

OIDAC Europe

June 2026

Monthly Analysis







1. Summary

During the month of **June 2026**, the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC Europe) recorded **40 anti-Christian hate crimes** targeting Christian places of worship, religious symbols, religious spaces, Christian institutions, clergy, Christian converts, and Christian individuals.

The recorded hate crimes comprise **12 arson-related attacks**, **9 cases of vandalism**, **8 cases of desecration, 3 cases of physical violence,** 3 thefts targeting religious objects, **2 cases involving threats**, 1 case involving vandalism combined with violence, 1 disruption of worship, and 1 attempted occupation of a religious site.

Particularly serious incidents included the **threats** against a **Catholic religion teacher and convert from Islam** in Belgium; the aggression against a parish priest during a vandalism attack at his presbytery in Levie, France; the deliberate **burning of a missal** inside a church in La Chapelle-Caro, France; the disruption of Catholic prayer in Poissy amid shouts of "Allahu Akbar" and anti-Christian slogans; an ISIS-affiliated online **call for terrorist attacks** ahead of the Pope's visit to Spain; the repeated projectile attack targeting Holy Spirit Church in Hanau, Germany; the politically motivated attempted occupation of the Compassionist convent in Rome; the public burning of crosses during a music festival in Poland; and the complete destruction of the former Convent of Mercy in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland, through suspected arson.

The highest number of incidents in June 2026 was recorded in **France (11)**, followed by **Germany (8)**, **Italy (7)**, **Poland (4)**, **Belgium (2)**, and **Spain (2)**. Further incidents were recorded in **the Netherlands (1)** and **Estonia (1)**. Outside the European Union, further incidents were recorded in the **United Kingdom (3)** and **Switzerland (1)**.

In addition to the incidents outlined above, OIDAC Europe recorded a considerable number of **further thefts, break-ins, property damage, and fires affecting churches and Christian property** whose anti-Christian bias could not be clearly established and which were therefore not included in the statistical total of hate crimes. These included approximately **9 thefts targeting religious objects**, **26 other thefts**, **7 break-ins or attempted break-ins**, **6 fires under investigation,** and numerous additional cases of vandalism and property damage affecting churches, chapels, cemeteries, and other Christian sites across Europe.

2. Trends: Highest Level of Recorded Cases Since March, Arson Attacks Remain Widespread

The June 2026 data demonstrate that recorded anti-Christian hate crimes continued at a high level across Europe. With **40 recorded incidents**, June has shown the **second-highest** number of recorded cases since the beginning **of 2026**, exceeded only by **March (41)**.

The most persistent trend remained the **continued prevalence of arson-related attacks**. June recorded **12 arson-related attacks**, only one fewer than the exceptional peak of **13 recorded in May**, making June the second-highest month for recorded arson during the first half of the year. Arson-related attacks affected churches, convents, Christian symbols and other religious property in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Estonia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Vandalism also remained one of the defining characteristics of the June dataset. With **9 recorded cases**, vandalism reached its highest monthly level since March and included repeated attacks on churches, including flooding of church buildings, repeated projectile attacks against churches, and the destruction of Christian crosses. Together with the high number of arson attacks, these incidents demonstrate the continued targeting of Christian places of worship and religious symbols through deliberate acts of destruction.

A further notable development was the continued high number of **desecration cases**, with **8 incidents** recorded during June. June also continued the pattern of **repeated targeting** observed throughout previous months. A church in Hanau was attacked for the second consecutive month after projectiles were again fired at the church building. Cowdenbeath Baptist Church in Scotland suffered its eighth reported vandalism attack. St. Peter's Church in Lommel experienced another fire-related incident following repeated vandalism, while several French regions recorded multiple attacks affecting churches within a short period. These repeated incidents underline that many Christian communities are not facing isolated events but sustained patterns of hostility.

While attacks on churches remained predominant, recorded cases from June also included direct attacks on individuals, such as an assault of a Catholic woman inside a French Cathedral, the aggression against a parish priest during a break-in in Levie, and the assault of a **Christian preacher at Speakers' Corner**. Equally significant were the **threats** directed against a Catholic religion teacher and **convert from Islam** in Belgium, who stated that he had *"never been so worried",* and the ISIS-related **online terrorist threats** issued ahead of the Pope's planned visit to Spain. Together, these incidents highlight forms of anti-Christian hostility directed against visible Christian individuals and the vulnerability of Christian converts from Islam, whose situation remains under-reported but raises significant concerns for religious freedom and security.

3. Hate Crimes by Countries

France

A total of **11 anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in France in June 2026, including **4 arson-related attacks**, **2 cases of physical violence**, **2 cases of desecration**, **1 case of vandalism**, **1 theft targeting a religious object**, and **1 disruption of worship**.

Particularly serious incidents included the assault of a Catholic woman inside Saint-Charles Cathedral in Saint-Étienne[1] and the aggression against a priest during a vandalism attack at his presbytery in Levie, involving forced entry into the presbytery, damage to the building, and a direct confrontation with the priest.[2]

France also recorded several arson-related attacks. In Castelsarrasin, an attempted arson targeted the Church of Saint-Jean.[3] In Val d'Oust, unknown individuals entered a church in Le Roc-Saint-André and deliberately burned part of the altar cloth.[4] In La Chapelle-Caro, perpetrators deliberately set a missal on fire inside the church.[5] Near Toulouse, song books were deliberately set on fire inside the Church of Saint-Martin.[6]

Further incidents included the desecration of a Catholic church and cemetery near Rouen,[7] the theft of consecrated hosts from a church in Mugron,[8] the theft of a public cross in Villeneuve-Loubet,[9] and the disruption of Catholic prayer in Poissy by individuals shouting "Allahu Akbar" and anti-Christian slogans.[10]

In addition, France recorded several **further thefts, property damage incidents and two fires affecting churches** whose anti-Christian bias could not be clearly established and which were therefore not included in the statistical total.

According to the **French Ministry of the Interior's** latest report on anti-religious acts[11], 843 anti-Christian crimes (734 attacks on property and 109 attacks on persons) were recorded in 2025. This represents an overall increase of 9% compared to 2024, while **attacks against persons rose by 70%** over the same period.

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[1] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11650
[2] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11643
[3] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11633
[4] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11621
[5] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11631
[6] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11539
[7] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11595
[8] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11586
[9] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11649
[10] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11561
[11] https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/sites/minint/files/medias/documents/2026-05/Bilan%20actes%20anti%20religieux_2025.pdf

Germany

A total of **8 anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Germany in June 2026, including **3 arson-related attacks**, **4 cases of vandalism**, and **1 case involving vandalism combined with violence**.

Particularly serious incidents included the repeated projectile attack on Holy Spirit Church in Hanau, where windows were again damaged after a similar attack in May.[12] The incident attracted considerable public attention after concerns were raised that the targeting of the church had not been registered by the authorities as an anti-Christian hate crime.

Germany also recorded several arson-related attacks. In Freudenberg, unknown perpetrators set fire to a wooden church bench inside St. Marien Church and vandalised the church entrance.[13] In Jena, a man attempted to set fire to the altar and baptismal font inside St. Michael's City Church using lamp oil.[14] Police also investigated suspected arson inside a new Syrian Orthodox church under construction in Leimen.[15]

June additionally saw several significant vandalism incidents. In Mittweida, two churches were vandalised during a series of attacks that caused flooding, damaged church property and impaired the functioning of the church organs.[16] In Friesoythe, a man caused extensive damage inside a church, including to the organ and religious artwork depicting the Stations of the Cross.[17] In Nabburg, the Josefikapelle was defaced with political and sexist graffiti.[18] In Rhineland-Palatinate cemetery crosses were vandalised with Christ figures or crosses broken off.[19]

In addition, Germany recorded numerous further thefts, copper thefts, break-ins, property damage incidents, fires and one further suspected arson attack on a church near Lüneburg, with the suspected perpetrator suffering from serious mental illness, which were not included in the statistical total because anti-Christian bias could not be clearly established.

Italy

A total of **7 anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Italy in June 2026, including **3 cases of desecration**, **2 cases of vandalism**, **1 arson-related attack**, **1 theft**

[12] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11577
[13] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11619
[14] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11538
[15] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11548
[16] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11520
[17] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11593
[18] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11568
[19] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11546

targeting religious objects, and **1 politically motivated attempted occupation of a religious site**.

A particularly noteworthy incident occurred in Rome, where police prevented a transfeminist activist group from carrying out a politically motivated attempted occupation of the Compassionist convent located within the parish of Sant'Ignazio di Antiochia.[20]

Italy also recorded several incidents of desecration of sanctuaries and religious objects.[21] Additional incidents included an attempted arson at the Church of San Fereolo in Lodi,[22] the theft of an altar canvas depicting the Virgin Mary from the Church of Santa Lucia in Minervino di Lecce,[23] and the vandalism of a sixteenth-century church near Galatina, where intruders forced entry and damaged protected historic frescoes.[24]

In addition, Italy recorded several further thefts, attempted thefts, fires under investigation and other property-related incidents affecting churches which were not included in the statistical total. Several of these incidents involved repeated thefts affecting churches or parish property.

Poland

A total of **4 anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Poland in June 2026, including **2 cases of desecration** and **2 cases of vandalism**.

One of the most visible incidents occurred during a music festival in Chwałków, where **two wooden crosses were deliberately burned** as part of a public performance.[25]

In Łubów, a young man entered the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and committed acts of desecration near the altar and confessional while damaging sacred property.[26]

Further incidents included anti-Christian graffiti on the façade of the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary[27] and the attack on roadside crosses in Wrocław, where Christ figures were broken off the crosses before being stolen.[28]

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[20] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11611
[21] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11541
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[22] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11588
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[26] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11556
[27] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11566
[28] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11585

Belgium

A total of **2 anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Belgium in June 2026, including **1 case involving threats** and **1 arson-related attack**.

In Charleroi, Catholic religion teacher and convert from Islam Ahmed Yetrib reported receiving **threats on social media** because of **online content explaining the reasons for his conversion to the Catholic faith**.[29] The case is particularly noteworthy as it highlights the vulnerability of Christian converts who publicly profess their faith and points to a form of anti-Christian hostility that is likely to remain significantly under-reported.

In Lommel, unknown perpetrators deliberately set fire to the upholstery of a church bench inside St. Peter's Church. Church officials stated that the incident followed several previous acts of vandalism and fire affecting the same church, illustrating the repeated targeting of the parish.[30]

Spain

A total of **2 anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Spain in June 2026, including a case of **threat** with online propaganda issued by the so-called Islamic State ahead of the Pope's planned visit to Spain. The message explicitly called for terrorist attacks against the Pope, urging supporters to "Attack the Pope and his stadiums." The incident illustrates the continuing security risks posed by jihadist incitement directed against Christian leaders and major Christian events.[31]

A second incident occurred in Alcalá de Henares, where unknown perpetrators deliberately burned the coat of arms of a local religious Confraternity.[32]

In addition, several further incidents affecting churches and Christian property were recorded in Spain but were not included in the statistical total because anti-Christian bias could not be clearly established.

Additional Significant Cases

In Den Burg, the **Netherlands**, an evangelical book shop was defaced with anti-Israel graffiti. The owner stated that the shop had likely been targeted because of its well-known Christian identity and public support for Israel.[33]

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[29] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11632
[30] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11549
[31] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11660
[32] https://www.dream-alcala.com/vandalismo-contra-el-patrimonio-en-la-quema-del-escudo-de-la-hermandad-de-los-trabajos/
[33] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11651

In Tallinn, **Estonia**, police apprehended three men suspected of attempting to set fire to a Baptist church.[34]

Outside the European Union, **3** anti-Christian hate crimes were in the **United Kingdom** and **1 in Switzerland**.

In the **United Kingdom**, the former Convent of Mercy adjacent to St. Patrick's Church in Downpatrick was **completely destroyed in a suspected arson** attack.[35] In London, a **Christian preacher was assaulted** at Speakers' Corner, continuing a pattern of hostility directed against Christian street preachers at that location.[36] In Cowdenbeath, Scotland, Cowdenbeath Baptist Church again suffered vandalism, which was reportedly the **eight separate attacks**.[37]

In **Switzerland**, the tabernacle of Sacré-Cœur Church in Geneva was stolen and destroyed, with the hosts later discovered discarded nearby.[38]

4. Conclusion

The **40 anti-Christian hate crimes** recorded during June 2026 demonstrate that anti-Christian hostility remained at a high level throughout Europe, with June showing the **second-highest number** of reported cases since the **beginning of the year**.

The June data were characterised by the continued prevalence of **arson-related attacks**, a renewed increase in **vandalism**, and a sustained number of **desecration cases** affecting churches, cemeteries, sacred spaces and Christian symbols.

June also highlighted the continuing risks faced by individual Christians. The **aggression targeting a parish priest** in Levie, the **attack on a Catholic woman** inside the Cathedral of Saint-Étienne, and the **assault on a Christian preacher in London** demonstrate that anti-Christian hostility continues to extend beyond attacks on church property. Particularly noteworthy were the **threats** directed against a Catholic religion teacher who had **converted from Islam** in Belgium. Although comparatively few such cases are documented, they make visible a likely under-reported but widespread challenge faced by converts to Christianity, who may experience threats, intimidation or social pressure because of their conversion and public witness.

The **repeated targeting** of churches also remained a notable feature. Holy Spirit Church in Hanau was attacked for the second consecutive month; Cowdenbeath Baptist Church suffered its eighth reported attack, while St. Peter's Church in Lommel again experienced a fire-related incident following earlier acts of vandalism. Such

[34] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11603
[35] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11615
[36] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11598
[37] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11573
[38] https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11627

repeated attacks demonstrate the cumulative impact that persistent vandalism can have on Christian communities.

As in previous reporting periods, the figures presented reflect only incidents documented by OIDAC Europe at the time of publication and therefore cannot capture the full extent of anti-Christian hostility in Europe.