

# 2023 RECAP

---

## 10 Most Striking Hate Crimes 2023

---

1.



A priest was attacked with a knife inside a church in Vinnytsia, Ukraine.

Jan 2

2.



Drive-by-Shooting in North London: 6 people were injured in a shooting when leaving St. Aloysius church.

Jan 14

3.



4 arson attacks on churches in Paris: two of them, Saint-Laurent and Saint-Martin de Champs, were attacked with a Molotov cocktail.

Jan 17-25

4.



A Jihadist Terrorist attack against two Catholic churches in Algeciras, Spain left one altar server dead and several people injured. The perpetrator had been shouting “Death to Christians”.

Jan 25

5.



The historical Church of the Cross in Wissen, Germany was desecrated and partly destroyed in an arson attack.

Feb 10

---

## 5 Most Striking Hate Crimes 2023

---

6.

June 7



A driver rammed his car through a Corpus Christi procession in Warsaw, Poland, injuring people and severely endangering the kneeling children in the crowd.

7.

July 16



Two youths stood trial in Leoben, Austria, for a planned terrorist attack on their school. According to their own testimonial, they wanted to “shoot all Christians in the class.”

8.

Aug 4



The baroque Evangelical church of Großröhrsdorf, a small town in Saxony, burned down to the ground through an arson attack.

9.

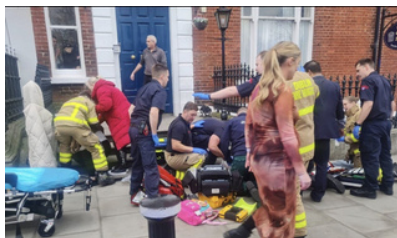
Nov 10



A man entered a church in Valmontone, Italy, with a gas cylinder and lighter, threatening to explode the church. He insulted and threatened the parish priest, attempting to extort money from him.

10.

Nov 23



A man attacked a group of children outside a Catholic private school in Dublin, Ireland, with a knife. The stabbing led to severe injuries. The Algerian man already had a criminal record.

---

## 5 Most Striking Legal Cases 2023

---

1.



Jan 19

UK: Adam Smith-Connor was fined for praying inside a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) space. According to the PSPO, certain activities such as acts of "disapproval" towards the abortion facility in the area are prohibited. He told the officers he was praying for his deceased son, which they considered an "act of disapproval."

2.



Feb 3

Malta: Matthew Grech had a first trial after being charged with allegedly promoting 'conversion practices.' The allegations came after Matthew held an online interview with PMnews Malta in which he shared his testimony from being a LGBT gay activist to becoming a Christian. He did not call for "conversion practices" but simply shared his story.

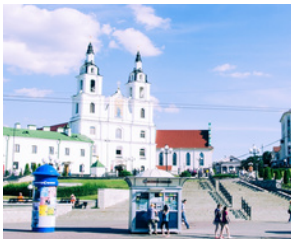
3.



April 5

Russia: Mikhail Simonov, a 63-year-old Russian Orthodox Christian, has become the first person to be imprisoned for expressing opposition to Russia's war in Ukraine on religious grounds. He was accused of disseminating false information due to two social media posts. One of the posts read "We, Russia, have become godless. Forgive us, Lord!"

4.



April 15

Belarus: Seven Christians were fined for talking about Easter in a public street in the city centre of Minsk. The individuals, who were all Protestant, were approached by police and told that they were violating the law by "conducting missionary activities without a permit." The police fined each one about 2 months' average wages.

5.



May 12

UK: The teacher Ben Dybowski was encouraged to express his Christian beliefs at a seminar and was subsequently fired for "hate speech." The teacher was prompted to share his opinions during a mandatory training session organised to instruct teachers on "workforce diversity practice, unconscious bias and gender awareness" and was assured it was a "safe space".

---