

Cases and rulings

Country Code	Year	Reference details title	Reference details URL	Hate Bias motivation	Court / Body	Key facts of the case	Results (sanctions, outcome) and key consequences or implications of the case	Main reasoning / argumentation	Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case	Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details
Belgium	2013	Belgium / Correctional Court Oudenaarde / Public Prosecution v. V. Ismael and I. Francis Frans Francois	https://www.unia.be/nl/wetgeving-en-rechtspraak/rechtspraak/correctionele-rechtbank-oudenaarde-3-juni-2013	Racial or ethnic origin	Correctional Court Oudenaarde (Correctionele Rechtbank te Oudenaarde)	The case concerns physical violence based on racist motives. Three men, V. Ismael, T. Francis and M.R. Joao were involved in a fist fight. M.R. Joao, who is of foreign origin, claimed that the other two had inflicted personal injury on him based on racist motives. The victim, M.R. Joao and the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism were civil parties to the criminal proceedings.	The Court convicted the first defendant, V. Ismael, to imprisonment of 6 months (which was suspended) and a fine of 300 Euro. The Court convicted the second defendant, T. Francis, to imprisonment of 6 months (which was suspended) and a fine of 300 Euro. The Court also awarded moral damages to M.R. Joao (325 Euro in total) and reimbursement of medical costs (99,18 Euro).	The defendants admitted to inflicting personal injury to M.R. Joao, leading to his inability to work. They stated, however, that their acts were not motivated by racism or xenophobia. The Court found that there was not sufficient evidence to support that M.R. Joao had been a victim of violence caused by racist motives and that therefore aggravating circumstances did not apply to this case.		

DISCLAIMER The information presented here is collected under contract by the FRA's research network FRANET. The information and views contained do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA.

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/anti-muslim-hatred/>

Copyright © 2026 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights