



Antisemitism overview - Greece

Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in Greece in 2014-2024

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1. Greece

The country overview provides a descriptive analysis of the available official and unofficial data. ‘Official data’ refers to those collected by law enforcement agencies, authorities that are part of criminal justice systems and relevant state ministries. ‘Unofficial data’ refers to those collected by civil society organisations, including Jewish community organisations. All data presented are based on the countries and organisations’ own definitions and categorisations of antisemitism. Some of these draw on the IHRA Working definition of antisemitism, which was endorsed by all EU member states, except Malta. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia also adopted the IHRA Working definition on antisemitism. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Where available, the country overview provides a breakdown of the data by month following 7 October 2023, showing stark increases in recorded antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attacks and the and the ensuing military intervention in Gaza.

This publication is part of a larger series of overviews of antisemitic incidents. FRA and its predecessor (the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) have monitored antisemitism since 2004.

1.1. Official data

The Directorate of State Security informed FRA that the Hellenic Police services recorded and referred to the Ministry of Justice six incidents motivated by antisemitism in 2023 (Table 1). The number of incidents in 2023 is slightly increased in comparison to previous years 2022 and 2021 , following a decrease from 9 incidents recorded in 2020 and 10 incidents recorded in both 2019 and 2018. In 2023, the incidents constituted damage caused to monuments of Jewish interest and/or damage with antisemitic slogans as well as online antisemitic hate-speech. Five (5) out of the prementioned six (6) incidents referred to damages of monuments and writing of slogans, while one (1) to online hate speech. It is worth mentioning that no violence incident against persons self-defined as having Jewish religion or origin was recorded.

In 2024, four incidents have been recorded by Hellenic Police, one (1) denial of services to Jewish individuals by a hotel and three (3) incidents with antisemitic content on public social platforms, Facebook, Messenger.

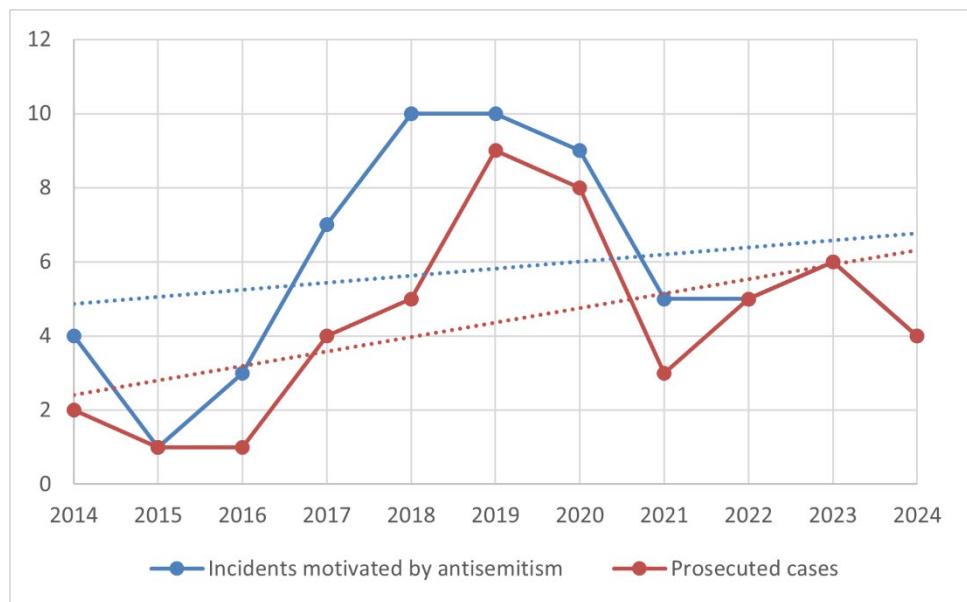
Table 1: Number of incidents motivated by antisemitism recorded by police and number of prosecuted cases pertaining to antisemitism in Greece, 2014–2024

Year	Incidents motivated by antisemitism	Prosecuted cases
2014	4	2
2015	1	1
2016	3	1
2017	7	4
2018	10	5
2019	10	9
2020	9	8
2021	5	3
2022	5	5
2023	6 (a)	6
2024	4	4

a. *The number of incidents recorded by the Hellenic Police took place from the beginning of 2023 till October, 3rd, 2023*

Sources: Hellenic Police Headquarters; and District Attorneys' Offices to the Ministry of Justice, 2014–2024.

Figure 1 – Number of incidents and prosecuted cases motivated by antisemitism recorded by police and number of prosecuted cases pertaining to antisemitism in Greece, 2014–2024



Alternative text: The figure shows the number of recorded incidents and prosecuted cases between 2014 and 2024. The number of incidents recorded ranges from 4 in 2014 to 10 in 2018 and 2019 and 4 in 2024. The number of prosecuted cases ranges from 2 in 2014 to 9 in 2019 and 5 in 2021. From 2022 onwards, all recorded incidents correspond to prosecuted cases. The dotted line represents a trend line. See Box B1 below for details.

Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters; and District Attorneys' Offices to the Ministry of Justice, 2014–2024.

Another data source in the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, General Secretariat for Religious Affairs compiles and publishes data concerning acts against religious sites in Greece. (ii) These data are collected from religious communities, the police, the public prosecutor and other state authorities. In 2024, the data included five (5) incidents of vandalism against Jewish monuments / religious sites, compared to six (6) incidents in 2023, one (1) incident in 2022, three (3) incidents in 2021, ten (10) incidents in 2020 and five (5) incidents in 2019.

On 29 December 2022, an unknown person or persons vandalised the Jewish monument located in the outdoor area of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. They covered it with Nazi symbols using red spray paint. The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KISE) condemned this vandalism but stated that it happened

at the end of a year during which no vandalism of a Jewish place had been registered. (iii)

According to the aforementioned dates, two incidents took place before and four incidents took place after the attack of Hamas (7-10-2023) while, according to their description, the above-mentioned incidents No 3 and No 5 seem to be directly associated with its aftermath.

Table 2: Number of incidents of vandalism against Jewish monuments / religious sites reported by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports in Greece, 2019–2024

Year	Cases of vandalism against Jewish monuments / religious sites
2019	5
2020	10
2021	3
2022	1
2023	6
2024	5

Sources: General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, 2020–2024.

1.2. Unofficial data

In Greece, the Racist Violence Recording Network collects unofficial data on antisemitic incidents (Table 3). The network is coordinated by the Greek office of the UN Refugee Agency and the National Commission for Human Rights, and it consists of 55 civil society organisations as well as two observers (the Greek Ombudsman and the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of the Municipality of Athens). In 2023, the network recorded one incident against a Holocaust memorial located in Thessaloniki, compared with two in 2022 and 2021. (iv) In 2024, there were no incidents recorded by the Racist Violence Recording Network.

Table 3: Number of antisemitic incidents recorded by the Racist Violence Recording Network, 2018–2024

Year	Incidents against Jewish sites and memorials
2018	9
2019	2
2020	0
2021	2
2022	1
2023	1
2024	0

Source: Racist Violence Recording Network annual reports, 2019–2024.

Box B 1 – Identifying trends in antisemitic incidents

To identify trends that underlie annual changes in the number of recorded incidents, linear regression lines (trend lines) were fitted to the data. This country overview presents trend lines where the following two conditions are fulfilled:

- the data were collected using the same methodology for at least three years in a row.
- the mid-point of the trend line for the series was not below 20 cases.

If the number of recorded incidents is low, the direction and magnitude of the trend is likely to be highly susceptible to change from one year to the next, making reliable trend analysis difficult. The number of recorded incidents is considered to be low if there were under 20 cases per year in all or most of the years between 2014 and 2024, resulting in the mid-point of the trend line falling under 20 cases.

It should also be emphasised that ascending or descending trend lines should not be interpreted as growing or declining antisemitism. The increase or decrease in recorded incidents may mean, for example, that more people are reporting incidents in a given year or that the police are becoming more efficient in recording incidents as antisemitic.

- (i) See an overview of EU Member States and accession countries that adopted the [working definition of antisemitism](#) by the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.
- (ii) Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (n.d.), '[Εκθεση: Περιστατικά εις βάρος χώρων θρησκευτικής σημασίας](#)'; also available in English: '[Acts against religious sites in Greece](#)'.
- (iii) KISE (January 12th, 2023), [Kise condemns the defamation of the monument at Auth.](#)
- (iv) For the latest report, see Racist Violence Recording Network (2023), Annual Report 2022.