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/portugal

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

1 2020

Summary

Portugal regularly reports information on hate crimes to ODIHR. Hate crime data is collected by Portugal's Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office.

Portugal has launched a series of action plans in recent years to combat discrimination, including a plan to combat racism (PNCRD 2021-2025), the National Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion, the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (2018-2030), the National Implementation Plan of the Global Compact for Migration, the National Roma Communities Integration Strategy (2013-2022), and the National Programme on Holocaust Remembrance.

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice, ODIHR and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights co-organized a workshop to improve hate crime recording and data collection, based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT). The workshop resulted in a set of recommendations for relevant state authorities.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Portugal's efforts in reviewing its hate crime legislation. However, based on the available information, it observes that the law enforcement agencies of Portugal have not been recording the bias motivations behind hate crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Portugal would benefit from raising the awareness and building the capacity of criminal justice officials in relation to hate crimes.

Official Data

Police-recorded figures refer to the crime of racial or religious discrimination only, and includes incidents of discrimination and incitement to hatred, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. The records on prosecuted and sentenced cases were not available at the time of the publication of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	132	not available	not available

National Developments

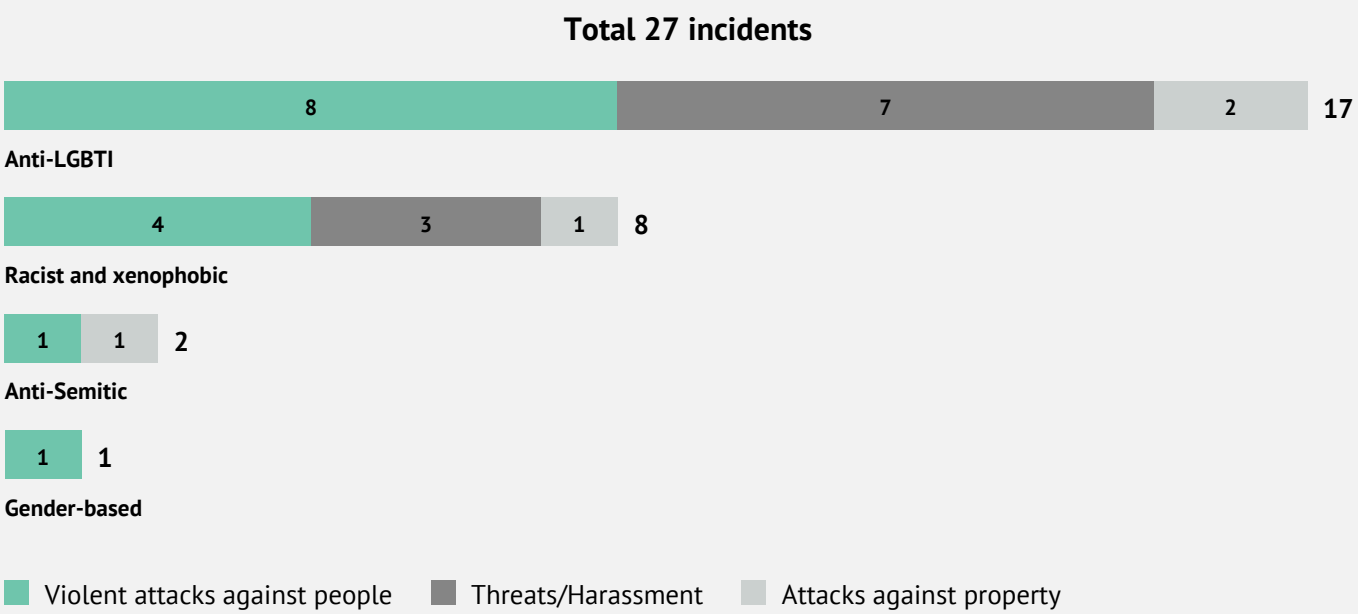
The new National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination 2021-2025 (*Plano Nacional de Combate ao Racismo e à Discriminação 2021-2025 - Portugal contra o racismo*), announced the revision of Article 240 of the Portuguese Criminal Code in light of the international binding instruments to which Portugal is a party. The revision is aimed at extending the list of protected grounds under the provision. The Ministry of Justice is working on a draft amendment.

Law no. 55/2020, of 27 August 2020, defining the objectives, priorities, and general criminal policy general guidelines for the years 2020-2022, establishes crimes motivated by racial, religious, or sexual discrimination as crimes of priority prevention, thus recognizing the vital importance of combatting hate crimes in Portugal. Moreover, acknowledging that the internet is the predominant vehicle of communication associated with hate crimes, cybercrime is also considered both a crime of priority prevention and investigation.

Notable case

In July 2020, the murderer of a black Portuguese actor shot dead in the middle of the day on a busy street in Lisbon was sentenced to 22 years and 9 months in prison for the crime of qualified murder, considering proven the motivation of racial hatred. The defendant will also have to pay 120,000 euros in compensation to the family of the victim. In the indictment, the prosecution charged the accused with aggravated murder "for vain reasons" and because it had been motivated by the victim's "colour and ethnic origin". The appeal was pending at the time of the publication of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.

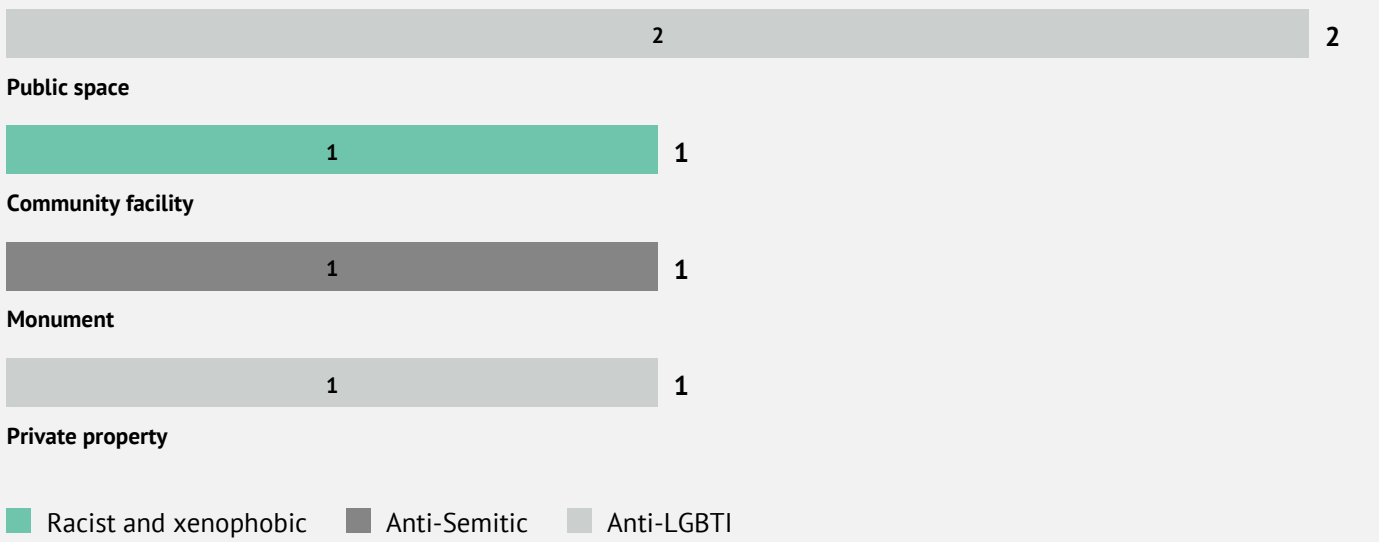
Incidents reported by civil society



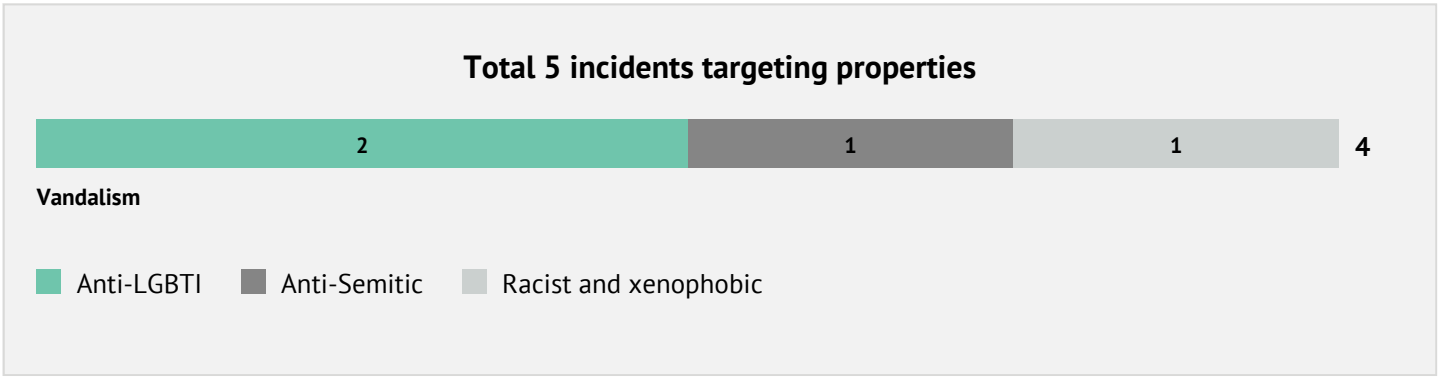
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes 1 hate incident reported by Kantor Center as statistics.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Portugal, 2020