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/turkiye

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

1 2021

Summary

Türkiye regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Türkiye implemented ODIHR's Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme following a memorandum of understanding signed in 2016.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Turkey's efforts to improve mechanisms to record and collect data on hate crimes through the National Human Rights Action Plan. Turkey is encouraged to continue these endeavours since, based on available information, ODIHR observes that law enforcement agencies have not recorded the bias motivations of hate crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Turkey would benefit from reviewing the existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

The discrepancy between the number of offences reported by police compared to prosecutorial records is due to the fact that most crimes are registered by prosecutors, and not by the police. It should also be noted that the numbers in this table relate only to criminal offences constituting threats and damage to places of worship and cemeteries (Articles 115 and 153 of the Criminal Code). Turkey has also reported a further 619 cases of discrimination and hate speech offences (including incitement to hatred) recorded by police (Articles 122, 135 and 216 of Turkey's Criminal Code), which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	87	210	374

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below consists of police records related to the offences of "Prevention of the Exercise of Freedom of Belief, Thought and Conviction", and "Damaging Places of Worship and Cemeteries" (Articles 115 and 153 of Turkey's Criminal Code). The offences of "Hatred and Discrimination", "Recording of Personal Data", and "Provoking the Public to Hatred, Hostility or Degrading the Public" (Articles 122, 135 and 216 of the Criminal Code of Turkey) were not included since they fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.



Unspecified

Cases recorded under the category "Attack against places of worship" also includes attacks against cemeteries. The category "Threats/Threatening behavior" includes offences under Article 115 (Prevention of the Exercise of Freedom of Belief, Thought and Conviction).

Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below consists of police records related to the offences of "Prevention of the Exercise of Freedom of Belief, Thought and Conviction", and "Damaging Places of Worship and Cemeteries" (Articles 115 and 153 of Turkey's Criminal Code). The offences of "Hatred and Discrimination", "Recording of Personal Data", and "Provoking the Public to Hatred, Hostility or Degrading the Public" (Articles 122, 135 and 216 of the Criminal Code of Turkey) were not included since they fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.



Attacks against places of worship



Threats/ threatening behaviour

National Developments

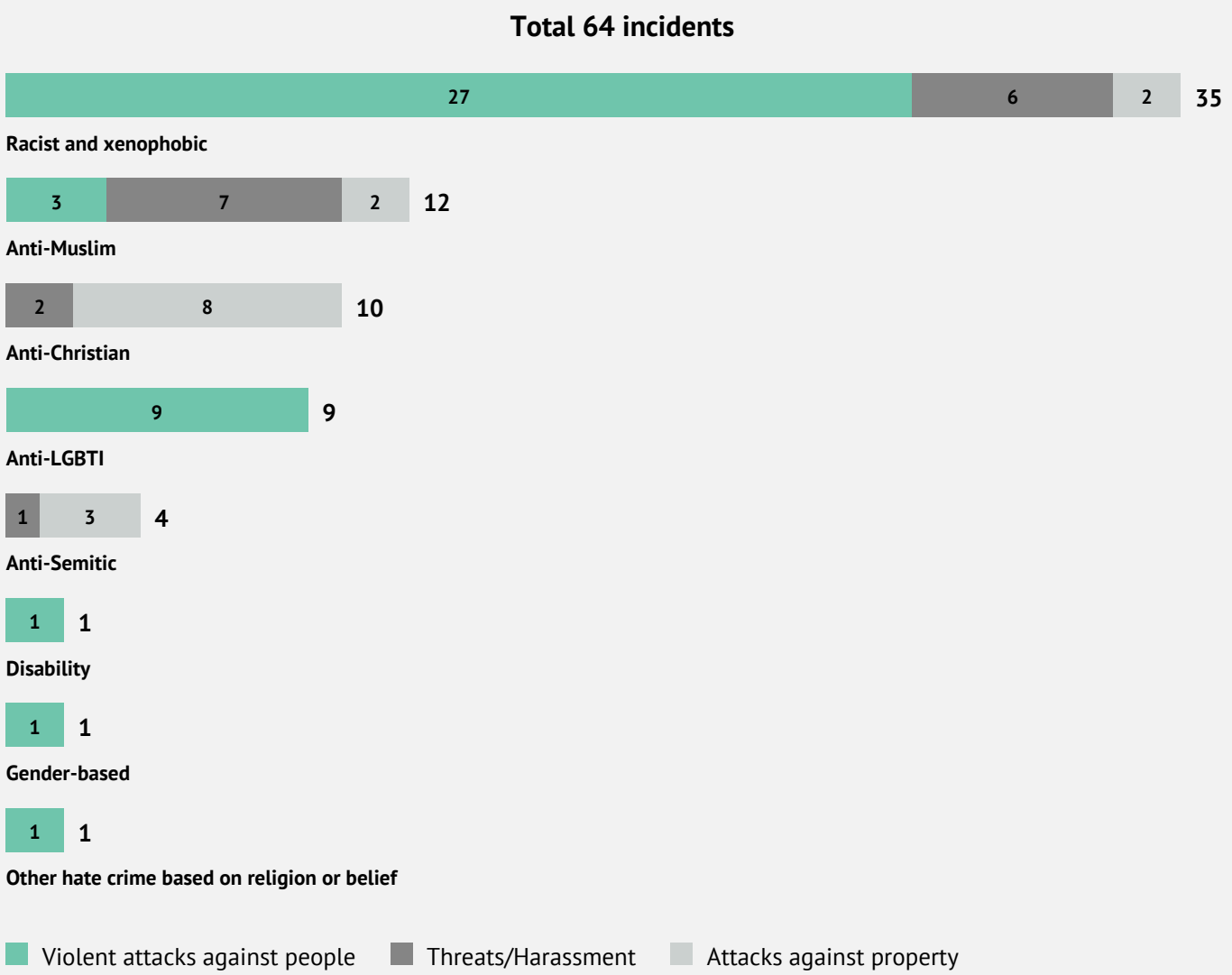
In March 2021, the **Turkish government** announced the Human Rights Action Plan (Action Plan), one goal of which is to address hate crime. The Action Plan includes a commitment to criminalize hate crime separately, and to take all the measures necessary to effectively fight these criminal offences. The Action Plan specifically mentions hate crimes based on language, religion, race, colour, sex, political views, philosophical beliefs, sect, or similar grounds, and acknowledges the impact of hate crime in targeting human dignity and undermining the peaceful coexistence of different groups.

The Action Plan requires the monitoring of national and international developments and the preparation of periodical reports on instances constituting discrimination or hate speech/crime (intolerance against Muslims, xenophobia, intolerance against migrants, and racism are mentioned). Furthermore, the Plan sets out amendments to the Turkish Criminal Code to include a new provision on discrimination and hate crimes, and envisages investigation guides aimed at effectively combating discrimination and hate crimes. Moreover, the plan requires continuous review of the Criminal Law Science Commission, and also sets out the psychosocial and legal support to be offered to the victims of discrimination and hate crimes. The creation of a database and the collection of statistics of offences and misdemeanours involving hate and discrimination is to be accompanied by training offered to law enforcement and prosecution staff. Finally, a handbook will be developed to raise awareness of hate crimes and discrimination to among media representatives.

A monitoring board has been established to monitor the Action Plan's implementation. The Board is chaired by the President of the Republic and consists of relevant ministers. The secretariat services of the Board, which convenes every six months, are carried out by the Ministry of Justice.

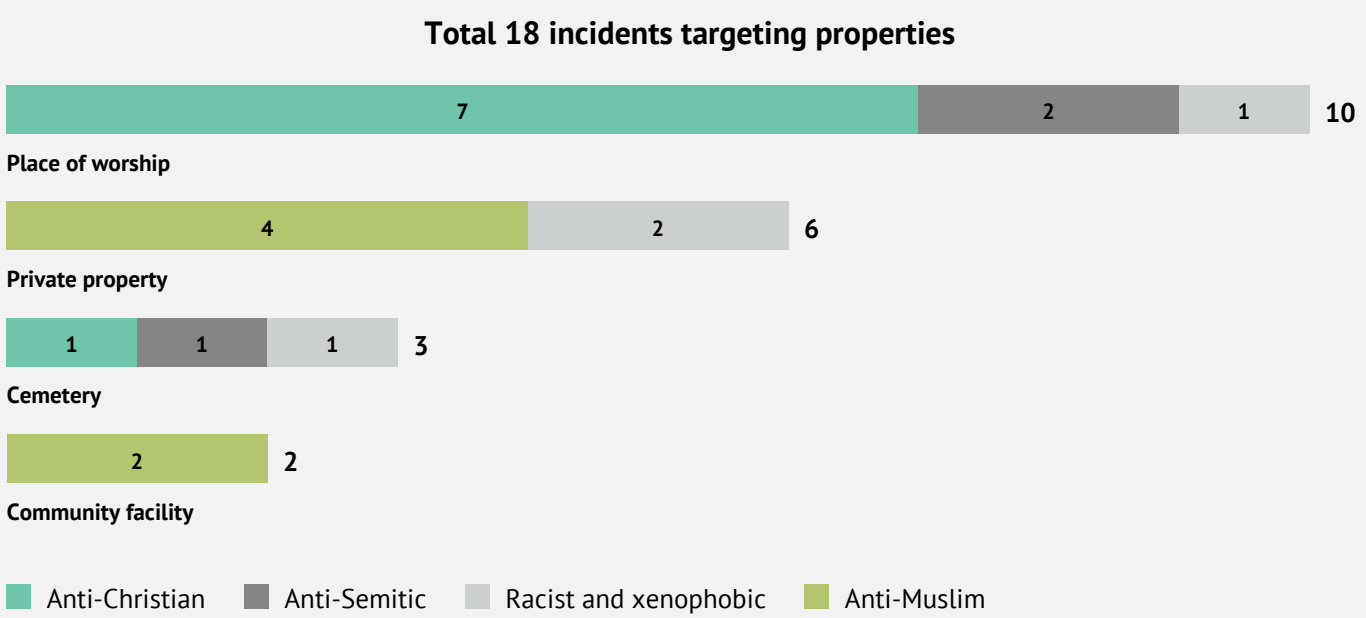
In October 2021, the **Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey** (TİHEK) organized a national symposium entitled "Hate Speech and Hate Crimes".

Incidents reported by civil society

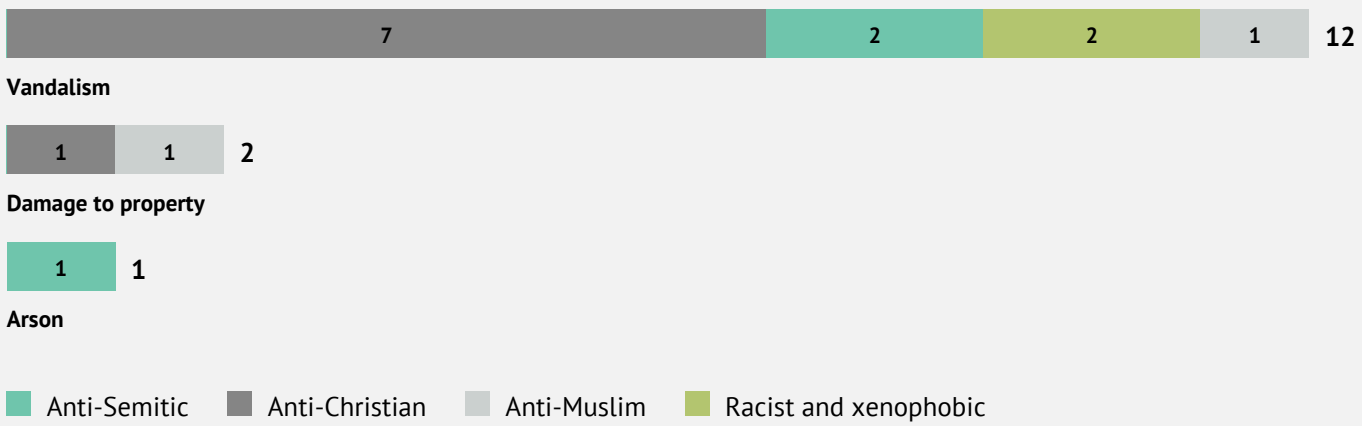


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Türkiye, 2021