OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/france

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

1 2020

Summary

France regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR.

Since 2012, DILCRAH has served as an inter-ministerial body and platform for co-operation to address hate crime, including through research and financial support to civil society organizations (CSOs). DILCRAH, along with several civil society organizations, is involved in training judges, prosecutors, police officers, and gendarmes.

The Central Office for Combating Crimes against Humanity and Hate Crimes (OCLCH) is an inter-agency body made up of police officers and gendarmes. It is responsible for leading and co-ordinating the fight against crimes against humanity and hate crimes. OCLCH supports local units, serves as the national contact point for both units and external entities, conducts investigations, provides expertise, and prepares threat assessments within its area of responsibility.

Hate crime data are regularly published by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH). France regularly conducts surveys on hate crime victimization to monitor unreported hate crimes.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes France's efforts in the area of hate crime specialization in prosecution. However, based on the available information, it observes that since 2016, France has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution and judiciary to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that France would benefit from raising the awareness and building the capacity of criminal justice officials about hate crimes.

Official Data

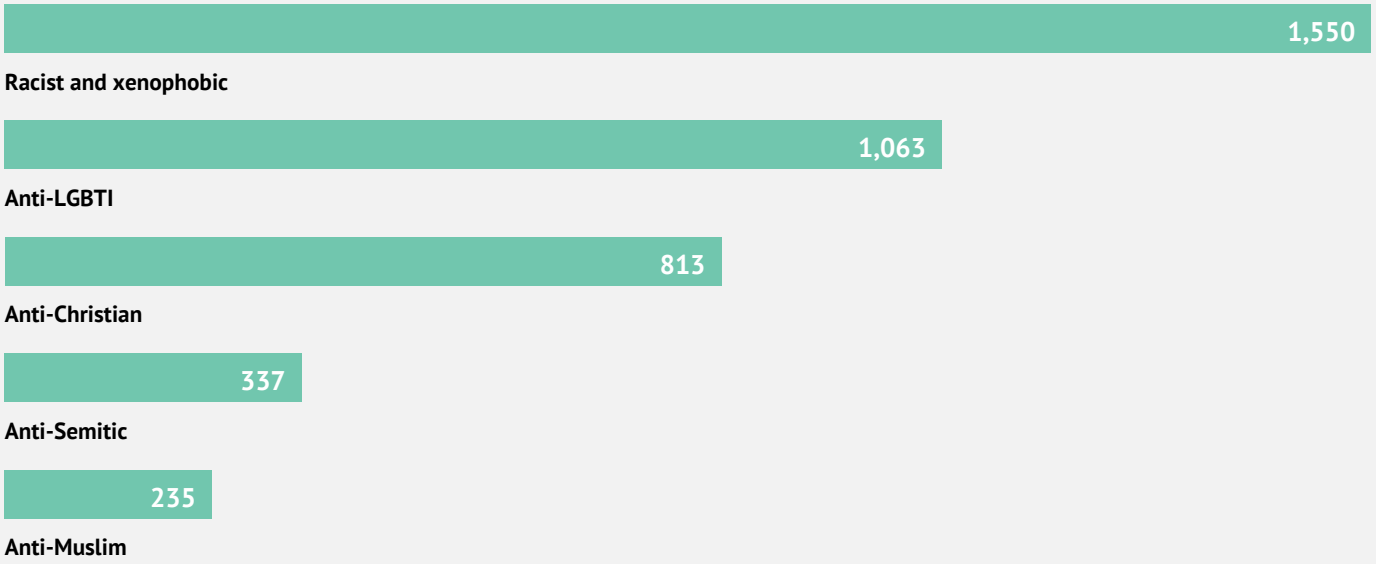
The police figures reported to ODIHR included a further 3,531 cases of incitement to hatred or violence, and defamation or public insult. These offences for the most part fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime and are therefore not listed here. Data on prosecuted and adjudicated hate crimes were not available at the time of the publication of 2020 hate crime data by ODIHR.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	2,672	0	0

Police data by bias motivation

The police provide data broken down by racism and xenophobia (which also includes anti-religious hate crime) and bias on grounds of sex/gender (also including hate crimes committed with bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity).

The anti-Christian, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes presented below have been disaggregated separately by the Ministry of the Interior. Furthermore, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes have been consulted with civil society organizations that monitor such crimes.



Police data by type of crime

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Threats/ threatening behaviour

Data collected by the Ministry of Interior on threats/threatening behaviour may include acts of hate speech that fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crimes.



Unspecified crime type

Data collected by the Ministry of Interior under this category may include homicides, terrorist attacks, arson, or violent assaults.



Physical assault

Data collected by police on physical violence also include sexual violence.



Incitement to violence



Damage to property

Data collected by police on damage to property include robberies, thefts, burglaries, arsons, and desecrations of graves.



Sexual assault

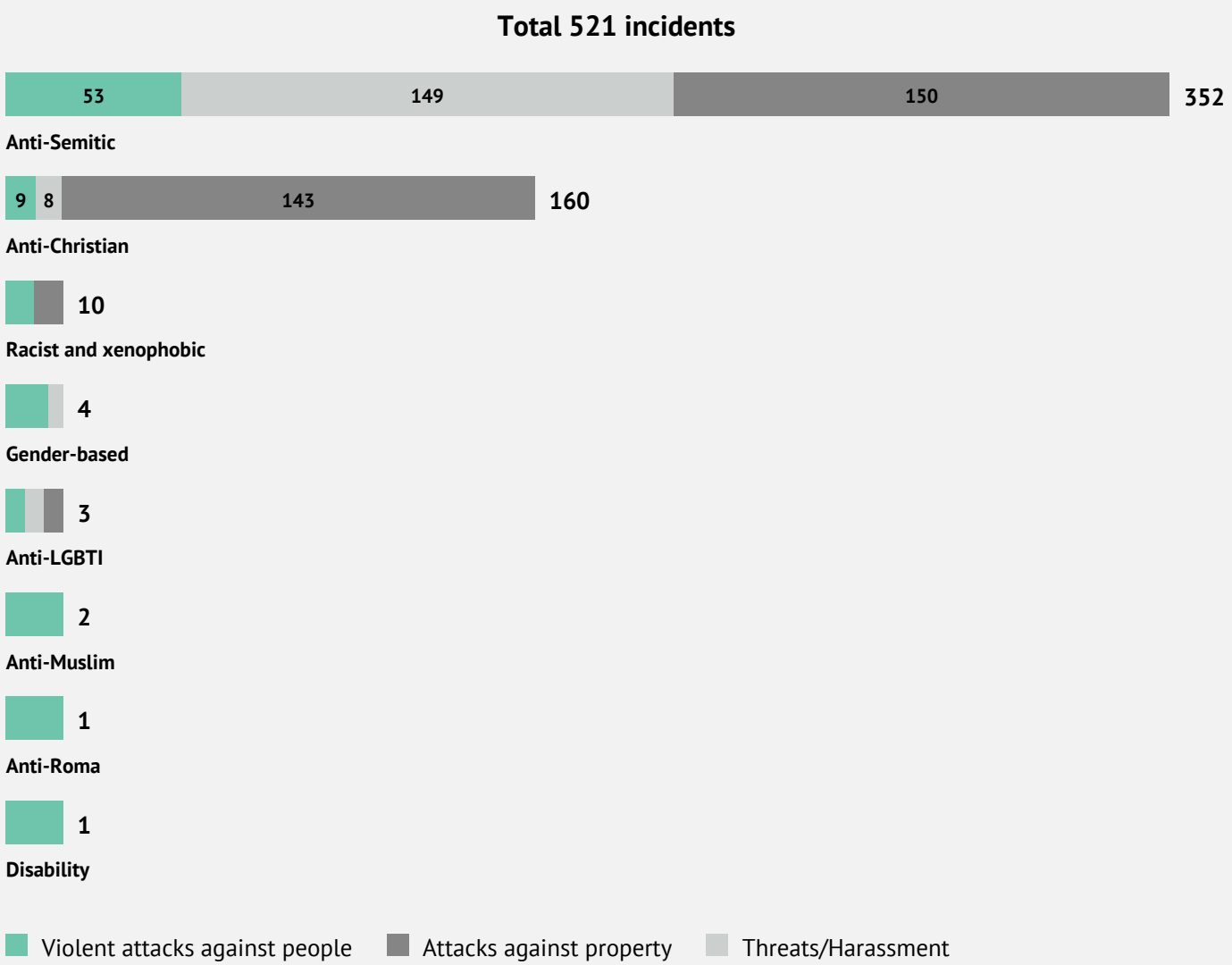
National Developments

In 2020, the **prosecution** continued to implement the good practices as envisaged in the order on combatting discrimination, hate speech, and hate crimes issued on 4 April 2019. A specialist prosecutor is appointed within each prosecutorial office to ensure effective communication with the investigating services, and external partners, and to facilitate the forging relations among various counterparts.

Law no. 2020-766 of 24 June 2020 on combatting hateful content on the Internet, some provisions of which were later declared unconstitutional by the **Constitutional Council** (namely due to their impinging upon the freedom of expression), addresses, among other things, sexual harassment motivated by bias. It anticipates the creation of a special jurisdiction deal for such offences as well as the possibility of filing a motion to this court online. A decree issued by the Minister of Justice on 24 November 2020 designated the Tribunal Judiciaire de Paris to undertake this particular role.

In August 2020, a Lyon region deputy received two anonymous letters containing racist insults and death threats. After a thorough investigation, the police identified the perpetrator who later admitted writing a number of similar letters sent to the President of the Republic, a lawyer from Lyon specializing in migration law, and a local NGO. The perpetrator was found guilty of, among other things, the offence of issuing death threats with a racist motive, and received a sentence of 12 months imprisonment, suspended on probation.

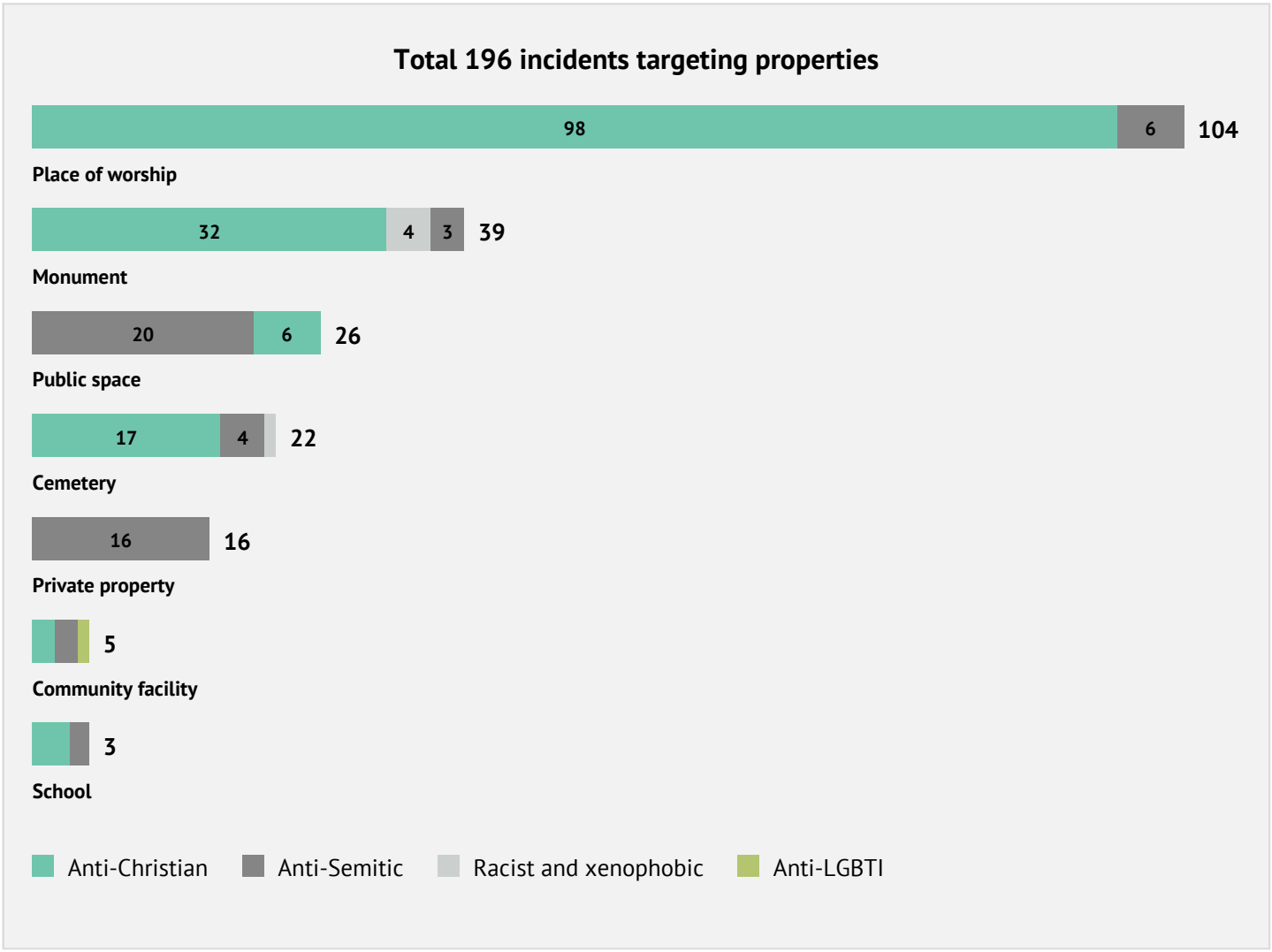
Incidents reported by civil society



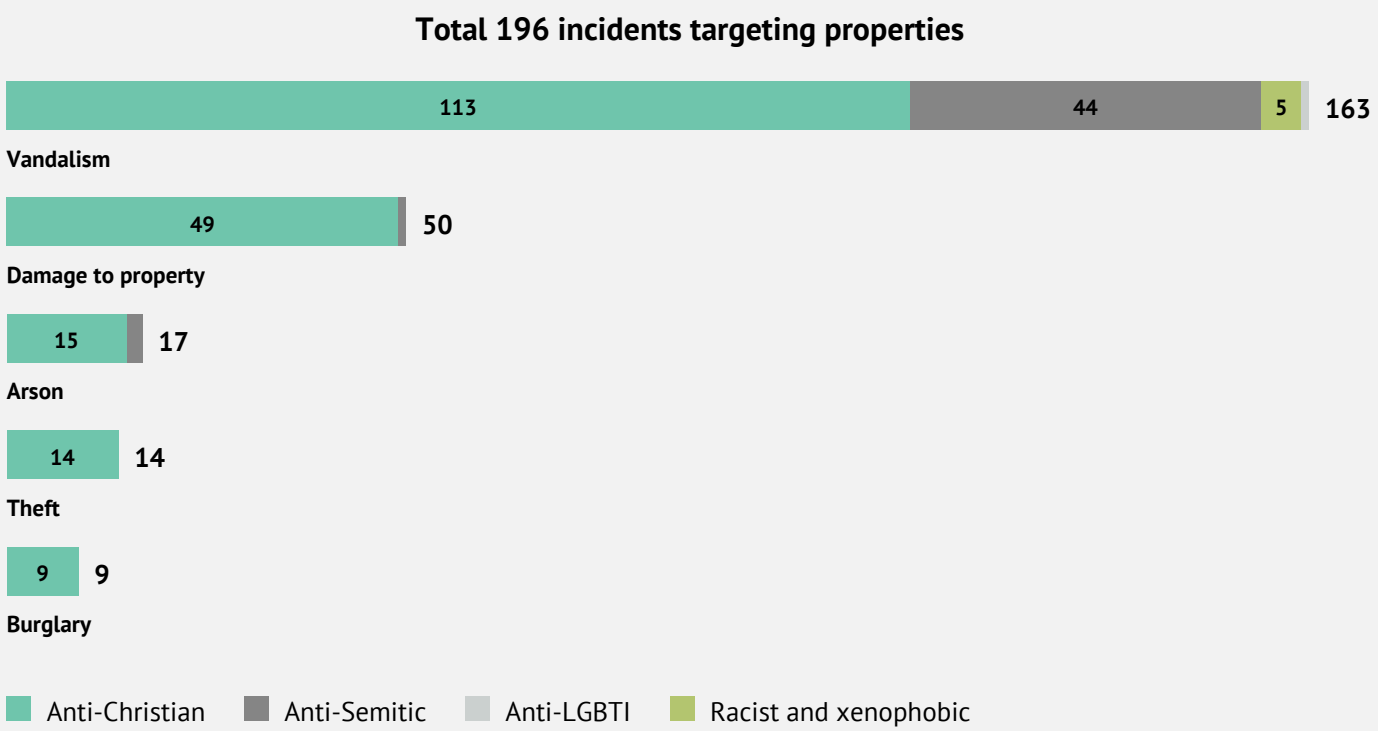
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes the following numbers of hate incidents reported as statistics: 237 reported by SPCJ; and 6 reported by Kantor Center.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for France, 2020