

OBSERVATORY ON
INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE

REPORT
2018



OBSERVATORY ON INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE

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The Observatory's Mission

To contribute to a Europe where Christians may fully exercise their fundamental rights to freedom of religion, conscience, expression, and association, without fear of reprisals, censorship, threats, or violence.

Who we are

The *Observatory* on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians is a registered non-governmental organization in Austria and a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU-Fundamental Rights Agency.

What we do

- » **Research, analyze, document, and report** cases of intolerance and discrimination against Christians in Europe;
- » **Inform and educate** the public, lawmakers, and international institutions about the range of hostilities and marginalization Christians and Christian institutions face in Europe by providing reliable and objective data;
- » **Empower Christians** to tell their stories and freely live their faith in the public square;
- » **Advocate** for remedies; and
- » **Emphasize** the vital role religion plays in a mature and peaceful society.

The *Observatory's* task is to analyze the situation for Christians in Europe. We do so not in order to compare or diminish the persecution they experience in other parts of the world, but to stay vigilant in the protection of human rights.

Our work aims at encouraging victims of intolerance and discrimination to tell their stories, and to raise awareness among all people of good will that the phenomenon ought to be taken seriously and is in need of a common response.

Since 2005, we have published more than 2,100 cases of intolerance and discrimination against Christians in Europe.

Report a case!

Have you been discriminated against because of your Christian faith?

Have you been verbally attacked when stating a Christian position?

Have you heard or read media reports about an incident negatively affecting Christians or Christian buildings, symbols, or institutions?

If so, please email us your story:

observatory@intoleranceagainstchristians.eu

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Introduction

Persecution against Christians in 2016 and 2017 was at a record high, according to the Open Doors World Watch List, with over 200 million persecuted Christians in 50 countries. More than 3,000 Christians were killed in the most recent reporting period, more than twice in previous years.¹

The *Observatory's* task is to analyze the situation for Christians in Europe. We do so not in order to compare or diminish the persecution they experience in other parts of the world, but to stay vigilant in the protection of human rights. Our work aims at encouraging victims of intolerance and discrimination to tell their stories, and to raise awareness among all people of good will that the phenomenon ought to be taken seriously and is in need of a common response.

In April 2016, Pope Francis said there are two types of Christian persecution. The first is the clear and explicit targeting of a person for confessing the name of Christ, such as the martyrdom of Pakistani Christians on Easter in March 2016. The second form is more subtle: what Pope Francis called “**polite persecution**.” It is “disguised as culture, disguised as modernity, disguised as progress ... When someone is persecuted not for confessing Christ’s name, but for wanting to demonstrate the values of the Son of God.”²

He went on to say “we see every day that the powerful make laws that force people to take this path, and a nation that does not follow this modern collection of laws, or at least that does not want to have them in its legislation, is accused, is politely persecuted.” This is form of persecution “takes away man’s freedom,” including the right to conscientious objection. “God made us free, but this kind of persecution takes away freedom!”

“If you don’t do this, you will be punished: you’ll lose your job and many other things, or you’ll be set aside.”³

Across Europe, Christians have been fired, sued, and even arrested for exercising their freedom of expression or conscience. Christian-run businesses have been ruined financially, Christian student groups have been silenced, and Christian symbols and celebrations have been removed from the public square.

But Christians in Europe are not simply experiencing “polite persecution.” Christians, including clergy, have been killed or attacked for their faith. As in 2015,⁴ we have continued to see threats and attacks against Christian refugees and asylum seekers in Europe. We have seen churches all over Europe vandalized, robbed, and burned; and Christian symbols destroyed.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) published its annual report on hate crimes in the year 2016 on November 16, 2017 (the most recent available report).⁵ The report provides an overview of official data collected on hate crimes, including hate crimes against Christians, as well as hate incidents reported by civil society organizations. In 2016, 166 of the incidents submitted by the *Observatory* were included in the final report.

The number of hate incidents reported to the ODIHR does not always provide a complete picture of the situation for Christians in Europe. While we commend the ODIHR for gathering data from civil society organizations such as the *Observatory*, we note that incidents that qualify for inclusion in the hate crime report constitute a small fraction of the intolerance, discrimination, and legal restrictions Christians face in some countries in Europe.

In *Part One* of this report, we explain the range of hostilities, marginalization, and violence experienced by Christians in Europe. We explain the terms we use and introduce new ones, take a look at the motivations behind the incidents we report, discuss the categories of perpetrators of such incidents, and give examples from 2016 and 2017. Additionally, we offer our recommendations.

We encourage the readers of this report to use similar terms in their own discourse as a concrete way to raise awareness about the intolerance and discrimination Christians in Europe face in many facets of their lives.

In *Part Two*, we provide short descriptions of more than 500 cases of intolerance and discrimination against Christians in Europe we collected in 2016 and 2017, along with links for more information.

Ellen Fantini
Vienna, April 2018

Part One

Defining Terms



“Intolerance” refers to the cultural or social dimension, including hate crimes.

“Discrimination” refers to the legal dimension and denial of rights and access to justice.

“Squeeze” refers to the pressure Christians experience in all areas of life.

“Smash” refers to violence and aggression.

“Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians” is the phrase we use to describe the ranges of hostilities and marginalization Christians and Christian institutions face in Europe.

The term “**intolerance**” refers to the cultural or social dimension and at its worst, includes hate crimes against Christians; the term “**discrimination**” refers to the legal dimension and includes interference with freedom of expression, religion, conscience, association and assembly, rights of parents, contractual freedom, governmental removal of Christian symbols, laws that negatively impact Christians, and unequal access to justice.

We find that two terms, “**squeeze**” and “**smash**” used by the Christian charity Open Doors in its annual World Watch List⁶ to be informative as we discuss the situation for Christians in Europe. While the World Watch List tracks and reports the most extreme persecution⁷ of Christians, the concepts are useful in analyzing the situation facing Christians in Europe.

“SQUEEZE”

We witness Christians being “squeezed” in many different ways in Europe: from interference with

freedoms of conscience, expression, and association to denial of access to justice and legal services. The rights of Christian parents to raise their children in conformity with their faith are infringed. Christian-owned businesses are sued or forced out of business because of discriminatory ‘equality’ policies. Christian religious symbols are removed from the public square, Christians are subjected to negative stereotyping in the media, and Christian groups are excluded from university campuses.

“SMASH”

“Smash” describes incidents of violence or aggression, and ranges from vandalism and desecration of Christian sites to threats and physical violence against Christians because of their faith. Many of these incidents are also known as “**hate crimes**.”

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) defines a “hate crime” as an incident with two distinct elements or features: first, the act is a criminal offense, and second, that it is motivated by a bias or prejudice towards a particular group of people.

Chapter Two

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS TARGETED? ENGINES OF INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AND THE PERPETRATORS WHO DRIVE THEM

Incidents can be motivated by:

- » Opposition to individual aspects of the Christian faith;
- » Opposition to moral positions that are intrinsically part of the Christian faith, particularly relating to marriage and life issues;
- » A negative bias against Christians, Christianity, particular Christian denominations, or religion generally.

Such opposition and bias leads to attacks on the **social level** (such as physical attacks against individual Christians or Christian sites, negative stereotyping, and social exclusion), on the **legal level** (for instance, through discriminatory laws or a biased application of facially 'neutral' laws), and on the **political level** (such as exclusion of Christians and Christian symbols from the public sphere, a resolution of a parliament, or governmental underreporting of crimes committed against Christians).

Bias motivations are not always obvious, or there may be mixed motivations behind incidents. Sometimes, since criminals rarely announce their motives, we must infer a motivation. Sometimes actions speak louder than words.

Open Doors' World Watch Research uses the term "persecution engine" to describe a distinct societal situation which causes Christians to be persecuted either violently or non-violently. Open Doors has identified eight "**persecution engines**" across the globe.⁸ Although there is always the potential for other engines to emerge in Europe, the "engines" we see most often in Europe fit into the categories of "secular intolerance" and "Islamic oppression."

The "**drivers**" of persecution engines (perpetrators of incidents) range from government officials and political parties to ideological pressure groups and members of the general public; from violent religious groups to multilateral organizations.⁹

"**Secular intolerance**" refers to attempts to erase religion from the public and private domain. It can include opposition to traditional Christian views on marriage, sexuality, and life issues. The drivers within this group include multilateral organizations, government officials, political parties, special interest groups, the media, and the general public.

"**Islamic oppression**" is described by Open Doors as attempts to bring the country or the world under the "House of Islam" through violent or non-violent action, including the use of militant force or gradual Islamization. Drivers of this engine include special interest groups, political parties, radicalized individuals, as well as ISIS-sponsored "soldiers."

While we do not see *governmental* drivers of Islamic oppression in Europe, we have observed examples of non-State drivers. Examples include attacks on individual Christians, clergy, churches, and Christian celebrations, vandalism of Christian sites for ideological reasons, and (as we examined in depth in 2015)¹⁰ harassment, threats, and violence directed specifically at converts from Islam to Christianity, particularly among refugees.

EXAMPLES OF "SQUEEZE"

- » In France, a pharmacist was sanctioned for refusing to sell an IUD, the abortifacient device.¹¹ Swedish pro-life midwives who refused to participate in abortions lost appeals challenging their employment termination cases and were ordered to pay court costs.¹² A Catholic nursing home in Belgium was fined for preventing doctors from giving a lethal injection¹³ and a Christian nursing home in Switzerland was ordered to allow assisted suicide on its premises or risk losing its charitable status.¹⁴
- » Christian business owners found themselves in court. The owners of Ashers Baking in Belfast lost their appeal of a 2015 discrimination conviction for refusing to bake a cake depicting two Sesame Street characters with the message: "Support Gay Marriage." In April 2018, the Supreme Court will hear their appeal.¹⁵

- » In the United Kingdom, two magistrates were disciplined for expressing their views on same-sex parenting¹⁶ and a court ruled that a university acted lawfully when it expelled a graduate student for posting his support of Biblical teaching on marriage and sexual ethics on his personal Facebook page.¹⁷
- » In Spain, bishops were threatened with prosecution for having written and published a condemnation of Madrid's "Law of Integral Protection against LGBTIphobia and Discrimination for Reasons of Orientation and Sexual Identity."¹⁸ And a hate speech complaint was filed against a Granada bishop for a homily in which he criticized gender ideology in the education of children.¹⁹
- » Christian refugees were harassed by Muslim security staff at the Berlin office for health and social affairs after Muslim refugees at the regional office complained about having to sit in the waiting room with "impure Christians." Security staff responded by banning the Christians for six months.²⁰

EXAMPLES OF "SMASH"

- » A priest was murdered in an attack on a French church in July 2016. Father Jacques Hamel, 84, died after his throat was slit during an attack on the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray by two armed men who were called "soldiers" by ISIS.²¹
- » A 27-year old Muslim man was found guilty and given a life sentence for the murder of a 70-year-old woman in Bad Friedrichshall, Germany in May 2016. After strangling the woman with a telephone cord, Abubaker C. left writing on the wall "It's pay-back time" and put a cross in the woman's hands. He then stole valuables and fled. The prosecution argued that one of the murderer's motives was to kill a "disbeliever."²²
- » In Germany, Daniel E. was sentenced to life in prison on January 30, 2017, for the August 2016 premeditated murder of his Christian flat mate. The self-proclaimed "antitheist" admitted killing her because of his hatred of all religion. The judge said, "He killed

her as a representative of her religion because he could not kill all believers."²³

- » A Christian family was forced to flee their home in the United Kingdom under armed police guard amid fears for their safety after suffering what they say is eight years of persecution by members of the Muslim community for converting from Islam to Christianity.²⁴
- » In December 2016, Anis Amri, a 24-year old Tunisian man, stole a truck and intentionally drove it into a crowded Christmas market near the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in West Berlin, leaving 12 dead and more than 50 injured. ISIS claimed responsibility, and the driver pledged allegiance to ISIS, calling on his "Muslim brothers everywhere ... Those in Europe, kill the crusader pigs." "Crusaders" refers to Christians in ISIS rhetoric. While in the Italian prison in Sicily, Anis Amri threatened one of his fellow prisoners: "You are Christian and I will cut your head off," demonstrating the attacker's pre-existing bias against Christians.²⁵
- » In 2016, 14 young Christian Iranians were forced to flee their refugee accommodations after being threatened with death for months by a group of Muslims living in a tent city in Germany.²⁶
- » In April 2017, two Polish women were on their way home after having attended Mass on Palm Sunday in Brussels. They walked through an Arabic neighborhood where they were attacked by a man who physically assaulted them while cursing at them both in Arabic and French.²⁷
- » In Spain, a nun was assaulted in June 2017. The assailant hit Sister Rosario in the face and said "this is for being a nun" ["esto por ser monja"].²⁸
- » In July 2017, three teenagers attacked a 39-year-old man on a tram in Berlin who was wearing two wooden Christian crosses on a chain around his neck. They pointed at the necklace and asked in broken German "what's that?" The teenagers, who appeared to be North African, proceeded to taunt him with insults and slapped him in the face repeatedly.²⁹

According to a Christian Solidarity International report, and testimony of Christian refugees at the Syrisch-Orthodoxe Kirche von Antiochien in Österreich:

Every day they were forced by Muslim refugees to wake at 6:00 a.m. and pray with them. They were constantly told how wrong the Christian faith is and that they should leave their faith and their families and convert to Islam.

They were subjected to physical violence when they defended their beliefs. They were forbidden to read the bible and if they refused to put the book aside, they were assaulted.

During Ramadan they were forbidden from even smelling their food because it was sinful. They were constantly called "the unbelievers."

They had to hide their personal belongings under their pillows for fear of their things being stolen.

One Christian refugee collapsed and no one helped him because he was "impure and shouldn't be touched."

Chapter Three

RESPONSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Intolerance and discrimination against Christians — the squeeze and smash — affects all of us in Europe, including non-Christians. It concerns everyone, and only through increased awareness and appropriate responses at all levels of society, will the situation improve.

We offer the following recommendations as positive steps toward respect for human rights in general and in particular for freedom of religion or belief:

WE ASK ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL:

To respect and tolerate Christianity, Christians, and Christian moral positions in private and in public.

Not to tolerate hate incidents against Christians, just as hate incidents against others are not tolerated.

As employers, to reasonably accommodate the Christian beliefs of your staff, especially with regard to Sunday observance, the wearing of religious symbols and the expressions of faith and values, in the workplace or in private, as well as to accommodate conscientious objections.

As a member of a political lobby group which disapproves of Christian values or the Christian faith, employ the same standards with Christians which you would like to see employed with yourself; to be tolerant and fair; and to employ only democratic means in achieving your goals.

WE RECOMMEND TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS:

To ensure the exercise of freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the right to conscientious objection.

To refrain from introducing legislation that discriminates directly or indirectly against Christians or interferes with freedom of religion.

To recognize and condemn intolerance and discrimination against Christians and ensure the right of Christians to participate fully in public life.

To collect disaggregated data with the specific aim of monitoring hate crimes against Christians and against religious properties and compile national reports on hate crimes.

To develop and implement national action plans to prevent and respond to hate crimes.

With regard to Christian refugees and asylum seekers:

To declare the systematic targeting and killing of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria genocide.

To recognize the special status of Christian and other religious minority refugees and asylum seekers.

Train and educate police, social welfare office staff, and accommodation security on the topic of religiously-motivated conflict among refugees.

WE RECOMMEND TO THE EUROPEAN UNION:

Not to adopt non-discrimination legislation that significantly limits freedom of expression, association, and religion.

To recognize the special status of Christian and other religious minority refugees and asylum seekers.

To examine European Union legislation with regard to direct or indirect discrimination against Christians.

To the Fundamental Rights Agency: to continue make freedom of religion, expression, and conscience a priority of their work.

WE RECOMMEND TO INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS:

To report on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and recommend appropriate action to member states.

To encourage governments to monitor the situation of Christians carefully and to collect disaggregated data on hate incidents and crimes, including vandalism, against Christians.

To examine their own documents and recommendations with regard to indirect discrimination against Christians.

To develop and strengthen capacity building activities for the protection of religious properties.

TO JOURNALISTS, OPINION LEADERS, AND ARTISTS:

Journalists should take care not to perpetuate marginalization or negative stereotyping of Christians in their reporting.

Opinion leaders must be aware of their responsibility in shaping a tolerant public discourse, and should refrain from negative stereotyping of Christians or Christianity.

Artists should be respectful of religious sites and symbols, bearing in mind that the object of their art might be most holy to religious believers.

Photo: Deutscher Alpenverein/DAV, Bad Tölz.

A scenic mountain landscape under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a wooden cross stands on a dirt path. The cross is made of weathered wood and has a metal plaque on its vertical post. The plaque features a circular emblem with a figure and some text. A white cable is attached to the cross. To the left of the cross is a stone marker with the letter 'T' and the number '231' on it. In the background, there are rolling mountains, a valley with a lake, and a small town. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Part Two

Incidents of Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe – 2016 & 2017

We regularly monitor media, newsletters, and regional observatories and religious freedom organizations across Europe to collect our data. We also receive information on incidents submitted by concerned people via our website's "Report a Case" tool.

In 2016, we documented over 250 incidents; and in 2017, over 275. Our 2015 report presented over 180 incidents.

We present incidents by country, providing a short summary of the facts. Click on the case title for detailed information about the incident on our **website**.

AUSTRIA

Church Vandalized near Graz¹

February 8, 2016: An unknown vandal left graffiti on the parish church in Kalsdorf bei Graz. The graffiti included vague symbols and letter combinations, as well as a swastika smeared on the pillar of the church canopy.

Armed Robbery in Upper Austria Church²

March 9, 2016: Three men entered the rectory of the Catholic parish in Laakirchen and, armed with a handgun, demanded cash from the priest and a member of his staff. The perpetrators stole the contents of the safe and bound the 56-year-old priest, Franz Starlinger, and his 59-year-old employee with cable ties and adhesive tape. The two victims were able to free themselves and, although physically unharmed, were deeply shocked by this attack.

Greens Demanded Ban on Pro-Life Presentations at Schools³

April 2016: In April, members of the Green Party in Austria submitted a Parliamentary Question to evaluate possible actions to stop pro-life workshops in religious education.

Christian Refugees Face Discrimination in Austria⁴

May 12, 2016: According to Christian Solidarity International (CSI) report,⁵ Christian refugees were repeatedly discriminated against in Austrian refugee centers. CSI received numerous reports about Christian refugees who were harassed, assaulted, or threatened with death by Muslim refugees in accommodations in Austria. Examples of harassment included being forced

to wake early in the morning to pray, being told they were impure, and having belongings stolen.

Christian Kindergarten Advent Performance Disrupted by Man Carrying Koran⁶

December 17, 2016: During a children's performance in Schwanenstadt, attended by parents and relatives, a 24-year-old Somali man with a backpack and plastic bag got on stage and began waving around the Koran. When people tried to remove him, he resisted and began shouting "Allah."

Woman Attacked for Reading from Bible⁷

December 28, 2016: A 22-year-old man from Afghanistan stabbed a Christian woman when he heard her reading from the Bible at a refugee accommodation in Upper Austria. Her alleged attacker was apparently offended by the fact that the woman had been invited by Christian residents of the property to discuss the Bible.

Forest Chapel in Auerbach Vandalized⁸

December 31, 2016: Unknown perpetrators broke into the forest chapel, threw stones at the altar, smashed two glass domes containing statues of the Virgin Mary, and stole and destroyed 22 paintings and murals hung by pilgrims visiting the chapel.

Chapel in Brunau am Inn the Victim of Theft and Vandalism⁹

January 1, 2017: Unknown perpetrators beheaded a

statue of St. Barbara and stole a Christ figure from a cross and several other sacred objects. Damage was estimated at around 5,000 euros.

Chapel in St. Rade Gund Damaged by Vandals¹⁰

January 1, 2017: On New Year's Eve, unknown perpetrators vandalized a chapel, damaging a statue of the Virgin Mary and burned prayer books and wooden objects nearby. Damage was estimated at around 1,000 euros.

Vienna Church Vandalized with Anarchist Graffiti¹¹

February 11, 2017: The outside walls of the church of Maria am Gestade was sprayed with the anarchist "A" symbol and the word "Antifa."

Man Filmed Attacking Cross in Austria¹²

May 8, 2017: A group of youths filmed a man as he attacked a life-sized Jesus figure on a cross in the church square of St. Marein. The man, identified by police as a "37-year-old from the Weiz district," first shook the cross to make it fall but when unsuccessful he then proceeded to rip out a wind organ from the ground and hit the cross with it. The man's rampage continued on the church grounds as he broke the two glass doors of the parish and several flower pots before being arrested. Damage was estimated to be well over 15,000 euros.

Statue of Saint Beheaded in Neusiedl am See¹³

July 27, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke off and stole the head from a 300-year-old statue of Saint Rosalia in the middle of the main square of the town in Burgenland. Police initiated an investigation after local residents discovered the vandalism.

Wooden Christ Statue Decapitated on Mountaintop¹⁴

August 7, 2017: A hand-carved figure of Jesus Christ on a cross was placed at 789 meters on the north side of the Traunstein mountain in Gmunden, Austria by members of the alpine club as a gift to a member. They discovered the statue had been decapitated with a saw when they arrived to present the gift.

Break-in and Vandalism at Erlauf Church¹⁵

August 21, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke into the church in Erlauf sometime during the night of August 20th to 21st. All the money in the church had been

removed on the Sunday after the Mass, but the sacristy was ransacked, with boxes emptied and overturned.

Burglary in Schwadorf Parish¹⁶

August 23, 2017: Burglars broke into the parish church in Schwadorf through a terrace door. After being unable to break into the office, they entered the priest's apartment. According to the police, cash and valuables were stolen, including a jewelry box and a clock. Afterwards, the perpetrators sprayed a fire extinguisher on the floor in the entrance of the apartment, in the stairwell of the parish center, and on the ground floor, to obliterate their footprints.

Devastating Vandalism in Wieselburg Parish Church¹⁷

August 28, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke into the church, forced open the sacristy door. They caused enormous material damage, including cutting all electrical cables, destroying armchair upholstery, tearing the tabernacle from the altar, destroying the Easter candle, and stealing a few hundred euros in cash. In addition, the vandals poured sand on the church floor and made the sign of a pentagram, according to the police.

Wayside Crucifix Demolished in Southern Styria¹⁸

September 2, 2017: The figure of a crucified Jesus Christ was destroyed, left hanging without arms or legs, on a wayside cross on a hiking trail in the district of Harla.

Three Roadside Crucifixes Heavily Damaged in Styria¹⁹

September 4, 2017: According to police in St. Stefan im Rosental, three roadside Jesus figures were forcibly removed from crosses, demolished, and stolen. Only parts of the figures remained on the crosses. All three cases were reported between August 31st and September 5th. In total, a loss of several hundred euros was incurred.

Styria: Arson in Church²⁰

September 11, 2017: Several confessional doors in the Church of the Holy Family in Kapfenberg (Diocese of Graz-Seckau) were set on fire. Because the fire was quickly discovered by church visitors, a greater degree of damage was avoided. The property damage included the confessionals, a song book stand, and charred song books. Police were called to investigate.

Offertory Box Stolen from St. Stephan's Cathedral²¹

September 30, 2017: In the early morning hours of

September 30th, an unknown burglar entered the door to the northern tower into the cathedral in Vienna. After stealing a donation box, the individual fled. Seven police cars and several police dogs arrived to investigate but were unsuccessful in locating the perpetrator.

“Allahu Akbar” Graffiti on Church²²

October 8, 2017: Unknown perpetrators in Ybbs (district of Melk) sprayed graffiti with messages such as “Allahu Akbar” (“God is great”), “Bomb the Kids”, and “Bomb the Church” in various areas of the town, including on a church. Police began an investigation and offered a reward for information.

BELGIUM

Brussels Christmas Tree Destroyed by Petrol Bomb²³

January 3, 2016: Youths in Brussels yelled “Allahu Akbar” as they set fire to a Christmas tree in a public square using a homemade petrol bomb.

Church the Victim of Two Fires in One Day²⁵

May 24, 2016: In Mont-Sainte-Geneviève, two fires significantly damaged an historic church. The first started in the sacristy. Firefighters had just left the scene after managing to control that fire when another, much bigger, fire in the church roof was reported.

Belgian Nursing Home Fined 6,000 Euros for Refusing to Allow Euthanasia on Premises²⁶

June 30, 2016: Judges in Belgium fined a Catholic nursing home after it prevented doctors from giving a lethal injection to a 74-year-old lung cancer sufferer on its premises. After the nursing home denied the request, the patient was instead taken by ambulance home to die “in peaceful surroundings.” Her family sued the home for causing their mother “unnecessary mental and physical suffering.”

Religion Classes in Belgium Replaced with Citizenship Classes²⁷

July 7, 2016: Belgium’s religious education classes in French-speaking primary and secondary schools were to be cut in half in October 2016 and replaced with a weekly hour of citizenship classes, over the objection of students and teachers. Additionally, this change would result exclude religion teachers from the educational system because the classes would be taught by teachers considered “neutral” — without any kind of religious

training, including holding degrees from non-state, religious universities.

Satirical Publication Deeply Insulted Catholic Church²⁸

July 30, 2016: In the wake of the murder of a French priest, the Belgian publication *NordPress* posted the following (in French): “Pope Francis announced today at the World Youth Day that all priests who die a martyr, like the 84-year-old abbot killed by extremists in his church, will receive 72 altar boys in paradise. A new dogmatic measure for the Catholic Church which aims to compete with the 72 virgins offered to Muslim martyrs.”

Attack at Brussels Airport and Metro Killed 32 People; Injured over 300²⁴

March 22, 2016: ISIS took responsibility for three coordinated suicide bombings in Brussels: two at Zaventem Airport and one at Maalbeek metro station which killed 32 people from around the world and injured over 300. The Islamic State announced: “By the grace of Allah and His gratitude alone, a security detachment from the soldiers of the Caliphate, may Allah dignify it and support it, launched to target Crusader Belgium.” References to the term “Crusader” by ISIS is generally recognized as referring to Christians or perceived Christian nations.

Verviers Church Vandalized²⁹

August 19, 2016: Vandals throwing stones destroyed the last remaining stained glass window in the church of Sainte-Julienne. A few months earlier the other windows of the church had been similarly damaged, forcing the church to erect protective fences.

Belgian Police Arrested Teen Pledging to Kill All Christians³⁰

August 21, 2016: 17-year-old Souhaib Amaouch, the son of a local radical imam El Alami Amaouch, was filmed declaring in Arabic, “Oh Allah, destroy the odious Christians. Oh Allah kill them all.” The video shown on a French website depicted the teen saying, “Don’t spare any of them.” The film was shot in Verviers.

Christian Graves Vandalized on All Saints' Day³¹

October 30, 2016: Families visiting the burial sites of their loved ones in Pécrot were shocked to discover the crosses at the graves were removed and planted upside down in the cemetery.

Holsbeek Town Council Removed Nativity Scene³²

December 19, 2016: The Christmas display in the town hall was removed to "avoid offending Muslims living in the area," resulting in protests and objections from citizens, politicians, and some Muslim activists who said it was absurd to suggest that Muslims were offended by the birth of Jesus.

Women Attacked after Mass in Brussels³⁵

April 9, 2017: Two Polish women were on their way to the bus station to return home after having attended Mass at the church of Notre Dame de la Chapelle on Palm Sunday. As they walked through what was described in media reports as an "the Arab quarter" on their way to the Midi station, they were attacked by a man who cursed at them both in Arabic and French calling them "dirty Christians" and "whores" ("sales chrétiennes" and "putes"). Because the women were carrying palms from the Mass, the man was able to identify them as Christians. One of the women was knocked down and then kicked. She did not sustain any major injuries, but was in pain. The police were called but the attacker fled before they could arrive. The Polish Christian community responded by hiring security for the doors before and after Mass.

L'Abbaye d'Orval Robbed³³

January 1, 2017: A safe containing 50,000 euros was stolen from the Orval Abbey, a Cistercien-Trappist Monastery famous for a brewery whose profits fund social projects.

Verviers Church Targeted with Graffiti³⁴

April 3, 2017: The walls and the side door of the Sainte-Julienne church in Verviers (province of Liège) were spray painted with messages such as: "Welcome to Hell" and "Apocalypsy."

Cemetery Vandalized and Tombs Destroyed³⁶

April 13, 2017: In Ougrée, more than 50 graves were vandalized, several dozen tombs were destroyed, and the crosses on the graves were thrown on the ground. This was the second time in a month that the cemetery was attacked.

Arson in Church in Liège³⁷

April 19, 2017: During the Easter holidays, candles were stolen from the Church of Seny in Liège and on April 19th, the church was damaged by arson from candles set on fire in their plastic packaging.

Cemetery Desecrated in Ponderôme³⁸

June 18, 2017: During the afternoon of June 18th, the cemetery of Ponderôme was vandalized. Unknown persons entered the cemetery and desecrated several graves, destroyed crosses, plaques and other memorial items on the burial sites. The reaction of the villagers of Ponderôme was one of anger and incomprehension. Mayor Marc Lejeune filed a complaint with the police after being informed of the vandalism and said citizens should not be quick to assume the vandals came from the Fedasil refugee accommodation, which is next door to the cemetery.

Theft from Tabernacle in Tintigny³⁹

July 23, 2017: On Sunday morning before Mass, Fr. Pierre Jehenson discovered that two ciboriums had been stolen from the tabernacle of the village church of Rossignol.

Church in Ciptet Vandalized⁴⁰

July 25, 2017: Unknown vandals emptied a fire extinguisher and covered benches with toilet paper in the nave of the church of Saint-Maurice de Ciptet. A piece of furniture in a chapel was also destroyed. Nothing was stolen and the police opened an investigation.

Sacristy Ransacked in Belgian Church⁴¹

October 22, 2017: During the night between October 21st and 22nd, unknown perpetrators broke into the church Saint-Remi de Baulers and ransacked the sacristy. No valuables were taken.

'Crucified Cow' Displayed in Catholic Church by Artist as Comment on Wastefulness⁴²

November 23, 2017: An art exhibit depicting a 500 kg cow nailed to a cross hanging over a basin with 5,000 liters of milk was installed in the small parish church of Saint John the Baptist of Kutteken, in the Flemish town of Borgloon. According to the artist, the cow and

milk represent industrial breeding and food waste. The church was chosen to attract attention to numerous empty churches in Flanders during a time of housing shortages. Local Catholics in Borgloon were outraged and urged the local bishop to have it removed and to offer public prayers of reparation.

Belgian Red Cross Branches Ordered to Remove Crucifixes⁴³

November 29, 2017: The Provincial Committee of the Red Cross in Liège sent an email to all branches in Belgium ordering them to remove all crucifixes from their walls in an effort to appear more secular.

Infant Jesus Stolen from Brussels Nativity⁴⁴

December 29, 2017: Sometime during the night between December 28th and 29th, the nativity scene placed in the Grand Palace in Brussels was vandalized. The figure of the infant Jesus was stolen and the cradle was damaged. The police investigated.

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Justice Ministry Proposes Ban on Foreign Financing of Religious Groups⁴⁵

April 4, 2017: The Justice Ministry of Bulgaria presented a draft bill that would ban foreign countries from financing religious groups in the country, unless an inter-state treaty is in effect. The bill would require that foreign citizens serving as religious workers be fluent in Bulgarian and that no Bulgarian citizen can do the work. This could affect Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, as well as Islam and Judaism.

CROATIA

Croatian Theatre Festival Included Play with Jesus Christ Rape Scene⁴⁶

April 22, 2017: A theater festival in Split was to include a controversial play which depicts Jesus Christ raping a Muslim woman wearing a hijab. This drew strong condemnation from Croatia's Catholic Church. The play, entitled "Our Violence and Your Violence," by Croatian playwright Oliver Frlić focuses on Europe's refugee crisis and was performed in other Croatian cities, as well as in other European countries.

CYPRUS

Christian Celebration in Turkish-Cyprus Temporarily Prohibited⁴⁷

September 5, 2017: The Cypriot Orthodox Metropolis of Morphou was banned from holding its annual patron saint feast service. The ban was passed at the last minute and the official justification was that it was not possible to guarantee the safety of the Christian celebration because of the simultaneous Muslim festival of Kurban Bairam.

ESTONIA

Visitors at Estonian National Museum Invited to Kick Image of Virgin Mary⁴⁸

October 3, 2016: The newly opened museum included an exhibit of a virtual image of the Virgin Mary in a glass box. Visitors were invited to kick the display, causing the image to appear to fall to pieces and the word "Reformation" to appear. After complaints, on October 18th the display was modified so that visitors were no longer invited to kick it, but rather, the image of the Virgin Mary would shatter at scheduled intervals without being kicked.

FINLAND

Terror Attack on Church in Helsinki Foiled⁴⁹

June 18, 2017: Finnish police launched an operation in response to the threat of a terrorist attack on a church in Helsinki. The Temppeliaukio Church, located in the center of Helsinki less than a kilometer from the Finnish parliament, is a popular tourist attraction. The police sent several patrols to the church and the surrounding neighborhood to conduct raids. The following day, concrete barriers were erected to protect the church.

FRANCE

Attempted Arson in Evangelical Church in Crégy-lès-Meaux⁵⁰

January 2, 2016: Gasoline was poured inside the church

and a half-burnt rag was found on one of the dining chairs.

French Cathedral Tagged⁵¹

January 3, 2016: The Cathedral Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation in Nancy was spray painted with "Spray for Paris" — a distortion of the message "Pray for Paris."

44 Crucifixes Stolen From Cemetery in Petite-Ile⁵²

January 4, 2016: A cemetery guard discovered that 44 religious crosses had been stolen from graves. No other damage was reported.

French Pastor Reported Murder of Christian Refugee at Camp Near Dunkirk⁶¹

January 18, 2016: In a series of emails to a French blog, Pastor Daniel O. provided information about the systematic abuse of Iranian Christian refugees at the Grande-Synthe refugee camp at the hands of Muslim refugees. "The situation of Christian refugees in Grande-Synthe is worrying and has become particularly critical. We had to take the decision last night to lodge a dozen of them in the premises of the church. Because they were manhandled from the night of Monday to Tuesday and several have been stabbed ... One of them was killed last week around the camp."

Nativity Scene in French Church Vandalized Twice⁵³

January 6, 2016: On December 30th and January 6th, wax statues in the nativity scene were vandalized. The abbot of Thibaud de La Serre, the parish priest, and the mayor issued a joint press release to express dismay and sorrow over the incidents.

Vandalism Sparked Uproar in Morigny-Champigny⁵⁴

January 8, 2016: A Catholic church in Morigny was tagged with graffiti, just two days before the Fontainebleau Church was the victim of a serious arson (*see below*).

Arson and Desecration at Fontainebleau Church⁵⁵

January 10, 2016: According to the parish priest, three separate fires were started in the church. The

entire interior of the 16th century Saint-Louis church was blackened by thick smoke and several acts of desecration and vandalism were committed. The 14th century statue of Our Lady of Franchard was either burned or stolen and a ciborium containing consecrated hosts was stolen.

Seine-et-Marne: A Cross Vandalized in the Forest of Fontainebleau⁵⁶

January 10, 2016: On the same night that an arson fire swept through the church of Saint-Louis of Fontainebleau (*see above*), the historic two-meter-high Croix de Guise in the nearby forest was toppled from its base.

Nantes: Fire in the Basilica of Saint-Nicolas⁵⁷

January 10, 2016: A parishioner discovered that a fire had broken out where two individuals had been prior to rushing quickly out of the church.

Montauban Church Vandalized⁵⁸

January 14, 2016: Saint-Jacques church, located in the city center, was the target of vandalism by unknown perpetrators who broke into the church, knocked over candles, disturbed curtain rods, and painted offensive graffiti on the the walls.

Cantal: Church Robbed of Ciborium and Consecrated Hosts⁵⁹

January 15, 2016: A theft occurred in the Church of Notre Dame de Quézac, sometime between January 14th and 15th. A ciborium containing 100 consecrated hosts was stolen from a tabernacle.

French Crèche the Victim of Vandalism⁶⁰

January 17, 2016: The caretaker of the church of Chamaret discovered that the nativity scene installed inside the church had been sacked: twenty figurines beheaded, trash strewn about, candles displaced, and matches burnt.

Bouches-du-Rhône Church Hit with Vandalism⁶²

January 23, 2016: Deputy Mayor Marcel Galli discovered that the church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine in Plan de Cuques had been smeared with tar on three facades. The large wooden doors of the entrance to the church and the sacristy, the surface of the front porch, and entrance hall were also damaged by tar.

Police Spokesman Reported Muslims Trying to Expel Christians From Grande-Synthe Camp⁶³

January 27, 2016: Forty shots were fired in what was termed a quarrel between rival smuggler gangs at the

Grande-Synthe refugee camp near Dunkirk. A CRS anti-riot officer from the Unsa-police union, told *Le Figaro*: “There is a real problem between Muslims and non-Muslims. Most of the camp’s 3,000-odd occupants are Muslim Kurds from Iraq, Iran, and Syria but a minority are Christians from Iran.”

Historic Bruyères-le-Châtel Church Vandalized; Consecrated Hosts Stolen⁶⁴

January 31, 2016: Unknown perpetrators broke a window, overturned the tabernacle, stole the ciborium containing consecrated hosts, and sacked the sacristy. The bishop of Evry called it a “rampage.” According to a parishioner, this was not the first time the church had been a victim, as graffiti had been found last year. However, this attack was much more serious.

Mass at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Repeatedly Disrupted⁶⁵

February 1, 2016: According to the parish priest, beginning on January, eggs were thrown at the windows of the Nancy chapel every evening during the 7:00 p.m. Mass. On February 1st, at least 10 eggs were thrown at the windows during the Mass, startling the parishioners.

Chapel Vandalized in Lyon⁶⁶

February 1, 2016: An unknown perpetrator broke into the chapel of la Famille Missionnaire de Notre-Dame à Lyon and vandalized the statue of the Virgin Mary, which was found on the ground with a demolished head.

Church and Mosque Destroyed in Calais “Jungle”⁶⁷

February 1, 2016: Despite promises to the contrary, officials from the Calais Prefecture bulldozed a church and a mosque in the refugee camp. St. Michael’s, a small makeshift chapel serving mainly Orthodox Ethiopian Christians among the migrants, was among several parts of the camp that were bulldozed.

Parish Church of Kervignac Vandalized⁶⁸

February 6, 2016: The parish church of Kervignac was the victim of vandalism: papers scattered on the floor, an umbrella left in pieces, candles broken, all the confessionals left wide open, flowers thrown to the ground, and the altar cloth left in rags.

Longueville Cemetery Crucifixes Vandalized⁶⁹

February 10, 2016: A municipal officer discovered 16 vandalized crucifixes in a cemetery.

Chapel Vandalized in Trévé⁷⁰

February 13, 2016: The chapel of Saint-Pierre, originally dating from the 5th century and which is being restored,

was vandalized. Portions of the posts of the portico holding the roof were sawn with chainsaws.

Paris Court Acquits Femen⁷¹

February 16, 2016: A Paris court acquitted members of the radical feminist group Femen who, topless with vulgar anti-church slogans written on their bodies and spraying fire extinguishers, disrupted Catholic families peacefully protesting in defense of traditional marriage in November 2012. The court said that their speech and actions, while vulgar, were not directly or personally directed against Catholics, and were a parody protected by freedom of expression.

French Mayor Brought before Administrative Tribunal of the League of Human Rights⁷²

February 17, 2016: Julien Sanchez, mayor of Beauclair, was denounced by the League of Human Rights for having displayed a crèche at the city hall at Christmas time.

Church in French Antilles the Victim of Desecration, Theft, and Vandalism⁷³

February 24, 2016: Burglars entered the church of Saint-Augustin in the Guadeloupe town of Saint-Claude and destroyed the tabernacle, opened the ciborium and removed the consecrated hosts, and stole the entire sound system.

Church in Aube Looted⁷⁴

February 28, 2016: The church of Saint-Martin of Dommartin-le-Coq was the victim of a burglary.

Côte-d’Or Chapel Vandalized⁷⁵

March 11, 2016: The 13th century chapel of Saint-Ambroise of Busserotte-et-Montenaille, in Grancey-le-Château, was completely ransacked. Visitors to the countryside chapel discovered the damage, which included the theft of between 35 and 40 square meters of tiles, broken statues and overturned benches.

Valence Church Vandalized with Paint⁷⁶

March 12, 2016: The facade of Notre-Dame church in Valence was splashed with red paint and tagged with anarchist graffiti.

Second Church in Valence Tagged with Graffiti⁷⁷

March 13, 2016: The facade of the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Valence was tagged with anarchist slogans in black spray paint and covered with red paint. This was the second such incident in the same weekend in Valence.

Chapel Vandalized in Mailleroncourt-Charette⁷⁸

March 14, 2016: A small chapel dedicated to St. Léger was the victim of vandalism and attempted theft.

Priest Murdered in French Church Attack⁹⁵

July 26, 2016: Father Jacques Hamel, 84, died after his throat was slit during an attack on the church of Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray by two armed men who entered the building during Mass, and took the priest and a number of other people, including two nuns, hostage.

ISIS reportedly claimed the attack was carried out by two “soldiers” from the group, one of whom was reportedly known to French intelligence services.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls expressed his horror at the “barbaric attack,” saying “the whole of France and all Catholics are wounded.” President Francois Hollande called it a “vile terrorist attack.”

A Vatican spokesman said in a statement that the attack hit particularly hard “because this horrific violence took place in a church, a sacred place in which the love of God is announced, and the barbaric murder of a priest and the involvement of the faithful.”

Series of Suspicious Fires in Blois Cathedral⁷⁹

March 18, 2016: Firefighters responded quickly to extinguish a fire in the Cathédrale Saint-Louis. The fire appeared to have been an intentional act, and one in a series of intentionally set fires at the cathedral. A representative of the diocese had filed a complaint earlier the same morning after a first outbreak of fire. Other similar incidents had been reported for several days.

Several Statues Vandalized over Ten Days in Lyon Churches⁸⁰

March 22, 2016: Several statues of St. Joseph, located in the chapel of Notre-Dame-des-Neiges and the church of Saint-Pothin, were destroyed by vandals. About ten days earlier, a wooden statue of the Madonna and Child was torn from its base in Saint-Pothin.

Arson in Calais Church⁸¹

March 28, 2016: Five separate fires were deliberately set

inside the church of Saint-Pierre on Easter Monday. The damage was estimated at several thousand euros.

106 Catholic Websites Hacked by Tunisian “Cyberjihadists”⁸²

April 16, 2016: On April 16th, 106 different websites of French parishes and congregations were hacked. Their homepages had been replaced with messages in English denouncing “terrorism against Muslims.” The messages were set against a black background and topped with a Tunisian flag. On the same day, a group of Tunisian “cyberjihadist” hackers calling themselves the Fallaga Team boasted about the crime on their Facebook page. The group described attacking “Catholic websites of the French occupier.”

Vandalism at Catholic School in Nantes⁸³

May 11, 2016: Catholic School Notre-Dame de l’Abbaye in Nantes was vandalized twice in two weeks.

Evangelical Church Attacked in Manosque⁸⁴

May 18, 2016: An Assemblies of God church in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur was the victim of arson. Bibles and other books inside the church were stacked up and burnt, according to Pastor Alain Denizou.

Three Incidents in Churches in the Same Region in Two Weeks⁸⁵

May 22, 2016: Father Benoît Delabre reported that on May 15th the altar in the Church of St. Madeleine-de-l’Île was set on fire in Martigues. On the same day, an unknown person desecrated the tabernacle containing consecrated hosts in a church in Jonquières in the same region. Additionally, Father Delabre himself was attacked a week later by a man he caught at the church door who appeared to be “trying to steal something.”

Two Men Arrested for Vandalizing Cathedral⁸⁶

June 16, 2016: The cathedral Saint-Julien du Mans was spray painted with a dozen messages including “Ni dieu, ni maître,” “Anti autorité,” “belle porte,” and “Le Mans zone pacifiée.” Police caught the perpetrators in the act and took them into custody.

Statue of Virgin Mary Decapitated in Vineyard⁸⁷

July 1, 2016: The statue, located on private property in Chadenac and surrounded by a wrought iron fence, was vandalized and its head was broken off.

Four Churches Tagged with Offensive Messages⁸⁸

July 10, 2016: The churches of La Motte, Lauren, Loudéac, and Lachèze in the region of Côtes-

d'Armor were painted with the word "Pédophile." The bishop called the acts pathetic and insulting to all believers.

Arsonist Arrested for Abbey Fire⁸⁹

July 10, 2016: A 42-year old man confessed to setting at least 15 fires including one that damaged the Abbey Saint-Austremoine in Issoire on July 3rd. The suspect was indicted for "intentional damage by dangerous means to people."

Evangelical Church Burned in Calais⁹⁰

July 12, 2016: An arson investigation was initiated after a fire caused considerable damage to the Assemblies of God church. The roof collapsed and the building was destroyed. The National Council of Evangelicals in France (CNEF) noted that the building in Calais was the second evangelical church burned in France in only two months. On May 18th, an Assemblies of God church in Manosque was attacked.

Arson in Cemetery and Church in Nice a Day Before Bastille Day Attack⁹¹

July 13, 2016: A fire was set in the cemetery of Caucade in Nice West, where three tombs were blackened. One hour later, a fire was discovered in the church of Saint-Marc and a door was damaged.

Church in Toulouse Profaned and Vandalized⁹²

July 14, 2016: The church of Saint-Pierre des Chartreux was vandalized: The tabernacle door was torn off and part of the book collection of the prayers of the faithful was burned. Other objects were overturned.

Desecration at Church in Les Herbiers⁹³

July 18, 2016: Four young men broke into the church of Saint-Pierre and overturned benches, broke vases, and emptied a fire extinguisher. They urinated and defecated in the holy water on the altar and on the altar itself.

Statue of Virgin Mary and Jesus Decapitated at 1700 meters in Corsica⁹⁴

July 21, 2016: The mountaintop statue of the Virgin Mary of la fontaine du lac de Ninu holding the infant Jesus was vandalized, with the heads and arms cut off both figures.

Church in Jupilles Vandalized⁹⁶

July 26, 2016: Unknown perpetrators broke into the church of Saint-Pierre de Jupilles and ripped the central electronic control panel of the bells from the wall. The mayor said, "It is the symbol of the sacred is affected. There is a will to harm."

Anti-Catholic Graffiti at Church in Besançon⁹⁷

July 26, 2016: The newly constructed chapel of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X was vandalized with anti-Catholic, anarchist slogans.

Cross Vandalized in Rosnay⁹⁸

July 28, 2016: A public cross monument and its base were broken with a sledgehammer and chisel. The opening of the monument was scheduled for three days later.

Church Clock Vandalized⁹⁹

July 31, 2016: An unknown perpetrator climbed the clock tower of the church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Saulcy-sur-Meurthe and twisted the metal hands of the clock, rendering it inoperable.

Anti-Christian Posters Glued to Public Light Posts in Argenteuil¹⁰⁰

August 3, 2016: The posters read: "The only church that illuminates is one that burns" along with an illustration of a church on fire.

Stained Glass Windows Destroyed in Church¹⁰¹

August 14, 2016: At least 40 stones were thrown at four stained glass windows in a church in Delme, possibly using slingshots from outside the church. Damage was estimated to be 20,000 euros.

Statue of Virgin Mary Beheaded in Alpes de Haute-Provence¹⁰²

August 14, 2016: A hiker discovered the Montclar chapel door forced open and the statue of Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette removed from its display, decapitated, and left outside the building with its head at its feet.

City Church in Indre-et-Loire Vandalized¹⁰³

August 14, 2016: The church of Notre Dame in Vouvray was vandalized with black spray paint with a message accusing the church of fundamentalism and calling Christianity a sect: "Intégriste Christianize = Secte."

Man Arrested After Threatening to "Kill a Priest" in Ariège¹⁰⁴

August 25, 2016: A thirty-year-old man was arrested by police after witnesses reported hearing him threaten several times to "kill a priest" and yelling "Allah Akbar." The man claimed it was a joke and was found to have been under the influence of narcotics.

Nice Deputy Mayor Confirms “Burkini Ban” Also Applies to Nuns’ Habits on Beaches¹⁰⁵

August 26, 2016: Rudy Salles defended the ban of the “burkini” and said that the same ban would apply to Catholic nuns wearing habits on Nice beaches.

Vandalism and Attempted Arson in Hautmont Church¹⁰⁶

August 27, 2016: Police opened an investigation after a bystander reported smelling smoke from the church of Notre-Dame-de-l’Assomption. Investigators discovered damaged statues, as well as missals, songbooks, and wreaths knocked to the floor. The altar tablecloth was burnt, but the fire did not spread to the rest of the church.

State Council Allows “Decorative” Christmas Scenes at Town Halls¹²⁰

November 9, 2016: After a bitter two-year battle over whether decorating town hall entrances with nativity scenes violated rules on secularism, the country’s highest administrative court ruled that as long as the intent behind the installation was “cultural, artistic, or festive” — and not religious proselytism — it was permitted. The judges followed the advice of the public rapporteur who said that on no account could the crèche be used as an “act of acknowledgement of a religious faith” accompanied by prayers or political speeches reinforcing Christmas as a Christian tradition.

Porch of Church Burnt as Street Fire Spread¹⁰⁷

September 3, 2016: In Roubaix, the porch of the church of Sacré-Cœur was destroyed by fire. Rubbish, including a bench, were burned on the boulevard de Strasbourg and the fire spread to the door of the church.

Attempted Arson at the church of Notre-Dame-des-Noues Franconville¹⁰⁸

September 18, 2016: The parish priest reported that there had been acts of vandalism and arson attempts in the church, probably during the night of September 18th to 19th.

Serial Arsonist Set Two Fires in Churches in Millau; Attempted Arson in a Third¹⁰⁹

September 21, 2016: On September 19th, a tourist noticed smoke billowing from the doors of the Sacré-Coeur in Millau. The altarpiece of Saint Francis had been set on fire but firefighters were able to extinguish it before the flames spread to the rest of the building.

Saint-Henri in Neuilly-Plaisance Desecrated and Burglarized¹¹⁰

September 26, 2016: During the night from September 25th to 26th, one or more individuals broke into the church. Once inside, they opened the tabernacle and threw the consecrated hosts on the floor and stole the collection box containing donations to the church.

Multiple Acts of Vandalism in La Mothe-Saint-Héray¹¹¹

September 29, 2016: Acts of vandalism were discovered in the church of Saint-Héray: statues of Joan of Arc and the Virgin Mary were damaged, as were a crucifix, a rosary, and prayer books.

France Plans to Ban Pro-Life Websites it Judges ‘Extremist’¹¹²

October 6, 2016: Laurence Rossignol, minister of families, children, and women’s rights, announced that the French government intended to introduce legislation to ban pro-life websites it judges to be ‘extremist.’ The law was passed in early 2017.

Burglary and Attack Stopped by Priest in Seine-Saint-Denis¹¹³

October 7, 2016: A man broke and entered into the rectory of the church of Sainte-Louise-de-Marillac in the parish of Drancy, ostensibly to commit a theft. He struck the priest in the head with a bottle, but was stopped from committing further assault by the priest, who had previously studied judo.

Church Vandalized in Gif-sur-Yvette¹¹⁴

October 16, 2016: An intrusion was discovered by a member of the parish one hour before the beginning of Sunday Mass. The portrait of the Virgin Mary was taken from its pedestal, and a crucifix and other objects of worship were thrown to the ground.

Police Investigate Vandalism of Church¹¹⁵

October 26, 2016: The church of Saint-Paterne in Orléans was vandalized, with objects toppled to the ground.

Minor Arrested for Twice Setting Fires in Church¹¹⁶

October 28, 2016: The minor was accused of setting a small fire in the church of Saint-Brice-sur-Vienne on August 12th, burning leaflets and altar cloths. On October 28th he returned to the church and set fires again.

Christian Convert Threatened with Death in French Refugee Camp¹¹⁷

November 2, 2016: A Kurdish church leader smuggled to Britain says he received death threats for having left Islam for Christianity while living in makeshift camps in northern France. The church leader, who did not wish to be identified, spent nine months living in camps outside the French cities of Calais and Dunkirk. He said that Kurdish Muslims in both camps antagonized him for his Christian faith.

French Politician Fined for Using Word from Bible to Describe Homosexuality¹¹⁸

November 4, 2016: French politician and former housing minister Christine Boutin was convicted of hate speech by the Court of Appeals of Paris for having called homosexuality an “abomination” in an interview with the political magazine Charles in March 2014. Boutin was ordered to pay a fine of 5,000 euros, as well as 2,000 euros each in damages to three associations, “Mousse,” “Le Refuge,” and “Inter-LGBT.”

Nantes Church Tagged with Anarchist Graffiti¹¹⁹

November 5, 2016: Anarchist messages were drawn on the walls and doors of the Church of Saint-Clément.

Officials Ban Television Commercial to Commemorate World Down Syndrome Day¹²¹

November 22, 2016: Television officials rejected as “inappropriate” an award-winning video featuring several people with Down syndrome responding to a letter from a frightened woman whose unborn baby had been diagnosed with syndrome.

Church Ransacked in Northern France¹²²

November 25, 2016: Unknown perpetrators started a fire inside the church of Zuydcoote, overturned chairs and benches, smashed statues onto the floor, and destroyed the tabernacle. Parishioners reacted with shock: “Nothing was stolen. The goal was to destroy.”

Court Gave Town Three Months to Remove Statue of Virgin Mary¹²³

December 3, 2016: A court ordered the town of Publier to remove its statue of the Virgin Mary to comply with France’s ban on religious symbols in public spaces.

Failure to remove it within three months would result in a fine of 100 euros per day. The statue has stood in a public park since 2011.

Leftist Graffiti on Bordeaux Catholic Seminary¹²⁴

December 3, 2016: “Neither God nor master,” “I love Satan,” “Lesbi Power,” “Antifa,” and other slogans were sprayed on the walls of the seminary during the night.

Nantes Church Vandalized with Anarchist Graffiti¹²⁵

December 3, 2016: The Church of St. Clement in Nantes was vandalized with the anarchist “A” topped with symbols of both sexes, apparently to convey opposition to the male and female genders in their traditional definitions.

Nativity Crèche Burned in Church¹²⁶

December 8, 2016: Parishioners praying in the chapel adjacent to the Church of Notre-Dame in Metz smelled smoke and discovered the crèche burning inside the church.

Five Churches Burgled in Three Weeks¹²⁷

December 13, 2016: According to the Bishop of Réunion, five churches were the targets of thieves in the preceding three weeks.

Bomb Discovered in Front of Church¹²⁸

December 15, 2016: A parishioner discovered a bomb in a cardboard box leaning against the door of the Saint-André church. Police in Toulouse said that the device was capable of a small explosion.

Priest Attacked, Tied Up, and Robbed in Pastoral Center¹²⁹

December 16, 2016: Two armed men attacked Rutumbu Juvenal, the priest in charge of the parish of Palaiseau, at the church’s pastoral center. The men hit the priest in the face and told him to get on the ground. When he did not obey fast enough, they also gave him a blow to the knee. Once on the ground, the priest’s feet and hands were tied with the stoles he wears during Mass.

Christmas Decorations and Crèche Thrown in River¹³⁰

December 17, 2016: During the night of December 17th to 18th, all of the Christmas decorations installed

on a bridge, as well as the handmade wooden crèche displayed at the feet of a statue of the Virgin Mary were thrown into the Seine in Fouchères.

Vandalism and Fires in Two Churches in Tarn-et-Garonne¹³¹

December 19, 2016: Police investigated acts of vandalism and intentional fires set in the Church of Saint-Blaise and the Church of Saint-Michel.

Cathedral in Fort-de-France Vandalized and Burgled Five Times in Seven Days¹³²

December 20, 2016: The Cathedral of Saint-Louis was the repeated victim of looting, vandalism, and theft on December 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th.

France Passed Law Banning Pro-Life Websites¹⁴⁶

February 16, 2017: The National Assembly passed a law banning pro-life websites which attempt to discourage women from having abortions if the sites do not openly state “who they are, what they do and what they want.” The new law specifically targets “electronic” and “online” means of spreading information with the intention of dissuading women from ending their pregnancy. Any person or group aiming to call public attention to the dangers and risks of abortion would be at risk of prosecution.

Christmas Crèche Destroyed by Fire¹³³

December 21, 2016: A nativity scene in an old fountain in Wimille was completely destroyed by a fire.

Man Forcibly Removed after Disrupting Christmas Mass¹³⁴

December 24, 2016: Police removed a man who disrupted the Mass at the Church of Saint-Christophe in Tourcoing after he frightened and disturbed the parishioners.

Orsay Church Vandalized on Christmas¹³⁵

December 24, 2016: The wall of church of Saint-Martin Saint-Laurent d’Orsay was tagged with an anti-consumerism message (“Noël fête du capitalisme”) in black paint.

Theft from Sainte-Anne Church in Lanvéoc¹³⁶

December 24, 2016: A statue of an angel was stolen

from the manger scene where it had been displayed for the last 80 years.

Christmas Nativity Set on Fire on Eve of Epiphany Holiday¹³⁷

January 6, 2017: Unknown perpetrators intentionally set fire to the straw at the base of the nativity scene in the Cathedral of Saint-Étienne, burning all of the figures. The Archbishop expressed the pain of the community, saying that the display expresses the heart of the Christian faith.

At Least 30 Tombs Vandalized and Profaned in Finistère¹³⁸

January 7, 2017: Sometime during the night of January 6th to 7th, at least 30 graves in the cemetery of Brennilis were vandalized, with crosses and crucifixes overturned or broken and headstones toppled. Police opened an investigation.

Infant Jesus Stolen from Manger in Noyon Cathedral¹³⁹

January 27, 2017: The figure of the infant Jesus was stolen from a crèche in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Noyon.

Two Arson Attempts on Village Church in Rochecorbon¹⁴⁰

January 29, 2017: Two minors were arrested after police discovered they were responsible for two separate fires at the church of Notre-Dame in the parish of Saint-Marin-Saint-Vincent en Vouvrillon. The first fire was set on January 27th with the curtains of a confessional burnt; the second fire was set in the confessional itself.

Convent in Avon the Victim of Theft and Desecration¹⁴¹

January 31, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke into the convent of the Carmelites of Avon during the night of January 31st, stole computer equipment, holy objects, and broke open the tabernacle containing consecrated Hosts.

Arson in Private Chapel in Omessa¹⁴²

February 6, 2017: The owner of the chapel of Santa Rita discovered the door had been forced open, and cards and a rosary were left on the altar and set on fire. The fire did not spread to the rest of the chapel.

Crucifix Statue Vandalized with Anarchist Graffiti¹⁴³

February 12, 2017: A large statue of Christ on the Cross in a public square in Caen was spray painted with the

words “Ni Dieu; Ni Maitre” (No God; No Master) and the anarchist “A” symbol.

Gendarmerie du Haut-Rhin Investigated Degradation in Church and Cemetery¹⁴⁴

February 12, 2017: During the night of February 11th and 12th, unknown perpetrators broke a door and vandalized the church of Saint Etienne de Réguisheim and vandalized the nearby cemetery, as well.

Statue Stolen from Christian Grave¹⁴⁵

February 14, 2017: The statue known as “La Pleureuse” (the Mourner) was stolen from the cemetery of Saint-Germain-Lembron. Police investigated.

Religious Statue Prohibited from front of Church as “Too Religious”¹⁴⁷

February 16, 2017: After complaints by the group Libre Pensées (Free Thought), a statue of Notre Dame de Granitiers commissioned by the Diabète Coeur association, was prohibited from being displayed in the forecourt of the church of Brusvily because it is considered a public place. The Church and State Separation Act of 1905 prohibits the display of religious objects in public places. 72% of readers of a local newspaper objected to this decision.

Cemetery Ransacked in Saint-Pol-sur-Mer Cemetery¹⁴⁸

February 19, 2017: According to reports, sometime during the night of February 18th to 19th, unknown perpetrators damaged and scattered around 30 gravestones in a cemetery in the prefect of Dunkirk. Many of the damaged plaques appeared to be from Christian graves. Police investigated.

French Civil Protection Federation Removed Cross from New Logo¹⁴⁹

February 22, 2017: The Federation’s communication director said the removal of the cross in the center of the original logo was a “non-subject” and there was no particular reason for its removal, and that it never had a religious character to begin with.

Primary School Teacher Suspended after Reading Bible Verses to Pupils¹⁵⁰

March 3, 2017: After a group of parents sent a letter of complaint, the headmaster of the RPI (Regroupement pédagogique intercommunal) de Badecon-le-Pin, Chavin, Malicornay et Le Menoux suspended the teacher. The teacher remained under suspension pending an investigation into whether he was proselytizing in violation of secularism laws or simply studying the

texts with the students. The city’s mayor denounced the suspension as extreme.

Man Arrested for Theft from Donation Boxes from Lambach Church¹⁵¹

March 10, 2017: A 30-year-old man was arrested after police were alerted to the theft. He was found with cash and tools used to retrieve money from the boxes: a long rod with double-sided tape.

Arson in Church in Puget-Ville¹⁵²

March 12, 2017: The Church of the Immaculate Conception was vandalized and the victim of arson on March 12th. Father Eloi Legrand, calling it a profanation, reported that the altar linen was set on fire, candle wax spread on the altar and throughout the church, and items of devotion were broken and scattered in the church. The gendarmerie investigated.

Attempted Arson at Church in Nantes¹⁵³

March 12, 2017: In the evening of March 12th, firefighters were called to the Church of Saint-Luc after unknown perpetrators set fire to the outside wall of the church using combustible materials they had placed against the outer wall. The fire was described as “intense,” but firefighters, police, and two CRS buses arrived quickly and were able to subdue the fire and minimize the damage.

Thirty-two Graves Desecrated at the Batignolles Cemetery in Paris¹⁵⁴

March 20, 2017: Between March 16th and 20th, 32 graves, most of which were Christian, were excavated and searched. Officials presumed the perpetrators were looking for valuables. A thorough inspection of the cemetery of 15,000 graves, on about ten hectares, was carried out and surveillance was strengthened.

Cross Stolen in Ille-et-Vilaine¹⁵⁵

March 29, 2017: The public calvary cross (calvaire) in city of Ille-et-Vilaine was stolen by unknown perpetrators.

Site of the Black Madonna Ransacked on Réunion; Cross of the Jubilee Destroyed¹⁵⁶

April 2, 2017: A groundskeeper discovered the statue of the Black Madonna Rivière-des-Pluies (la Vierge Noire à la Rivière-des-Pluies) had been thrown to the ground and completely destroyed at a religious site where many faithful go to pray. The Cross of the Jubilee, placed in front of the church, was also vandalized. The priest of the parish expressed shock and disappointment that “people will desecrate holy places” and said that the site would be temporarily closed while the gendarmerie

investigated. Parishioners expressed shock, sadness, and anger at the destruction.

Armenian Evangelical Church in Alfortville Targeted Twice in One Week¹⁵⁷

April 2, 2017: Reverend Gilbert Léonian, the church's pastor and his wife were awakened by flames that lit up the window of their room above the church. A rubbish bin filled with gasoline had been set on fire in front of the building's door. Firefighters were called and immediately intervened. The fire was brought under control and only the facade and the cross were blackened by the flames. A week earlier, the building had been stoned, destroying the double glazing of the front door. Rev. Léonian noted that the stoning incident immediately followed the visit of an Iraqi pastor who came to talk about the situation of the Eastern Christians. Police investigated.

Seine Martime Church Vandalized by Youths¹⁵⁸

April 4, 2017: Two adolescents entered the church of Buchy and emptied the fire extinguishers and broke several candles.

At Least Four Shrines Vandalized in Saint-Expédit¹⁵⁹

April 4, 2017: A witness reported the disappearance and decapitation of several religious statuettes in roadside shrines in Saint-Expédit, in the east of Réunion, on April 4th. This came two days after the devastation of the site of the Black Madonna. In a shrine at the exit of the village of Bois-Blanc, the body, foot, and head of a statuette were left broken and scattered on the altar. The other statues had been taken, but offerings remained untouched. Nearby, at a shrine on the way to Cambourg in Saint-Benoît, four statuettes were decapitated. On the route de la Plaine, the well-known shrine, all statues were missing, and an auditor confirmed that this was also the case in the shrine located in the Jamaican sector in Saint-Denis.

Church Vandalized in Blois¹⁶⁰

April 7, 2017: The Church of Saint-Saturnin de Vineuil was vandalized sometime between March 8th and March 30th. The Diocese lodged a complaint with the police

for "degradation of the property of others on account of religion by means dangerous for people."

Cemetery in Nice Vandalized on Palm Sunday¹⁶¹

April 9, 2017: Fourteen graves were damaged in the Cimiez cemetery, which borders a Franciscan monastery on a hill in Nice, during the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 9th. Crosses, funerary books, and decorative items were knocked over and broken. The municipality said, "It is with indignation that we condemn these unacceptable acts that call for a firm criminal response. There is no place for these hateful acts."

Easter Procession Disrupted by Threatening Teenagers¹⁶²

April 12, 2017: A religious procession in Toulon was interrupted by three teenagers who threatened the participating priests and nuns. One of the teenagers threw his backpack at them and all of them shouted "Allah Akbar," as well as "Long live Daesh," and "You will all blow up" ("Vive Daech" and "Vous allez tous sauter"). Once police were called, the perpetrators fled the scene.

Easter Mass Celebration Evacuated in Nice¹⁶³

April 15, 2017: During the Easter Mass celebration a man entered the church of Saint-Pierre d'Arène wearing an army jacket and ski gloves, acting in a menacing manner. He excitedly told the congregation "qu'on allait tous y passer" ("it will all come to pass"). The security forces quickly arrived on site and were able to arrest the man.

Cemetery Vandalized During Three Nights in One Week¹⁶⁴

April 16, 2017: The first act of vandalism in the cemetery near Saint-Laurent-de-la-Salanque occurred between the April 12th and 13th, the second act between April 13th and 14th, and a third act of vandalism occurred between April 15th and 16th despite the town having organized surveillance. During these attacks, tombstones were broken, vases were shattered, and pictures on the tombstones were ripped apart.

Attempted Arson in Church¹⁶⁵

April 17, 2017: The priest of the parish Saint-Samson in Calvados discovered an attempted arson in the church. The tablecloth of the altar was blackened and had burn marks.

French Visa denied to Eastern Christians on Ideological Grounds¹⁶⁶

April 18, 2017: Jean-Jacques Brot, a French official responsible for the mission to host Syrian and Iraqi

refugees, admitted in an interview on RCF's "Le 22 minutes" that Eastern Christians who apply for visas often have the applications denied by French officials due to "their convictions" or "ideological grounds" ("leurs convictions" or "motifs idéologiques").

Vandalism in Nantes Church¹⁶⁷

April 18, 2017: A church employee discovered damage in a small chapel in l'Église Sante-Croix. Vases were overturned, the tablecloth of the altar was crumpled, and the crown on the head of the baby Jesus in the arms of the statue of Our Lady of Bon-Secours was stolen.

Repeated Vandalism of Church in Hume¹⁶⁸

April 19, 2017: The Parish of Gujan-Le Teich in Hume was vandalized again, after having been previously vandalized in June 2016. This time a motorcycle, which had been left blocking the handicapped rail, was burned during the night and the fire could have easily spread to the chapel.

Church Vandalized with Graffiti¹⁶⁹

April 21, 2017: The church of Saint-Géry in Quévy was the target of vandalism during the Easter weekend. The porch outside the church and sculptures inside the church, as well as the sacristy, were sprayed with graffiti.

Cemetery Desecrated in Fouchécourt¹⁷⁰

April 22, 2017: A dozen graves were desecrated, including Christian graves, and one coffin was opened at a cemetery near Fouchécourt between April 21st and 22nd.

Church Robbed and Vandalized in Onnaing¹⁷¹

April 22, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke into and vandalized the sacristy of the church of Sainte-Maria-Goretti. Wall tiles of the sacristy were broken, as well as candles and seats.

Tabernacle Stolen from Chapel¹⁷³

May 10, 2017: The tabernacle of the chapel of Collognes was stolen. This theft was not the first for this small chapel: three years earlier the statue of Virgin Mary was stolen and the collection boxes have been emptied several times.

Crown of the Virgin Stolen from the Musée de Fourvière¹⁷⁴

May 12, 2017: The crown of the Virgin was stolen from the Museum of Religious Art in Fourvière shortly before 3:30 a.m. on the night of May 12th. Asking for prayers, the Fourvière Foundation denounced the theft and noted

that it was the symbolic value of the crown that made the theft most painful as it was given by families in Lyon to prove their devotion to Notre-Dame de Fourvière.

Christian Bookshop in Marseille Vandalized¹⁷⁵

May 19, 2017: The children's display case window of the bookshop "La Bible pour tous" ("The Bible for All") was found vandalized sometime during the night between May 18th and 19th with a black paint bomb and graffiti tags reading "neither God nor master" ("Ni Dieu ni maître"), along with the anarchist "A" symbol. The bookstore is adjacent to the Evangelical church Action Biblique Marseille.

Syrian Women Vandalized Church in Rennes-le-Château¹⁷²

April 23, 2017: A young Syrian woman vandalized the church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine. The woman, dressed in a white cloak with her face hidden behind a Venetian mask, attacked the holy water font with an ax, decapitated the famous "red devil" (a statue of the demon Asmodeus from the Old Testament), and placed a Quran next to his chopped-off arm. She then lacerated the bas-relief of Mary Magdalene's altar in front of shocked witnesses.

Cross at General De Gaulle's Grave Vandalized¹⁷⁶

May 27, 2017: Two unknown perpetrators were seen entering the cemetery of Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, where General de Gaulle's grave is located. One of the two men was suspected of having climbed on the grave and broken the cross on top.

Cemetery Vandalized in Saint-Brès¹⁷⁷

May 27, 2017: Two teenagers entered the cemetery of Saint-Brès France and destroyed two graves, crosses, statues, and grave plates. The police were called and the vandals were identified through surveillance cameras.

Orthodox Chapel Vandalized¹⁷⁸

May 30, 2017: Father Archimandrite Amphilokios of the Orthodox Monastery of Saint Michael in Marseille reported an act of vandalism: an image of the cross hanging on the monastery's wall was torn. The community reacted by posting a sign condemning the act.

Several Cemeteries Vandalized across France¹⁷⁹

May 31, 2017: Between May 24th and 31st, four cemeteries in France (Saint-Brès; Capendu; Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises; and Ambarès-et-Lagrave) were vandalized. Graves, including Christian graves, were desecrated and crosses, vases, and grave plaques were destroyed.

Swastika Graffiti Discovered in Cemetery¹⁸⁰

June 4, 2017: According to a witness, blue swastika graffiti was found on at least four graves in the Causses-et-Veyran Cemetery. One of the graves attacked with a swastika was a bas-relief depicting mourners holding Christ after his death on the cross.

Political Campaign Graffiti on Church¹⁸¹

June 6, 2017: The church La Chapelle du Rosaire in Saint-Louis was vandalized with political graffiti. The mayor of Saint-Leu condemned the vandalism and stated that he will ensure that the building is restored.

Saint Joan of Arc Statues Vandalized with Political Messages¹⁸⁸

June 24, 2017: Witnesses discovered that two statues of Saint Joan of Arc at the entrance of her home village of Neufchâteau had been sprayed with “anti-fascist” messages.

Three Acts of Vandalism in Jongieux¹⁸²

June 8, 2017: Several statues of the Virgin Mary were vandalized in the village of Jongieux between June 8th and 13th.

Break-In and Possible Attempted Robbery of Church in Lyon¹⁸³

June 12, 2017: Unknown perpetrators entered the church of the 5th arrondissement of Lyon during the night and broke the glass door to the sacristy.

Photographer and Naked Model Caught in Church¹⁸⁴

June 13, 2017: A photographer was discovered taking pictures of a nude model in the church Saint-Antoine de Compiègne in Oise by two parishioners who went to the church to pray the rosary for the Christians of the East.

Cathedral Saint-Jean of Besaçon Vandalized with Anarchist Graffiti¹⁸⁵

June 15, 2017: During the night, the outer walls of the

cathedral were tagged with slogans reading “our lives, our bodies belong to us” and “Down with charity, long live solidarity” (“Nos vies, nos corps nous appartiennent” and “à bas la charité, vive la solidarité”). The vandals also painted the anarchist “A” on front of the door in two places.

Church Bulletin Board Set on Fire¹⁸⁶

June 15, 2017: The bulletin board of the Sacré Cœur church in Roubaix was set on fire. A neighbor of the church saw the flames and contacted the authorities.

Renovated Church Vandalized in Seine-et-Marne¹⁸⁷

June 24, 2017: The church Saint-Vincent-et-Saint-Arnould was broken into and vandalized by unknown perpetrators. The church door was broken, the tabernacle was forced open, and a large processional cross was stolen.

Offensive Graffiti on Church in Brest¹⁸⁹

July 23, 2017: An unknown perpetrator sprayed a vulgar message on the door of the church of Saint-Martin de Brest along with an inverted cross.

Church Profaned in Layrac: Young People Smoked Shisha on the Altar¹⁹⁰

August 31, 2017: After a report of continuing disorderly conduct in the church of Saint Martin de Layrac, surveillance equipment revealed that a group of young people had been sitting on the altar smoking shisha during the month of August.

Arson in the Church of Saint Denis d’Hellemmes-Lille¹⁹¹

September 10, 2017: A fire which appeared to have been intentionally set in three separate places, including the altar, was discovered in the church of Saint Denis d’Hellemmes-Lille. The organ suffered irreparable damage.

Thirty Graves Vandalized in Moselle Cemetery¹⁹²

September 15, 2017: In mid-September, the communal cemetery of Montigny-les-Metz in Moselle was vandalized and unknown individuals tore the crucifixes from thirty graves and placed them in a bag which was left in the cemetery.

Muslim Street Prayer Called for Fighting Infidels¹⁹³

September 22, 2017: During their Friday prayers, Muslims in Clichy gathered in front of the city hall on the street. The imam, who directed this prayer, chanted: “Fight the infidels without exception, as they fight you without exception, and know that Allah

is with the pious". (9:36 of the Koran). According to some analyses, the more specific meaning of this verse is: "Fight [in the sense of exterminate] the infidels [Christians] without exception [in the sense of completely], as they fight you without exception. And know that Allah is with the pious."

YouTube Removed Channel of Islam-Critical Priest¹⁹⁴

September 27, 2017: After a third "warning" that his posted videos were "inappropriate" and violated "community rules," YouTube removed priest Guy Pagès's "Islam et Vérité" channel from its content-sharing platform.

Vandalism of Graves in Metz Cemetery¹⁹⁵

October 1, 2017: An unknown perpetrator entered the cemetery during the night of September 30th and October 1st and vandalized 20 graves. Crucifixes were removed from gravestones and thrown to the ground.

French Community Ordered to Remove Cross from Statue of John Paul II¹⁹⁶

October 25, 2017: The French State Council, the highest administrative court in France, ordered the removal of the cross atop the statue of Pope John Paul II in the community of Ploërmel because the symbol violates French secularism laws.

Christian Graves Vandalized in Arthon-en-Retz¹⁹⁷

October 27, 2017: Two teenagers were arrested for vandalizing at least a dozen graves in the cemetery in Arthon-en-Retz. Flowerpots, vases, and crucifixes were broken, and at least one crucifix was planted upside-down in the ground.

Statue of the Virgin Mary Vandalized in Noyelles-lès-Seclin¹⁹⁸

October 28, 2017: The statue of Notre-Dame-de-Fatima was splashed with used oil during the night from October 27th to 28th.

Art Stolen from Saint-Jacques Church in Dieppe¹⁹⁹

November 7, 2017: Eight works of art were stolen from the St. Jacques Church in Dieppe during the night between the 6th and 7th of November.

"God is Dead" Painted on Landerneau Church²⁰⁰

November 19, 2017: During the night, vandals sprayed "God is Dead — Nietzsche" and an inverted cross on the outside of the church of Saint-Houardon in Landerneau.

Pharmacist's Conscience Rights Appeal Dismissed²⁰¹

December 22, 2017: France's highest administrative court refused to hear the appeal of a pharmacist who was sanctioned for refusing to sell an IUD.

Lons-Le-Saunier: Repeated Vandalism and Disturbances in a Church²⁰²

December 29, 2017: After weeks of disturbances and vandalism in the church of Cordeliers, the priest church filed a complaint with the police on December 29th. From the beginning of December, fire extinguishers had been found emptied, excrement found in the pulpit, and games had been played with candles creating a fire risk. Police began a forensic investigation.

GERMANY

Refugee's Life Threatened After He Revealed Conversion to Christianity²⁰³

January 1, 2016: In a refugee camp in Schnelsen, an 19-year-old man told a fellow refugee (18) that he was no longer a Muslim, but had become a Christian. The 18-year-old responded: "Then I will cut your throat. For this, I do not even need permission from IS."

Syrian Muslim Threatened to Kill Christian Woman's Baby²⁰⁴

January 6, 2016: In a community shelter for refugees in Ballenstedt, a 23-year-old Muslim Syrian threatened an Eritrean Christian woman, saying "I'll kill your baby while you are asleep" after they had a discussion with "religious themes."

Orthodox Priest Reports Harassment of Christians in Refugee Camps²⁰⁵

January 11, 2016: Christian refugees are exposed to harassment at the refugee camps in Germany, said Hegumen Daniel (Irbits) father superior of the St. George the Victorious Monastery in Gotschendorf, member of the Integration Committee at the German Federal Chancellery. "Christian refugees from Syria, Eritrea and other countries are exposed to humiliation, manhunts and brutal harassment at the camps for refugees by Muslim neighbors. This also relates to the Yazidi religious minority. The cases when humiliation comes

to injuries and threats of death are frequent,” the priest said in a letter to Federal Minister for Special Affairs and Head of the German Federal Chancellery Peter Altmaier.

Bullied Christian Refugees Demanded Separate Accommodations²⁰⁶

January 20, 2016: A spokesman for the Assyrian Christian community in Stuttgart told the *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, “our people are afraid of the great mass of Muslim asylum seekers.” Assyrian refugees have asked to be housed apart from Muslims in the camp being built near Stuttgart due to systematic bullying at the hands of Muslim refugees. Examples of such bullying included being forbidden from eating or storing pork and sitting at the same table. Verbal confrontations as well as physical abuse was reported.

Iranian Christians Kicked Out of Refugee Home After Being Attacked²¹⁰

February 14, 2016: Six Iranian Christian refugees were told by a security employee of the Tempelhof accommodation that they had an hour to leave because they were “trouble-makers.” Just days earlier, these six men had been surrounded by seventy Muslims in the accommodation after being found reading the Bible. The men were insulted, threatened with beatings, and feared being killed by the mob. Twenty police officers arrived with dogs, and according to one of the victims, it was only when the dogs were let off their leashes that the attackers left them alone. The police left 15 minutes after they arrived, and their report indicated that the incident had been “a dispute during food distribution.”

Christian Refugee Attacked in Berlin Camp²⁰⁷

February 3, 2016: A member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Berlin-Steglitz was attacked because of his Christian faith in the refugee camp where he lived. According to Dr. Gottfried Martens, pastor of the church, fifteen Muslim occupants of the refugee camp attacked the man and another member of the church, ripping the cross from his neck, beating him, and insulting the two as disloyal and impure. This was at least the third attack on this church member in the camp. Pastor Martens, frustrated by the lack of official response, said,

“Converted Christians are treated as third class in our country.”

Separate Housing for Christian Refugees in Stuttgart Approved²⁰⁸

February 10, 2016: Due to frequent reports of abuse, harassment, and assaults against Christian refugees at the hands of their Muslim co-habitants, the City of Stuttgart approved new, separate, accommodations. Although the city initially opposed separating asylum seekers on religious or ethnic lines, it finally agreed to provide new accommodation for Christians in April 2016, after a public outcry, lobbying by Evangelischer Arbeitskreis (a Protestant working group), and an on-line petition signed by nearly 17,000 people.

Afghan Asylum Seeker Indicted for Attempted Homicide²⁰⁹

February 10, 2016: The Hamburg prosecutor indicted a 23-year-old Afghan asylum seeker Mohebolla A. for attempted homicide and serious bodily harm after he attacked and seriously injured a 24-year-old Amir H., an Iranian Christian, with a telescopic baton on October 18, 2015 in a shelter. Read more about the October 2015 attack here and the December 2015 arrest here.

Antifa Admits Attack on Demo für Alle²¹¹

February 26, 2016: In advance of a planned peaceful demonstration on February 28th in Stuttgart by Christian activists against a new school curriculum emphasizing gender ideology, the radical left group Antifa attacked the building owned by a financier of the buses provided for the demonstration. Antifa took responsibility for attacking the conference room on the private property, saying it caused property damage using tar, paint, and pyrotechnics as well as breaking glass to be a clear signal: Those who organize or support Demo für Alle must expect problems.

Peaceful Protest in Stuttgart Disrupted by Counter-Demonstrators²¹²

February 28, 2016: A peaceful manifestation by 4,500 supporters of Demo für Alle against a proposed education program was disrupted by counter-demonstrators, resulting in clashes with police and 18 people injured, including three police. Three buses carrying Demo für Alle participants were attacked with stones and two suspects were arrested.

Christians Harassed by Muslim Security Staff at Berlin Office for Health and Social Affairs²¹³

March 2, 2016: Muslim refugees complained to the Arabic-speaking security staff about having to sit with

“impure Christians” in the waiting room. Security staff then attacked the Christians with vicious insults about themselves and their faith, and banned them from the Regional Office for six months. The Christians had previously waited for two months for services. Pastor Gottfried Martens explained, “The Muslim security staff has gradually made the waiting area an anti-Christian zone... Those in charge know about this and are silent.”

Crosses Ordered Removed from District Court in Saarbrücken²¹⁴

March 2, 2016: Stefan Geib, president of the district court in Saarbrücken, announced the removal of crosses from meeting rooms. Calling the cross a “symbol of authority,” but not the one from which the court gets its authority, he said that it has no place in the courthouse. The crosses would be replaced with the state seal.

Statue of Pope Benedict XVI Vandalized in Bavaria²¹⁵

March 6, 2016: Unknown perpetrators sprayed the monument to Pope Benedict in front of the St. Oswald church in Traunstein with pink paint.

Paint Bomb Attack at Evangelical Academy in Gießen²¹⁶

March 7, 2016: During the night between March 7th and 8th, the Freien Theologischen Hochschule building in Gießen was hit with paint bombs. An anonymous claim of responsibility was published on a left-wing Internet platform.

Vandals Hit a Chapel in Upper Bavaria²¹⁷

March 19, 2016: Unknown perpetrators entered a small chapel in Obervöckling, removed a statue of the Virgin Mary, and set a plastic flower vase, small altar cloths, and some branches on fire.

Arms of Jesus on Crucifix Statue Broken²¹⁸

May 3, 2016: Twice in four weeks, an unknown perpetrator broke the arms off the Jesus figure displayed above hotels along a route frequently used by walkers and cyclists. The crucifix had been undisturbed for decades until mid-April 2016 when the left arm of the figure was broken. The owner repaired the damage, but two weeks later, an unknown perpetrator struck again: this time breaking both arms.

Catholic Pensioner Murdered in her Sleep; Left with Crucifix in her Hands²¹⁹

May 19, 2016: A 27-year old Muslim man was found guilty and given a life sentence in February 2017 for the murder of a 70-year-old woman in Bad Friedrichshall

on May 19, 2016. After strangling the woman with a telephone cord, Abubaker C. left writing on the wall “It’s payback time” and put a cross in the woman’s hands. He then stole valuables and fled. The prosecution argued that the murderer’s motive was both theft and to kill a “disbeliever.”

Relic of Pope John Paul II Stolen from Cologne Cathedral²²⁰

June 5, 2016: Unknown perpetrators stole a small piece of fabric with a drop of the Pope’s blood that had been held in a glass container at the base of a statue of Saint John Paul II.

Islamists Attack Christian Refugees²²¹

June 7, 2016: A group of 30 people, led by a self-proclaimed imam, attacked a Syrian Christian and his roommate at the Rottach-Egern refugee accommodation. Early reports said that it was a simple mass brawl. Contrary to these reports, it was later revealed that there was a specific religious motivation behind the attack.

Christian Refugees Attacked by Muslims during Ramadan²²²

June 12, 2016: A Christian refugee family of four was attacked by Muslims in their shared refugee accommodations in Seligenstadt for not participating in Ramadan. The family members were taken to a hospital due to their injuries. The mother and two sons were attacked with chairs, and one of the sons was struck in the arms with a sharp object. The father suffered from arrhythmia due to the attack. During the attack the perpetrators shouted “Let us kill the unbelieving Christians, punish!” (“Lasst uns die ungläubigen Christen abschlachten, bestrafen!”). Police were able to intervene and the Christian family has been moved to a different refugee accommodation.

Christian Converts in Hamburg Threatened²²³

June 14, 2016: Security guards at refugee camps in Hamburg reportedly told the Christian residents to keep their faith a secret, claiming they could not protect them if their secret is revealed. One young Iranian woman said a Syrian man questioned her every day about why she did not wear a headscarf and cover herself up. She and two dozen refugees set up a secret church at the camp but none of them wore a cross or read the Bible in front of the Muslim refugees.

German Newspaper: Orlando Shooter Could Just as Well Have Been Christian²²⁴

June 13, 2016: On June 12, 2016, a 29-year old Muslim

American killed 49 people and injured 58 others at the Pulse gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. A day later, German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* published a commentary on the shooting saying it was not an attack on the public, but an attack on LGBT people. Although the gunman declared loyalty to IS, the newspaper said that a deranged, hateful, homophobic man committed the act, and therefore it “could have just as well been done by an Evangelical Christian.”

Bonn Basilica Vandalized²²⁵

June 21, 2016: A 24-year-old man was arrested after he entered the crypt of the shrine to the city patrons Cassius and Florentius and caused extensive damage to the crypt, tabernacle, and the sarcophagus in which the relics of the saints are held.

Christian Convert Attacked at Asylum Home in Halbe²²⁶

June 25, 2016: Two young Afghan men severely attacked a woman from Iran because she converted from Islam to Christianity, according to police. The Muslim perpetrators, 18- and 25-year-olds, hit the 46-year-old woman in the face and strangled her. She was hospitalized as result of her injuries.

“Antitheist” Murders Flatmate for her Christian Faith²³²

August 15, 2016: Daniel E. was sentenced to life in prison on January 30, 2017, for the August 2016 premeditated murder of his Christian flatmate. The self-proclaimed “antitheist” admitted killing her because of his hatred of all religion. The judge said, “He killed her as a representative of her religion because he could not kill all believers.”

German Bishops Conference and Protestant Evangelical Church in Germany Issued Joint Statement²²⁷

July 12, 2016: Cardinal Marx, chair of German Bishops’ Conference and Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, head of the Protestant Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), united to condemn the attacks on Christians and other religious minorities in refugee housing and urged protection for minority groups, specifically Christians and Yazidis. The two churches conducted a survey together across their dioceses and regions to highlight the Church’s role in helping refugees. In a series of

recommendations, the Church leaders suggest how authorities could ensure peace within camps. Many of those recommendations are similar to those the Observatory made in its 2015 Report.²²⁸

Christians Forced to Flee Refugee Housing in Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock²²⁹

August 4, 2016: Fourteen young Christian Iranians fled their accommodations after being threatened with death for months by a group of Muslims living in the tent city. The Evangelical Free Church agreed to house the Christians, as the attacks in the tent city were too dangerous. Not only were their bibles destroyed, but their lives were also threatened. According to one of them, they were told unequivocally by some of the Muslims in the asylum home that if they continued to live their Christian faith, they would kill them.

After making an official complaint, the Christians were moved to new housing, but safety there was short-lived, as 140 others were also moved — including some of the Muslim residents who had been threatening them. The Christians described the situation as similar to the one they fled Iran: persecution for their faith.

Pastor and Politician Report Abuse of Christian Refugees in Frankfurt²³⁰

August 8, 2016: During a press conference with Bundestag member Erika Steinbach, Pastor Mahin Mousapour said Christians staying at migrant shelters were being told that they are impure and that they deserve to die for rejecting Islam. According to *Die Welt*, Pastor Mousapour highlighted the different forms of persecution that Christians endure in their shelters, and explained that the situation forces other converts to leave the migrant housing to avoid attracting Muslims’ anger.

Christian Asylum Seeker Attacked for Faith²³¹

August 14, 2016: A young Christian asylum seeker was approached by several men on a street in Berlin and was asked whether he is Christian. When he said he was, he was insulted in Arabic and badly beaten.

Afghan Christian Attacked by Four Muslim Refugees²³³

August 17, 2016: An Afghan refugee who converted from Islam to Christianity was attacked by four Muslim Afghans in Maintal near Frankfurt am Main. The attack took place in the evening in front of the Christian’s home. The Muslim refugees waited for their victim and when he arrived, they attacked by hitting and kicking him. According to reports, they shouted “Allahu Akbar” and as the victim tried to get away someone drew a knife and another yelled, “kill him!”

A volunteer from the Frei evangelische Gemeinde Hanau said: "Whoever, as a convert, speaks openly about his beliefs among Muslims and does not hide his cross, is not safe — even in Germany."

Four Summit Crosses Damaged in the Bavarian Alps²³⁴

August 27, 2016: From May to August 2016 four wooden summit crosses in the Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen region were destroyed by unknown perpetrators using an ax.

Arson in Passau Catholic Church²³⁵

September 1, 2016: Unknown offenders attempted to set the altar of the St. Anton church on fire. They also damaged furniture, paintings, and statues.

Hamburg Court Acquitted Afghan Charged with Attempted Homicide against Christian Convert²³⁶

September 5, 2016: On October 18, 2015, an Afghan refugee beat a 24-year-old Iranian Christian convert, Amir H., with a baton inside a refugee accommodation. The victim was badly injured and the offender fled. Two months later, the police caught the Afghan suspect. The victim said that the Muslim had attacked him because of his conversion from Islam to Christianity.

The Court found that the offender hit the Iranian's head multiple times, but couldn't find a motive for homicide. It said there could be reasons why the offender had acted in self-defense. However, Amir H. said that the perpetrator had shouted "Allahu Akbar" and had threatened him with death because of his conversion. None of the witnesses would confirm Amir's statement.

Christian leaders and the Christian Police Union criticized the acquittal, noting that all of the witnesses were Muslims — many of whom helped the accused flee after the incident.

NGOs Report Religiously-Motivated Attacks on 743 Christian Refugees in Germany²³⁷

October 17, 2016: The NGOs AVC (Action on behalf of Persecuted Christians and the Needy), EMG (European Mission Society), ZOCD (Central Council of Oriental Christians in Germany), and Open Doors announced the results of their research on October 17th.

After publishing a first survey in May 2016 the contributing NGOs stated that they had only uncovered the "tip of the iceberg." The high number of newly documented incidents indicates a nationwide problem, but even the 743 cases of affected Christian refugees are most likely only a fraction of the true number.

Out of 743 affected refugees 617 (83%) report of multiple assaults, 314 (42%) of death threats, 416 (56%) of violent assaults, 44 (6%) of sexual assaults. 91%

(674) of the assaults were committed by Muslim fellow refugees, 28% (205) by Muslim guards and 34% (254) by other parties. Many of the attacks were committed by more than one person. If they failed to assist the victims, guards, camp managers and local authorities could be said to have passively contributed to these attacks as well.

Priest Attacked by Three Pre-Teens Throwing Stones²³⁸

October 25, 2016: An Ethiopian vicar, dressed in traditional priest's clothing and wearing a cross around his neck, was visiting the town of Raunheim near Frankfurt when three pre-teens threw stones at him while yelling "Allahu Akbar."

Summit Cross Destroyed for the Second Time²³⁹

November 8, 2016: A summit cross atop the 2,100-meter-high mountain "Schafreuter" on the Austrian-German border, previously chopped with an ax in August, was again destroyed by an unknown perpetrator using an ax.

Dozens of Christian Statues Destroyed²⁴⁰

December 8, 2016: Police in the Coesfeld region investigated the destruction of Christian statues of holy figures beginning in the end of October. One report said "not a day goes by without an attack on a statue."

Berlin Christmas Market the Target of Terrorist Attack²⁴¹

December 20, 2016: Anis Amri, a 24-year old Tunisian man, stole a truck and intentionally drove it into a crowded Christmas market near the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in West Berlin, leaving 12 dead and more than 50 injured. ISIS claimed responsibility, and the driver pledged allegiance to ISIS, calling on his "Muslim brothers everywhere ... those in Europe, kill the Crusader pigs." "Crusaders" refers to Christians in ISIS rhetoric. While in the Italian prison in Sicily, Anis Amri threatened one of his fellow prisoners: "You are Christian and I will cut your head off," according to *Reppublica*, indicating the attacker's pre-existing bias against Christians.

Iranian and Afghan Christian Converts Face Deportation from Germany²⁴²

January 16, 2017: Germany's Ministry for Immigration and Refugees (BAMF) rejected applications for asylum from Iranian and Afghan converts from Islam to Christianity, following "kangaroo court" — style hearings as to whether the conversions are genuine, according to a Berlin pastor.

Man Fined for Using Altar in Performance Art in Saarbrücken²⁴³

January 18, 2017: In January 2016, Alexander Karle crossed the barrier to the altar of the basilica of Sankt Johann and did push-ups for a video he called "Pressure to perform." An administrative court imposed a fine of 700 euros for trespassing and disturbance of religious practice. Karle appealed, citing artistic freedom.

Church Funeral Disrupted by Man Shouting Koran Verses and Calling Mourners "Infidels"²⁴⁴

February 3, 2017: A 33-year-old Muslim man from the western Balkans was charged with criminal interference with the exercise of religion after he interrupted a funeral service at the Christuskirche in Schnaittacher, shouting "I curse you and your religion."

Christian Convert Murdered in Front of her Children²⁴⁵

April 1, 2017: A female Afghan Christian convert was stabbed to death by an Afghan asylum seeker in front of her children in front of a supermarket in Prien am Chiemsee. The 29-year old Muslim attacker yelled at the woman in their mother tongue before stabbing her sixteen times. He continued to stab her until an off-duty policeman and several witnesses dragged him aside. The woman, who moved to Bavaria six years earlier, died of her wounds. On February 9, 2018, the man was convicted of the religiously-motivated murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Multiple Attacks against Christian Statues in the Münsterland Region²⁴⁶

April 3, 2017: Six statues were vandalized from March 22nd to 29th, bringing the total number of incidents to 62 since the end of October 2016.

Teacher Prohibited from Wearing Cross Necklace²⁴⁷

April 11, 2017: School officials ordered a Protestant Christian teacher in Berlin to remove her cross necklace when she is in the classroom. Berlin's neutrality law prohibits teachers and civil servants from wearing religious symbols and clothing in public.

News Article Used Pro-Life Rally Picture to Illustrate "Religious Extremism"²⁴⁸

May 11, 2017: News and email website GMX published an article by journalist Mathias Heim about a recently-published study correlating certain head trauma with religious "fundamentalism." Although the article begins with "The problem of the religious fundamentalists has been a topic in science even prior to IS-Terror," and never mentions Christians or Christianity, the photograph accompanying the article, with the headline "Injuries in the brain can lead to religious extremism," depicts a peaceful Christian pro-life demonstration.

Berlin's Left-Wing Politicians Opposed Cross on City Palace²⁴⁹

May 20, 2017: The Greens and the Left Party objected to plans to put a cross on top of the rebuilt Stadtschloss in Berlin, the future site of the Humboldt Forum, saying the plan endangers the "open cultural dialogue" intended for the site. The Humboldt Forum is an art and culture museum project.

Man Attacked for Wearing a Cross in Berlin²⁵⁰

July 14, 2017: Three teenagers attacked a 39-year-old man on a tram who was wearing two wooden Christian crosses on a chain around his neck. They pointed at the necklace and asked in broken German "what's that?" The teenagers, who appeared to be North African, proceeded to taunt him with insults and slapped him in the face repeatedly.

Attempted Arson by Molotov Cocktails at Dresden Church²⁵¹

July 27, 2017: In the early morning hours of July 27th, unidentified individuals threw two Molotov cocktails at the evangelical Martin-Luther-Kirche in Dresden resulting in at least 1,000 euros in damage.

Knife Attacker in Hamburg Wanted to Kill Christians and Young People²⁵²

July 28, 2017: One person died and seven were injured in Hamburg on July 28th when a 26-year-old Palestinian ("Ahmad A.") attacked people with a knife in a Edeka market in Hamburg-Barmbek. The attacker, who lived in a refugee home, was known by authorities to have been radicalized and said his goal was to "kill Christians and young people" and die as a martyr.

German Greens Created "Anti-Feminist" Wiki; Targeted Christian Public Figures²⁵³

July 28, 2017: The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, the foundation of the German Green Party, created a website called "Agent*In" which listed individuals and organizations said

to be “anti-feminist” in order to better find and combat them. The majority of the people and organizations listed were Christians or Church organizations. After public criticism, the website was taken offline.

Man was Attacked for Wearing a Cross in Berlin²⁵⁴

September 11, 2017: The Berlin police reported that a 23-year-old man from Afghanistan was attacked and injured for wearing chain with a cross on it. He was approached by two men on evening of September 11th near the Neukölln S-Bahn station. According to the police report, the victim said that the attackers asked him why he had converted and become a Christian. One of the two perpetrators tore the chain from the man’s neck and beat him while the other held him down. The police called the assault “serious bodily harm” with a “religious motive.”

“Kill all Christs” Graffiti Painted on Street²⁵⁵

September 23, 2017: The phrase “Kill all Christs” next to a heart containing “IS” was discovered painted on a street in Bischoffen-Niederweidbach on September 23rd. This acronym for Islamic State was also found painted in the same pink color on a road sign.

German Yoghurt Maker Weideglück Removed Santorini Cross from Packaging²⁵⁶

October 11, 2017: Weideglück’s Greek Yoghurt packaging had an image depicting the famous blue dome of the Anastasis Church in Santorini, Greece but with the cross removed.

Catholic Priest Insulted as “Infidel” and “Swine” at Lidl Checkout²⁵⁷

October 21, 2017: A parish priest, dressed in his normal clerical clothing, was verbally attacked in a supermarket in Werl by a man who called him a “pig” and an “infidel” as he shook the priest’s shopping cart. Publicly insulting a person in Germany can be a criminal offense.

Church Devastated by Vandalism in Bremen-Lesum²⁵⁸

October 29, 2017: Unknown perpetrators caused half a million euros in damage when they vandalized the St. Martini Church by filling two organs with construction foam, emptying a fire extinguisher, and pouring red acrylic paint on the floor in front of the altar and baptismal font.

Summit Cross Destroyed in Bavarian Mountains²⁵⁹

November 5, 2017: The four-meter-high wooden summit cross on the Kotzen in the Karwendel mountains was vandalized during the weekend of November 5th.

Police opened an investigation to determine if this was connected to the series of summit cross vandalism incidents in **2016**.

Lottery’s Advertisement Featured Model Posing as Crucified Jesus²⁶⁰

December 13, 2017: German Catholic and Protestant leaders expressed outrage after a model posed on a cross in lingerie for a lottery company’s promotion. The advertising included the slogan “Christmas is now even more beautiful.”

GREECE

Anarchist Protesters Disrupted Divine Liturgy²⁶¹

July 31, 2016: A group of about 25 people burst into the church of Saint Gregory Palamas in Thessaloniki, disrupting the Divine Liturgy (Eucharistic service of the Byzantine Rite) throwing leaflets protesting against the expulsion of refugees and migrants. The protesters clashed with those present in the church. Riot police made more than 20 arrests.

Holy Synod Offices the Victim of Arson Attack by Molotov Cocktails²⁶²

August 8, 2016: Unidentified assailants, presumed to be anarchists, threw four Molotov cocktails into the yard of a church in central Athens, the Moni Petraki, which houses the central offices of the Church of Greece’s Holy Synod. The Molotov cocktails detonated, destroying two cars that had been parked outside.

ECtHR Finds Greece Violated Rights of Conscientious Objector²⁶³

September 15, 2016: The case concerned the Greek authorities’ refusal to grant a Jehovah’s Witness the status of conscientious objector and to allow him to do alternative civilian work instead of military service. The Court held that this was a violation of Article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Church Desecrated in Crete

December 18, 2016: Unknown perpetrators entered the

Orthodox church of the Archangel Michael near Lagoliou, set sacred books on fire in the sanctuary, and sprayed "Allah is great" in Arabic on the walls.

HUNGARY

Pro-Abortion Activist Dressed as Bishop; Handed out Abortion Pills at "Communion"²⁶⁴

April 10, 2016: Pro-Abortion activists held a demonstration in front of the Polish Embassy in Budapest to protest the tightening of Poland's abortion law. One of the demonstration's leaders, dressed as a Catholic bishop, conducted a mock Holy Mass, and concluded by handing out abortion pills as Holy Communion. Those receiving the pills repeated the words "Body of Christ."

IRELAND

Humanist Association Urged Vote to Remove "God" from Constitution²⁶⁵

September 29, 2016: To mark International Blasphemy Rights Day, the Humanist Association called on the Government "and all political parties, TDs and Senators, to repeal the blasphemy law, the 2009 Defamation Act, by supporting a referendum to remove references to God from the Irish Constitution" and to any clauses that require public officials to swear a religious oath upon taking office.

Galway: Church Interior Found Devastated²⁶⁶

October 26, 2017: The Holy Trinity Church on Errislanann peninsula in Galway was completely desecrated by vandalism. "The interior had been found ruined, with windows smashed, electrics ripped out of the walls, and the pulpit, pews and organ destroyed," said Canon Stan Evans who is in charge of the religious building. The damage was estimated to be as much as 70,000 euros.

Catholic Pro-Life Student Union President Ousted²⁶⁷

October 27, 2017: Students Union at University College Dublin, a university founded by Blessed John Henry Newman, voted to remove Katie Ascough, the Catholic pro-life president of their student union. This vote came after Ascough, on legal advice, stopped the Union from

publishing information about the cost of abortion and information relating to abortion pills.

ITALY

Statue of St. Joseph Decapitated; Finger of Infant Jesus Broken²⁶⁸

January 1, 2016: Police investigated the destruction of nativity statues in a crèche in front of a church in Dorga, in the Bergamo region.

Fibbiana Nativity Display Attacked²⁶⁹

January 1, 2016: In Fibbiana, the statue of the infant Jesus was beheaded and the legs broken; the entire nativity display was also attacked with firecrackers and fireworks.

Jesus Nativity Figure Decapitated in Bergamo Region²⁷⁰

January 3, 2016: A nativity scene in Treviglio was destroyed and the Jesus statue beheaded by unknown perpetrators. This was the second such incident in as many days in the Bergamo region.

Statue of Saint Petronio Defaced by Vandals²⁷¹

June 26, 2016: The statue, the civil and religious symbol of the city of Bologna, was defaced with "Allah Akbar" painted on the base.

Man Burst into Church and Smashed Ancient Crucifix to the Ground²⁷³

July 12, 2016: A young man of North African origin rushed into the church of St. Jeremiah, in Venice and threw a large crucifix to the floor, heavily damaging the religious artifact. He was later expelled from Italy.

Order of Nuns Fined for Firing Lesbian Teacher²⁷⁴

July 14, 2016: The Institute of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Trento was ordered to pay 25,000 euros to a teacher for discontinuing her employment based on the incompatibility of her sexual orientation with the Catholic school's ethos. They were also ordered to pay 1,500 euros to the Radical Association of Certain Rights — a gay rights activist group in Italy and another 1,500 euros to a local labor union.

Italy Expelled Two Men for Causing Disturbances in Catholic Churches²⁷⁵

July 28, 2016: Italy expelled two Moroccan men who

caused disturbances in Catholic churches as part of a wider effort to reduce terrorism threats. The two expelled were a 25-year-old man who smashed a 300-year-old wooden crucifix to the ground inside a Venice church in early July (*see above*) and a 69-year-old man who stormed into a church in 2015 in Trentino and shouted abusive statements about Catholicism.

14-Year-Old Confesses to Setting Fire in Church²⁷⁶

August 6, 2016: A 14-year-old intentionally set a fire in the church of San Filippo Neri in Savigliano using candles. The fire spread to the wooden paneling and was eventually contained by the use of two fire extinguishers. The church was declared partially unusable.

Venice Church the Site of Two Anti-Christian Incidents²⁷⁷

August 7, 2016: Four women wearing headscarves entered the Church of San Zulian, approached the crucifix, and spat on it. They then moved among the tourists undetected. The day before, two young men, described as "Asians," received Communion, and then spat out pieces of the host onto the ground and fled.

Vandals Tag 14th Century Church Fresco²⁷⁸

August 10, 2016: A "street artist" tagged a fresco in the Basilica di San Lorenzo in Vicenza with black spray paint.

Church Desecrated in Grandate²⁷⁹

August 13, 2016: During the night, unknown persons forced open the door of the church of San Bartolomeo and attempted to break open the tabernacle containing consecrated hosts, broke the marble lectern, and topped the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, breaking her hands and nose.

Italian Television Presenter Attacked Online for Wearing Rosary & Holy Medals²⁸⁰

September 25, 2016: Marina Nalesso, an Italian TV presenter, was the target of online attacks from secular activists for wearing a rosary and holy medals on television.

Man Arrested after Series of Attacks on Churches in Rome²⁸¹

October 1, 2016: Police arrested a 39-year-old Ghanaian man suspected of attacking several churches in Rome over the previous two days. He was suspected of heavily damaging devotional statues, crucifixes, and candlesticks at the Basilica of Santa Prassede, the Church of San Martino ai Monti, and the Basilicas of San Giovanni de' Fiorentini and San Vitale.

Crucifix Marred by Vandals in Arcugnano²⁸²

October 1, 2016: The crucifix of Lake Fimon, in the Berici hills was defaced with paint for the second time in ten months.

Church Desecrated in Messina²⁷²

July 3, 2016: The church of Santa Elena was the victim of desecration, theft, and vandalism. The parish priest discovered the tabernacle completely emptied, smashed and detached from the wall. A statue of the Virgin Mary was decapitated, and a ciborium full of consecrated hosts was stolen, along with an ancient reliquary containing a fragment of the Holy Cross.

Thieves Steal Votive Offerings in Treviso Church²⁸³

December 3, 2016: Unknown perpetrators broke into the Basilica of Motta di Livenza during the night, disconnected an alarm, sawed off iron bars, broke a window, and stole votive offerings donated by the faithful of the diocese.

Thieves Steal Gold from Sacred Statue of Our Lady of Pilastrello²⁸⁴

December 11, 2016: After several failed attempts since June 2016, thieves managed to sneak into the guarded shrine in Lendinara, smashed a protective glass case, and stole all of the gold on the statue of the "Black Madonna."

Thieves Hit Caorle Cathedral in 3rd Incident in Veneto Region in ten Days²⁸⁵

December 15, 2016: Glass cases protecting sacred statues and images were smashed and the decorative jewels and offerings of the faithful were stolen. Police investigated the links between this incident and others in the region targeting shrines containing sacred images.

25-Year-Old Smashed Shrine and Set Fire to Crèche²⁸⁶

January 2, 2017: A Gambian man with a valid residence permit broke the glass case containing a statue of the Virgin Mary in the courtyard of the Church of the Madonna del Rosario and then burned the Christmas crèche, completely destroying it. He admitted the act to the police, saying that he was Muslim and wanted to destroy the Christian symbols.

Two Priests Attacked in Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome²⁸⁷

January 7, 2017: A 41-year-old man attacked two priests with a broken glass bottle and both had to be hospitalized. The attacker fled, but was quickly caught by the police.

The Head of a Jesus Statue Used as a Toilet in Illegal Migrant Camp²⁸⁸

April 26, 2017: During an inspection of an illegal migrant camp in Ventimiglia by Regional Councilor for Agriculture of the Northern League, the head of a marble statue of Jesus was found covered with excrement and urine. The head had possibly been taken from a local cemetery and then used as a makeshift toilet. The discovery caused anger and upset in the local community and the Regional Councilor publicly denounced the situation.

Rome Bus Stops the Target of Offensive Images²⁸⁹

June 1, 2017: Activist artists “Hogre” and “DoublewhY” placed offensive and obscene posters inside publicity screens of the Roman transport company ATAC on June 1st. One poster, called “Immaculata Conceptio — In Vitro” was a depiction of the Virgin Mary holding a baby, presumably Jesus Christ, with her hand on another woman’s thigh, implying that they were a couple who used in vitro fertilization to conceive the child. Another poster, entitled “Ecce Homo Erectus,” was an obscene image of Jesus Christ with a young boy kneeling in front of him.

Relic of St. John Bosco Stolen²⁹⁰

June 2, 2017: The urn containing St. John Bosco’s brain was stolen from the Salesian Basilica of Castelnuovo Don Bosco in the Piedmont region of Italy. The Archbishop of Turin, Bishop Cesare Nosiglia, condemned the theft and urged return of the relic.

LUXEMBOURG

Religious Statues Decapitated²⁹¹

August 19, 2016: A resident of Weilerlach discovered religious statues of Jesus and Joseph decapitated by unknown vandals in a public park.

Man Arrested for Church Vandalism²⁹²

March 14, 2017: Officials were called when smoke was seen coming from the church of Bettembourg. When they arrived they found a man had set fire to flags inside the church and had destroyed statues and other objects.

Statue of St. Paul Decapitated in Luxembourg; Left on Priest’s Doorstep²⁹³

April 25, 2017: A statue of St. Paul near the church in Dalheim was discovered decapitated. The head was later found left on the doorstep of the local priest’s home. The discovery worried the priest, but the mayor decided simply to have the head re-attached onto the statue, rather than initiate an investigation. When asked if he thought the act was a symbolic gesture, the mayor said it could have been just a “random act.” The priest said he was “reassured” but if it happened again, he would have to make his own security arrangements.

MONACO

Priest Assaulted in Church Sacristy²⁹⁴

June 9, 2017: Father Jean-Christophe Genson of the church of Sainte-Dévote in Monaco was assaulted by an unnamed assailant as he prepared for Mass on the evening of June 9th. The individual began demanding answers to questions about the Vatican and then slapped the priest in the face and threatened to kill him. According to the police, the assailant was “imbalanced and of Italian origin.” In Monaco, a Catholic principality, attacking a priest is a serious crime as it constitutes both aggression against a ministerial officer and a person in charge of a public service.

NETHERLANDS

Catholic and Protestant Churches Excluded from Population Information²⁹⁵

May 17, 2016: Legislation, passed by a parliamentary majority without any consultation with churches, put an end to a program that passed population information (such as births, deaths, marriages, and relocation) from the municipal administrations to churches through an interchurch foundation. The law applies exclusively to churches and other organizations will still have access to the information. The Dutch Bishops’ Conference protested this measure and complained to the Prime Minister on behalf of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches

Funding for Christian Charity Cut for Encouraging Homosexual Celibacy²⁹⁶

July 19, 2016: A Christian charity that encourages celibacy

for gay Christians, lost governmental funding after the ruling party argued that it sent the wrong message.

Vandals Attacked St. Augustine Church in Utrecht²⁹⁷

December 23, 2016: A parish employee discovered the locked doors forced open, bibles torn, and the newly restored processional cross destroyed. The pastor estimated damages in the thousands of euros.

Arson at Emmaüskerk in Soesterkwartier²⁹⁸

January 1, 2017: Police investigated an early morning fire intentionally set in the main entrance of the old wooden church, destroying the doors and leaving the church reeking of smoke. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished before it destroyed the building.

No Charges Filed against Porn Makers for Church Sex Film in Tilburg²⁹⁹

August 15, 2017: Prosecutors rejected a complaint from Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Tilburg after two actors were filmed having sex in the confessional box. The video was posted on a Dutch porn website earlier in 2017. Dutch authorities said the pornographic film was offensive but there was no longer a blasphemy law in the Netherlands. A reparation Mass was held due to the desecration in the church.

NORWAY

Court Case Began for Norwegian Doctor Fired for Exercising Right to Conscience³⁰⁰

June 1, 2016: Katarzyna Jachimowicz, a Polish family physician working in Norway, is the first medical professional in the country fired because she exercised her conscience rights by refusing to insert intrauterine devices (IUDs) which can act as abortifacients. In June 2016, her wrongful termination court case was filed, the first hearing of the conscience objection in Norway's courts. In February 2017, a district court ruled against her, concluding that Dr. Jachimowicz's actions were a form of discrimination against women.

Norwegian Court Ruled Against Catholic Doctor³⁰¹

February 9, 2017: A Norwegian district court ruled against Katarzyna Jachimowicz, a Polish Catholic doctor who sued after she was fired for refusing to insert intrauterine devices (IUDs), which can act as abortifacients. In November 2017, an appellate court reversed the decision, finding that the doctor's

conscience rights under the European Convention on Human Rights had been infringed.

Columnist Calls Immigration Minister's Crucifix Necklace a Symbol of Xenophobia³⁰²

March 6, 2017: Sven Egil Omdal, a veteran journalist, editor, and commentator for newspaper *Stavanger Aftenblad*, noted that Sylvi Listhaug, Norway's government minister in charge of immigration and asylum issues, had been wearing a cross necklace much more often than in the past. "Am I claiming that she uses the cross as a political statement to appeal to that strange group who thinks that fear of foreigners is a Christian virtue?" Omdal queried on social media. "Yes, that's basically what I'm doing."

POLAND

Polish Prosecutors Investigate Play for Offending Religious Sentiments³⁰³

February 22, 2017: The Polish prosecutor's office began an investigation of a theater play that contained a scene of an actress simulating oral sex on the statue of Pope John Paul II, and other sex scenes involving crosses. Another scene hints at murdering a top PiS (Law and Justice) party leader.

Polish Universities Cancelled Pro-Life Speaker After Protests³⁰⁴

March 14, 2017: In early March, the legal advocacy group Ordo Iuris and several student organizations invited Rebecca Kiessling, an American pro-life speaker, to give speeches at several universities in Poland. While all of the universities had initially agreed to hold the events, they abruptly cancelled the events or modified the format, after leftist groups protested.

Vandalism on Painting of Jesus in Church³⁰⁵

April 10, 2017: A 31-year-old male was arrested after he emptied a bottle of black spray paint on a painting of Jesus in a Church in Pila.

PORTUGAL

Planned Attack on Pope in Fatima Foiled³⁰⁶

July 21, 2017: A Moroccan man was expelled from Portugal after police foiled his planned attack on Pope

Francis during his visit to Fatima in May 2017. According to reports released in July 2017, a Moroccan Muslim married to a Portuguese firefighter made several purchases of suspect materials, such as nitrates, a substance regularly used to produce handmade bombs. He was arrested and deported from Portugal to Morocco and his wife was reportedly suspended from the fire brigade.

ROMANIA

Orthodox Christian Monument Defaced in Bucharest³⁰⁷

September 27, 2016: An Orthodox Christian monument in Piata Unirii (Union Square) in the form of a large cross was vandalized with LGBT and anarchist graffiti.

Church Crosses Removed from Event Logo; Replaced after Complaints³⁰⁸

November 4, 2017: The event logo for “Upgrade My City” in Timisoura depicted a skyline with church buildings, but with the crosses atop the steeples digitally removed. After complaints, the crosses reappeared on the logos with an apology.

Journalist Jokes about Imprisoning Priests³⁰⁹

June 6, 2017: Romanian journalist/humorist Ovidiu Eftimie wrote on his Facebook page “Times New Roman” that he “yearns for the years of communist persecution, when priests was taken to the canal and stranded in jail, becoming cannon flesh for torturers.” He has also stated that he would love to become a new Vişinescu and punish church leaders. The Romanian media characterized these statements as a joke.

SLOVAKIA

Church Bells in Two Towns Ordered Silenced by Courts³¹⁰

January 22, 2017: After a complaint by a resident in Pezinok about the volume of the local church bells, and another complaint by a different resident in Svinna, courts ordered the church to reduce the volume or silence the bells in each town.

National Theatre’s School Performances use Statue of Virgin Mary as Symbol of Extremism³¹¹

February 9, 2017: The Slovak National Theatre visited

schools with a performance about the dangers of extremism, depicting the true story of a Roma family being attacked by skinheads in 2009. Without any explanation, the stage setting included a statue of the Virgin Mary in front of a swastika symbol. A complaint was filed on the grounds that this insulted and defamed the Catholic Church by implying that the Church was somehow complicit in the crime.

SLOVENIA

Ljubljana Cathedral Vandalized with Graffiti³¹²

March 8, 2016: The words (translated from Slovenian) “Church get out of my womb” and “RCC (Roman Catholic Church) get out of our vaginas” were sprayed on the wall of the Franciscan church. The vandalism was suspected to be in response to the vigils in front of the Ljubljana hospital as part of the anti-abortion prayer campaign 40 days for life. Graffiti on a wall opposite the hospital reads (in Slovenian): “take the power from the Church and give it to women.”

Vandals Defaced Church in Celje³¹³

June 15, 2016: A Catholic church in Celje was defaced with satanic words and symbols, resulting in 3,000 euros in damage. Graffiti with symbols such as pentagrams and upside-down crosses as well as profanities, the word Satan, and 666 were found on the Cathedral of St. Daniel, on the bishop’s residence, on a historic column on which a statue of the Virgin Mary stands, and on some tombstones.

SPAIN

Floats for Parade of Kings Burned³¹⁴

January 3, 2016: Four floats that were to be used in the traditional procession of the Three Kings were found burned on the Sunday before Epiphany in Arriate. In what appeared to have been an intentional act, gasoline was poured near the floats and set on fire.

Mallorca Gay Men’s Chorus Dress as Nuns³¹⁵

January 18, 2016: The Mallorca Gay Men’s Chorus dressed as nuns in a concert for the celebration of St. Sebastian, patron saint of Palma de Mallorca. Two Catholic organizations, *l’Istituto di politica familiare*

and *Mas Libres*, criticized this government-approved performance as inappropriate.

Seville Church the Victim of Burglary³¹⁶

January 24, 2016: Unknown individuals broke into the Corpus Christi church and stole three silver ciboria, chalices and the contents of collection boxes. The thieves also left the tabernacle open and consecrated hosts lying on the ground.

Activists Attack Church in Lérida³¹⁷

March 7, 2016: The youth organization Arran took responsibility for a graffiti attack against a church in the Catalonia region. The wall outside the church was painted lilac and the words “Contra los ataques de la Iglesia. Juntos somos más fuertes” (“Against the attacks of the Church. Together we are stronger.”)

Graffiti Attack on Barcelona Church³¹⁸

March 8, 2016: The parish of San Andrés de Palomar was sprayed with the words “Fuego sálvanos de la Iglesia” (“Fire: save us from the Church”) accompanied by an anarchist symbol.

Theft of Consecrated Host in Andalucía³¹⁹

March 11, 2016: A small container holding a consecrated host was stolen from the Franciscan Monastery in Jaén.

Two Church Fires in a Weekend in Narón³²⁰

June 11, 2016: In the early hours of June 10th to 11th, two clearly intentional fires were discovered in two different churches in Narón. Incendiary devices were also found in both churches and the fires each resulted in significant damage to the religious buildings.

Beloved Shrine Vandalized³²¹

June 15, 2016: The statues of the Virgin of Candelabra and Santo Herman Pedro were beheaded by unknown vandals in a sanctuary in the mountain town of Cabo Blanco in Tenerife.

Valencia Cardinal Accused of Hate Speech for Homily Criticizing Gender Ideology Legislation³²²

June 23, 2016: The Feminist Platform of Alicante, along with 55 other LGBT organizations, accused Cardinal Antonio Cañizares of hate speech. They alleged that his May 13th homily was “full of hatred” and “homophobic and sexist.” On June 23, 2016, he was cleared of the charges.

Secularist Association Calls for Mayor’s Resignation for Assisting in Catholic Blessing³²³

June 29, 2016: The president of Asturias Laica, a

secularist association, formally requested that the mayor of Gijón, Carmen Moriyón, resign from office for assisting in the Catholic ritual of the blessing of the waters in the feast of San Pedro, the city’s patron saint.

Town Council to Remove Cross from Public Square³²⁴

August 11, 2016: The Callosa de Segura town council voted to remove the cross in the plaza of the church of San Martín. Christian legal groups objected, noting that its presence poses no threat to anyone and that it is part of the town’s historical and cultural heritage.

Mass Interrupted by Intruder Yelling Insults at Cardinal³²⁵

August 26, 2016: While Cardinal Antonio Cañizares was offering Mass in Avila dedicated to St. Teresa of Avila, he was interrupted by an individual who entered the church shouting insults at the Cardinal such as “Nazi, thief, Fascist.”

Four Spanish Bishops Threatened with Prosecution for Criticism of LGBT Law³²⁶

August 31, 2016: Three of the bishops were threatened with a criminal complaint for having written and published a condemnation of Madrid’s “Law of Integral Protection against LGTBphobia and Discrimination for Reasons of Orientation and Sexual Identity.” The fourth bishop was criminally investigated for expressing support for the statement of the first three.

Moroccan Man Arrested for Islamist Attack on Spanish Church³²⁷

September 8, 2016: A Moroccan man admitted setting a fire that destroyed an ancient altarpiece in the church of Fontellas in Navarre on September 8th, the day recognized by Catholics as of the Nativity of the Virgin. On September 9th, police arrested the alleged perpetrator, Naoufal K., a man of Moroccan nationality. According to the police, the burning of the Virgin was “strictly for ideological reasons of a religious character.”

A court considered this an Islamist attack and issued a restraining order prohibiting the arsonist from coming within ten meters of Catholic churches or any buildings or places used for Catholic worship, as well any private or public Catholic functions. A week later, Naoufal K.,

who told authorities he had become radicalized after a trip to Morocco, was arrested again for **destroying the cross**³²⁸ atop the church of Ribaforada on September 14th. On October 7th, **Spanish authorities expelled**³²⁹ the man from Spain. He was also banned from the Schengen area for a period of ten years. Naoufal K. expressed no regrets and admitted that he'd set fire to several other places of worship in northern Spain.

Church of San Juan Bautista de Manises Vandalized with Satanic Graffiti³³⁰

September 9, 2016: Unknown perpetrators painted "666," a swastika, and a pentagram on the facade of the church with red paint.

Man Arrested for Setting Fire in the Basilica del Gran Poder de Sevilla³³¹

September 12, 2016: A visitor alerted authorities in the basilica that he had extinguished a burning cloth of great artistic value in the sanctuary and that moments before he had seen someone set it on fire. Security cameras assisted the police in locating the perpetrator.

Elderly Priest Attacked in Church; Suffered a Stroke Due to Injuries³³²

October 8, 2016: During the afternoon of October 8th, two young men entered the church of Santa Rita in Vigo and asked to give confession to Father Antonio Rodríguez. Once alone with him, the two assailants grabbed the 83-year-old priest from behind, threw him to the ground and kicked him all over his body and head. They stole his glasses, wallet, watch, and the money they found in the church. The following day he was rushed to the hospital after suffering a stroke due to the blot clot that formed as a result of the blows to his head.

Thieves Desecrated Church of Santa Maria in Ocaña³³³

October 17, 2016: Intruders gained access to the church after breaking a fence and window. They stole consecrated hosts that were in the tabernacle and stole valuable religious jewelry, left other hosts and various objects lying on the floor, and vandalized numerous images of virgins and saints.

Public Art Exhibition Containing Sacrilegious Images Cost Madrid 60,000 Euros³³⁴

October 23, 2016: The exhibition, paid for by taxpayers and with the approval of the mayor, contained violent and pornographic images including a painting depicting a cardinal raping a woman on the altar of a church.

City Council to Vote on Removal of Religious Symbols from Public Spaces³³⁵

October 26, 2016: In November, the Madrid City Council was expected to vote on a draft human rights law which included the removal of religious symbols from public spaces.

Media Campaign Targets Priest for Upholding Church Doctrine³³⁶

November 3, 2016: The Spanish media network SER launched a media campaign against a Catholic priest for posting a list of sins that preclude parishioners from receiving Communion until they have been confessed, calling the list a throw-back to old times.

The priest noted that the list he posted is from the doctrine of the Catholic Church and complained that the media network was attempting to silence him and interfere with his freedom of expression.

Government of Rincon Prohibited Nativity Scene in Municipal Courtyard³³⁷

November 4, 2016: The city council said: "It is the central administrative building, and must respect the non-denominational vision of the State." Critics of the decision responded: "The local rulers confuse the non-denominational state, with the popular customs that are part of the cultural heritage."

Desecration in Cemetery Chapel³³⁸

November 7, 2016: In a letter to members of his diocese, Bishop of San Sebastián José Ignacio Munilla denounced "a very grave desecration against the Blessed Sacrament" committed in the cemetery chapel of Polloe: The tabernacle was stolen, as was the ciborium and the consecrated hosts it contained.

Threatening Graffiti on the Walls of a Christian School³³⁹

November 9, 2016: Threatening graffiti, "You will burn like in '36" (a clear reference to the anti-religious murders and anti-religious arson during the Spanish Civil War) was sprayed on the walls surrounding the Colegio de San José in Vallecas.

Stolen Tabernacle and Ciborium Found in Cemetery³⁴⁰

November 10, 2016: The Bishop of San Sebastián reported that the tabernacle and ciborium containing consecrated hosts which had been stolen from the chapel earlier in the week had been found in a cemetery. The ciborium was empty. The Bishop called this a “very grave desecration of the Blessed Sacrament” and called for a reparation Mass.

Judge Dismisses Charges Against Artist Who Stole Consecrated Hosts³⁴¹

November 16, 2016: In 2015, **Abel Azcona stole more than 240 consecrated hosts³⁴²** from Masses celebrated in the cities of Madrid and Pamplona. He later took photos of himself arranging them on a floor to spell the word ‘pederasty.’ He was charged with an offense against laws respecting religious sentiments. A judge dismissed the case against Azcona in November 2016. In his ruling, the judge described the consecrated and stolen hosts as “small white round objects.” He claimed that there had been no desecration because according to the Spanish Royal Academy dictionary, desecration is defined as “treating something sacred without due respect or using it for profane purposes.”

Priest Attacked Celebrating Mass³⁴³

November 17, 2016: While he was celebrating Mass in the parish church of Nuestra Señora de Covadonga in Madrid, Fr. Lino Hernando was attacked at the altar by an unknown person who threw him to the ground, kicked, and insulted him. The aggressor also threw around consecrated hosts and other worship items from the altar.

14th Century Church Vandalized with Red Paint³⁴⁴

November 22, 2016: During the night, two people threw red paint against the facade and one of the entrances of the parish of Santa Creu, one of the oldest in Palma. The perpetrators justified the attack as denouncing the “historical collaboration” of the Catholic Church with fascism.

Easter Poster Depicting Christ Removed from Government Office³⁴⁵

November 23, 2016: After a complaint by the secularist group Observatorio del Laicismo, the Andalusian Employment Office in Granada removed a poster containing an image of Jesus Christ promoting Holy Week tourism.

School Prohibited Christmas Decorations with Religious Motifs³⁴⁶

November 24, 2016: A school in Elche sent a letter to

parents saying it needed Christmas decorations for the classrooms, but that they must not have religious motifs.

Graffiti Damaged Granada Cathedral³⁴⁷

November 25, 2016: The Archbishop of Granada filed a complaint after graffiti was painted on the facade of the Metropolitan Curia and the Cathedral, one of the most important cultural sites of the city.

Madrid Parish Vandalized³⁴⁸

December 1, 2016: “You will burn in Hell” (“Arderéis en el infierno”) was sprayed on the parish of Nuestra Señora Reina del Cielo in Madrid by unknown perpetrators.

Spanish Court Acquitted City Councilor of Infringing on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Convictions³⁴⁹

December 16, 2016: In March 2016, a court found Rita Maestre guilty of “infringing on freedom of conscience and religious convictions” for removing her top inside a chapel during a protest against the “antidemocratic and chauvinistic” positions of the Catholic Church in 2011. On appeal, that decision was reversed as the court found that “inadequate clothing or certain inappropriate gestures” were “disrespectful but not desecration.”

Church and Christ Figure Vandalized in Madrid³⁵⁰

January 5, 2017: The exterior of the parish of Santa María de Nazaret in Madrid was vandalized with graffiti and a figure of Christ was damaged by unknown perpetrators.

Romanesque Door and Rectory of a Church in Sabadell Destroyed³⁵¹

January 18, 2017: The Municipal Police of Sabadell investigated several instances of intentional damage in the Sant Pau de Riu-sec church, which dates from the 11th and 12th centuries, as well as in the rectory. The damage affected the original door of the south facade of the church. The arch and one of the windows were also attacked: a protection grid was cut and one of the wooden porticos was broken.

LGBT Lobby Attempted to Block Lecture by Gay Author; Demanded Apology³⁵²

February 7, 2017: Two LGBT groups in Barcelona demanded that the Archdiocese prohibit a February 11, 2017, lecture by Philippe Ariño in the parish of Santa Ana on the grounds that the content would be “seriously homophobic” in violation of Catalonia anti-discrimination

law. The lecture by a young French Catholic man who is homosexual and advocates celibacy as a means to resist homosexual urges was organized by the Youth Delegation of the Archdiocese. The LGBT groups also demanded an apology from the Archbishop.

Work Begins to Remove Monumental Cross in Sant Carles de la Ràpita³⁵³

February 16, 2017: After the town council decreed that the cross outside the “Torre de Guardiola” fortress was erected in commemoration of General Franco’s victory in the Spanish Civil War, it was ordered removed in compliance with the Historical Memory Law of 2007. Critics of this move noted that the plaque linking the cross to Franco had already been removed.

Anti-Gender Ideology Campaign Censored³⁵⁷

March 2, 2017: The advocacy organization HazteOir.org painted a bus to circulate around Madrid with the words “Boys have penises, girls have vaginas. Don’t be fooled. If you’re born a man, you’re a man. If you’re a woman, you’ll always be a woman” and publicized a pamphlet it created for parents: “Do you know what they want to teach your child at school? The laws of sexual indoctrination.” The Madrid City Council authorized the seizure of the bus without a court order on March 2nd.

Parliamentary Group Called for a Ban on Broadcasts of Mass on Public Television³⁵⁴

February 20, 2017: A parliamentary group, Unidos Podemos-En Comú Podem-En Marea, in the Congress of Deputies presented a proposal calling for the end of broadcasts of Catholic Mass on public television. The group cited Article 16.3 of the Spanish constitution which established Spain as a non-confessional state.

Granada Bishop Accused of Hate Speech³⁵⁵

February 20, 2017: The Spanish Observatory against LGBTfobia filed a hate speech complaint on February 20th against Archbishop Francisco Javier Martínez for a homily delivered on February 12, 2017, in which he criticized gender ideology in the education of children. The complaint accused the bishop of promoting “hate speech against LGBT persons.”

Elderly Priest Brutally Attacked in Parish Home³⁵⁶

February 22, 2017: Father Arturo López, aged 77, was brutally beaten by three masked men during an assault at the rectory of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church in Coslada, a city in the community of Madrid. The three unidentified men assaulted and tied up Father Lopez after they entered the rectory to steal valuables and money.

Spanish Councilman Officiated Wedding Dressed as a Priest³⁵⁸

March 3, 2017: Councilman Javier Botella of Levatemos El Puerto officiated at a wedding of his childhood friends in a priest costume. He was wearing an F.C. Barcelona scarf as a stole and a black cassock with golden edges. He posted a picture of himself and the newly married couple on Facebook and was immediately criticized for ridiculing the Church and the sacrament of marriage in his public capacity.

Regional Government of Andalucía Cancelled School Procession for Holy Week³⁵⁹

March 8, 2017: School children in Dos Hermanas, Seville, were prohibited from celebrating their usual children’s Holy Week procession by the regional government. The government claimed it cancelled the event because of time constraints, but parents of the affected children insisted it was cancelled due to a complaint by a secular association.

Leftists in Seville Sought to Change the Coat of Arms³⁶⁰

March 8, 2017: The Izquierda Unida (United Left) coalition in Seville wanted to change the coat of arms of the city as they say that its image is “not a representation of democracy” in the 21st century. The coat of arms is an image of King Fernando III, canonized as a saint, flanked by St. Isidore and St. Leander. The word “Mariana” also appears on the shield, added by Franco to represent the city’s devotion to the Virgin Mary.

Multiple Acts of Vandalism against Churches in Palma de Mallorca³⁶¹

March 9, 2017: The Police Hate Crime Unit in Palma investigated various acts of vandalism committed in recent months against several churches on the island of Mallorca.

Government in Valencia Attempted to Stop Religion Lessons in Schools³⁶²

March 9, 2017: The Ximo Puig Government in Valencia created obstacles for the hiring of new teachers of religion by introducing onerous new certification

requirements. Critics said this was an attempt to severely reduce the number of religion teachers and thus make it too difficult for schools to offer the subject.

Las Palmas Prosecutor Investigated Performance of Drag Queen as Christ³⁶³

March 13, 2017: At the request of the Association of Christian Lawyers, the prosecutor's office in Las Palmas initiated a criminal investigation of the performance of a "drag queen" dressed as the Virgin Mary and then as Jesus Christ during the Carnival celebrations. Prosecutors said that because Carnival is so closely related to the Christian observance of the beginning of Lent, the performance was intentionally offensive to religious feelings. The Bishop's Conference called it "blasphemous."

Muslims Encouraged to Marry Christians to Spread Islam in Spain³⁶⁴

March 15, 2017: Hundreds of posters were hung around the El Raval neighborhood of Barcelona encouraging Muslim men to take Christian wives, saying that they were permitted and encouraged to marry "honest and chaste women of the Book" (meaning Christians) for the purpose of increasing the population of Muslims in the region. The posters read "Brother, join in alliance with a Spanish woman, teach her that Islam is the only true religion. Islamic law dictates that the fruits of this alliance will follow Islam, which will further strengthen our community." It appears these posters are part of the "right-to-return" movement to "Restore Al-Andalus" — that is, Muslim Spain.

Basilica in Valencia Vandalized³⁶⁵

March 17, 2017: The Basilica of the Mare de Deu dels Desamparats was vandalized with offensive graffiti on the walls and black paint thrown on the mosaic of the Virgin Mary over several days, beginning during the night between March 11th and 12th. Citizens, as well as the Archbishop, denounced the acts.

Politicians of Ponferrada Demanded Removal of Holy Week Exhibition in School³⁶⁶

March 23, 2017: The Ponferrada en Común (PeC), el Partido Comunista (PCE) and Izquierda Unida (IU) demanded immediate closure of a Holy Week exhibition in a public school by the Confraternity of Jesus of Nazareth (la Real Hermandad Jesús Nazareno). The political groups argued that such an exhibition "should not take place in a public school in a state that is defined as non-denominational." They also claimed that the display "endangered safety at the school" as it is in a corridor that could be needed in an emergency.

Journalist Called Bishop Sexist and Homophobic³⁶⁷

March 27, 2017: Spanish Journalist Fernando Pérez Monguió published a blog post about the Bishop of Cordoba, Demetrio Fernández, in which he called him "a fanatic and a dangerously sexist and homophobic prelate." He accused the bishop of having attacked the honor and dignity of homosexuals and women and demanded an apology. Among the writer's complaints were the bishop's remarks against abortion, homosexuality, and gender ideology — each of which are consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Zaragoza City Council Initiated Proceeding to Claim Public Ownership of Cathedral and Church³⁶⁸

March 28, 2017: The municipal government's proceedings were an attempt to nullify the inmatriculación (entry into the property registry) of La Catedral de San Salvador de Zaragoza, known La Seo and Iglesia de La Magdalena by claiming the buildings are public property. The spokesman for the Archbishop of Zaragoza, José Antonio Calvo, replied that that the city could not prevail because the Catholic Church has owned the buildings since the 12th century.

Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes Decapitated in Spain³⁶⁹

April 3, 2017: The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in a cave of the Paraje de las Tobas, a natural area of the Sierra de Huelva, was decapitated and its hands were broken off by unknown perpetrators.

National Police Investigated Hacking of HazteOir.org³⁷⁰

April 4, 2017: HazteOir.org, the advocacy group behind a Christian anti-gender ideology publicity campaign using a bus, suffered a computer attack on some of its old accounts and social networks on April 4th. The self-identified "cybercriminals" attempted to use the stolen information to blackmail and extort the president of the group on social networks.

Motion Filed for Catholic Church to Pay Property Tax³⁷¹

April 4, 2017: The political party "Ahora Getafe" filed a motion for the Catholic Church to pay property taxes, despite its exemption. Due to the Concordat Agreements of the Spanish State with the Holy See in 1979, the Catholic Church was given a variety of privileges including not having to pay property taxes.

Christmas and Easter School Holidays to Change Names³⁷²

April 6, 2017: The Christmas and Easter school holidays

will be re-named “first and second period” in the region of Castile and Leon in Spain for the academic year 2017/18 so they are not associated with the Christian holidays.

Mongolia Magazine Puts “Transgender Jesus” on Cover³⁷³

April 6, 2017: In response to the bus campaign of HazteOir.org promoting a traditional view of gender with the slogans “Boys have penises; girls have vulvas. Do not be deceived”, Mongolia magazine used an image of a transgender Jesus as its cover image. The magazine cover also had slogans such as “God has a penis” and “God has a vulva” (“Dios tiene pene” and Dios tiene vulva”).

Demolition of Cross Recommended by Organization in Castellón³⁷⁴

April 8, 2017: The Association of Friends of Ribalta recommended demolishing the cross in the Ribalta Park saying that it is a fascist symbol and does not comply with the law of historical memory.

Mass Disrupted by Flares³⁷⁵

April 8, 2017: A Mass was interrupted in the Cathedral of Bilbao and parishioners had to leave the church as a group of squatters hurled flares inside the cathedral.

Good Friday Procession Cancelled due to Complaint by Secularist Group³⁷⁶

April 8, 2017: The Andalusian Education Inspection cancelled the Good Friday procession for school children in Dos Hermanas due to a complaint by a secularist group, Sevilla Laica.

Easter Procession Ended in Turmoil in Sevilla³⁷⁷

April 14, 2017: “La Madrugá”, the Easter procession during the night from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday was interrupted and ended in turmoil with 17 people being taken to the hospital and one person was admitted to the ICU for head trauma. Eight people were arrested and the police investigated the potential coordination of the attacks on the Easter procession.

Church Vandalized during Easter³⁷⁸

April 15, 2017: During the morning of April 15th, the parish priest of Nuestra Señora del Carrascal discovered acts of vandalism: the facades had been tagged with graffiti, doors within the premises had been broken, and the fire extinguishers had been emptied in several rooms.

Virgin and Child Mosaic Vandalized in Málaga³⁷⁹

April 24, 2017: The ceramic image of the Virgen del Carmen de Huelin located on the seafront of a popular neighborhood of Málaga was damaged by vandals who broke the tiles composing the faces of the Virgin Mary and Jesus.

Burning Cross Painted on Convent of Cloistered Nuns³⁸⁰

April 30, 2017: The facade of the church of Santa Magdalena at the convent was vandalized with graffiti of an inverted and burning cross. The Palma Police’s Hate Crimes Unit took charge of the investigation and said it appeared the purpose of the graffiti was to try to intimidate the Christian community, particularly the religious women who live in the cloistered convent. Evidence indicated that the graffiti was the work an extreme Leftist group.

Facebook Page Celebrates Arson of Churches³⁸¹

May 1, 2017: A Spanish Facebook page appeared to celebrate, and perhaps encourage, church arson by using the anarchist slogan “The only church that illuminates is the one that burns” (“La única iglesia que ilumina es la que arde”). The Facebook page’s profile picture is a burning church. Other photos posted on the page included cartoons mocking Christianity and the Catholic Church.

Three Churches Discovered Vandalized in Three Days³⁸²

May 1, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke windows and doors, damaged the altar and scattered objects in church of Santa Maria de Vallvidrera. Nothing was stolen. The parish of Sant Ildefons and the Hermitage of Santa Margarida were vandalized with graffiti, the former stating “the only church that illuminates is one that burns” and the latter “neither God nor country, nor King” (“la única iglesia que ilumina es la que arde” and “ni Dios, ni patria, ni Rey”). In the Hermitage of Santa Margarida, the assailants also vandalized the interior by destroying vases, candle holders and other decorative items.

Defenders of Public Cross Threatened³⁸³

May 1, 2017: Residents of Callosa de Segura opposed the City Council’s decision to remove a cross next to the parish church entrance and took turns guarding it to prevent its removal. In response, they became the targets of threatening graffiti. On May 1st, graffiti appeared with a message aimed at the spokesman of the PP parliamentary group Javier Perez: “Javier Perez is dead” (“Javier Perez estas muerto”) and the second read: “A bomb to the cross” (“Una bomba a la cruz”).

Molotov Cocktail Thrown at Carving of Virgin Mary³⁸⁴

May 2, 2017: A Molotov Cocktail was thrown at the carving of the Virgin of the Desamparados (Virgin of the Forsaken) in the church of Real Convento de Santiago in Vélez-Málaga. The 17th century carving did not burn, but the base, skirt, and mantle were stained by the homemade device containing gasoline. A young man was seen running from the scene and police began an investigation.

Barcelona Church Vandalized³⁸⁶

May 9, 2017: A Barcelona church was vandalized by unknown perpetrators. The doors were painted with graffiti of the anarchist "A" and statements such as "Get your rosaries out of our ovaries" ("Fora els vostres rosaris dels nostres ovaries"). It was estimated that more than 40 churches have been vandalized in Barcelona in the preceding months.

School Holidays Changed to Remove Religious Connection³⁸⁷

June 3, 2017: The Ministry of Education in Spain proposed changing the Carnival and Easter Holidays to weeks in late February and May respectively in order to remove the religious connections from the school holidays.

Man Burst into Church Yelling "Allah is Great"³⁸⁸

June 3, 2017: A Muslim man shouting "Allah is great" disrupted a wedding in the Church of San Pablo in the city of Valladolid. He approached the altar with the apparent intention of overthrowing various liturgical objects and assaulting those present, including the priest.

Spanish Councilor of Culture Hinted that Churches Should be Burned³⁸⁹

June 4, 2017: Aida Ginestar Pau, town councilor for sport and culture of Alzira in the province of Valencia, attacked the Catholic Church and Christianity on social media. On her Facebook page, the Podemos politician wrote a post that spoke about the Catholic Church, she asked "but are there still churches that have not burned all??" In Valencian: "Jajajaja jajajaja!!!! Però queden iglesias encara?? ¿No les han cremat totes???"

Ramadan Prayer in front of Virgin Mary Statue³⁹⁰

June 10, 2017: Before breaking their daily Ramadan fast, a prayer was held in the Jardines del Triunfo (Gardens of Triumph) in Granada. This prayer event was sanctioned by City Hall but caused outrage among some Catholics

in the area as the Jardines del Triunfo is the site of a cherished statue of Virgin Mary.

Nun Assaulted for "Being a Nun"³⁹¹

June 23, 2017: Sister Rosario of the Congregación de las Esclavas de la Inmaculada Niña de Granada was attacked on June 23rd. The assailant hit Sister Rosario in the face and said "this is for being a nun" ("esto por ser monja"). The assault caused Sister Rosario a broken nose and swollen face. Sister Rosario was not wearing her habit at the time but was recognized as a religious by the medal she wore.

Monastery in Alicante Vandalized³⁸⁵

May 7, 2017: On the morning of May 7th the chaplain of the Monastery de la Santa Faz discovered seven intentionally-inverted crosses on the columns of the sanctuary and Satanic symbols on the armored glass case that protects the Santa Faz relics. Additionally, a liturgical prayer book and the diary where the acts of worship are recorded were stolen. Police opened a forensic investigation.

University Chapel Attacked with Incendiary Devices³⁹²

June 23, 2017: The chapel of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid was attacked with incendiary devices thrown through a window early in the morning of June 23rd. In addition to trying to destroy the chapel, the perpetrators left the slogan "The only church that illuminates is the one that burns" on the walls.

University Tagged with Anti-Christian Slogans³⁹³

June 24, 2017: One day after incendiary devices were used to start a fire at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, anti-Christian slogans were painted on the walls outside the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos of Madrid. Slogans included "The only church that illuminates is one that burns" and "No more crucifixes."

La Santina Beheaded³⁹⁴

June 24, 2017: The statue of the Virgen de Covadonga on the pilgrimage route of Chorrón de Villamayor in Piloña (Asturias, Spain) was beheaded by vandals. The statue, known as "La Santina," is an image of the Virgin Mary which forms an integral part of the Asturian tradition and

presides over a small cave chapel and is protected by a metal fence.

The Arran Organization Lleida Launches Obscene Campaign Against Bishops³⁹⁵

June 27, 2017: The Catalan separatist youth organization launched a campaign against the Bishop of Solsona, Xavier Novell, and Cardinal Archbishop of Valencia, Antonio Cañizares depicting in a sexually explicit poster as a “denunciation” of the Church’s position on homosexuality.

Church Desecrated in Villarreal³⁹⁶

July 14, 2017: One or more perpetrators forced open the tabernacle in the Basilica San Pascual de Villarreal and stole the ciborium containing consecrated Hosts. This act of desecration required that a Mass of Reparation be celebrated according to Canon Law.

Desecration in Madrid Church⁴⁰⁴

September 6, 2017: Unknown perpetrators broke into the parish of the Virgin of Bethlehem in Alcalá de Henares during the night of September 5th and 6th. They looted the altarpiece of the high altar, including the tabernacle containing consecrated Hosts, the ciborium of a chapel and a small monstrance containing a consecrated Host. The attackers threw the consecrated Hosts on the floor. Police were called and a Mass of Reparation was scheduled.

Vandalism in the Cathedral of Ibiza³⁹⁷

July 27, 2017: Police arrested a young man after he struck a tombstone in the cathedral with a hammer and painted the words “Vergonya ke sagna” (Shame that bleeds) in red. The tombstone lists names of those killed at the beginning of the Civil War in 1936. A nun observed the vandalism and told a priest, who with the help of a French tourist, tried to hold the attacker to prevent him from fleeing. After an investigation, the police arrested him for a crime against religious sentiments and disrespect for the deceased.

Mosaic of the Virgen del Carmen de Huelin Vandalized³⁹⁸

July 31, 2017: The popular ceramic mosaic of the Virgin Mary and Jesus located on the beach promenade in the Huelin neighborhood of Malaga was damaged by vandals

for the second time in four months and 15 days after having been repaired.

Bilbao: Fair Booth Depicts Jesus Christ as Cuts of Meat³⁹⁹

August 18, 2017: A poster of a crucified Jesus Christ with his body parts labeled as if they were pieces of meat for sale, with the words “Take and eat, this is my body”, was on display in an exhibition called “Vatican Butchers.” It was shown in one of the “txosnas” (fair booths of clubs which have music and drinks) during the Semana Grande in Bilbao. The poster was surrounded by pieces of meat and sausages hung from butcher hooks.

15th Century Image of Saint Paul Destroyed by Vandals⁴⁰⁰

August 18, 2017: Unknown vandals tore down and destroyed the image of Saint Paul from the Gothic doorway of the parish of Andra Mari in Guernica. The 15th century image was found broken to pieces. The parish filed a complaint.

Muslim Threatens Journalist: “We are sick of Christians”⁴⁰¹

August 23, 2017: On August 23, 2017, in Cañada de la Muerte, one of the most troubled and dangerous districts in Melilla, a Spanish journalist from Antena 3 approached a group of Muslim men. One man was filmed saying: “We are tired of you, the Spaniards and the Christians [...] They have us held here, separated and marginalized.” When the journalist pointed out that the man was Spanish himself, he answered: “I am not Spanish, I am Muslim.” “We throw stones at the police because they come to bother us. They just want to ask us for documentation ... they annoy us.” Another man did not hesitate to justify the Barcelona attacks: “It’s normal. We Muslims are sick of you, the Christians.” He then threatened, “I myself can take a truck and run over people because I’m tired of living like this. Of not having opportunities because of you.”

Arran Denounces Islamophobia but Paints Churches with Graffiti Inciting Violence⁴⁰²

August 23, 2017: The leftist youth organization of the Catalan Pro-Independence movement, Arran, has painted the facades of some Catalonian churches with aggressive messages like “The only church that illuminates is the one that burns” or “against the attacks of the Church, together we are stronger.”

Jerez Church Vandalized with Graffiti⁴⁰³

August 30, 2017: Nuestra Señora de Fátima was sprayed

with graffiti reading “Pedophiles” and “God is bisexual. She loves everyone”.

Mayor of Castellón Orders Removal and Demolition of Ribalta Park Cross⁴⁰⁵

September 16, 2017: The decision to remove the cross from Ribalta Park came after a non-binding report by experts who claimed it was a Francoist symbol. The cross was built in 1944 and devoted to fallen soldiers. However, in 1979, with the approval of all political parties including the Communist Party, the decision was made to preserve the cross in the park and to eliminate any Francoist connotations. It was then consecrated to the victims of the violence. The Association of Christian Lawyers contended that the effort to remove the cross is because of its Christian meaning, not because of Francoist connotations.

Graffiti Found on Seville Church⁴⁰⁶

September 23, 2017: The Church of Santa Marina, canonical headquarters of la Hermandad de la Resurrección (the Brotherhood of the Resurrection), was vandalized with an upside-down white cross painted on the main door of the church.

Catalonian Separatists say Church is the Enemy⁴⁰⁷

September 26, 2017: At a press conference held on September 26th in front of the cathedral in Tarragona, officials from the pro-Catalan independence political party CUP (Candidatura d’Unitat Popular) called the Catholic Church a “power structure to crush” that “discriminates against women and LGBT groups.” It has also called for the elimination of aid to Christian schools and removal of a favorable tax status for churches.

“Drag Sethlas” Testified about Las Palmas Carnival Performance⁴⁰⁸

October 23, 2017: Borja Casillas, better known as “Drag Sethlas” testified before a judge to respond to a complaint filed by the Spanish Association of Christian Lawyers. He was accused of hurting religious sentiments during his performance at the Drag Gala of the 2017 Carnival of the city in which he dressed both as the Virgin Mary and the crucified Christ.

Secularist Associations Call for Removal of Virgin Mary from Police Medal⁴⁰⁹

October 24, 2017: The secularist associations Europa Lacia and Movimiento Hacia un Estado Laico (MHUEL) appealed the 2016 Supreme Court ruling allowing the image of Nuestra Señora María Santísima del Amor to appear on a medal used by the fraternal organization, Jesús el Rico de Málaga, associated with the national

police. The prosecutor asked for the appeal to be dismissed.

Spanish Nuns Fined For Restoring Church Organ⁴¹⁰

November 18, 2017: The Andalusian government fined a convent of Spanish nuns 170,000 euros for having a priceless church organ repaired without the state’s permission. After public outcry, the fine was reduced to 1,710 euros on December 19, 2017.

Nativity Scene in Boadilla Del Monte Vandalized⁴¹¹

December 6, 2017: Figures of a nativity scene in Boadilla del Monte were found placed in obscene poses by unknown perpetrators.

Desecration and Theft of Consecrated Hosts from Spanish Parish⁴¹²

December 26, 2017: During the night between December 26th to 27th the parish church of San Francisco de Sales in Parla, in the Community of Madrid, was desecrated when the tabernacle containing consecrated hosts was stolen.

SWEDEN

Man Attacked Malmö Church⁴¹³

June 26, 2016: A man broke into St. Paul’s Church in central Malmö and vandalized it, including breaking the stained glass windows. When the police arrived at the scene, they were attacked by a man armed with a club who charged at them with cries of “Allahu Akbar.” The police used pepper spray to subdue him. The man was arrested for vandalism, trespassing and attempted violence against police officers.

Authorities Denied Permission for CCTV for Church⁴¹⁴

August 10, 2016: The Catholic Church of Karlstad was a repeated victim of attacks: Hate graffiti, inverted crosses glued on its walls, and broken windows. In 2015, Father Martin Ferenc, pastor of the church, filed no fewer than 15 police complaints. The police suggested that he install video surveillance cameras in order to identify the perpetrators. The priest therefore asked the administrative board to authorize their installation. The board rejected the application on the grounds that the church’s interest in solving these crimes was outweighed by the individual’s interest in not being recorded. One week later, an unknown person threw a rock through the window of the church.⁴¹⁵

Pressures on Christian Refugees Continued in Sweden⁴¹⁶

September 1, 2016: SVT interviewed Ingvar Briland, a priest in the parish of Jönköping, who confirmed that Christian refugees were at risk in several parts of the country. Refugees who converted from Islam to Christianity reported beatings, threats, bullying, and social exclusion in refugee accommodations.

Sweden to Deport Christian to Iran Despite Danger⁴²⁷

July 26, 2017: Sweden rejected the asylum claim of Iranian Christian actress Aideen Strandsson and planned to deport her back to Iran, where she would likely face time in an Iranian prison — or worse. In Iran, where it can be deadly to convert to Christianity, Strandsson kept her conversion largely a secret. But when she came to Sweden, she requested a public baptism. At her hearing, a Swedish migration official told her it ‘wouldn’t be as bad’ for her in Iran as she expected because she would probably only spend six months in prison.

Christian Midwife Lost Case Against City Council⁴¹⁷

November 4, 2016: Swedish midwife Linda Steen objected to assisting with abortions for reasons of conscience and as a consequence, public hospitals denied her employment. She sued the city council for violations of her freedom of conscience and religion. After losing the case, she was ordered to pay 1.2 million Swedish kronor for the city’s legal expenses. In June 2017, Steen filed a complaint against Sweden in the European Court of Human Rights.

Church Requested Security Staff Due to Disruptions, Vandalism⁴¹⁸

December 7, 2016: The Holy Trinity Church in Kristianstad was been given permission by police to have security guards at church services due to repeated thefts, disruptive and threatening behavior during services, drug and alcohol use in the church, and urination and defecation in the pews.

Swedish Pro-Life Midwife Publicly Bullied by Journalists⁴¹⁹

January 28, 2017: On the national Swedish Morning news, a journalist said: “Those who are against abortion

should be aborted. Retroactively.” And everybody in the panel laughed. Just before that, pictures of Christian midwife Ellinor Grimmark and her attorneys were shown on the screen. This occurred during the week Grimmark’s lawyers defended her case in the Swedish Labour Court.

Court Finds Discrimination against Jehovah’s Witness⁴²⁰

March 22, 2017: The Swedish Court of Appeals concluded that a Jehovah’s Witness was discriminated against on the basis of his religious convictions by the public Job Center (arbetsförmedlingen).

Swedish Labour Court Rules Against Pro-Life Midwife⁴²¹

April 12, 2017: The Swedish Labour Court upheld the judgments of the Discrimination Ombudsman and Tribunal Court in the case of Christian midwife, Ellinor Grimmark, who has been denied jobs at several clinics due to her refusal to carry out abortions and her outspoken stance on the matter.

ISIS Graffiti on Catholic Church in Sweden⁴²²

May 24, 2017: The Catholic church in Västerås was vandalized in several places with graffiti with the Arabic letter “N,” which stands for Nazarene or Nasrani, the Arabic word for “Christian.” In ISIS-controlled areas, this tag has been used in combination with attacks on Christian’s homes and properties. Its use has been used as a signal: convert, pay a tax or be killed. Members of the parish are both frightened and upset about this attack. Cardinal Anders Arborelius stated that he believed this was the first time a Catholic church had been tagged with ISIS graffiti in Sweden.

Swedish Pro-Life Midwives Fined⁴²³

May 29, 2017: Ellinor Grimmark and Linda Steen are two pro-life midwives who challenged their employment termination cases in court. Grimmark’s case was taken to the Labor Court where she lost the case in April 2017. Due to this loss, she was ordered pay all the court costs and received an invoice from the Jönköping County in the amount of 1,640,000 Swedish Kronor (168,634 euros). Linda Steen was denied an appeal in the Labor Court, but she would receive an invoice of 1.2 million Swedish Kronor (123,391 euros).

Swedish Prime Minister: “Priests Should Perform Same-Sex Marriages”⁴²⁴

June 24, 2017: Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven suggested that all Church of Sweden priests be compelled to perform gay marriages, or “do something

else.” Currently, the Swedish church holds the position that “no priest should be obliged to officiate at the wedding of a same-sex couple.” Löfven said priests who are unable to bless gay marriage are in the wrong vocation and that the Social Democrats are working to ensure that priests “will consecrate everyone.”

Saying Grace in Christian Kindergarten Prohibited⁴²⁵

June 26, 2017: An independent religious kindergarten in Umeå, Sweden, was forced to stop saying grace before meals by the county. The Education Act says that religious elements may be included in education at independent schools must be voluntary in order for the children to participate. The law does not say that the children themselves must agree, but rather that their parents’ consent on their behalf. The county argued that the children themselves have not made the choice to participate in saying grace and have thus prohibited it. Preschool Director Britt Marie Mårtensson said they replaced grace with “Thank you for the sun and the rain and the food on our table.”

Arson at Church in Luleå⁴²⁶

July 5, 2017: The Catholic Church in Luleå was the victim of arson on July 5, 2017. The fire was started at two places outside of the church, one of them being the main entrance of the church.

SWITZERLAND

FIFA Erased a Brazilian Football Player’s Reference to his Christian Faith⁴²⁸

January 11, 2016: A video summarizing the successful year of the Brazilian FC Barcelona player Neymar was played during the Ballon d’Or ceremony in Zurich. Images of the Champions League final celebration were included in it. The Spanish team won the match against Juventus and Neymar celebrated the trophy wearing a headband with an inscription reading “100% Jesus.” However, in the FIFA video, the reference to Jesus on Neymar’s headband had been digitally removed. According to FIFA, the decision to censor the video was to “not offend sensibilities.”

Arson in Swiss Confessional⁴²⁹

June 21, 2016: Swiss police arrested a 51-year old suspected of intentionally setting fire to a confessional in the St. Gallon Cathedral. The damage amounted to more than 10,000 euros.

Christian Nursing Home Ordered to Allow Assisted Suicide on Premises⁴³⁰

October 7, 2016: A Salvation Army-run home contested a Swiss law that allows assisted suicide to take place in charitable institutions, if requested by a patient. The home challenged the law, saying that it conflicted with its religious beliefs and violated its freedom of conscience. Federal judges rejected the complaint and said the only way the care home could avoid complying with the law was by giving up its charitable status.

Vandals Twice Damage Cemetery near Gurmels⁴³¹

January 21, 2017: Twice in a week, unknown perpetrators dug up crosses, damaged lanterns, and trampled on graves in a cemetery of the Reformed Church of La Corbaz. The church reported the acts to the police.

Christian Youth Organizations Will No Longer Work Alongside Public Youth Agencies⁴³²

March 30, 2017: Ten Swiss Christian youth federations working with 10,000 young people every year will no longer have the support of the public authorities. The decision of the federal government came after decades of successful collaboration.

Reparation Prayers for Abortion Banned by Hospital Management⁴³³

May 27, 2017: Prayers in reparation for the victims of abortion had been held in the chapel of the University Hospital (CHUV) in Lausanne on the 13th of every month for the past ten years, organized by the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX). Pierre-Francois Leyvraz, the CEO of the hospital claimed not to have known about the events when the media contacted him. He informed the SSPX that they would no longer have access to the chapel and that the chapel will be closed on the 13th of each month to prevent the prayer meetings. He noted that abortion is legal and they will not permit people opposed to abortion to meet in the hospital chapel.

Bibles Found Burnt in Lonay⁴³⁴

July 18, 2017: A member of the Evangelical Church of Lonay discovered that five bibles had been taken from its festival tent in the middle of the night and burned. Nothing else was taken or damaged.

Terror Threat in Lausanne and Geneva⁴³⁵

August 13, 2017: A 28-year-old man planned a terror attack in Lausanne and on a church in Geneva, according to evidence found on his mobile phone. The man, known to the police, was arrested on August 13, 2017, during

a baptism ceremony in a church in France after yelling “believe in God because you are in danger” and shouted several times “Allah Akbar.”

UNITED KINGDOM

Christian Postgraduate Student Expelled for Opposing Gay Marriage⁴³⁶

February 27, 2016: A Sheffield University social work postgraduate student, Felix Ngole, quoted a biblical verse in support of his opinion about marriage and sexual ethics. This post, on his private Facebook account, was part of a discussion thread about gay marriage in which others expressed opinions on all sides of the debate. Two months later, he was brought before a disciplinary board at the University after a fellow student reported the post. The Fitness to Practise Committee told him, after a hearing, that he had been “excluded from further study on a programme leading to a professional qualification” and was “no longer recognised as a University student.” This was because, as a result of his Facebook comments, he “may have caused offence to some individuals” and “transgressed boundaries which are not deemed appropriate for someone entering the Social Work profession.” He is appealing the decision, noting that his “beliefs about marriage and sexual ethics reflect mainstream, biblical understanding, shared by millions around the world.”

Magistrate Removed for Christian Belief in Traditional Family⁴³⁷

March 29, 2016: Christian magistrate Richard Page was removed from office by the Lord Chancellor after he shared his personal conviction in a media interview that there is not enough evidence to show that placing children in the care of same-sex couples is in their best interest. The interview for which Mr. Page was dismissed occurred as part of a TV debate about Christians being squeezed out of public life. After his removal as

magistrate, Page was then suspended by an NHS Trust as a non-executive director.

Television Presenter Calls Christian a “Homophobe”; Receives No Sanctions⁴³⁸

April 12, 2016: During an interview with Richard Page, the Christian magistrate who was fired after he voiced opposition to adoption by same-sex couples (*see above*), Piers Morgan asked Page if he was in favor of same-sex marriage. When Page replied that he was not Morgan said: “So you’re a homophobe then?” After viewers who felt the remarks were offensive and discriminatory towards Christians made complaints, the media watchdog Ofcom investigated and determined that Morgan would not be censured.

Christian Union Banned From Holding Meetings on College Premises⁴³⁹

June 7, 2016: A Christian union was been banned from holding meetings on college premises, as a result of the government’s counter-terrorism strategy “Prevent.” Explaining the situation, Toni Coulton, the director of Festive, which supports Christians in further education and sixth-form colleges, said: “Senior management were not happy to have Christians meeting for prayer and fellowship and the reason they gave was because of the Prevent initiative.”

Parliamentary Report Found Inadequate Assessment of Religion-Based Asylum Claims⁴⁴⁰

June 7, 2016: The All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief released a 35-page report in which it said the questions used to assess conversion asylum claims demonstrated a “lack of understanding and misperceptions of religion.” The report analyzed the methods used to measure claims of religious conversion, for example from Islam to Christianity. Those questions were called “Bible trivia” and did not reflect the “inherently internal and personal nature of religion and belief.”

Church of England Accused of Discrimination⁴⁴¹

June 16, 2016: The Church of England was accused of discriminating against a lesbian couple by refusing to conduct their wedding. The Church of England has maintained that marriage is between a man and a woman, and was specifically exempt from 2013’s same-sex marriage legislation.

Large Pentagram and 666 Painted on Church Graveyard⁴⁴²

June 19, 2016: A vandal sprayed satanic symbols, a large

pentagram, and the number 666 onto the lawn of the graveyard at All Saints Church in Hull, Yorkshire.

Co-Workers Found Not Guilty of Religiously Aggravated Offense⁴⁴³

June 24, 2016: A York jury heard evidence about sustained bullying of a teenage apprentice, a Catholic, by tying him to a cross in a mock crucifixion, among other acts, during a trial. The jury found the accused guilty of assault, but not guilty of religiously aggravated assault. The teenaged victim gave testimony that his colleagues grabbed his arms and legs and tied him to a cross that they built out of timber in January 2015. He said they lifted him onto a wall, while tied to the cross, and that another colleague filmed this act. He testified that he felt his Catholic religion was targeted, "otherwise why was there a cross made?"

Street Preacher Arrested for Hate Crime for Quoting Bible to Gay Teenager⁴⁴⁴

July 17, 2016: Gordon Larmour, a Christian evangelist, was charged with behaving in a "threatening or abusive manner aggravated by prejudice relating to sexual orientation" and assault after he referred to the Book of Genesis and stated that God created Adam and Eve to produce children in response to a 19-year-old's question about God's views on homosexuality. He spent one night in prison. Six months later, a court in Kilmarnock, Scotland acquitted him of all charges.

Security Guidance Sent to UK Churches after Murder of French Priest⁴⁴⁶

August 31, 2016: The organization National Churchwatch issued a new security guidance to every church in the UK in the wake of the murder of French priest Jacques Hamel by Islamist terrorists. The organization recommended that all church buildings have CCTV, a single public entrance that can be slammed shut against attackers, and personal attack alarms for key personnel.

Nurse Fired for Talking about Faith with Patients⁴⁴⁷

August 31, 2016: Sarah Kuteh, a Christian nurse was fired for "gross misconduct" by the NHS for talking to her patients about her faith and occasionally offering prayer to help them prepare for surgery. Part of her job was to help patients complete a questionnaire, which included a question about religion.

Humanist Society Scotland Challenged Parental Opt-Out for Religious Observance in Schools⁴⁴⁸

September 12, 2016: The Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) sought judicial review after the Scottish Government rejected calls for a change to the current

rules which permit only parents to opt out on their children's behalf. The HSS argued that the parental right to opt out of religious observance should be extended to young people.

Parliamentary Inquiry: UK Doctors Risk Losing Jobs For Refusing To Perform Abortion⁴⁴⁵

July 21, 2016: British pro-life doctors and nurses face hostility, loss of advancement, and pressure to perform or refer for abortions despite legislation guaranteeing their right to conscientiously object, according to a parliamentary inquiry. Fiona Bruce, who chaired the All-Party Pro-Life Group that conducted the inquiry, said, "It is vital that conscientious health professionals who do not wish to participate in abortion can be confident in their right to opt out of doing so without fear of censure, discrimination or abuse."

Armed Police Patrol Canterbury Cathedral⁴⁴⁹

September 29, 2016: Police with guns began to patrol Canterbury Cathedral due to concerns about terror attacks. The extra security was in response to a series of jihadist attacks across Europe, including the murder of French priest, Father Jacques Hamel.

Christian Bakers Lost Appeal⁴⁵⁰

October 24, 2016: The owners of Ashers Baking in Belfast lost their appeal of a 2015 discrimination conviction for refusing to bake a cake ordered by homosexual activist Gareth Lee showing two Sesame Street characters and the message: "Support Gay Marriage."

Christian Couple Blocked from Adopting Foster Children⁴⁵¹

November 9, 2016: A Christian couple was blocked from adopting their foster children after expressing views based on their belief that children should have a mother and a father wherever possible. Social services rejected the husband and wife's offer to adopt the children, after they aired "concerning" views about the possibility of a same-sex couple adopting the children.

Christian Family Forced to Flee their Home⁴⁵²

November 9, 2016: A family was forced to flee their Bradford home under armed police guard amid fears for their safety after suffering what they said was eight years of persecution for converting from Islam to Christianity. Nissar Hussain, a father of six, left Islam in 1996 and faced aggressive behavior and violence from members of the Muslim community in Bradford since then. This was the second time the Hussains had to move to flee harassment and assaults.

Christian Archbishops from Iraq and Syria Denied Visas to UK⁴⁵³

December 4, 2016: Despite a formal invitation from Prince Charles to attend a consecration ceremony of Britain's first Syriac Orthodox Cathedral, the Home Office denied the visa applications of Archbishops Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf of Mosul, Timothy Mousa Shamani of St. Matthew's in Nineveh Valley of Northern Iraq, and Selwanos Boutros Alnemeh of Homs and Hama in Syria because they "did not have enough money to support themselves and might not leave the UK."

Student Union Banned Pro-Life Group⁴⁵⁴

December 5, 2016: Pro-life supporters were banned from forming an official campus group by the University of Strathclyde Student Union on the grounds that such a group would violate "safe space." The decision meant that group members would not receive any funding and its events would not be promoted on campus.

Equalities Watchdog Called for Review of Catholic Schools Hiring Rules⁴⁵⁵

December 5, 2016: The Equality and Human Rights Commission wanted the law on "Catholic approval" (that any teacher appointed to a Catholic school must be approved in terms of "religious belief and character"), re-examined in light of the European Union's equality directive.

Hindu UKIP Member Racially Harassed for Calling Britain a "Christian Country"⁴⁵⁶

December 7, 2016: Anish Patel, a UKIP member and practicing Hindu took to Twitter with a message defending Britain's Christian identity. In response, Twitter users responded with racist epithets. Patel's tweet said: "I know this is early, Merry Christmas to all.

We are a western Christian country. If this country loses its identity the rest is meaningless." He followed this with: "And if people are offended by Christmas, I will personally drive them to the airport myself."

UK Considering Secularist Oath of Allegiance to British Values⁴⁵⁷

December 21, 2016: The UK government proposed that all office holders and state employees swear an Oath of Allegiance to British Values that conflicts with traditional Christian teaching about sexuality.

Government Plans to Register & Inspect Sunday Schools⁴⁵⁸

January 11, 2017: Education minister confirmed that the program to regulate "out of school" settings, which could include Sunday school and youth group meetings, remains a government priority. Opponents say that this would leave churches open to complaints if they teach religious principles relating to traditional marriage.

Policing and Crime Bill Proposes to Raise Penalty for "Religiously Aggravated Offense"⁴⁵⁹

January 18, 2017: During the debate in the House of Lords, the Government was asked what would qualify for a "religiously motivated offense" and whether it could include a Christian preaching the "supreme divinity of Christ." The Government responded that this would be up to prosecutors and courts.

Gender-Abortion Whistleblower Ordered to Pay Costs⁴⁶⁰

January 20, 2017: Aisling Hubert, who began private prosecutions of two doctors who were filmed offering "gender-abortion," went to court to challenge £36,000 of the costs that were awarded against her after the cases were dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Magistrate Disciplined for Refusing to Hear Same Sex Parenting Case⁴⁶¹

January 30, 2017: The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office ordered Susan Preston to stand down from hearing future family cases, after she declined to sit on a case involving same-sex parenting due to her personal views.

NHS Does Not Record Religious Discrimination⁴⁶²

February 2, 2017: The National Health Service has confirmed, in response to a question from a Member of Parliament, that it does not collect information on instances of discrimination against NHS staff on the basis of their faith. It can include patients refusing treatment by a worker of a specific faith, disciplinary

actions against workers for exercise of faith-based conscience, and termination of employment.

Historic Church the Victim of Arson⁴⁶³

February 12, 2017: The Church of the Ascension in Salford was completely destroyed by a fire, described as arson by police. It was built in 1869 and had recently undergone a £250,000 restoration with funds raised over three years. CCTV footage reportedly showed a young man running from the church at the time the fire broke out.

Humanists Demand Religious Radio Program include Non-Religious Perspectives⁴⁶⁴

February 14, 2017: The British Humanist Association sent a letter to the BBC demanding that its publicly-funded "Thought for the Day" Radio 4 program, which includes reflections from Christians and other faiths, also include non-religious speakers.

National Secular Society Proposes Removal of Bishops' Bench from House of Lords⁴⁶⁵

February 21, 2017: The group made the recommendation to a parliamentary inquiry to examine how to reduce the size of the Upper House. The House of Lords currently has more than 850 members, and the Bishops' Bench contains two archbishops and 24 bishops who can vote on legislation.

General Pharmaceutical Council Launches Consultation on "Religion, Personal Values and Beliefs in Pharmacy Practice"⁴⁶⁶

February 22, 2017: One of the proposals would remove the conscience "opt-out" provisions. Those provisions permit a pharmacist who does not wish to issue an abortifacient drug to refer the patient to another colleague. Instead, the pharmacist would have to "take responsibility for ensuring that person-centered care is not compromised because of personal values and belief." This could require the pharmacist to dispense a drug against his or her conscience.

Oxford Lecturer Refused to take Christian Convert's Questions about Islam⁴⁶⁷

February 27, 2017: A trainee Church of England priest at Oxford University, an Iranian-born convert from Islam, claimed he wasn't allowed to ask critical questions about Islam during a seminar and has accused the university of discrimination and bias and made a formal complaint.

Two Street Preachers Convicted of Public Order Offenses⁴⁶⁹

February 28, 2017: Michael Overd and Michael Stockwell

were convicted after a public prosecutor claimed that quoting parts of the King James Bible in the context of modern British society "must be considered to be abusive and is a criminal matter." After a four-day trial, the men were found guilty under Section 31 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for using "threatening or abusive words or behavior or disorderly behavior within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress, thereby, and the offence was religiously aggravated."

Government Announces Compulsory Sex Education⁴⁶⁸

February 28, 2017: The government announced that sex and relationships education would become compulsory in all of England's schools. Relationships education would be compulsory for all pupils from the age of four years, but parents would have the right to withdraw their children from sexual education program. Critics view the law as weakening the influence of parents' right to educate their children about sex and relationships.

University Students Want Pro-Life Posters Removed⁴⁷⁰

March 16, 2017: Aberdeen University students petitioned to have a pro-life poster removed from campus, claiming it is "actively harmful" to women. The Catholic chaplaincy on the campus displayed posters for a 40 Days of Life event, featuring people holding signs and prayer vigils outside the city's maternity hospital during Lent.

Anti-Christian Crimes Recorded as "Islamophobia"⁴⁷¹

March 18, 2017: Freedom of Information inquiries made by the Network of Sikh Organisations revealed that the London Metropolitan Police recorded 1,227 incidents of Islamophobic hate crime in 2016, but in 57 of these incidents the victim was not contacted, in 86 the religion of the victim was unknown, and 85 of the reported cases were "blank." 19 Hindus, 11 atheists, 43 Christians and four Sikhs were victims.

Church Leaders and Prime Minister Criticized National Trust⁴⁷²

April 4, 2017: The Church of England accused the National Trust of "airbrushing" Christianity out of

Easter festivities, after it renamed “Easter Egg Trail” as the “Great British Egg Hunt.” Cadbury, which sponsors the event, said it wanted the event to appeal to non-Christians, saying: “We invite people from all faiths and none to enjoy our seasonal treats.” The Prime Minister said “[Easter is] a very important festival for the Christian faith for millions across the world. So I think what the National Trust is doing is frankly just ridiculous.”

Social Worker Discouraged Parents from Christening Son⁴⁷³

April 13, 2017: A social worker from Kent met with parents who were considering placing their child for adoption and told them the chances of their son being adopted would be hindered if he were “christened into the Christian faith,” after they expressed their wish to have their son baptized.

Christian Prison Preacher to Appeal Tribunal Ruling⁴⁷⁴

April 27, 2017: A Christian prison worker who felt he had no option but to resign after being disciplined for quoting from the Bible during a prison chapel service, challenged an Employment Tribunal’s ruling that the prison was right to discipline him. In March 2016, the Employment Tribunal ruled that Barry Trayhorn spoke of God’s forgiveness in an “insensitive” way which “failed to have regard for the special nature of the congregation in the prison.”

ISIS Supporter Jailed⁴⁷⁵

April 29, 2017: The ISIS supporter Akeem Samuels was sentenced to jail for four years by a court in the United Kingdom. Akeem Samuels posted videos on Instagram where he encouraged terror attacks on Christians.

Church in Tamworth Vandalized⁴⁷⁶

June 14, 2017: Anti-Christian messages were scrawled on three different areas of St. Edythe’s Church, the oldest church in Tamworth by unknown vandals. The ancient doors and walls were tagged with statements such as “Lucifer runs this capitalist ruin,” “God has failed,” and “deliver us to evil.” Reverend Alan Gordon and the church community were devastated that the church was targeted by this vandalism.

U.K. Foreign Office Agency says Evangelical Christians in the Global South Should “Reinterpret” the Bible⁴⁷⁷

July 17, 2017: The Barnabas Fund exposed a Wilton Park (an executive agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) report from 2016 in which it describes biblical sexual morality as “hateful” and evangelical Christians in prejudicial terms. A key recommendation of the report is “challenging the interpretation of sacred texts.”

Equalities Minister: Churches Should Follow Public Opinion on Gay Marriage⁴⁷⁸

July 23, 2017: Justine Greening, who is also Education Secretary, said churches and other religious groups should “keep up” with public opinion on same-sex marriage.

U.K. May Scrap Single-Faith Schools⁴⁷⁹

July 23, 2017: Christian schools may soon be required to ensure that half of their students are from different religious backgrounds, due to concerns that Christian-only schools “heighten community divisions.”

Prison Worker Loses Employment Tribunal Appeal over Sermon⁴⁸⁰

August 4, 2017: Following a complaint about a talk about homosexuality and sin, a volunteer chaplain was disciplined. In 2016, an employment tribunal ruled that his employers acted within the law. A judge confirmed in August 2017 that ruling was fair, claiming his words could “legitimize mistreatment of homosexual prisoners.”

Court Rules Christian Child can be Returned to Family⁴⁸¹

August 29, 2017: A Christian five-year-old girl was placed into foster care with a Muslim family in London. Confidential local authority reports suggest that the foster family removed the girl’s Christian cross necklace, suggested she learn Arabic, and forbade her from eating pork. In addition, it was alleged that when she had a visit with her biological mother, the girl said that Christmas was “stupid” and European women are “stupid alcoholics.” The court having jurisdiction ruled on in August that the girl should be placed with her grandmother.

Some UK Schools Have Removed B.C. and A.D. Dating from Religious Education Classes⁴⁸²

October 1, 2017: B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini, meaning “in the year of the Lord”), were replaced with B.C.E., which stands for Before Common Era, and C.E., meaning Common Era. The changes

were justified “to show sensitivity to those who are not Christians.”

Oxford College Student Group Banned Christian Union from “Freshers’ Fair”; then Reversed Decision⁴⁸³

October 8, 2017: A Balliol College student group at Oxford banned the Christian Union from its freshers’ fair on the grounds that it would be “alienating” for students of other religions, and constitute a “micro-aggression”. They further claimed that Christianity was used as “an excuse for homophobia and certain forms of neo-colonialism” and that students might feel “unwelcome” if the Christian Union had a stall. After being reprimanded, organizers agreed that the Christian Union could participate in future fairs.

Parents’ Campaign Forces Church School to Ban Christian Charity Group; Wants Symbols Removed⁴⁸⁴

October 17, 2017: After a parents’ group complained about a Christian charity’s “fundamentalist approach” in discussions of sin, St. John’s Church of England Primary School in Tunbridge Wells agreed to block Cross Teach from running assemblies or giving lessons. The campaign also demanded the removal of crosses, Bibles and clergy from Church of England school assemblies.

Pakistani Christian Attacked for Displaying Cross, Poppies on Car⁴⁸⁵

October 20, 2017: Tajamal Amar, a 45-year-old Pakistani Christian man, was beaten and left unconscious outside a restaurant. He reported that he was attacked by a group of Muslims who objected to him displaying a cross in his car and two large red poppies on the front of his car.

Court Rules Student can be Expelled for Quoting Bible on Facebook⁴⁸⁶

October 27, 2017: Felix Ngole, a Christian student who was expelled from university after posting on Facebook his support of Biblical teaching on marriage and sexual ethics, lost his case in a judicial review of the university’s decision in October.

Christian Peer Fears Proclaiming Christianity Could be a Hate Crime⁴⁸⁷

December 12, 2017: Lord Pearson of Rannoch posed the question to the British government: “Will they confirm unequivocally that a Christian who says that Jesus the only son of the one true God cannot be arrested for hate crime or any other offense?” The government’s representative in the House of Lords refused to comment on the question.

Government Guidance Ensures “Gender Inclusive School Environment”⁴⁸⁸

December 13, 2017: New government guidance by the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) encourages schools to “ensure the visibility” of transgender perspectives in the classroom.

London Assembly Passed “Buffer Zone” Motion⁴⁸⁹

December 21, 2017: The London Assembly passed a motion calling on the mayor to “clarify the powers available to [police] to arrest and prosecute” pro-life campaigners who pray near abortion clinics, accusing them of “obstruction, intimidation and harassment” and “threatening behavior.”

European Institutions

Court: Employers May Prohibit Employees from Wearing Religious Symbols⁴⁹⁰

March 14, 2017: In March the European Court of Justice put employers’ interest in “neutrality” above employees’ exercise of religious freedom in a landmark judgment. The Court ruled that employers can prohibit the visible wearing of any political, philosophical or religious sign in the workplace.

European Parliament Classifies Laws against Abortion as “Violence Against Women and Girls”⁴⁹¹

September 12, 2017: In September, the European Parliament adopted a parliamentary report which charges “the denial of sexual and reproductive health and rights services, including safe and legal abortion, is a form of violence against women and girls” by a vote of 489 in favor, 114 opposed, and 69 abstentions.

International/other

More than 25 Catholic Pages Blocked by Facebook as “Spam”; Later Restored⁴⁹²

July 17, 2017: Between the night of July 17 and the morning of July 18, 2017, Facebook unpublished more than 25 Catholic pages in English, Portuguese and

Spanish with no explanation to page administrators. After restoring the pages around 1:00 a.m. of July 19th, Facebook gave a statement to ACI Prensa: "The pages were re-established. The incident was a malfunction of the spam detection mechanism in our platform. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused." In 2016, Facebook came under fire for allegedly censoring trends to news deemed "conservative."

Vatican Secretary of State calls Jihadist Video "Worrying"⁴⁹³

August 26, 2017: Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, told reporters on August 26th that a day earlier he had seen a video indicating that Pope Francis was a target of an Islamic extremist attack. He said that the Vatican would not increase its already high security measures.

Pro-ISIS Group Circulated Image of Beheaded Pope on Poster Called "Christmas Blood"⁴⁹⁸

November 17, 2017: The pro-ISIS Wafa Media Foundation released a propaganda poster with an image depicting a jihadist standing over the torso of a prisoner in an orange jumpsuit while holding the head of the Pope. Written next to the Pope's head is "Jorge Mario Bergoglio."

Lidl Supermarket Group Removed Crosses from Santorini Churches on Greek Products⁴⁹⁴

August 31, 2017: The supermarket chain Lidl promotes its Greek ERIDANOUS products with images of the famous Anastasis Church in Santorini, Greece, complete with its world-renowned blue dome roof. However, the

packaging image has photoshopped out the crosses from the tops the orthodox churches. Lidl spokesman said "We are avoiding the use of religious symbols because we do not wish to exclude any religious beliefs," and "We are a company that respects diversity and this is what explains the design of this packaging." The company later apologized, "Our intention has never been to shock. We avoid the use of religious symbols on our packaging to maintain neutrality in all religions. If it has been perceived differently, we apologize to those who may have been shocked."

Nestlé and Carrefour Removed Cross from Greek Yoghurt Packaging⁴⁹⁵

September 4, 2017: The world's largest food and beverage company Nestlé removed the Christian cross from its Greek yogurt packaging depicting the famous blue-domed Anastasis Church in Santorini, Greece. Supermarket brands Carrefour and Lidl have used similar images.

Lipton Removed Crosses from Product Packaging⁴⁹⁶

September 15, 2017: After controversy over the Lidl supermarket group removing crosses from Santorini churches on the packaging of Greek foods, it was discovered that Lipton, a holding of the Unilever Group, also eliminated crosses from its packaging, including its Russian Earl Grey tea. The illustration is of an Orthodox church, but with the crosses removed from the domes.

ISIS Propaganda Called for Christmas Attack on Vatican⁴⁹⁷

November 16, 2017: During the week of November 16th, the pro-IS group Wafa Media Foundation released a propaganda poster depicting a jihadist armed with a rifle driving into St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City with a written message warning of a Christmas attack.

- 1 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-vandalized-near-graz.html>
- 2 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/armed-robbery-at-upper-austria-church.html>
- 3 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/greens-demand-ban-on-pro-life-presentations-at-schools.html>
- 4 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-refugees-face-discrimination-in-austria.html>
- 5 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-refugees-in-austria-harassed-and-threatened.html>
- 6 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-kindergarten-advent-performance-disrupted-by-man-carrying-koran.html>
- 7 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/woman-attacked-for-reading-from-bible.html>
- 8 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/forest-chapel-in-auerbach-vandalized.html>
- 9 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/chapel-in-brunau-am-inn-the-victim-of-theft-and-vandalism.html>
- 10 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/chapel-in-st-radegund-damaged-by-vandals.html>
- 11 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vienna-church-vandalized-with-anarchist-graffiti.html>
- 12 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/man-filmed-attacking-cross-in-austria.html>
- 13 Statue of Saint Beheaded in Neusiedl am See
- 14 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/wooden-christ-statue-decapitated-on-mountaintop.html>
- 15 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/break-in-and-vandalism-at-erlauf-church.html>
- 16 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/burglary-in-schwadorf-parish.html>
- 17 Devastating Vandalism in Wieselburg Parish Church
- 18 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/wayside-crucifix-demolished-in-southern-styria.html>
- 19 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/three-roadside-crucifixes-heavily-damaged-in-styria.html>
- 20 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/styria-arson-in-church.html>
- 21 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/offertory-box-stolen-from-st-stephan-s-cathedral.html>
- 22 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/allahu-akbar-graffiti-on-church.html>
- 23 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/brussels-christmas-tree-destroyed-by-petrol-bomb.html>
- 24 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/attack-at-brussels-airport-and-metro-killed-32-people-injured-over-300.html>
- 25 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-the-victim-of-two-fires-in-one-day.html>
- 26 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/belgian-nursing-home-fined-EUR6000-for-refusing-to-allow-euthanasia-on-premises.html>
- 27 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/religion-classes-in-belgium-to-be-replaced-with-citizenship-classes.html>
- 28 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/satirical-publication-deeply-insults-catholic-church.html>
- 29 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/verviers-church-vandalized.html>
- 30 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/belgian-police-arrest-teen-pledging-to-kill-all-christians.html>
- 31 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-graves-vandalized-on-all-saints-day.html>
- 32 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/holsbeek-town-council-removed-nativity-scene.html>
- 33 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/l-abbaye-d-orval-robbed.html>
- 34 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/verviers-church-targeted-with-graffiti.html>
- 35 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/women-attacked-after-mass-in-brussels.html>
- 36 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/cemetery-vandalized-and-tombs-destroyed.html>
- 37 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/arson-in-church-in-liege.html>
- 38 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/cemetery-desecrated-in-pondrome.html>
- 39 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/theft-from-tabernacle-in-tintigny.html>
- 40 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-of-ciplet-vandalized.html>
- 41 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/sacristy-ransacked-in-belgiun-church.html>
- 42 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/crucified-cow-displayed-in-catholic-church-by-artist-as-comment-on-wastefulness.html>
- 43 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/belgian-red-cross-branches-ordered-to-remove-crucifixes.html>
- 44 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=2281>
- 45 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/bulgarian-justice-ministry-proposes-ban-on-foreign-financing-of-religious-groups.html>
- 46 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/croatian-theatre-festival-included-play-with-jesus-christ-rape-scene.html>
- 47 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-celebration-in-turkish-cyprus-temporarily-prohibited.html>

48 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/visitors-at-estonian-national-museum-invited-to-kick-image-of-virgin-mary.html>

49 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/terror-attack-on-church-in-helsinki-foiled.html>

50 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/attempted-arson-in-evangelical-church-in-cregy-les-meaux.html>

51 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/french-cathedral-tagged.html>

52 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/44-crucifixes-stolen-from-cemetery-in-petite-ile.html>

53 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/nativity-scene-in-french-church-vandalized-twice.html>

54 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/vandalism-sparked-uproar-in-morigny-champigny.html>

55 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/arson-and-desecration-at-fontainebleau-church.html>

56 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/seine-et-marne-a-cross-vandalized-in-the-forest-of-fontainebleau.html>

57 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/nantes-fire-in-the-basilica-of-saint-nicolas.html>

58 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/seine-et-marne-a-cross-vandalized-in-the-forest-of-fontainebleau.html>

59 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/cantal-church-robbed-of-ciborium-and-consecrated-hosts.html>

60 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/french-creche-the-victim-of-vandalism.html>

61 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/french-pastor-reports-murder-of-christian-refugee-at-camp-near-dunkirk.html>

62 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/bouches-du-rhone-church-hit-with-vandalism.html>

63 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/police-spokesman-says-muslims-trying-to-expel-christians-from-grande-synthe-camp.html>

64 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/historic-bruyeres-le-chatel-church-vandalized-consecrated-hosts-stolen.html>

65 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/mass-at-notre-dame-de-lourdes-repeatedly-disrupted.html>

66 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/chapel-vandalized-in-lyon.html>

67 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-and-mosque-destroyed-in-calais-jungle.html>

68 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/parish-church-of-kervignac-vandalized.html>

69 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/longueville-cemetery-crucifixes-vandalized.html>

70 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/chapel-vandalized-in-treve.html>

71 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/paris-court-acquits-femen.html>

72 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/french-mayor-brought-before-administrative-tribunal-of-the-league-of-human-rights.html>

73 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-french-antilles-the-victim-of-desecration-theft-and-vandalism.html>

74 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-aube-looted.html>

75 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/cote-d-or-chapel-vandalized.html>

76 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/valence-church-vandalized-with-paint.html>

77 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/second-church-in-valence-tagged-with-graffiti.html>

78 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/chapel-vandalized-in-mailleroncourt-charette.html>

79 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/series-of-suspicious-fires-in-blois-cathedral.html>

80 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/several-statues-vandalized-over-ten-days-in-lyon-churches.html>

81 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/arson-in-calais-church.html>

82 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/106-catholic-websites-hacked-by-tunisian-cyberjihadists.html>

83 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/vandalism-at-catholic-school-in-nantes.html>

84 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/evangelical-church-attacked-in-manosque.html>

85 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/three-incidents-in-churches-in-the-same-region-in-just-two-weeks.html>

86 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/two-men-arrested-for-vandalizing-cathedral.html>

87 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/statue-of-virgin-mary-decapitated-in-vineyard.html>

88 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/four-churches-tagged-with-offensive-messages.html>

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91 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/arson-in-cemetery-and-church-in-nice-a-day-before-bastille-day-attack.html>

92 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-toulouse-profaned-and-vandalized.html>

93 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/desecration-at-church-in-les-herbiers.html>

94 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/statue-of-virgin-mary-and-jesus-decapitated-at-1700-meters-in-corsica.html>

95 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/priest-murdered-in-french-church-attack.html>

96 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-in-jupilles-vandalized.html>

97 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/anti-catholic-graffiti-at-church-in-besancon.html>

98 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/cross-vandalized-in-rosnay.html>

99 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/church-clock-vandalized.html>

100 <http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/case/anti-christian-posters-glued-to-public-light-posts-in-argenteuil.html>

101 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/stained-glass-windows-destroyed-in-church.html>
102 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/statue-of-virgin-mary-beheaded-in-alpes-de-haute-provence.html>
103 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/city-church-in-indre-et-loire-vandalized.html>
104 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/man-arrested-after-threatening-to-kill-a-priest-in-ariege.html>
105 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/nice-deputy-mayor-confirms-burkini-ban-also-applies-to-nuns-habits-on-beaches.html>
106 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-and-attempted-arson-in-hautmont-church.html>
107 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/porch-of-church-burnt-as-street-fire-spread.html>
108 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/attempted-arson-at-the-church-of-notre-dame-des-noues-franconville-val-d-oise.html>
109 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/serial-arsonist-set-two-fires-in-churches-in-millau-attempted-arson-in-a-third.html>
110 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/saint-henri-in-neuilly-plaisance-desecrated-and-burglarized.html>
111 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/multiple-acts-of-vandalism-in-la-mothe-saint-heray.html>
112 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/france-plans-to-ban-pro-life-websites-it-judges-extremist.html>
113 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/burglary-and-attack-stopped-by-priest-in-seine-saint-denis.html>
114 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-vandalized-in-gif-sur-yvette.html>
115 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/police-investigate-vandalism-of-church.html>
116 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/minor-arrested-for-twice-setting-fires-in-church.html>
117 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christian-convert-threatened-with-death-in-french-refugee-camp.html>
118 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/french-politician-fined-for-using-word-from-bible-to-describe-homosexuality.html>
119 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/nantes-church-tagged-with-anarchist-graffiti.html>
120 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/state-council-allows-decorative-christmas-scenes-at-town-halls.html>
121 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/officials-ban-television-commercial-to-commemorate-world-down-syndrome-day.html>
122 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/church-ransacked-in-northern-france.html>
123 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/court-gives-town-three-months-to-remove-statue-of-virgin-mary.html>
124 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/leftist-graffiti-on-bordeaux-catholic-seminary.html>
125 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/nantes-church-vandalized-with-anarchist-graffiti.html>
126 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/nativity-crib-burned-in-church.html>
127 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/five-churches-burgled-in-three-weeks.html>
128 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/bomb-discovered-in-front-of-church.html>
129 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/priest-attacked-tied-up-and-robbed-in-pastoral-center.html>
130 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christmas-decorations-and-creche-thrown-in-river.html>
131 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/vandalism-and-fires-in-two-churches-in-tarn-et-garonne.html>
132 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/cathedral-in-fort-de-france-vandalized-and-burgled-five-times-in-seven-days.html>
133 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christmas-crib-destroyed-by-fire.html>
134 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/man-forcibly-removed-after-disrupting-christmas-mass.html>
135 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/orsay-church-vandalized-on-christmas.html>
136 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/theft-from-sainte-anne-church-in-lanveoc.html>
137 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/christmas-nativity-set-on-fire-on-eve-of-epiphany-holiday.html>
138 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/at-least-30-tombs-vandalized-and-profaned-in-finistere.html>
139 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/infant-jesus-stolen-from-manger-in-noyon-cathedral.html>
140 <http://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/case/two-arson-attempts-on-village-church-in-rochecorbon.html>
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**OBSERVATORY ON
INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE**