OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 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 2021

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 recognizes Bulgaria's efforts to regularly report hate crimes to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that Bulgaria's law enforcement agencies have not recorded the bias motivations of hate crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Bulgaria would benefit from reviewing its existing legal framework to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

The numbers recorded by the police refer to cases registered under substantive offences, some of which may be hate speech provisions. Along with offences committed out of "hooligan motives", such offences fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. The records on prosecuted cases and sentencing judgments also include discrimination-based offences, which fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition.

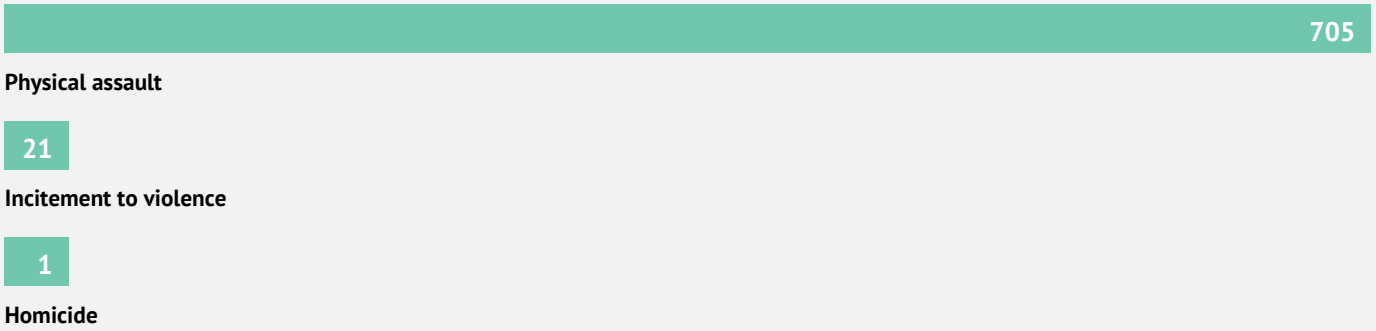
Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	18	384	303

Police data by bias motivation

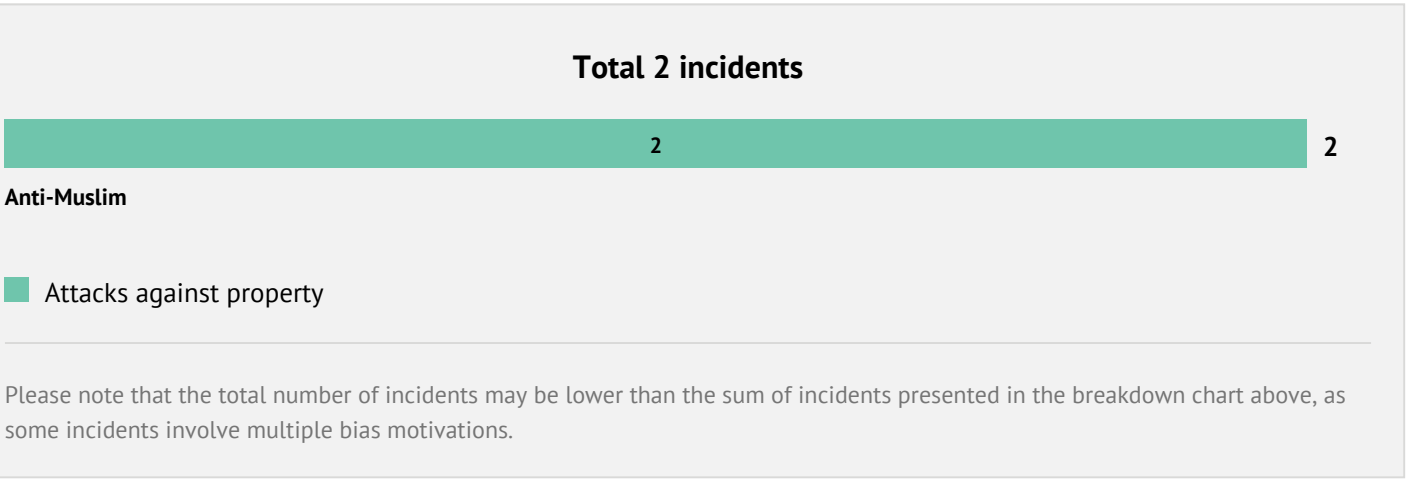
727

Unspecified

Police data by type of crime

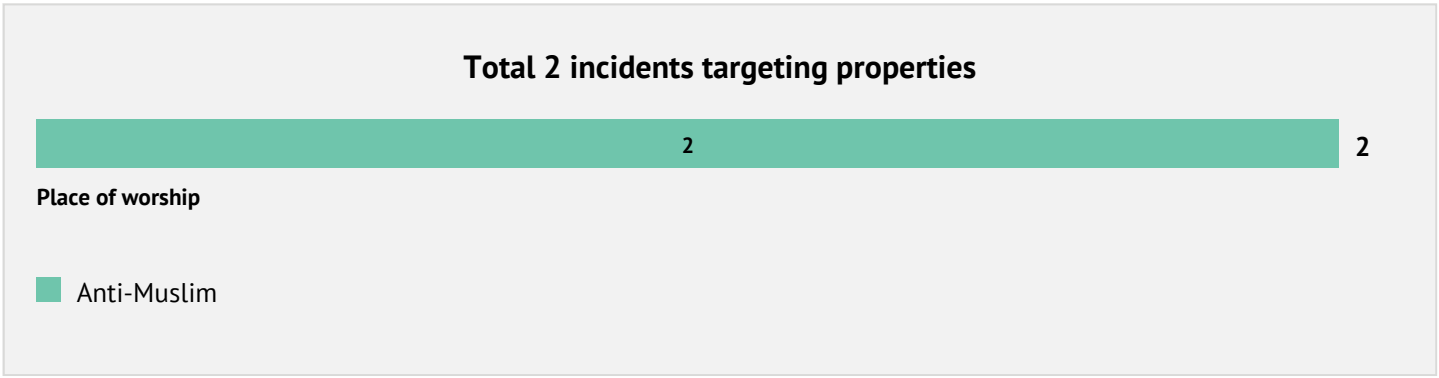


Incidents reported by civil society

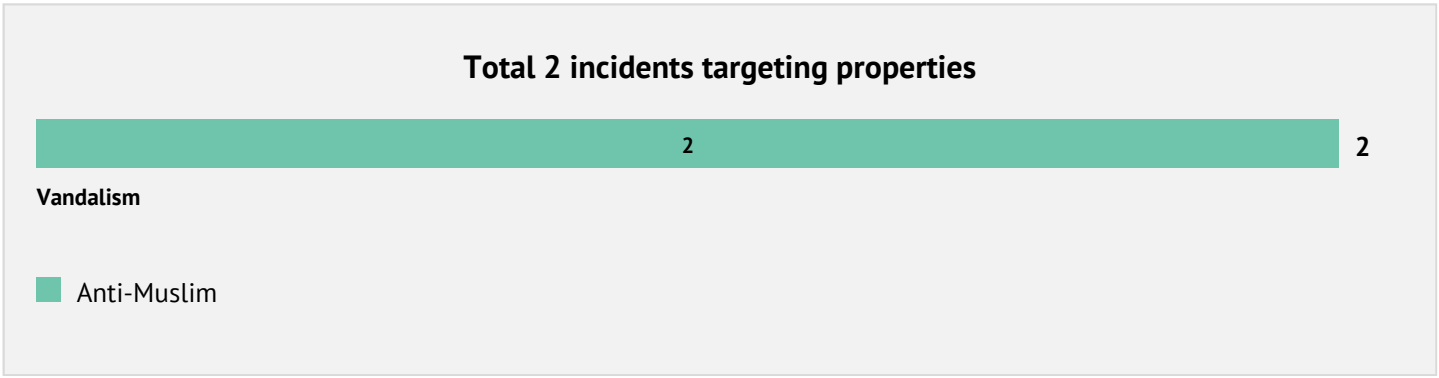


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Bulgaria, 2021