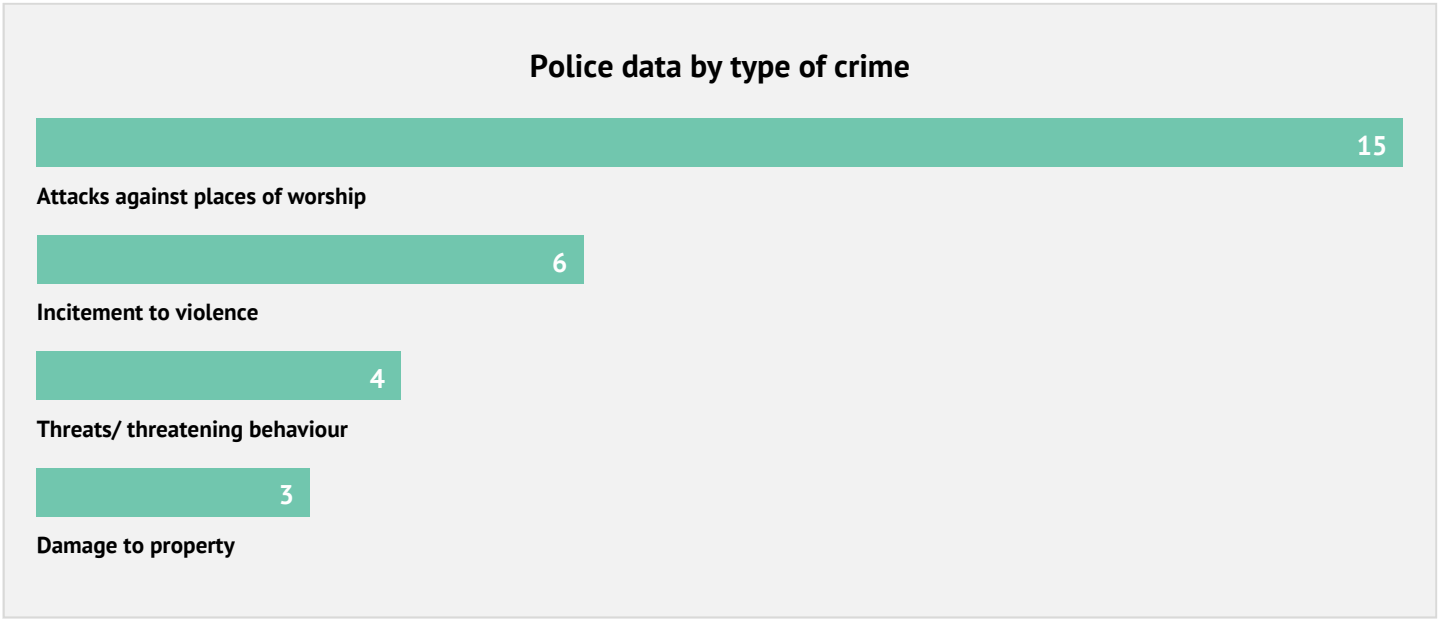
The numbers recorded by the police refer to cases registered under substantive offence and specific penalty enhancement provisions in the Bulgarian Criminal Code. The statistic provided by the Office of the Prosecutor indicates the number of pre-trial proceedings brought to court under provisions, some of which fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime. The sentencing figure refers to cases registered by the Supreme Judicial Council in which the decisions have been issued in 2016. All official numbers include hate crime committed out of “hooligan motives,” which may fall outside of the OSCE's definition.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2016	28	299	71

Police data by bias motivation

28

Unspecified

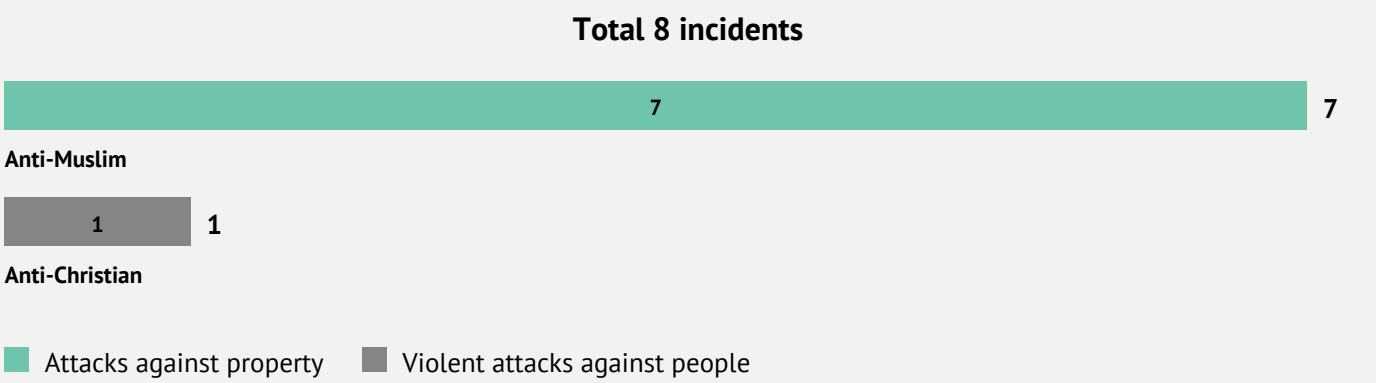

Police data by type of crime
15
Attacks against places of worship
6
Incitement to violence
4
Threats/ threatening behaviour
3
Damage to property

National Developments

Eighty-five investigating police officers from the Investigation Department at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works participated in a training workshop on "Practical difficulties in the investigation of crimes with a discriminatory element."

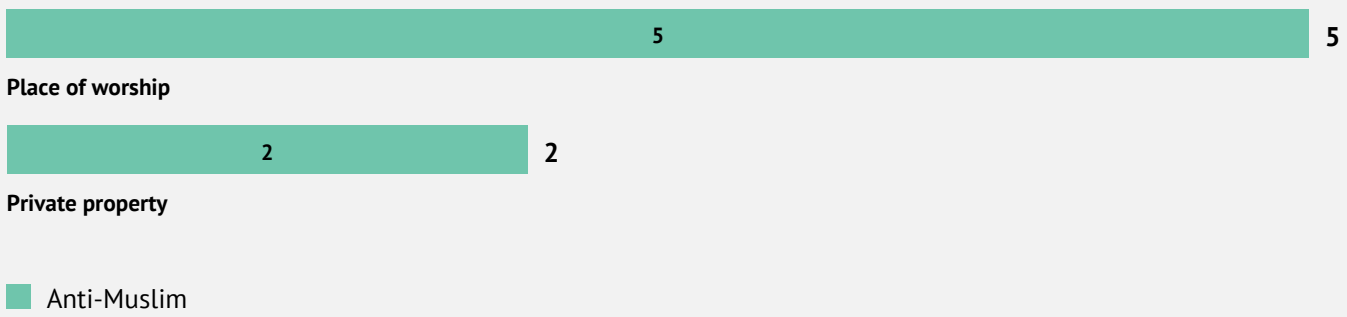
The Ministry of the Interior prepared two curricula for both new recruits and experienced police officers on working in multicultural environments, the use of force, aids and weapons from police authorities, anti-discrimination and hate crimes. The programme prepared 41 officers as trainers to further cascade the courses. This was part of a programme funded by Norway.

Incidents reported by civil society

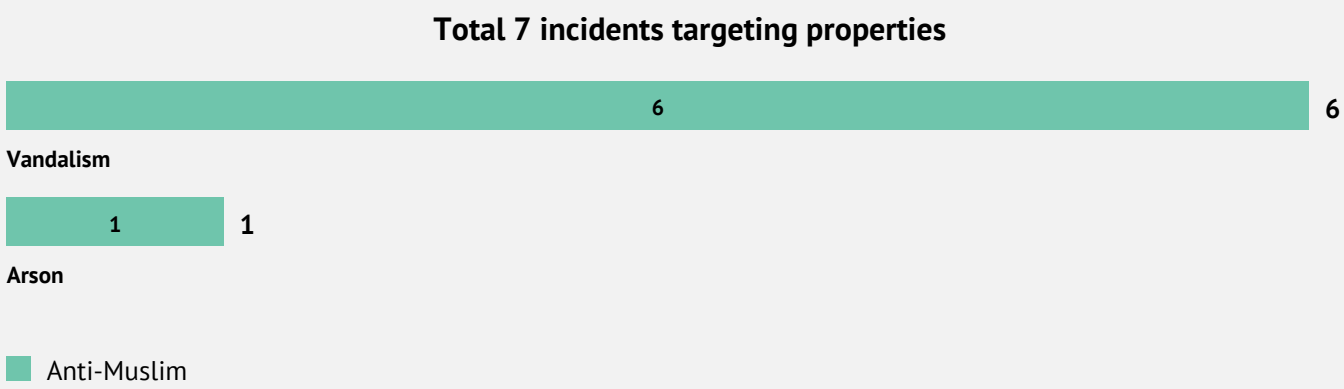


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Bulgaria, 2016