DATABASE 2012-2024 ON ANTI-MUSLIM HATRED

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
Finland	2013	Finland / District Court of Northern Karelia / R 13/315		Nationality, Racial or ethnic origin	The District Court of Northern Karelia (Pohjois-Karjalan Käräjäoikeus/Norra Karelens Tingsrätt)	A man was found guilty of incitement to hatred after he published a message on his Facebook page containing insults and slander against Somali nationals, including statements that they live on social welfare benefits and that "they rape women". The prosecution stated that it is not acceptable to spread such views in public. The defendant claimed that the message was a commentary on a news article, and as such, it should not be interpreted out of context.	The defendant was ordered to pay 30 day fines (1 980 euros).	The court found that the defendant was guilty of spreading information, in which a certain group (Somali nationals) was threatened, defamed or insulted on the basis of their national or ethnic origin, available to the public. Freedom of expression may be subject to limitation in such a case. Thus the defendant was found guilty for the crime of incitement to hatred prohibited by the Criminal Code.	Freedom of expression cannot prevail when its exercise violates other values to which the law provides adequate protection. These values arise from the need to defend equality established in the constitutional order.	

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