

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	2020	Belgium / Court of First Instance Brussels / De Procureur des Konings bij het parket Halle-Vilvoorde vs. D. J. P. R.	https://www.unia.be/nl/wetgeving-en-rechtspraak/rechtspraak/correctionele-rechtbank-brussel-25-juni-2020	Religion	Court of First Instance (Rechtbank van eerste aanleg)	A man posted a message in a Facebook group, asking whether the local mosque might move to another location. The defendant replied the following: "If only, there are more and more of them, we have to burn them down."	The Court finds the man guilty of incitement to violence against the Muslim community. The man is convicted in absentia and sentenced to a fine of €4,800.	The Court found that the message posted by the defendant on the Facebook group is an attack on the Muslim community. Calling for mosques to be burned to the ground is a call for violence and in violation of the federal Anti-Discrimination Act.	The case was very straightforward. The defendant never appeared for any police questioning nor before the Court itself. The Court found the accusations to be proven based on the Facebook post. The Court considered the facts very serious as they showed an absolute lack of respect for the right to equality.	"De feiten zijn zeer ernstig. De houding van beklagde getuigt van een absoluut gebrek aan respect voor de gelijkwaardigheid van eenieder in de maatschappij en is uiterst afkeurenswaardig. Het oproepen om moskeeen plat te branden is onaanvaardbaar." "The facts are very serious. The attitude of the accused shows an absolute lack of respect for the equality of everyone in society and is extremely reprehensible. The call to burn down mosques is unacceptable."

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