

# Official statistics about the protection and surveillance of places of worship

## *Anti-Christian incidents on the rise but sharp fall for anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish incidents in 2016*

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HRWF (20.02.2017) - According to the annual report of the French Ministry of the Interior published on 1<sup>st</sup> February, the number of racist, anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish incidents largely decreased last year while the number of anti-Christian incidents dramatically increased over the same period.

After a record number of reported incidents in 2015 (2,034 incidents), racist, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim incidents decreased in 2016 with 1,125 reported incidents (-44.7%). These statistics are reflective of incidents (acts of violence, arsons, degradations...) and threats (insults, hate speech...) about which complaints were filed.

### *Protection of religious community buildings*

In 2016, incidents targeting Jewish and Muslim community buildings respectively decreased by 54% and 37.5% in comparison with 2015 while there was an increase of 17.6% concerning Christian (Catholic) places of worship.

A closer look at the statistics indicates that:

- 90 % of all the incidents in 2016 were targeting Christian places
- From 2008 to 2016, incidents concerning Christian places of worship increased by 245 %

According to the statistics of the Interior Ministry, 4,320 places of worship and religious community buildings were under surveillance of mobile (non-static) patrols of law enforcement forces and soldiers:

- 2,400 were Christian and 45,000 churches (5%)
- 1,100 were Muslim and 2,500 mosques (44%)
- 820 were Jewish and 500 synagogues (100%)

### *Anti-Catholic incidents in January 2017*

According to the website of the *Observatoire de la Christianophobie*, twenty-two anti-Catholic incidents were recorded in France in January 2017.

Incidents targeting churches, chapels and other Catholic places of worship:

vandalism (5), theft (6), arson (4), profanation (2), tags (1), vandalism in cemeteries (2), and against schools (1)

Physical or verbal aggression against priests: 1 case

Some recent incidents in the first two weeks of February 2017:

- Caen: Anarchist tags on a calvary
- Ste Anne d'Auvray : Vandalism dans la chapel of Mary Immaculate
- Reguisheim : Deliberate damage in the church and the cemetery
- Avon : Theft and profanation in the convent

For more cases and details, see <http://www.christianophobie.fr>