



OIDAC Europe  
**February 2026**  
Monthly Analysis



## Anti-Christian Hate Crimes in Europe OIDAC Europe, February 2026

### 1. Summary

During the month of February 2026, the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC Europe) recorded **34 anti-Christian hate crimes** targeting Christian places of worship, religious symbols, and, in one case, Christian individuals engaged in a public activity.

The recorded incidents comprise **17 cases of vandalism, 11 arson-related attacks, 3 cases of desecration, 2 thefts** specifically targeting sacred objects, and **1 case of physical violence**. Particularly serious incidents included a **series of three arson attacks** on churches in Ede in the Netherlands within five days, a suspected arson attack in Loiret, France where the altar of a parish church was deliberately set on fire, the targeting of a church in Poland with satanic symbols and threatening graffiti, including the message “this church will burn”, and a violent attack on a Christian pro-life event in Koblenz, Germany, in which two participants required hospital treatment.

The highest number of incidents in February 2026 was recorded in **France (7), Italy (7)** and **Germany (6)**. Further cases were recorded in the **Netherlands (3), Spain (2), Sweden (2), Poland (1)** and **Greece (1)**. Outside the European Union, additional incidents were recorded in the United Kingdom (4) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (1).

In addition to the incidents listed above, 46 further cases of theft, break-ins, or property damage without a clearly identifiable anti-Christian bias were recorded during the month but were not included in the total number of anti-Christian hate crimes.

### 2. Trends: Persistent Arson Attacks and Targeting of Sacred Objects

A notable development in February 2026 was again the high number of **arson-related attacks** targeting churches and Christian sites, with **eleven incidents** recorded during the reporting period. These incidents involved fires deliberately set inside churches or directly targeting church structures. In France, the **altar** of a parish church in Loiret was **deliberately set on fire**. In the Netherlands, **three churches in Ede** were damaged in deliberate fires within five days. Additional arson incidents were recorded in Italy, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

A second pattern observed this month is the **targeting of highly significant religious elements** within churches and Christian sites. Several incidents focused specifically on objects with strong symbolic or liturgical importance. These include the complete destruction of a statue of the Virgin Mary at Bois-le-Roi cemetery in France and the **burning of grave crosses** in a cemetery prayer hall in Amtzell, Germany.

A third observable development is the **repeated targeting** of the same churches or local Christian sites within short periods of time. In Ede, the Netherlands, three churches were attacked within days. In other locations in Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, churches reported repeated incidents of vandalism or disturbances. Such repeated attacks can have a cumulative impact on local communities and may lead to increased security concerns around places of worship.

### 3. Incidents by countries

#### France

A total of **seven anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in France in February 2026, including **two arson-related attacks**<sup>1</sup> and **four cases of vandalism<sup>2</sup> and desecration<sup>3</sup>** and one case of repeated theft targeting a religious object<sup>4</sup>.

At the cemetery of Bois-le-Roi, a **statue of the Virgin Mary was completely destroyed** in an act of vandalism. In Montpellier, the **cathedral was vandalised during a carnival event**, causing damage inside the church building. In Loiret, police opened an investigation after a suspected arson attack in which the **altar of a parish church was deliberately set on fire**. A particularly serious incident occurred at the **Basilica of Saint-Nicolas-de-Port**, where **two fires were deliberately lit inside the church**, forcing the evacuation of the building.

In addition, a man in Mazamet threatened to burn down the local church and harm the parish priest while claiming to be the “Antichrist”.<sup>5</sup> Authorities later confirmed that the individual suffered from psychiatric disorders; the case was therefore not included in the statistical count of anti-Christian attacks.

Beyond the incidents listed above, **eight additional cases of thefts, break-ins, and one fire under investigation** were recorded in February but were **not included in the overall count due to the absence of a clearly identifiable bias motive**.

#### Italy

A total of **seven anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Italy in February 2026, including **two arson-related incidents**<sup>6</sup>, **one desecration**<sup>7</sup>, **one theft targeting sacred objects**<sup>8</sup>, and **three cases of vandalism**<sup>9</sup>.

In Felizzano, unknown individuals attempted to **set fire to the main entrance of the historic Church of San Rocco**, prompting a police investigation. In Vatican City, a man was arrested at **St Peter’s Basilica** after attempting to enter the church carrying **flammable substances and ignition devices during a papal Mass**, and investigators believe he may be linked to previous church fires in Rome.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10997>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10962>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11052>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11062>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11027>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11038>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11078>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.lejournaldici.com/actualite-23119-mazamet-il-menace-de-cramer-l-eglise-et-le-cure>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10998>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10944>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11008>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11075>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11047>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11041>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10968>

Further incidents included **repeated vandalism** affecting a parish oratory in Quattro Castella, damage to the Romanian Orthodox San Sepolcro Church, and disturbances affecting parish property in Mestre.

In addition, **19 further cases of thefts and break-ins affecting churches and parish buildings were recorded** during February but were **not included in the anti-Christian hate crime total**.

## Germany

A total of **six anti-Christian hate crimes** were recorded in Germany in February 2026, including **four cases of vandalism**<sup>10</sup>, **one arson-related attack**<sup>11</sup>, and one case involving **physical violence**<sup>12</sup>.

In Steinenbronn, a man vandalised a Catholic church, causing **extensive destruction inside the sanctuary and damage to religious furnishings**. In Amtzell, grave crosses inside a cemetery prayer hall were **set on fire**, damaging Christian burial symbols. In Koblenz, a **Christian pro-life information event was attacked**, leaving two volunteers hospitalised with injuries.

Two additional incidents involving individuals with severe mental health problems were recorded but not included in the statistical count. In Wildeshausen, a man set fire to the entrance of a church community centre, causing fire damage to the building. In Altstädten, another individual caused extensive damage inside a church, resulting in losses estimated at around €70,000.

In addition, 16 further incidents involving thefts, attempted break-ins, and one fire of unknown cause were recorded in February but were not included in the overall number of anti-Christian hate crimes.

## The Netherlands

Three cases of arson were recorded in the Netherlands in February. In Ede, **three churches were deliberately set on fire within five days**, causing damage to church buildings and prompting increased security measures and the arrest of a suspect.<sup>13</sup>

## Spain

Two cases of vandalism were recorded in Spain. In Santiago, the historic **Santa Susana Church was defaced with graffiti**, including political slogans<sup>14</sup>. In Navarre,

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11007>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11013>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10976>,  
<https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10960>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10987>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10940>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11056>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainsthchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11020>

the **Immaculate Conception convent was again targeted**, with damage caused to the entrance door and windows.<sup>15</sup>

### Sweden

Two incidents were recorded in Sweden, including one attempted arson and one case of vandalism. In southern Stockholm, a priest discovered and prevented an **attempt to set fire to a Catholic church**.<sup>16</sup> In Falköping, **St Olof's Church was again vandalised**, continuing a pattern of repeated attacks.<sup>17</sup>

Two additional theft-related incidents affecting church property were recorded but not included in the anti-Christian hate crime count.

### Additional significant cases

In Poznań, **Poland**, the exterior wall of a Roman Catholic church was covered with threatening graffiti and satanic symbols, including the message “this church will burn”.<sup>18</sup> In Gardiki, **Greece**, vandals broke into the cemetery Church of All Saints and destroyed the Holy Altar, reportedly while searching for valuables believed to be hidden inside.<sup>19</sup>

**Outside the European Union**, five additional cases were documented. Four anti-Christian incidents were recorded in the **United Kingdom** in February 2026, including **two suspected arson attacks**<sup>20</sup> and **two cases of vandalism**<sup>21</sup>. A historic former church building in Camelon, Scotland, suffered **severe damage in an arson attack**. Another suspected arson attack severely damaged the former King's Hall Methodist Church in Southall, West London. In Glasgow, a man entered St Alphonsus RC Church and **smashed religious artefacts** inside the building. Another case involved repeated vandalism affecting a church in Hastings.

In addition, two theft-related incidents were recorded, but not included in the anti-Christian hate crime total.

In Teslić, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, threatening graffiti with **ethnic and religious implications** was written on the exterior wall of St Joseph's Catholic Church.<sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11065>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10967>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11033>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10966>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11064>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11005>,

<https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11100>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11037>,

<https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=10991>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/index.php?id=12&case=11053>

#### 4. Conclusion

The incidents recorded in February 2026 show that attacks against Christian places of worship across Europe continue to take varied forms, ranging from vandalism and desecration to arson-related attacks and violence against individuals engaged in Christian activities. The **continued high number of arson-related incidents**, as well as attacks targeting particularly significant religious elements such as altars, tabernacles, statues, and grave crosses, remains a notable development. In several cases, fires were deliberately set inside churches or **directly targeted liturgical spaces**, indicating a pattern that goes beyond ordinary property damage. In addition, several incidents involved the **repeated targeting** of the same churches or Christian sites within short periods of time, pointing to a pattern that can further intensify the impact on local communities.

While the figures presented **reflect only the incidents documented by OIDAC Europe** and therefore cannot capture the full scope of anti-Christian hostility, the patterns observed highlight ongoing security concerns affecting Christian places of worship across Europe. Ensuring the protection of religious sites and the free and safe exercise of religion remains an important responsibility for public authorities and local communities alike.