

# ANNUAL REPORT ON HATE CRIME

IN 2014



This report is made possible with the support from the OSCE Mission to Skopje within the “Advancing National Infrastructure against Hate Crimes and Hate Speech” project. The content of this publication does not necessarily represent the view or the position of the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

**Publisher:**

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia  
represented by President Prof. Dr. Gordan Kalajdziev

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CIP - Каталогизација во публикација  
Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

343.542(497.7)(047)  
316.613.43  
343.41/.43(497.7)(047)

STOJANOVSKI, Voislav  
Annual report on hate crimes for 2014  
/ [authors Voislav Stojanovski, Drilon Iseni, Pavle Bogoevski]. -  
Skopje : Helsinki committee for human rights of the Republic of  
Macedonia, 2015. - 83 стр. : илустр. ; 21 см

ISBN 978-608-65216-9-1  
1. Iseni, Drilon [автор] 2. Bogoevski, Pavle [автор]  
а) Говор на омраза - Повреда на човекови права и слободи -  
- Извештаи б) Жртви на дела од омраза - Правна помош -  
- Извештаи  
COBISS.MK-ID 98384650



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## 1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

This report is the outcome of the “Advancing National Infrastructure against Hate Crimes and Hate Speech” project which was financially supported by the OSCE Mission to Skopje, and was conducted in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014. The Project’s overall goal is to increase the understanding and strengthen the capacity of the institutional and civil society stakeholders to effectively deal with hate crime and hate speech in accordance with the domestic legislation, OSCE commitments and the International standards. One of the main aims of the project is to increase the capacity of legal practitioners and civil society to process and report occurrences of hate crimes in the country. This report is envisaged to serve as an indicator of the scope, nature and frequency of hate crimes perpetrated in the country.

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia (MHC) acted as an implementing partner and conducted the following activities with regard to hate crimes:

1. Monitoring national printed and electronic media
2. Providing free legal aid to victims
3. Monitoring court cases on hate crimes
4. Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to OSCE/ODIHR
5. Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting and public awareness
6. Providing information and resources for other CSOs
7. Taking part in trainings and events organized by the OSCE/ODIHR
8. Monitoring hate crimes and hate incidents during sport events

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media

MHC is subscribed to a number of daily newspapers with different ideological leanings and political affiliation. Monitoring of electronic media was done on daily basis, through the two most popular internet news generators ([www.time.mk](http://www.time.mk) and [www.grid.mk](http://www.grid.mk)), as well as by using the advanced search options under the “News” section of [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). Once a hate crime or an incident was recorded, MHC wrote down the title of the story and its internet link and published it on the internet portal for reporting hate crimes – [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk). The main objective of the media monitoring was to identify potential occurrences of hate incidents and contact alleged victims for an interview, and to offer them possible free legal aid or trial monitoring in their case.

### 2.2 Providing free legal aid to victims

Whenever an alleged victim was identified and contact was established, MHC offered its free legal aid services. Meetings were arranged with the victim or his/her family. Meetings took place either in the office of the MHC or at a location proposed by the victim. During the meeting, an interview was conducted. In cases in which an incident/crime was alleged, a written statement was taken and the victim was asked to fill in a standard Request for free legal aid. Additionally, victims were also asked to enclose copies of the documents relevant for their case. Support was offered in empowering victims through encouragement, accompanying them to the police stations, finding an attorney at law who would represent them free of charge, writing criminal complaints, communicating with attorneys at law already working on a case, and writing notions in their name. Monitoring of victims’ cases before and during trial was also offered.

### 2.3 Monitoring court cases on hate crimes

Trial monitoring by the MHC commenced: 1) following a formal request for free legal aid submitted to the MHC by a person in criminal proceedings with regard to hate crimes and 2) following an information received by the courts regarding scheduled and ongoing trials relating to hate crimes. Prior the MHC’s observer started conducting a trial monitoring, following a formal request, the person who has submitted a request was asked to provide full documentation relating to his/her case (i.e. photocopies of all legal documents obtained during the proceedings in front of domestic courts or other institutions). After documents were obtained, a legal adviser was appointed to the case and tasked with analyzing it and determining further actions which need to be taken before, during, and after the trial. The legal adviser then prepared reports that refer to the overall procedure and elaborated whether the procedure was conducted in accordance with the legal norms. Monitoring trials provided an opportunity to the project team to assess the way in which victims are treated in the legal process.

## 2.4 Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to OSCE/ODIHR

Details regarding the incidents, such as brief description, date, time, location, source of information, victim(s) involved, perpetrators, status of the case, response by authorities, and impact on the victim(s) and the community were regularly reported to OSCE/ODIHR. Reporting on hate crimes and incidents was made easy by the creation of the web platform for hate crimes mapping. Aside of being able to follow hate crime incidents online after they occur, OSCE received one interim and one final report prepared by the MHC. This final report will be shared with ODIHR for its annual hate crime report in the member states of the OSCE.

## 2.5 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting

The web portal – [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk) is an interactive tool enabling citizens to receive information on and report of hate crimes. It contains an interactive map showing the exact or approximate location of the incidents. The home page lists the categories of hate crimes and bias motivations, provides information regarding the way in which citizens can report (e-applications, twitter, email, and online form), and displays statistical graphics. There are also FAQ, Resources, and Glossary sections on the web portal, under which information regarding the project, the meaning and scope of hate crimes, and publications on hate crimes is provided. Beside in Macedonian, the portal is also available in English and Albanian.

## 2.6 Providing information and resources for other CSOs

MHC organized a press-conference to present its Special analysis on hate crimes for 2013 in May 2014.<sup>1</sup> An invitation to the press conference was sent to more than 50 NGOs. A number of NGO representatives and state institution representatives attended the conference and were informed of the possibility to use the MHC as a hate crimes resource centre. During the course of the project, MHC was contacted by the International Organization for Migration and ILGA Europe. They requested and received statistics regarding hate crimes for 2013. MHC, Metamorphosis, Macedonian Youth Forum, and Macedonian Institute for Media (local CSOs) are working closely together on issues that involve hate crimes and hate speech. Additionally, MHC created a hate crime awareness Facebook page (<http://goo.gl/8yY5Lk>), a Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/HateCrimesMK>), and included a separate section on hate crimes in its monthly reports on the situation with human rights which are distributed to state institutions, media, NGOs, international organizations, and foreign embassies in the country.

## 2.7 Taking part in trainings and events organized by the OSCE/ODIHR

In order to further advance its institutional knowledge on hate crimes, members of the project team attended a number of trainings and events organized by the OSCE/ODIR in the country and Serbia. Besides taking part in trainings and events organized by OSCE, members of the project team attended numerous other public and professional events with relation to hate crime, the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Serbia), and Europe (Greece, Belgium, and Germany).

## 2.8 Monitoring hate crimes and hate incidents during sport events

Matches with increased risk of violence (domestic and international sport matches of higher competitive importance, sport matches during which higher attendance is expected, and sport

matches where attendance of supporters of guest clubs is forbidden) were monitored. To this end, matches that had been labeled matches of increased risk in the course of 2013 were selected. Monitors arrived at the sport venue one hour before the start of the match and observed whether the usher service asks the supporters to show their tickets, whether the usher service performs search upon entrance, whether the supporters are attempting to enter carrying equipment and items which are banned on the premises; and the measures taken by the ushers and Ministry of Interior for physical separation of the supporters from the competing teams.

# 3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS

## 3.1 Background

The Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses: Annual Report for 2012 notes that between the period 2008-2012 “51 participating States indicated to ODIHR that they collect some data on hate crimes. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia stated that they do not compile any statistics of this type.”<sup>2</sup> The OSCE/ODIHR 2013 Hate crime reporting internet portal notes that “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has reported to ODIHR that it does not collect hate crime data.”<sup>3</sup> In addition, it is stated in the EU Commission 2014 Progress Report on the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that “Data on the reporting, investigation and prosecution of hate speech and hate crime is not collected systematically and training of law enforcement, prosecutors and judges needs to be stepped up.”<sup>4</sup> In 2014, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia published a special analysis on hate crimes registered between the period of March and December 2013.<sup>5</sup> That analysis, together with this report and the web portal for hate crimes reporting – [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com), represent the first concrete efforts to map, monitor, and report on hate crime incidents in the country.

## 3.2 Number of incidents

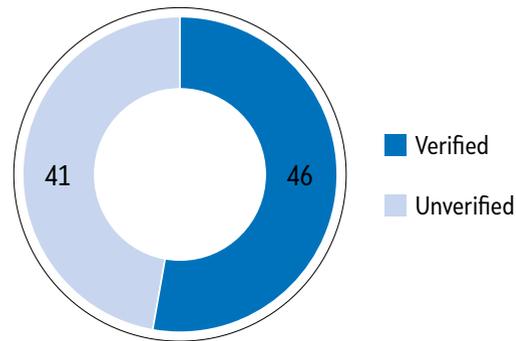
During the period 1 January – 31 December 2014, a total of 87 hate crimes and incidents were registered. 12 incidents were reported to MHC by the victims, while all the other incidents were reported by the media. 46 incidents were verified by means of contact with the police, police bulletins, media reporting, meetings with victims, and by eye witnessing an incident. 41 of the registered incidents were not verified, but were nevertheless included in the report due to the existence of bias indicators including: Victim/Witness perception; Comments made at the scene; Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds; Pattern/frequency of previous incidents; Nature of violence; Lack

<sup>2</sup> OSCE/ODIHR, Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses: Annual Report for 2012, Warsaw, November 2013, pp. 16-17. Available at: [http://tandis.odihr.pl/hcr2012/pdf/Hate\\_Crime\\_Report\\_full\\_version.pdf](http://tandis.odihr.pl/hcr2012/pdf/Hate_Crime_Report_full_version.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <http://hatecrime.osce.org/former-yugoslav-republic-macedonia> (see ODIHR key observations).

<sup>4</sup> European Commission, 2014 Progress report for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Brussels, October 2014, pg. 13.

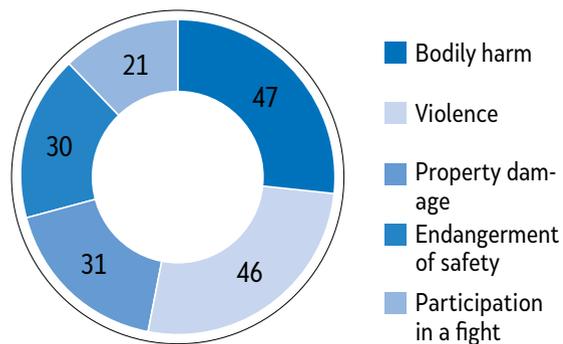
<sup>5</sup> Available at: <http://www.mhc.org.mk/analysis/209>



of other motives; and Location and timing. More precisely, the unverified incidents were included because of the information received regarding the location of the incident (e.g. ethnically mixed neighbourhoods and schools, bus lines used by members of different ethnic communities, places where a hate crime has already occurred in the past etc.), type of incident (e.g. a bigger group of juveniles attacks one or more victims without provocation, group fights, attack in a bus or at a bus station etc.), time of incident

(following a previous fight as a form of revenge, after school hours, during or after a sport event etc.), and the property damaged during the incident (e.g. churches and graveyards). The unverified and verified reports can be seen separately on the web portal for hate crimes reporting. In the Annex of this report, the titles of the verified incidents are highlighted in green while titles of the unverified incidents in red.

### 3.3 Types of crimes



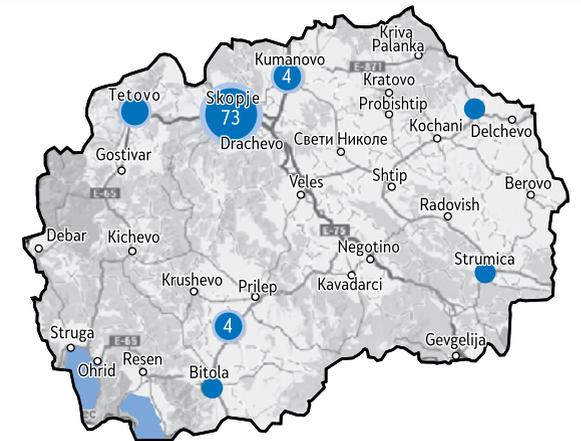
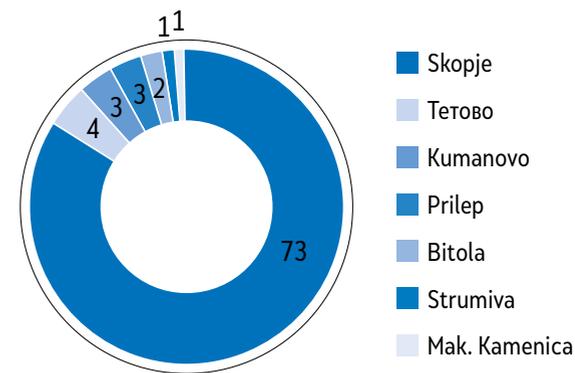
The majority of crimes were committed by youngsters. Victims and perpetrators are usually members of different ethnic backgrounds (Macedonian and Albanian). The most frequent types of crimes committed include: assault, possession and use of illegal weapons, property damage, vandalism, threat, and violence. The registered incidents were also linked to the alleged criminal offense as prescribed by the Criminal Cod. The majority of alleged criminal offences include: Bodily harm (47), Violence (46), Property damage

(31), Endangerment of safety (30), and Participation in a fight (21). Additionally, a number of incidents fall under the following alleged criminal offences: Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (8), Endangerment by dangerous means during a fight or argument (6), Assaulting a public official while performing matters related to security (4), and Vandalizing graves (3). Very often the criminal deeds committed in one incident fulfilled the criteria of two or more alleged criminal offences, hence the bigger number of offenses than incidents presented under this heading.

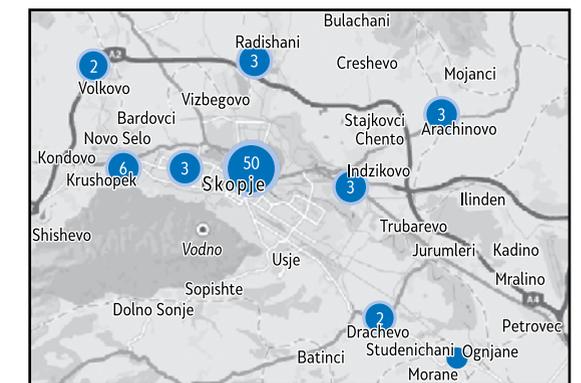
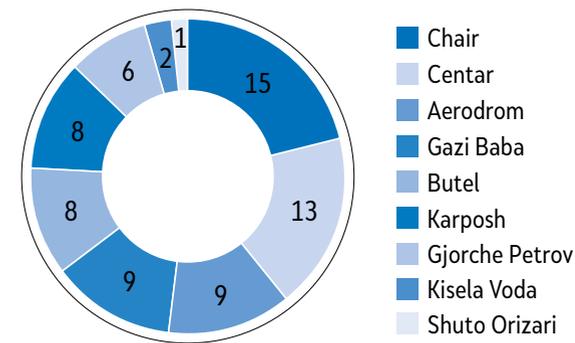
### 3.4 Incidents by location

The vast majority of incidents (84%) occurred in Skopje and its metropolitan area. There were 4 incidents in Bitola, 3 in Kumanovo and Prilep, 2 in Bitola and 1 incident in Strumica and Makedonska Kamenica.

The cities in which the most incidents occurred are located in regions in which there is a significant minority of either ethnic Macedonians (Tetovo), or ethnic Albanians (Skopje and Kumanovo). Unlike

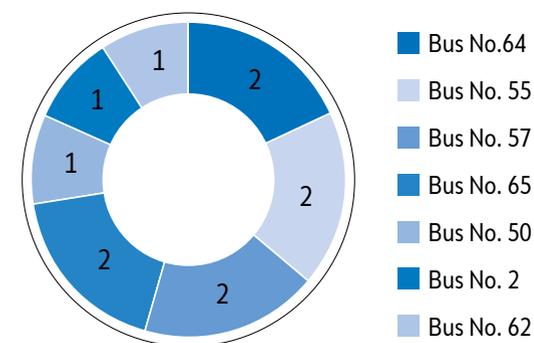


in 2013, no incidents were registered in the ethnically diverse cities of Gostivar, Kichevo and Struga. Same as in 2013, there were no incidents registered in Debar.

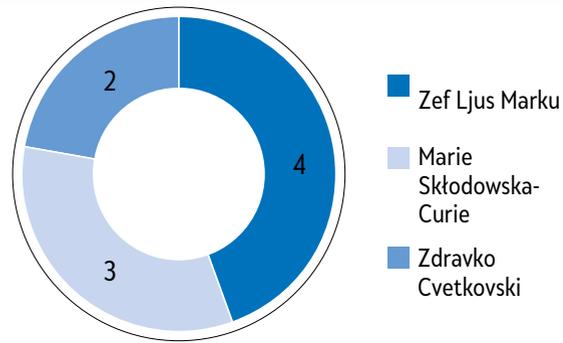


Except for Saraj, a municipality predominantly inhabited by ethnic Albanians, hate crimes occurred in all other 9 municipalities in Skopje. Most of the incidents occurred in Chair (15), Centar (13), Aerodrom and Gazi Baba (9), and Butel and Karposh (8). Chair and Butel are predominantly inhabited by ethnic Albanians, while the ethnic Macedonians are a majority in the other municipalities. Not a single hate crime was registered against Roma. The fact that there were no such incidents does not necessarily mean they do not occur, but might be unreported.

A minimum of 11 incidents in Skopje occurred in buses (media sometimes reported of the location a bus was attacked, but not of its number). Most of the buses commute between neighbourhoods that are inhabited by ethnic Macedonians and Albanians.

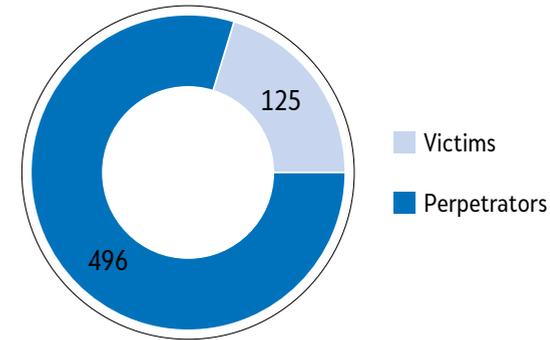


A minimum of 13 Incidents occurred inside or in the vicinity of 7 high schools in Skopje: Zef Ljus Marku (4), Marie Skłodowska-Curie (3), Zdravko Cvetkovski (2) and one incident in Vlado Tasevski, Cvetan Dimov, Krste Misirkov, and Kiril Pejčinovich. Incidents include an attack of a group of students against an individual student



or fights between two opposing groups. 3 of these schools are located on the same boulevard in the Municipality of Aerodrom. In all of the schools there are both Macedonian and Albanian students. Beside these locations where hate crimes are committed repeatedly, two graveyards (one in the Municipality of Gjorche Petrov and the other one in the village of Loveni, Prilep) were desecrated.

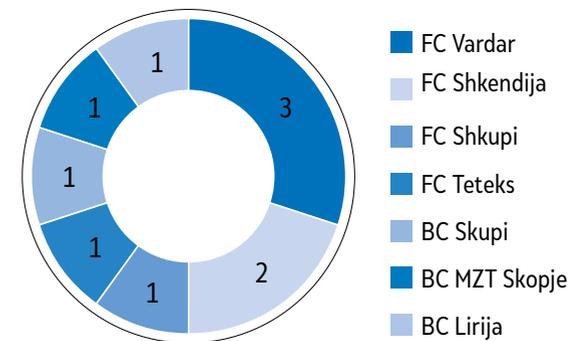
### 3.7 Victims vs perpetrators



There were a minimum of 125 victims and 496 perpetrators of hate crimes during the course of the year. Whenever an undefined number (e.g. between 10 and 15) of perpetrators was reported in the media, the lesser value was used for this report. Whenever it was reported that a “group” of perpetrators committed a hate crime, the value used for this report was 3 persons. The vast majority of victims are male juveniles. The youngest victim is 10 years old. Among the victims, there are 5 young girls (but

most probably more than that given the fact that media often reported of a hate crime committed against a “group” of youngsters).

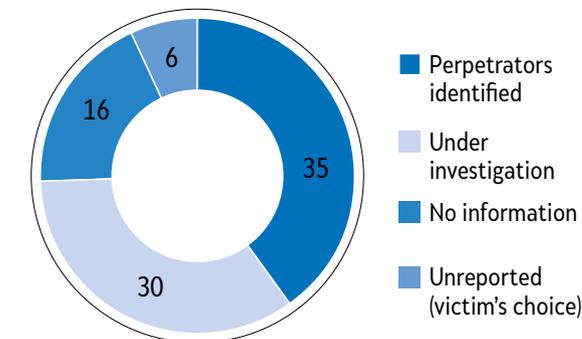
### 3.8 Incidents during sport events



6 hate crime incidents were committed by supporters of 4 football and 3 basketball clubs. Incidents usually involve a fight between supporters of two opposing teams with ethnic Albanian and Macedonian players. Besides the supporters, sometimes the team members of the guest team are victims as well. During matches involving such teams, continuous hate speech chanting can be heard by the local supporters. These events are usually deemed “high risk matches” by the

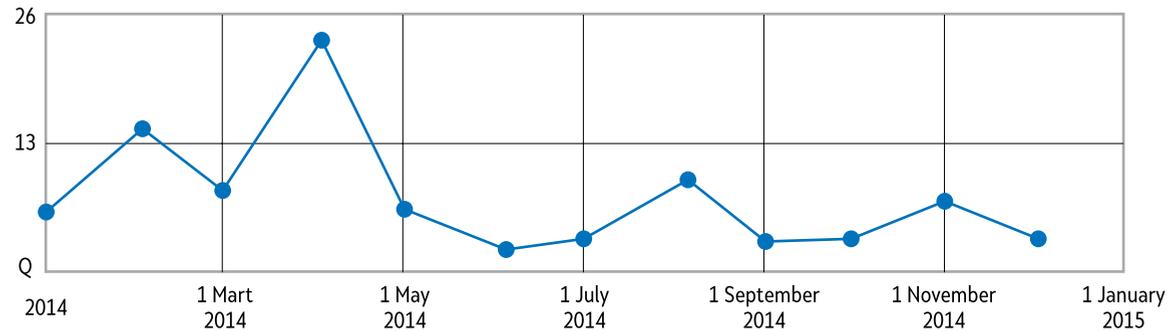
respective sport federation, meaning that the attendance of the guest team supporters is forbidden. The authorities seem to strictly enforce this rule by dispatching an increased number of police officers, visible on the roads between the cities/municipalities in which the event is taking place, on the entry points of the cities, as well as in the vicinity and inside the football stadiums. Hate crimes, besides having a detrimental effect of the security and safety of the citizens, seem to have negative impact on other segments of the society, including sport.

### 3.9 Status of the cases



The police located suspected perpetrators connected to a minimum of 35 out of the 87 incidents. A minimum of other 30 incidents were reported to the police and are under investigation. Given that there is currently no database on hate crimes, resolved cases were registered by contacting the police, monitoring the media, and by being informed directly by the victims. There was no information regarding

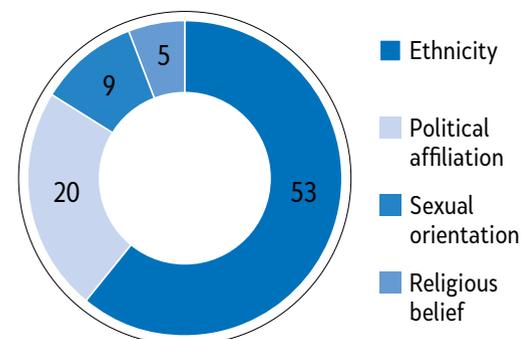
### 3.5 Incidents by month



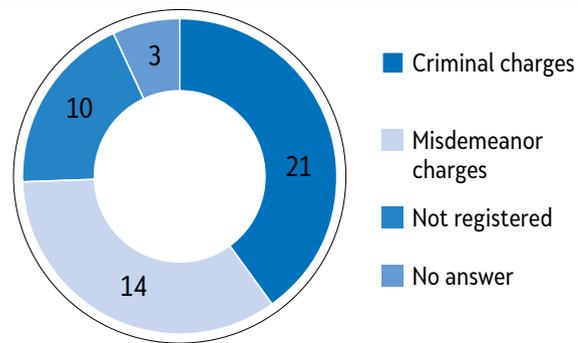
April was the month during which the biggest number of incidents occurred – 23 (26% of all incidents during the year). The reason for this unusual increase can be ascribed to the Early Parliamentary Elections and the Presidential Elections. It must be noted, however, that in 2013 such incidents did not occur during the Local Elections. Nevertheless, this increase in hate related incidents due to political belief or affiliation is a clear indicator of the delicate political, ethnic, and security situation in the country. 14 incidents were registered in February. The great majority of these incidents involved juveniles fighting in schools and buses. These incidents continued into March (8) and April and were less frequent during the months that followed. The reason for this positive decrease might be due to the fact that police officers were continuously and visibly present in schools and their vicinity as well as at bus stations and in buses.

### 3.6 Incidents by biased motivation

The majority of hate crimes (61%) occur due the different ethnic belonging of the victim. Almost all of these incidents involve ethnic Macedonians and Albanians. Political affiliation (23%), sexual orientation (10%), and religious affiliation (6%)



represent the remainder of the biased motivations due to which hate crimes are committed in the country. In 8 of the incidents “Causing national, racial or religious hate, discord or intolerance” criminal offence was allegedly committed, while for the incident in Café Damar (see Incident No. 77 in the Annex), the criminal offence “Racial or other discrimination” is alleged.



the status of the case in 16 of the incidents due to the choice of the victims (usually in alleged crimes committed due to sexual orientation as a biased motive). According to the replies received by the Ministry of Interior, 21 incidents resulted in criminal charges, 14 in misdemeanor charges, 10 incidents were not registered, while for 3 incidents there was no reply. MHC registered only 3 incident that were processed in court.

the perpetrators requested the DJ not to play Macedonian music. The perpetrators were members of the football fan club “Shverceri” (“Smugglers”). Until 2012 “Schverceri” were supporting FC Sloga Jugomagnat from the Municipality of Chair during which time the club was merged with FC Albarsa to form FC Shkupi (now competing in the Macedonian Second League). A representative of the MHC met the owner of the bar in person and offered free legal aid. The owner, however, fearing that giving publicity to the incident would only make things worse, refused MHC to act on his behalf. In this incident the authorities located two of the perpetrators. The whole criminal procedure lasted 18 days only. One of the accused was sentenced to one year imprisonment, while the second one was sentenced to a two-year suspended sentence. Unlike in other cases in which the interest of the public is high, the Basic court in Skopje did not publish a press release on its website regarding the date of the trial. The public was informed of the outcome after the one-day trial ended.

### 3. Incident in Gjorce Petrov, Skopje

The third incident in which legal aid was offered took place on 29 August 2014 in Gjorce Petrov in Skopje (see incident 70 in the Annex). MHC met with the victim whose restaurant has been burned during the violent events in Gjorce Petrov (see incident 56 in the Annex). The victim informed us that the police report has been given to all other damaged persons but him. According to him, he and his family are victims of ethnic and political pressure. At the end of August, a larger group of persons gathered near his restaurant trying to break the windows. After he noticed what was happening he closed the windows and called the police after which the group moved away. According to the victim, his son and his friend have been attacked in the past on two separate occasions by a group of persons hitting them with a brick. His father who is 70 years old person with a disability was attacked by the youngsters in the neighborhood who injured his back. After he was offered free legal aid regarding all of the alleged incidents, the victim asked us not take any action because that would “trap him into a criminal offence” and would cause him problems with the police.

It may be concluded from these three cases that the victims do not want their name to be mentioned, neither publicly nor in front of the state institutions, fearing repercussions. This leads to underreporting of hate crimes due to a lack of public trust in the system.

### 4. Incident in the Damar Café, Skopje

The fourth incident in which legal aid was offered took place on 23 October 2014 at 9:30 p.m. A stampede of around thirty young people advanced with lightning speed from both sides of the street leading towards the Damar Café, where the LGBTI Support Centre – a subsidiary of the MHC – was celebrating its second anniversary (see incident 77 in the Annex). Wearing hoods over their heads and armed with glass bottles and other hard objects, the hooligans stoned the Café and, as quickly as they had appeared, vanished in the nearby alleys. At the time of the incident, more than sixty people were attending the celebration, two of which a young man and a woman were standing outside in front of the main entrance. They were beaten and attacked by the violent group with glass bottles and sustained injuries on their heads and bodies. During the beating, the assailants kept telling them that they should leave and that faggots were not welcome there. A representative of the MHC accompanied the victims to a hospital where a statement was taken and free legal aid offered. One of the victims later agreed MHC to prepare a criminal complaint in her name. The criminal complaint was lodged to the Public prosecution office in Skopje.

## 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT TEAM

### 4.1 Providing free legal aid to victims

MHC offered free legal aid to victims in four cases, and continued providing legal aid to Mr. Kocho Andonovski, programme director of the LGBTI Centre in Skopje, a subsidiary of the MHC.

#### 1. Incident in Radishani, Skopje

The first request was submitted by one of the victims following a massive fight between ethnic Macedonians and Albanians in Radishani in Skopje, during the elections. In April, a group of Macedonian males, after the voting for the first round of the Presidential election ended, started insulting, cursing and subsequently attacked and beat an Albanian family living in Radishani. One of the perpetrators drove a vehicle into a group of victims (see Incident 39 in the Annex). In May, a Bomb exploded in the bathroom of the same family (see incident 55 in the Annex). The contact of the family was obtained by the media that reported of the first incident. After the second incident, the family was contacted once again, with an invitation to a representative to meet with representatives of MHC. The victim informed MHC that a dozen of his relatives have left the country and lodged asylum applications in Germany. One of the perpetrators was apprehended by the police and received a 6-month prison sentence (verdict not yet final) in a trial that lasted one day only. Victims were not invited to attend the trial, neither as witnesses, nor as a damaged party. The victim insisted that MHC does not act in his name, fearing of his safety.

#### 2. Incident in the New Orleans Bar, Skopje

The second incident in which legal aid was offered took place on 5 August 2014. A group of approximately ten perpetrators, around midnight got into a verbal argument that resulted in thrashing of the New Orleans Bar in the Old Bazaar in Skopje (see incident 63 in the Annex). One of

## 5. Incident during the “March of Tolerance” in Skopje in 2012

The last incident in which legal aid was offered took place on 17 November 2012. MHC organized the “March for Tolerance” during which time the International Day of Tolerance was marked. “March for Tolerance” began with a physical attack against two activists for human rights - one of whom Mr. Kocho Andonovski - during the preparation of the stands for NGOs who supported the event. The police apprehended the perpetrator immediately following the incident, but the trial commenced in January 2014 (for further details about the trial and the provision of free legal aid see activity 3.3 below).

### 4.3 Monitoring court cases on hate crimes

MHC sent an information request to police stations and Public prosecution offices for every incident it recorded. This was done with a view to either verify that a registered hate crime has really happened or to inquire whether a trial is scheduled in cases in which the perpetrators were caught. Out of the 67 requests sent to police stations across the country, 64 answers were received (96% reply rate) during 2014.

According to the replies, most of the incidents were recorded and processed as misdemeanors. The police did not answer 3 of the information requests. Those that were answered did not provide the number of the criminal complaint sent to the Public prosecution offices. Following an information request sent to the Public prosecution office in Skopje, the Office informed MHC that providing the place, date, and time of the incident is not enough for them to provide us with the information regarding the activities they have undertaken for the respective incident. According to the Office, they need either the names of the accused, or the name of the submitter of the criminal complaint. However, given that the names of the accused are not considered public information, MHC had no other choice but to send the public data received by the Sector for Internal Affairs of the City of Skopje (SIA) involving 11 incidents in which the local police stations have submitted a criminal complaint to the Public prosecution office in Skopje. This data contains the initials of the accused and the name of the submitter of the criminal complaint – SIA. In its reply, the Public prosecution office informed us that it is not possible for them to examine the files and to verify whether they are investigating or have processed them to court. According to the Office, they have sent the data to the SIA in order to receive additional information regarding the criminal complaints submitted by the police.

#### 1. MHC and Kocho Andonovski

MHC was monitoring the trial K.br.1644/13 in Skopje. This trial involves sexual orientation as a ground on which the perpetrator attacked Mr. Kocho Andonovski, programme director of the LGBTI Centre in Skopje on the main city square in Skopje in 2012. Given that MHC considers this case to be a strategic one, it managed to secure an attorney at law to represent the victims free of charge. The case involves the following criminal charges: Violence (prosecuted by the State), Obstructing a public assembly (prosecuted by MHC), and Injury to the equality of citizens (prosecuted by Mr. Andonovski and the other injured human rights activist). The Public prosecution office joined the case in 2014, after investigating the case for one and a half year. The judgment was pronounced in January 2015. The perpetrator was sentenced to 7 month imprisonment by the first instance court for Violence and Obstructing a public assembly, but the charges for the Injury to the equality of citizens were

dismissed by the court. The first instance judgment does not specifically refer to Article 35(9) of the Criminal Code (aggravating circumstances in sentencing due to a criminal offence being committed out of bias). The judgment was appealed to a higher court by the accused.

#### 2. Protests following the judgment in the “Monster” case

On 4 July 2014, following the public pronouncement of the verdict in the so called “Monster” case in which 6 of the defendants (members of the Albanian ethnic community in the country), were sentenced to life imprisonment by a first instance court in Skopje, violent clashes between around 3,000 protestors and the police erupted in front of the court. The protests resulted in substantial material damage to the first instance criminal and civil courts in Skopje. Additionally, around 20 police officers were injured, 5 of which sustained serious injuries. MHC monitored the trial K.br.2242/14 in Skopje, in which 6 protestors were charged with “Participation in a mob committing a crime” offence. During the trial it was noted that the public prosecutor guided the judge on the applicable provisions in the process. Apart from the first hearing, the rest of the process took place in a small courtroom which lacked the minimum spatial standards making it difficult for the attorneys and public to attend the trial. In the evidentiary hearing when the security camera videos were projected access was given with delay to the media and public. Due to this reason, MHC’s monitor could not watch the whole video but the part he watched did not show the accused committing a crime. During the final hearing, the judge declared the judgment rendering a prison sentence of three years (maximum penalty for this offense) to six out of the eight defendants and ordered them to jointly pay the damages. The Appellate court of Skopje confirmed the judgment, reducing the sentences to two and a half years imprisonment. For a similar but not as violent case in which residents of Tetovo protested against the “Monster” judgment, the Basic court of Tetovo sentenced the defendants to a two-and-a-half-year suspended sentence.

Additionally, MHC monitored the “Monster” case with relation to the murder of five persons (four of which young boys at the age between 20 and 22) at the lake near the village of Smilkovci in Skopje. The case began in 2013. 12 hearings were monitored during the reporting period in 2014. The case is now being dealt with by the Appellate court in Skopje. It is stated in the first-instance judgment that the ethnic Albanian defendants consciously choose their victims to be members of the Macedonian ethnic group.

#### 3. Murder in Gjorce Petrov

Following the murder of a young Macedonian boy by a young ethnic Albanian boy in a burglary related incident provoked massive protests in the Gjorce Petrov neighborhood. Many ethnic Macedonians considered that the murder was due to the different ethnic belonging of the victim and the perpetrator, even though until today there is no proof or other bias indicators to consider this case a hate crime. MHC monitored the violent protests in Gjorce Petrov and decided to monitor the trial in order to make sure that it does not erode the already fragile inter-ethnic relations between Albanians and Macedonians in the country, especially between the ethnic Albanian and Macedonian youth. The trial is ongoing and will be monitored until its end.

### 4.4 Awareness raising

MHC marked 22 July - the European Day for the Victims of Hate Crime by organizing two separate events. The first event consisted of a press conference for the media and a projection of a short film

dedicated to the victims of hate crime in the country.<sup>6</sup> Articles, pictures, and videos from actual hate crimes committed were used in the short video. The video was subtitled in Albanian and English. The second event was organized in the City Park in Skopje. It was titled “Turlitva - It is tastier together” and involved speeches, music, and socializing between participants of different ethnic backgrounds during a degustation of traditional Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, Roma, Serbian, Bosnian, and Vlah traditional food (such is the Turlitava – a traditional Balkan snack).

In 2014, MHC secured funding for two programs related to non-formal education for youngsters – Summer and Winter Human Rights Youth Schools. The Summer School was held in Skopje and lasted for one week as a pilot-collaboration between the MHC and the International Human Rights Institute for Peace, an NGO from the Lower Normandy Region, France. The special focus of the Summer School was on ethnic and religious hate crime amongst the youth in the country and France. Joint lectures by experts from the country and France were offered to 20 participants (15 from the country and 5 from France) at the age between 19 and 24 years. The Winter School was supported by the German Embassy in Skopje and was held in the City of Veles for 25 youngsters at the age between 16 and 19 years from the country. It covered various human rights topic, with one full day dedicated to hate speech and the crime. MHC had 5 reserved places for high school students who study in the schools in which most of the hate crimes were recorded in 2013 and 2014. 3 out of the 5 places were filled by candidates from the following such schools: Panche Karagjov, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, and Arseni Jovkov.

Additionally, MHC created a hate crime awareness Facebook page (<http://goo.gl/8yY5Lk>), a Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/HateCrimesMK>), and included a separate section on hate crimes in its monthly reports on the situation with human rights which are distributed to state institutions, media, NGOs, international organizations, and foreign embassies in the country.

#### 4.5 Monitoring hate crimes and hate incidents during sport events

The project team monitored 4 football matches of the national first football league and the national football cup: Shkëndija vs Vardar – 1/8 finals of the cup competition (24 September 2014); Teteks vs Renova (05 October 2014); Shkëndija vs Vardar (19 October 2014); Vardar vs Shkëndija – second leg of 1/8 finals of the cup (22 October 2014). During all of the observed matches, guest supporters were banned from attending the match. An increased number of police officers were visible on the highway between Skopje and Tetovo, on the entry points of the cities, as well as in the vicinity and inside the football stadiums. Even though no hate crime was registered during the observed matches, there was continuous hate speech chanting by the local supporters during all matches.

Chants such are “Mrtov shiptar, dobar shiptar!” (Dead Albanian, good Albanian!); Mrtov kaur, dobar kaur! (Dead Christian, good Christian!); Ubi, ubi, ubi Srbina! (Kill, kill, kill the Serb!); Za Shiptari gasna komora! (Gas chamber for Albanians!); Shqipri etnike (Ethnic Albania, also “Great Albania”); Jebem Vardar, jebem Kaur, jebem Komiti! (Fuck Vardar, fuck Christians, fuck Komiti); I toj e stoka i toj e Shiptar! (He’s also cattle, he’s also Albanian!); Abre Makedonche, borba te cheka, borba za sloboda, protiv kletite Shiptari! (Hey Macedonian, the fight is waiting for you, the fight for freedom, against the cursed Albanians!); Makedonija bila na Makedoncite, bila otsekogash i takva kje ostane, site dushmani kje gi sotreme! (Macedonia is for Macedonians, it was this way since ever, and it will

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtXzXQImFQk>

stay that way, we will destroy all of our enemies!); Shiptarski kurvi! (Albanian whores!); Chista, chista, chista Makedonija! (Pure, pure, pure Macedonia!) can be heard during almost every match between teams consisting of different ethnic communities in the country.

After the match of the 1/8 finals of the national cup between F.C Shkëndija and F.C Vardar, the goalkeeper of Vardar was hit from the supporters of F.C Shkëndija (“Ballistët”), with a small stone in his head. The players tried to calm down the supporters and assisted the medical team to treat the goalkeeper. Consequently, the club was fined 2.500 euros in accordance with articles 36, 38, and 51 of the Disciplinary rulebook of the Football Federation of Macedonia, on the grounds of shouting offensive slogans, using fireworks, and throwing hard objects during the match.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- The State does not collect data on hate crimes and even though there are initial preparations by the judiciary to start registering these types of crimes, it is uncertain whether a comprehensive and comparable official data will be available in the near future.
- Victims do not want their name to be mentioned, neither publicly nor in front of the state institutions, fearing repercussions which leads to underreporting and a lack of public trust in the system.
- Very little efforts have been made for preventive measures including human rights education and raising awareness among the public.
- Bias motivated crimes are not properly reported or investigated by the police.
- Relevant practitioners do not receive adequate training regarding the identification and response to hate incidents.
- By not treating the hate crime phenomena as a separate issue, the State does not offer special protection and support to victims.
- The most affected members of the society are the youths, but also the members of the LGBTI Community owing partially to the fact that sexual orientation and gender identity are not recognized grounds on which hate crimes can be perpetrated.
- Hate crimes usually occur in a public place. A large number of incidents occurred in buses, near bus stations, in school yards and in vicinity of schools, and against political party local branches.
- Many hate crimes are committed out of revenge or retribution for a previous incident between both the Macedonian and the Albanian youth.
- Large number of incidents occurred during or after school hours.
- Only 2 incidents were registered in the Eastern part of the country. This might be due to the ethnical composition of the country, but also due to underreporting or the low level of awareness among the public regarding hate crimes and bias motivations.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

During the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting held in Brussels on 5-6 December 2013, the Council published its Conclusions on combating hate crime in the EU. As a country aspiring to join the EU, the country should follow the recommendations contained in the Conclusions which are broadly in line with the recommendations contained in the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 9/09: Combating Hate Crimes, and the view of the MHC:

1. Consider the experience of EU Member States in extending within their criminal legislation, the scope of punishable hate crime offences and the inclusion of other bias motives behind these offences;
2. Ensure prompt and effective investigation and prosecution of hate crimes ensuring that bias motives are taken into consideration and throughout criminal proceedings;
3. Take appropriate measures to facilitate the reporting of hate crimes by victims and as far as possible also associations supporting them, including measures to build trust in police and other state institutions;
4. Collect and publish comprehensive and comparable data on hate crimes, as far as possible including the number of such incidents reported by the public and recorded by law enforcement authorities; the number of convictions; the bias motives behind these crimes; and the punishments handed down to offenders;
5. Ensure that victims of hate crime are assisted, supported and protected;
6. Promote training for relevant practitioners coming into contact with victims of hate crime, thereby enabling them to efficiently assist these victims; and
7. Enhance preventive measures, inter alia by reflecting remembrance in human rights education, history curricula and relevant training, taking steps to educate the public on the values of cultural diversity and inclusion, and aiming for all sectors of society to have a role in combating such intolerance;

## ANNEX

### HATE CRIME INCIDENTS IN 2014

#### 1. Christian graves desecrated at Church in Volkovo village, Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators broke into the Church St. Anastasij and St. Petka, desecrated several stone graves and damaged the sign pointing to the Church in the village.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** January 12, the incident was reported at 08:20am. The location of the incident is the Church St. Anastasij and St. Petka in Volkovo.

**Source of information:** The national media Press24.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Vandalizing graves, Art. 400 of the Criminal Code of Republic (CCRM), Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art. 319).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the religious affiliation and religious persuasion, and the bias indicator is:

1. *The location of the incident* – Orthodox Christian Church.

**Status of the case:** Incident was reported to the local authorities.

**Response of local authorities:** Ongoing investigation.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This incident is one of many incidents that happened in this period of the year which puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

#### 2. Commemoration plate of Mara Buneva broken (verified)

**What happened:** The commemoration plate of Mara Buneva, set up by Bulgarian organizations was broken the same day it was publicly presented.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** January 13, at the bank of river Vardar in the Centre of Skopje.

**Source of information:** The regional media Centarnews.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art. 319).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Victim perception* – The fact that the indirect victims of the crime – the Bulgarian organizations were engaged in activities promoting their group prior the incident.

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* - This incident occurs second year in a row.

**Status of the case:** Incident was reported to the local authorities.

**Response of local authorities:** The police reacted immediately and investigated the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general

political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side, and the Bulgarians on the other.

### 3. Vehicle of the Liberal Democratic Party demolished (unverified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrator/s broke the windshield of the party's branded vehicle and caused damage inside it.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** January 14 in the early hours. Location unspecified.

**Source of information:** Web portal daily.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicator is:

1. *Symbol on the target*, it involves a vehicle with a symbol of political significance – The logo of the targeted party.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** Unknown.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political stability in the country.

### 4. Branch office of Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia (SDSM) demolished in Strumica (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators vandalized the branch office of the party, braking the front window.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** January 18, at 3:00am in Strumica.

**Source of information:** The regional media Fama.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Two persons. One was known to the owner of the object and his identity was reported to the authorities.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the religious affiliation and religious persuasion, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Target / witness perception* – Target is the branch office of the largest opposition party, witness perceived the incident as act of intimidation.

2. *Frequency of incident* - The fact that this incident was preceded by a similar one several weeks prior.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The police reacted immediately and investigated the scene. According to the owner of the store, the Police didn't secure the object that was damaged, despite his appeals to the Police to do so. The investigation is ongoing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political stability in the country, especially given the fact that Strumica is the city in which the largest opposition party in the country has a majority in the local council.

### 5. Fight with metal pipes in high school Zdravko Cvetkovski in Skopje (unverified)

**What happened:** In the school yard, one student attacked another, after which, the victim attempted to retaliate with a metal pipe. He was stopped in his retaliation by the school security.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** January 21, at 13:30 in the yard of the high school Zdravko Cvetkovski in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The regional media Sky.

**Victim(s) involved:** One high school student.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM

**Perpetrator(s):** Another high school student.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of students that attend that school, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public, in front of the other students.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that two people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges, in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order, including the victim. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians, and the security of students in their school environment in general.

### 6. Interethnic fight prevented in Skopje municipality Gjorce Petrov and village Krushopek (verified)

**What happened:** Police forces had to intervene to prevent interethnic fight in the village Krushopek near Skopje after an official meeting between two local football club supporters. A group of Macedonian minors damaged vehicles, stoned houses and insulted people that were passing by. According to police sources (and published by media), this was followed by the attempt of a group of 30 Albanians from Krushopek to go into Gjorce Petrov. The Police intervened in time to prevent a larger incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** January 31, in the village of Krushopek, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The regional media Almakos (alb.) and Telegraf (mk.).

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no victims of physical harm in this incident. People from the local community were insulted.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property (Art. 243 CCRM), Violence (Art. 386), Endangerment of safety (Art. 144), and Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art. 319).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of twenty juveniles from Skopje (Macedonians).

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Victim perception* – The fact that the victims of the crime organized afterwards presumably to retaliate indicates to the victim perception that the criminal acts were motivated by bias, as well as the fact that the group associated with the victim (football supporters club) was engaged in activities promoting its culture prior to the incident.

2. *Differences between perpetrator and victim on ethnic grounds.*

3. *Location and timing* – The incident occurred in a village with inhabited predominantly by members of the Albanian community in the country, after an event organized by Macedonian and Albanian football supporter clubs.

4. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

**Status of the case:** Police apprehended the perpetrators, criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The police reacted immediately and prevented escalation of the violence. However, only four perpetrators were charged for only the criminal act of Violence, and no charges were filed for the acts of Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground, Endangerment of safety or Damaging of other's property.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities.

#### 7. Boys from Studenichani beat up a minor in front of the high school Marija Kiri Sklodovska in Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** Two boys aged 22 physically attacked a four years younger boy from different ethnical belonging. After the attack they tried to flee with their vehicle to the village of Studenichani, during which they drove off the road into a canal.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 7<sup>th</sup>, in front of the high school Marija Kiri Sklodovska in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The regional local Press24, newspaper Vecher.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor of Macedonian ethnicity.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Harm, Art.130 CCRM

**Perpetrator(s):** Two Albanians.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity.*

2. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charge submitted.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that the boys will be prosecuted for misdemeanours (probably the endangerment of safety in traffic), but not for a crime as well.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society.

#### 8. 21 members from the Sports supporters club Komiti arrested (verified)

**What happened:** A group of approximately 40 members from the Sports supporters group Komiti, prior a football game they attended on, assaulted and bit up minors in a public bus No. 2. From there, they went to the sport hall Boris Trajkovski in Skopje, where they disturbed the public peace and order, got into fights among each other, and threw small objects towards the players on the field. When the Police intervened, the fans attacked the officers, and one of them threw a heavy object, injuring one police officer.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, in Skopje, in the public transportation bus No. 2 and in sports hall Boris Trajkovski in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national printed media Dnevnik.

**Victim(s) involved:** Several (precise number unknown) minors from Albanian nationality and a Police officer.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Harm (Art.130 CCRM), Damaging of other's property (Art.243), Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Assaulting a police officer while he conducts a matter related to security (Art.383), Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art.319).

**Perpetrator(s):** 40 members of the Sports supporters club Komiti, Macedonians.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - The public bus No. 2 route includes Saraj, a large village inhabited predominantly by Albanians, so it can be logically assumed that the passengers of this bus will have similar ethnical belonging as well, and therefore be targeted by the members of Komiti.

2. *Location and timing* - The incident occurred in a public transportation bus No. 2, whose line leads to a village with predominant Albanian ethnic structure. It was followed by a sports match the perpetrators attended, and continued committing crimes at.

3. *Pattern / frequency of previous incidents* - This supporters club has, on numerous previous occasions, manifested open violence towards members of the Albanian community.

4. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

**Status of the case:** Charges pressed by the police.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that it has brought up charges against seven of the perpetrators, and additional 14 have been fined. They didn't specify the acts on which they were charged or fined.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society. It also endangers the public's feeling of safety during sports manifestations.

#### 9. 10 year-old seriously injured in a fight near shopping mall Vero in Skopje (unverified)

**What happened:** One child suffered serious injuries and three others suffered light injuries after a vicious fight near the shopping mall Vero in Skopje. Two groups participated in the fight, one from the village of Katlanovo (inhabited predominantly by Macedonians), and other from the village Batinci (predominantly Islamic population, most of which are Albanians).

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 12<sup>th</sup> near the shopping mall Vero in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national media Vest.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor with Macedonian ethnicity and three young men from Batinci.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm, (Art.131 CCRM), Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art.319).

**Perpetrator(s):** Nine young men, five of which from Batici, and four of which (one minor included) from Katlanovo.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Considering the predominant ethnic structure of the villages they come from.

2. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they will undertake the appropriate measures. The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have submitted a criminal charge related to the incident. However, there has been no answer as to the specific crime, or the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side, and the Albanians on the other, as the two largest ethnic communities in the country.

#### **10. Stoning of local branch office of Citizens Option for Macedonia (GROM) in Skopje municipality of Butel (verified)**

**What happened:** During the night hours, unknown perpetrators stoned the local branch office of Citizens Option for Macedonia (GROM) in Skopje municipality of Butel.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, 03:30am, local branch office of Citizens Option for Macedonia (GROM) in Skopje, Municipality of Butel.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no other direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicator is:

*1. Target / witness perception* – target is the branch office of an opposition party, may be perceived as act of intimidation.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they are working on clarification of the case, but the Committee has no information on possible charges.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political stability in the country.

#### **11. Massive fight in the centre of Skopje (unverified)**

**What happened:** Two groups of young men got into a fight on the Kuzman Josifovski Pitu Blvd. in the centre of Skopje. The perpetrators are from the villages of Elovo, Drazilovo and Pagarush.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, on the Kuzman Josifovski Pitu Blvd. in the centre of Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national media Makfax.

**Victim(s) involved:** One of the young men involved in the fight was stabbed during the fight.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM, Participation in a fight Art.132 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Eight young men, presumably from mixed ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

*1. Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the mentioned villages, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

*2. Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the eight people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges for "Fight", in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society.

#### **12. Young person from Tetovo stabbed in the chest (unverified)**

**What happened:** A young man from Tetovo was stabbed in his chest during a fight, while another had sustained bodily injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, in Tetovo.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One eighteen year old man from the village of Chelopek who got stabbed in his chest and transferred to a hospital in Skopje, and another young man.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe bodily harm, Art. 131 CCRM, Participation in a fight, Art. 132.

**Perpetrator(s):** Two young men with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicator is:

*1. Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the mentioned village and city, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that three people involved are brought up against criminal charges, for the act of "Violence" (Art.386 CCRM). However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society on the other.

#### **13. Young girl beaten by a boy in a public bus (unverified)**

**What happened:** A 25 year old man attacked a 19 year old woman in a public transportation bus No. 62 in Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm in a public transportation bus No. 62, while driving on the Kuzman Josifovski Pitu blv. in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national printed media Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** One nineteen y/o woman with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** A 25 y/o male with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

*1. Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Ognjanci (the village to which bus No. 62 commutes), the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

*2. Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

*3. Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The authorities stated via the media that they are undertaking measures for clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 14. Minors from the village of Nikishtane attacked another minor in a public bus (verified)

**What happened:** Four minors attacked another minor in a public transportation bus No. 65, and caused a feeling of fear and uncertainty among the other passengers.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 19<sup>th</sup>, 14:20 pm in a public transportation bus No. 65.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media kajgana.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 17 y/o woman with unknown ethnic origin that was physically attacked and harassed.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Four minor males with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Nikishtane (the village bus No.65 passes through it), the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Pattern / Frequency of previous incidents* - The incident was carried out in a public transportation bus that leads to a community with mixed or predominantly Albanian ethnic structure, which is third such incident in less than two months.

3. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they passed criminal charges for the act of "Violence".

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society.

#### 15. Eight graders had a fight in a school in Kumanovo (unverified)

**What happened:** Fourteen minors and a teacher from the elementary school Bajram Shabani were attacked and harassed by a group of pupils from the elementary school Brakja Miladinovci, following a joint project activity.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm near the elementary school Bajram Shabani in Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media Plusinfo.

**Victim(s) involved:** Fourteen minors and a teacher from the elementary school Bajram Shabani from Kumanovo.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM, Participation in a Fight Art. 132 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of pupils from the elementary school Brakja Miladinovci in Kumanovo.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the schools the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Comments* - The fight was followed by verbal harassment (topic unspecified).

3. *Location and timing* - The incident followed the presence of a minority group (Macedonian pupils) in a predominantly Albanian elementary school.

4. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** After the Committee sent a Request for public information, the Police responded that they had clarified the case, but didn't specify anything about the possible motive or the steps it has undertaken.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the country, and additionally influences the building of a multiethnic tolerant surrounding young people can grow up in.

#### 16. Two boys attacked without a reason in the street (unverified)

**What happened:** In the late evening hours, two young men were attacked without a reason by a group of six men.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 20<sup>th</sup>, 02:00am on the street Anton Dimitrov in Drachevo, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two young men (19 and 17) with unknown ethnic origin, were attacked and suffered visible injuries in the region of the face and head.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of six men with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the area of Drachevo, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Nature of violence* - the incident was carried out in public

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** After the Committee sent a Request for public information, the Police responded that they had clarified the case, but didn't specify anything about the possible motive. Also, the perpetrators are brought up to misdemeanour charges against public peace and order.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society.

#### 17. Massive fight among pupils in high school Zef Ljush Marku in Skopje (unverified)

**What happened:** Three groups of pupils got into a fight in high school Zef Ljush Marku in Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 21<sup>st</sup>, in the high school Zef Ljush Marku in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media Inpress.

**Victim(s) involved:** One male pupil with unknown ethnic origin, gained lacerations on his face.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM, Participation in a fight Art. 132 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** 16-17 male high school pupils with unknown ethnic origin participated in the fight.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the school the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that all the people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges, in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the country.

### 18. Attack of pupil in Kumanovo (unverified)

**What happened:** A 17y/o pupil from Kumanovo, while returning home after school was attacked by three pupils from the school Krste Misirkov in Kumanovo. At a certain moment, the perpetrators pulled out a knife, but the victim managed to run away.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 21<sup>st</sup>, on the Blv. Narodna Revolucija in front of the elementary school Krste Misirkov in Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** The national electronic media Netpress.

**Victim(s) involved:** One seventeen y/o male high school pupil with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Bodily Harm, Art. 130 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 3 elementary school pupils with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the schools the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The authorities stated via the media that they are undertaking measures for clarification of the case. After the Committee sent a Request for public information, the Police responded that they had clarified the case and had brought up misdemeanour charges against the minors. The police didn't specify anything about the possible motive.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the country, and additionally influences the building of a multiethnic tolerant surrounding young people can grow up in.

### 19. Twenty orthodox graves vandalized in the village of Brnjarci (verified)

**What happened:** On an orthodox day of celebration, unknown perpetrators vandalized approximately twenty orthodox graves.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the village of Brnjarci (bordering with the village of Arachinovo) in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national media mkd.mk, falanga.mk, novini.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Vandalizing graves, Art. 400 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the religious affiliation and religious persuasion, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Victim perception* - From the statements made for the media, it can easily be derived that the indirect victims - the Macedonian population in the village of Brnjarci, perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Location and timing* - The incident followed a religious holiday and occurred at a location of religious significance.

3. *Pattern of previous incidents* - The indirect victims stated that this kind of incident occurs during almost every funeral or orthodox holiday.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The case was reported to the authorities.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society.

### 20. Bomb explodes in front of SDSM branch office in Karposh (unverified)

**What happened:** A bomb thrown from a vehicle in motion exploded in front of the branch office of National Social Democratic Alliance (SDSM), while more than thirty members of the youth fraction of the party had a meeting inside.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** February 24<sup>th</sup>, evening hours on Varshavska str. in municipality of Karposh, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national media TV Telma.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident. Argument could be made that the intended victims were the people inside.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Endangering the safety Art. 144 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicator is:

1. *Victim perception* - From the statements made for the media, it can easily be derived that the (indirect) victims - the representatives from SDSM, perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Location and timing* - The incident occurred during a meeting of the youth fraction of SDSM.

3. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motive.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the Ministry "works on complete clarification of the case." The committee has no additional information about any developments related with this case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political stability in the country and the success and legitimacy of the upcoming presidential and general elections.

### 21. Damaging of Christian graves in the village of Lokveni (unverified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators broke almost all of the crosses that were a part of the Christian cemetery in the village Lokveni. A part of the local community noted the incident when a group of villagers went to celebrate a religious holiday.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 2<sup>nd</sup>, early morning hours, village of Lokveni, Krushevo.

**Source of information:** The national media TV Telma.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Vandalizing graves, Art. 400 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the religious affiliation and religious persuasion, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Victim perception* – From the statements made for the media, it can easily be derived that the indirect victims – the Christian population in the village of Lokveni, perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Location and timing* – The incident occurred during a religious holiday and at a location of religious significance.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation, criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee informed that the Ministry filed a criminal charge against an unknown perpetrator for the act of Vandalizing graves, Art. 400 CCRM. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general safety situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

## 22. Fight between high school students in Skopje (unverified)

**What happened:** There was a fight between two groups of pupils from two different high schools on the boulevard that separates the two. The students from the high school Vlado Tasevski were attacked by a group of students from the high school Marija Kiri Sklodovska.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13:30hrs, Treta Makedonska Brigada blv. in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The local media 24Vesti.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two minor male high school students with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm, Art. 130 CCRM, Participation in a fight Art. 132 CCRM, Violence Art. 386 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Fourteen male minor high school students with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the school the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that it has filed criminal charges against four of the perpetrators for the criminal act of Violence Art. 386 CCRM. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side, and the Albanians on the other, as the two largest ethnic communities in the country, and additionally influences the building of a multiethnic tolerant surrounding young people can grow up in.

## 23. Swastikas in Bitola during commemoration of the deportation of Jews (verified)

**What happened:** On the morning of the annual commemoration of the deportation of Macedonian Jews to Treblinka Concentration Camp, citizens noted numerous graffiti with anti-Semitic, fascist and Nazi content and symbols on various locations in the city of Bitola. This type of incident happens several years in a row.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 10<sup>th</sup>, on various locations in the city of Bitola.

**Source of information:** The national media Telma.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Racial and Other Discrimination, Art. 417 CCRM, Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art.319).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is religious affiliation or persuasion. The bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* - From the statements made for the media, it can easily be derived that the indirect victims – the Jewish community in Bitola, perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Symbols and graffiti* – Perpetrators left graffiti and symbols with anti-Semitic Fascistic and Nazi content.

3. *Presumed difference in religious grounds* – Due to the strictly targeted nature of the incident, there can be presumed difference between the perpetrators and the target victims.

4. *Location and timing* – The incident occurred on a date of religious significance.

5. *Pattern of previous incidents* – The indirect victims stated that this kind of incident occurs almost every year on this date.

6. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they will undertake the appropriate measures to clarify the case, but to the moment of writing of this report, the Police haven't answered the Request for information of public character that was sent by the Committee in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic and religious communities in the society.

## 24. Stoning of train at Kumanovo Train Station (unverified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators stoned the train from Tabanovce to Skopje in the vicinity of Kumanovo Train Station, damaging windows from the carts in the process.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 12<sup>th</sup>, in the vicinity of Kumanovo Train Station.

**Source of information:** The local on-line media kurir.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Tabanovce (the village this train line leads to), the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that it has conducted multiple conversations with members of local community, but they don't have any additional information thus far. The Police are continuing to work on clarification and documentation of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general

political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians on the other, as the two largest ethnic communities in the country.

### 25. Minor beaten in high school Zef Ljush Marku (unverified)

**What happened:** A sixteen y/o pupil physically attacked his peer without any motive or reason, heating him in the head.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 13<sup>th</sup>, High School Zef Ljush Marku in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media kurir.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor male high school student with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm, Art. 130 CCRM, Violence Art. 386 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** One minor male high school student with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the school the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that it has filed misdemeanour charges against the perpetrator for the act of Physical attack, according to the Law on Misdemeanours against Public Peace and Order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the country, and additionally influences the building of a multiethnic tolerant surrounding young people can grow up in.

### 26. Fight in the hallway of high school Zef Ljush Marku (unverified)

**What happened:** Eighteen and nineteen y/o boys got into a fight in the hallway of the school, inflicting each other visible injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 18<sup>th</sup>, High School Zef Ljush Marku in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One or two male high school students with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm, Art. 130 CCRM, Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Participation in a fight, Art.132 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** One or two minor male high school students with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the school the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that it has filed misdemeanour charges against

the perpetrator for the act of Fight, according to the Law on Misdemeanours against Public Peace and Order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the country, and additionally influences the building of a multiethnic tolerant surrounding young people can grow up in.

### 27. 20 y/o male from Skopje is beaten at a bus station in Chair (unverified)

**What happened:** Three seventeen y/o boys attacked 20 y/o male on a bus station in Chair without any reason, after the victim disembarked a public transportation bus No. 57. After the attack, the perpetrators took the victim's mobile telephone.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 20<sup>th</sup>, at the bus station in the vicinity of Trade centre Chairchanka in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media plusinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 20 y/o male with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm, Art. 130 CCRM, Violence Art. 386 CCRM, Participation in a fight Art. 132 CCRM, Robbery Art. 237 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Three minor males with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the different predominant ethnic composition of the population in the community Radishani (the end destination of the line No. 57) and in the municipality of Chair, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lac of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that it has filed criminal charges against two of the perpetrators for the act of Violence. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society.

### 28. Stoning of train ends up with injuries to the train operator (unverified)

**What happened:** Assistant train operator ended up in hospital after unknown perpetrators stoned the freight train he was operating. The perpetrators also damaged a part of the windows of the train.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** March 28<sup>th</sup>, the freight line that was attacked was Volkovo - Trubarevo, and the *locus operandi* of the incident was the Train Station Skopje North.

**Source of information:** The electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 50 y/o male with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm, Art. 130 CCRM; Violence Art. 386 CCRM; Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Tabanovce, Volkovo and the area of Skopje North Train Station, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that it has conducted multiple conversations with members of local community, but they don't have any additional information thus far. The Police are continuing to work on clarification and documentation of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 29. Two minors stabbed in Zelezara in Skopje (unverified)

**What happened:** Two sixteen y/o boys were attacked by a larger group. They were beaten and stabbed without any reason.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21:50hrs, community of Zelezara in Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media tvorbis.com.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two sixteen y/o males with unknown ethnic origin. One of them gained a laceration on his leg, and the other was stabbed in the stomach.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM; Violence Art.386 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown group of people.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in Zelezara and neighboring communities, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Pattern of incidents* – these are only two of the four stabbings that happened in Skopje on that evening, following a basketball game during which there was a massive fight (not related to a hate crime).

3. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the twelve people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges, in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 30. Stabbing in Aerodrom (unverified)

**What happened:** A 24 y/o male was stabbed by an unknown assailant in Aerodrom without any reason.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jane Sandanski Blv. in the Municipality of Aerodrom, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 24 y/o male with unknown ethnic origin. He was stabbed in the back, near his right shoulder.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm, Art. 131 CCRM; Violence Art. 386 CCRM;

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Pattern of incidents* – these are two of the four stabbings that occurred in Skopje on that evening, following a basketball game where also a massive fight occurred (not Hate Crime related).

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 31. Attack with use of knife in Chair (unverified)

**What happened:** A 35 y/o male was stabbed by an unknown attacker in Chair without any reason.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Kennedy Blv. in the Municipality of Chair, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media telegraf.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 35 y/o male with unknown ethnic origin. He was stabbed in the region of the neck.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm, Art. 131 CCRM; Violence Art. 386 CCRM;

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Pattern of incidents* – these are two of the four stabbings that happened in Skopje on that evening, following a basketball game where also a massive fight occurred (not Hate Crime related).

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they will undertake the appropriate measures. The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the victim was not cooperative with the investigation, but they are taking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 32. A group of young people damaged billboards of a political party (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown group of young people damaged billboards containing advertising materials for a political party.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 22:30 hrs, Str. Modest Musorgski in Municipality of Gazi Baba, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The national media Sitel TV.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Symbol on the target*, it was a billboard with a symbol of political significance – the logo of the targeted party.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** To the moment of writing of this report, the Police hasn't answered the Request for information of public character that was sent by the Committee in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different communities in the society.

### 33. Stoning of vehicles containing participants of political rally organized by Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) (verified)

**What happened:** A group of approx. 15 people stoned three vehicles transporting participants to a political rally organized by Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), after which they ran away.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, in the vicinity of Vlajko Bridge in municipality of Karposh, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The printed media Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** Unknown number of passengers in three vehicles.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art. 144, Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – At the time of the incident, the victims were engaged in activity promoting their political belief.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political stability in the country and the cohabitation between the different communities in the society.

### 34. Stoning of public transportation bus in Arachinovo (unverified)

**What happened:** A public transportation bus No. 55 was stoned by unknown perpetrators in the village of Arachinovo in Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, str. No. 1, Arachinovo, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The printed media Denesen Vesnik.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art. 144, Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Arachinovo (the village bus No. 55 passes through it) and the surrounding area, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the country.

### 35. Major incident prevented in Chair (verified)

**What happened:** An argument broke out between a group of young activists of VMRO-DPMNE (Macedonians) and elderly Albanians. According to members of the community, the young Macedonians were posting pamphlets written in Albanian that called for Albanians not to vote for the upcoming election. When detected by several elderly members of the Albanian community in Chair, a fierce argument began between the groups that was stopped by Police that clearly defended the Macedonian activists of VMRO-DPMNE.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, municipality of Chair, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media centarnews.net.

**Victim(s) involved:** Unknown.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art. 144, Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Coercion Art. 139 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, as well as the ethnic affiliation, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – Considering the statements made for the media, it is clear that the victims perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Written statements left at the scene* – The perpetrators were promoting and left pamphlets that called for Albanians not to vote for the upcoming election.

3. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnicity*.

4. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

5. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have no information in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** These type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 36. One flag destroyed, another damaged in branch office of SDSM (verified)

**What happened:** During the evening, unknown perpetrators tore up the state flag and substituted the posters of the presidential candidate of SDSM with ones of the candidate of VMRO-DPMNE.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 8<sup>th</sup>, Makedonska Kamenica.

**Source of information:** The local media Televizija Star.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – Considering the statements made for the media, it is clear that the victims perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Written statements left at the scene* – The perpetrators substituted the posters of the candidate of the targeted party with posters of other candidate.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they will undertake the appropriate measures, but to the moment of writing of this report, the Police hasn't answered the Request for information of public character that was sent by the Committee in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different communities in the society.

### 37. Stoning of train at Morani (unverified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators stoned the train from Bitola to Skopje in the vicinity of the village of Morani, damaging windows from the carts in the process.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 12<sup>th</sup>, in the vicinity of village of Morani.

**Source of information:** The national media Sitel TV.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - due to the different ethnic composition of the population in the village of Morani, and the end destinations the train leads to (Bitola and Skopje), the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrator.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have report about stones placed on the rails, but no information about an incident consisted of stoning a train.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Macedonians, on one side and the Albanians as the two largest ethnic communities in the society, as well as it endangers the general safety in public transportation.

### 38. Attack of branch office of GROM in Drachevo (verified)

**What happened:** During the evening, unknown perpetrators demolished the local branch office of the political party GROM in Drachevo, Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, Drachevo, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media Plusinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different communities in the society.

### 39. Massive fight between Macedonians and Albanians in Radishani in Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** A group of Macedonian males, after the voting for the first round of the Presidential election ended, started insulting, cursing and subsequently attacked and beat an Albanian family living in Radishani. One of the perpetrators drove a vehicle in to a group of the victims.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 21:20-22:00 hrs, Radishani, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media almakos.com (Albanian), national media SITEL TV (Macedonian), others.

**Victim(s) involved:** Unknown number of members of the targeted Albanian family, among which there were minors and a 74 y/o woman. Four of them asked for medical care.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art.144, Severe bodily harm Art.131, Causing general danger Art. 288 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown group of Macedonian young males. According to one of the media, four of the perpetrators also asked for medical help.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, as well as the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – Considering the statements made for the media, it is clear that the victims perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Comments made at the scene* – The perpetrators started the dispute with remarks about Albanians not voting in the election.

3. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnicity.*

4. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

5. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed for the act of Causing general danger.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered upon a Request for public information sent by the

Committee that it has filed criminal charges against only one of the perpetrators (the driver of the vehicle) for the act of Endangerment of safety (Art. 144 CCRM).

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the Albanian and Macedonian ethnic communities within the society.

#### 40. Vice-president of SDSM Shekjerinska attacked by MP Amdi Bajram and his son (unverified)

**What happened:** According to her statement made for the media, Shekjerinska was attacked by Amdi Bajram and his son (part of the ruling party coalition) during the monitoring of the election process in Shuto Orizari.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, Elementary school Brakja Ramiz i Hamid, Shuto Orizari, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The electronic media NovaTv.

**Victim(s) involved:** One female, Vice president of the largest opposition party in the country.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art.144, Severe bodily harm Art.131 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Two males, that politically are a part of the ruling party coalition.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location and timing* – the incident occurred at a time and place of significance to the election process (voting location, during voting time).

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have no information in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** These type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different communities in the society, and the success of the election process in general.

#### 41. Incident in Lisiche during a visit of Presidential candidate Stevo Pendarovski (verified)

**What happened:** SDSM (the largest opposition party) stated that during a meeting with local community in Lisiche, Skopje, their Presidential candidate Stevo Pendarovski was verbally assaulted and that there was an attempt for physical attack against him. The police stated that the incident was a fight between four members of SDSM and two members of VMRO-DPMNE. VMRO-DPMNE condemned the violence.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, Lisiche, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The local media 24Vesti.

**Victim(s) involved:** Four members of the opposition party (physically assaulted); Presidential candidate of opposition party (verbally assaulted).

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art.144, Bodily harm Art.130 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Two members of the ruling party. The political party condemned the violence.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – From the statements made for the media, it can easily be derived that the victims – the representatives from SDSM, perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Location and timing* – the incident occurred during a political rally of the targeted group.

3. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges, in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** These type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 42. Serious threats by the security and cleaning service of the City Trade Center in Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** Three young gay males (one of which is a minor), on three or four occasions were verbally harassed and threatened by members of the security and cleaning service of the Skopje Trade Center. The part of the Trade Center where the treats occurred is a location commonly known as LGBT cruising area. On one occasion, one member of the security service said “Faggot, we’ll remove your liver!”.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April-May (more than one occasion), City Trade Center, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** Three young gay males (one of which is a minor).

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of Safety (Art.144).

**Perpetrator(s):** Five perpetrators in total – two members of the security service, and three members of the cleaning service.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Location* – The incident occurred on location commonly known as LGBT cruising area.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unreported (victim’s choice).

**Response of local authorities:** N/A

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

#### 43. Fight in Bit Pazar – a group of 20 Albanians assaulted a 16 y/o minor (unverified)

**What happened:** A group of approximately 20 unknown Albanian males assaulted a sixteen year old boy and his two friends, who gained visible injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 16<sup>th</sup>, 19:00hrs, bus station near Bit Pazar, Skopje.

**Source of information:** The local media Press24.

**Victim(s) involved:** Three males of unknown ethnic origin, one of which is confirmed to be a minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety Art.144, Bodily harm Art.130 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of approximately 20 unknown Albanian males.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the ethnic affiliation, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnicity* – due to the mixed ethnic composition of the community that lives in the area of Bit Pazar, it can be presumed that the ethnicity of the perpetrators differs from the one of the victims.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 44. Attack against branch office of SDSM in Chair (verified)

**What happened:** During the evening, unknown perpetrators demolished the local branch office of SDSM in Chair.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 26<sup>th</sup>, early hours, Chair, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic media brif.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Causing general danger (Art. 288 CCRM).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the five people involved are brought up against criminal charges for the act of "Causing general danger" (Art. 288 CCRM). However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 45. Stoning of branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Topansko Pole (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators stoned the local branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Topansko Pole.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, Topansko Pole, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National printed media Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – This incident followed the one in the neighbouring community of Chair, where a branch office of SDSM was demolished during the previous night.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 46. Stoning of second branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Topansko Pole (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators stoned the (second) local branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Topansko Pole.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, Topansko Pole, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National printed media Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – This incident followed the one in the neighbouring community of Chair, where a branch office of SDSM was demolished during the previous night.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 47. Assault of branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Chair (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators demolished the local branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Chair.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 21<sup>th</sup>, Chair, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National printed media Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – This incident followed the one where a branch office of SDSM in Chair was demolished during the previous night.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary

measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 48. Demolishing of branch office of DUI in village of Kanatlarci near Prilep (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators demolished the local branch office of DUI in village of Kanatlarci near Prilep.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 21<sup>th</sup>, Kanatlarci, Prilep.

**Source of information:** National media AlsatM (Albanian).

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 49. Fight on derby game between MZT and Lirija (verified)

**What happened:** The supporters clubs of both of the teams got in to multiple fights during the basketball game between MZT and Lirija in Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sports Arena Boris Trajkovski, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media 24Vesti.

**Victim(s) involved:** Unknown number of victims on both sides.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Harm Art. 130 CCRM, Damaging of other's property (Art. 243), Violence (Art. 386), Endangerment of safety (Art. 144), Assaulting public official while conducts matters related to security (Art. 383).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrators on both sides.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the ethnic origin citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Comments* – from sources in the field the Committee gained an information that both sides were continually chanting offensive and hatred filled chants.

2. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* – these supporters clubs are comprised mostly of members of a single ethnic community (supporters of MZT are mostly Macedonian, and supporters of Lirija are mostly Albanian).

3. *Location and timing* – the incident occurred during a sports game between the clubs of both supporters groups.

4. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

5. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Perpetrators located. Case under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they had detained the responsible perpetrators and will undertake the appropriate measures. However, The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they haven't registered any incidents during that game.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the country.

#### 50. Stoning of public transportation bus No.55 in Brnjarci (unverified)

**What happened:** According to the media, when the bus No. 55 returned from village Arachinovo, it was carrying participants of a political rally that was held in Arachinovo short time prior the incident. After the passengers demounted the bus, local community members gathered and a massive fight broke out. Shortly after, the Police intervened, thus preventing further escalation of the incident. The media states that the surrounding communities feel endangered and insecure due to the incident and the increased police presence. Later, the Police made a public statement that the incident was a 'major disturbance of the public peace and order'.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 22<sup>th</sup>, village of Brnjarci, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media kurir.mk, local electronic media lokalno.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Unknown number of victims on both sides.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a fight Art. 132 CCRM, Bodily harm (Art. 130), Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Damaging of other's property (Art. 243).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrators, possibly on both sides.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim/Witness perception* – the victims were engaged in activities promoting their political affiliation prior the incident.

2. *Location and timing* – the incident occurred a short time after a change in political minority presence in the village of Brnjarci.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

#### 51. Massive fight in public transportation bus No.50 (unverified)

**What happened:** The bus driver reported an incident when two groups of high school students got in to a verbal argument and then into a massive fight in the bus. When he tried to intervene, the students got out of the bus, breaking several of its windows. The fight stopped after the Police intervened.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** April 25<sup>th</sup>, 13:40hrs, Aleksandar Makedonski blv., in front of High School Boro Petrushevski, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media kurir.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Unknown number of victims on both sides.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a fight Art.132 CCRM, Bodily harm (Art.130), Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Violence (Art.386), and Damaging of other's property (Art. 243).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrators, possibly on both sides.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – due to the mixed ethnic composition of the students that attend high schools in the immediate vicinity area of the incident, the ethnicity of the perpetrators may differ from the victim's.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out publicly, in a public transportation bus.

3. *Lack of other motives* – The police stated via the media that the participants said that they don't know each other and don't have any prior disputes.

**Status of the case:** Criminal and misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they have filed eleven misdemeanour charges for disturbance of the public peace and order and a criminal charge for Damaging of other's property. However, The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the eleven people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges, in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order, not mentioning the criminal charge they announced via the media. Also, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

## 52. Broken glass door of branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Prilep (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrator broke the glass door of a branch office of VMRO-DPMNE in Prilep.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16:30hrs, str. General Vasko Karangeloski, Prilep.

**Source of information:** National electronic media mkd.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Case clarified.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have clarified the case, noting that this criminal act resulted with minor material damage, and therefore, requires private indictment for judicial processing. The victim has been informed of the results of the investigation. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.

## 53. Young boy brutally beaten in public transportation bus No. 57 (unverified)

**What happened:** 23 y/o boy was brutally beaten by a group of unknown perpetrators and suffered severe injuries, after which he was hospitalized.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** May 4<sup>th</sup>. 03:30hrs, in a public transportation bus No. 57, when the bus was moving along str. Cvetan Dimov in Skopje.

**Source of information:** National printed media Dnevnik.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 23 y/o male.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily harm Art 131, Endangerment of safety Art. 144, Violence Art. 386.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrators, acting in a group.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – due to the mixed ethnic composition of the communities the line No.57 passes through, the ethnicity of the perpetrators may differ from the victim's.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out publicly, in a public transportation bus.

3. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges submitted.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the four people involved are brought up against criminal charges for the act of "Violence" (Art.386 CCRM). However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic groups in the society.

## 54. Minor from Stajkovci beaten in the yard of High School Boro Petrushevski (unverified)

**What happened:** A 16 y/o from the village of Stajkovci was beaten by unknown group of perpetrators without any reason, and gained visible injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 13:30hrs, Aleksandar Makedonski blv., in the yard of High School Boro Petrushevski, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National media Sitel TV.

**Victim(s) involved:** One sixteen y/o male high school student from the village of Stajkovci.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm Art. 130 CCRM, Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – due to the mixed ethnic composition of the students that attend high schools in the immediate vicinity area of the incident, the ethnicity of the perpetrators may differ from the victim's.

2. *Pattern / frequency of previous crimes* – this incident follows a massive fight between students that happened several days ago in that area (incident No.50).

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out publicly, in the yard of the school, in front of other students.

4. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Misdemeanour charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that two people involved are brought up against misdemeanour charges for "Physical assault", in accordance with the Law on misdemeanours against the public peace and order. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general

political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 55. Bomb exploded in the bathroom of the attacked family from Radishani (unverified)

**What happened:** In the evening, unknown perpetrator/s threw a hand thrown bomb the bathroom of the family that was targeted several weeks prior, as noted in Incident No. 39.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** May 6<sup>th</sup>, Radishani, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media *libertas.mk* (mkd), and *lajmepress.com* (alb).

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident. The indirect victims, the targeted family, stated that they had had more than thirty members of their family moved out of the country because of fear for personal safety since the first incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground Art. 319 CCRM, Endangerment of safety Art. 144, Damaging of other's property Art. 243.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrator/s.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim/Witness perception* – based on statements made for the media, it is clear that the (indirect) victims perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – due to the fact that this is a second incident, and the first had participants from different ethnic backgrounds.

3. *Pattern/frequency of previous incident* – this incident follows one that happened several weeks earlier, when the same family was targeted (incident No.39).

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation, criminal charges pressed..

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that submitted a criminal charge against an unknown perpetrator for the act of “Causing general danger” (Art.288 CCRM). However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 56. Demolishing of stores of Albanians in Gjorche Petrov, Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** Nineteen y/o Macedonian boy was killed by a thief, while trying to retrieve his stolen bike with his father. A group of local community members gathered to pay their respect, when the media announced that the killer is Albanian. Then, the group gathered in big numbers and started demolishing and burning stores of Albanians in Gjorche Petrov, burglarizing some of the stores as well.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** May 19<sup>th</sup>, evening hours, Gjorche Petrov, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National printed media *Fokus*, and local media *24Vesti.mk*.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM, Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art.319), Burglary Art.236 CCRM, Participation in a mob that will commit a crime Art.385 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrator/s, Macedonian.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim/Witness perception* – based on statements made for the media, it is clear that the (indirect) victims perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Comments made at the scene* – the perpetrator constantly chanted hateful and derogatory slurs for Albanians.

3. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – it is obvious that this incident is ethnically motivated, and therefore the (indirect) victims and perpetrators differ on ethnic grounds.

4. *Pattern/frequency of previous incident* – this incident follows a crime that happened the same day, when a Macedonian boy was killed by a thief trying to retrieve his bike.

5. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

6. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they will undertake the appropriate measures, and later on stated that in the aftermath of this incident and the one that followed the next day, they have filed criminal charges against seven persons for Participation in a mob that will commit a crime, and against two others for Burglary.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 57. Young boy attacked in Karposh (unverified)

**What happened:** While waiting to cross the street, a young boy was attacked without reason when an automobile stopped next to him, a person came out and hit the boy in the head with a heavy object. The boy fell unconscious after which he was transferred to a hospital by an ambulance vehicle. Witnesses report that they had noted the license plate number of the vehicle the perpetrators were in.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Karposh, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media *Press24.mk*.

**Victim(s) involved:** One young men with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrator/s.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

2. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that the victim refused medical attention and left the scene at his own will, and therefore, they haven't registered any incident in their official records.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 58. Attack of youth team of basketball club Vardar (unverified)

**What happened:** After the semi-final game that ended with victory for Vardar (a team with traditionally Macedonian players and supporters), the players of the team of Shkupi (a team with traditionally Albanian players and supporters) attacked the guest players from Vardar, after which, members in the audience interfered and attacked the players of Vardar and delegates of Macedonian Basketball Association, throwing hard objects at them.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** June 8<sup>th</sup>, Sports hall Anton Dimitrov, Butel, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media Brif.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Multiple players of youth basketball team Vardar and several delegates of Macedonian Basketball Association.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM, Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art.319).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrator/s.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnic grounds* – due to the traditionally different ethnic composition of players and supporters clubs, it can be presumed that the ethnicity of the victims differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Location and timing* – the incident happened shortly after a change in presence of minority in the environment – Macedonian players and supporters club on a field hosted by a club with traditional Albanian players and supporters club.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The police stated via the media that they will undertake the appropriate measures. However, The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that there have been no violations against the Public peace and order during the game.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society, and the safety on the sports fields as well.

### 59. Two Albanian boys beaten in Gjorche Petrov (verified)

**What happened:** Two boys were attacked with stones by an unknown group of perpetrators. The perpetrators were chanting anti-Albanian slurs.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, Gjorche Petrov, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media almakos.com (alb).

**Victim(s) involved:** Two young Albanian boys who suffered visible injuries.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM, Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrator/s, presumably of Macedonian ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim/Witness perception* - From the statements made for the media, it can easily be derived that the victims perceive the incident as bias motivated.

2. *Comments* – during the attack, the perpetrators were yelling anti-Albanian slurs.

2. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds.*

4. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

5. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that twenty-seven people were arrested in

relation with “the events in Gjorche Petrov”, and that criminal charges were brought up against a large number of them, for the acts of Participation in a mob that will prevent an official in performing official duty (Art.384), Violence (Art. 386), Grand theft (Art.236), Endangerment with a dangerous mean during a fight or argument (Art.133 CCRM), and Participation in a mob that will commit a crime (Art.385). But, in its reply, the Ministry most likely refers to the previous incidents in this municipality, and not in relation with the one the Committee requested information about. Also, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 60. A group of young people inciting national hate (verified)

**What happened:** As a response to the demonstrations in Skopje caused by the verdict of the court case “Monstrum”, a group of young people from Bitola took a photo with a sign that say “Death for Shiptari” (Shiptari – derogatory term for Albanians). On the photo, the young people can be seen making a Nazi salut.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** July 9<sup>th</sup>, Bitola.

**Source of information:** National electronic media tetova1.com (alb).

**Victim(s) involved:** There are no direct victims of this incident – it is directed toward the entire Albanian community.

**Type of the crime(s):** Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial religious or other discriminatory ground (Art. 319).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of more than 20 young Macedonian males.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Comments* – on the photo, the perpetrators are holding a sign that say “Death for Shiptari”, and are making a Nazi salut.

2. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have no information related to the incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 61. Two people attacked with knife in Zena Park in Skopje (unverified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrator approached a couple on a bench, started harassing them, pulled out a knife and continued speaking slurs.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** July 10<sup>th</sup>, 17:00hrs, Zena Park, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media skopjeinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two people (male and female) from the village of Bujkovci, presumably Macedonians.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM, Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Endangerment with a dangerous mean during a fight or argument (Art.133 CCRM).

**Perpetrator(s):** One perpetrator, from village of Kondovo, presumably of Albanian ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – the media shared the information that the perpetrator is from the village of Kondovo (predominately Albanian population), and the victims are from Bujkovci (predominately Macedonian population, no Albanians were registered on the last census).

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that one person is brought up against criminal charges for the act of “Endangerment with a dangerous mean during a fight or argument” (Art.133 CCRM). However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

## 62. A group of young people attacked in Vlae (verified)

**What happened:** Several young Albanian boys from Nerezi were attacked in Vlae. The incident occurred in the vicinity of the Sports Field in Vlae, when seven or eight perpetrators threw stones at them, injuring two of the boys. The security service of the Sports Field notified the Police.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** July 11<sup>th</sup>, 00:45hrs, Vlae, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media portallab.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** A group of Albanian boys from Nerezi, Skopje.

**Type of the crime(s):** Severe Bodily Harm Art. 131 CCRM, Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of seven or eight perpetrators, presumably Macedonian.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Presumed difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – the media shared the information that the victims are from Nerezi (predominant Albanian community), and the incident occurred in the vicinity of Vlae Sports Field (predominant Macedonian community).

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have filled criminal charges against unknown perpetrator for the act of “violence”.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

## 63. Demolishing of cafe bar in Skopje over Macedonian music (verified)

**What happened:** A group of approximately ten perpetrators, around midnight got into a verbal argument that culminated in demolishing of the bar New Orleans in the Old Bazaar in Skopje and damaging of private property. The attack was predeceased by verbal argument where one of the perpetrators requested the DJ not to play Macedonian music Later in the procedures, the Public

Prosecutor proved that the perpetrators were members of the Supporters Club “Shverceri”.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 5<sup>th</sup>, 00:00hrs, Old Bazaar, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media skopjeinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident..

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Participation in a mob that will prevent an official in performing official duty (Art.384).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of approx. ten perpetrators, Albanian males.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is religious affiliation and belief, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – the perpetrators were Albanians, while the owner of the establishment is Macedonian.

2. *Comments at the scene* – the incident followed an verbal argument, where the perpetrators requested from the DJ not to play Macedonian music.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Two of the perpetrators were found guilty and sentenced.

**Response of local authorities:** The authorities clarified the case, resulting in charges, processing and sentencing of two perpetrators for the act of “violence”.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

## 64. Beating of 15 y/o in Skopje, father claims ethnic motive (unverified)

**What happened:** On the cross-road between St.Ferid Bajram and St. Rokomija in Skopje, a 15y/o boy from Skopje was attacked by a group of several young persons, gaining bodily injuries. The father of the boy claims ethnic bias in the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 10<sup>th</sup>, 02:40hrs, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media plusinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 15 y/o Macedonian boy.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily harm Art. 130 CCRM, Endangerment of safety (Art.144), Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim/witness perception* – Based on the statements given for the media, one can conclude that the victim perceives this incident as motivated by bias.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have filled criminal charges against two perpetrators for the act of “violence”. However, there has been no answer as to the fact that indicates to the possible motive of the crime.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 65. Fight in front of the ticket stand at Skopje Stadium (verified)

**What happened:** During a football match between FC Vardar and FC Shkendija, a fight broke out in front of the ticket stand at the Filip the Second Arena in Skopje, during which, at least one person gained light bodily injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 10<sup>th</sup>, 18:30hrs, Filip the Second Arena, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media centarnews.net.

**Victim(s) involved:** At least one person that sustained light bodily injuries, unknown nationality.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386), Bodily harm (Art.130).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown group of perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** This incident occurred during a sports match, and the bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – the members of the supporters clubs (Shverceri and Komiti) are with different ethnic affiliation.

2. *Cultural differences* - the victim was engaged in activities promoting his/her group at the time of the incident.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have no information of any incident related to that sports match.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 66. Young gay male attacked by two perpetrators (verified)

**What happened:** A 20 y/o male was physically attacked with stones by two unknown perpetrators.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 11th, str. Philip II Makedonski in the Municipality of Centar, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 20 y/o male was stoned. As a result of the attack the victim suffered visible injuries in the head area.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386), Bodily Harm (Art.130).

**Perpetrator(s):** Two unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The Committee reported the case to the authorities, after gaining the compliance of the victim. The victim has been called by the Police for recognition of possible suspects.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

### 67. Gay man attacked by two unknown perpetrators (verified)

**What happened:** One young gay male was physically attacked by two unknown perpetrators on location commonly known as LGBT cruising area. During the attack, the perpetrators were saying homophobic slurs, and were calling him “Faggot”.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 15- September 1 (precise date unknown), place known as Lawyer’s Street, Krste Misirkov Blv, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** One young gay male.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Two unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Location* – The incident occurred on location commonly known as LGBT cruising area.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** When the victims attempted to report the incident to the Police, the Police threatened with charges for False reporting of a crime against the victims.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

### 68. Two young boys were stoned by unknown perpetrators

**What happened:** A 20 y/o male and a minor were physically attacked with stones by two unknown perpetrators because of their sexual orientation.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 19th, str. Philip II Makedonski in the Municipality of Centar, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victims.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 20 y/o male and a minor were stoned but they succeed to escape. They weren’t injured.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Two unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:**

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The Committee reported the case to the authorities, after gaining the compliance of the victim. There is no other information related to the investigation.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

### 69. Four young people were attacked with stones by five perpetrators because of their sexual orientation (verified)

**What happened:** Four people were stoned by five perpetrators on location commonly known as LGBT cruising area. During the attack, the perpetrators were saying homophobic slurs.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 15- September 1 (precise date unknown, but it occurred four days after Incident No.67), place known as Lawyer's Street, Krste Misirkov Blv, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** Four young people among which, one was minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Five unknown perpetrators, aged 13-18 y/o. Two of them were the same perpetrators as Incident No.67.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Location* – The incident occurred on location commonly known as LGBT cruising area.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unreported (victim's choice).

**Response of local authorities:** N/A.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

#### 70. A group of unknown persons surrounded a store in Gjorche Petrov (verified)

**What happened:** F.M., Albanian, came to the Committee and complained that a group of approx. 20 young people surrounded his store in Gjorche Petrov, short period after the ethnic-based riots that happened in that neighborhood. According to his statement, the group attacked his son and nephew one day prior.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 29<sup>th</sup>, Gjorche Petrov, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** One Albanian male.

**Type of the crime(s):** Endangerment of safety (Art.144).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of approx. 20 perpetrators, Macedonian males.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is religious affiliation and belief, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as bias motivated.

2. *Difference between victim and perpetrator on ethnic grounds* – the perpetrators were Albanians, while the owner of the establishment is Macedonian.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have no information related to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 71. Attack of 17 y/o boy in public transportation bus No.57 (verified)

**What happened:** Several perpetrators attacked a 17 y/o boy in the public transportation bus No.57, without any reason.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** August 31<sup>st</sup>, 02:00hrs, Public transportation bus No.57, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media republika.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person with unknown nationality.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386), Bodily harm (Art.130).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown group of perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Radishani (the village to which bus No. 57 commutes) and other transit locations of the route of bus No.57, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges pressed.

**Response of local authorities:** The Ministry of Interior stated via Answer upon a Request for information of public character sent by the Committee that they have submitted criminal charges against three persons for the act of "violence".

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 72. A minor was attacked on a bus station (verified)

**What happened:** A minor was physically attacked by unknown perpetrator because of his sexual orientation.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** September 5<sup>th</sup>, Bit Pazar bus station in the Municipality of Chair, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** A minor was physically attacked but he wasn't injured.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** One unknown perpetrator.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unreported (victim's choice).

**Response of local authorities:** N/A.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

#### 73. Two boys beaten up in public transportation bus No.65 (unverified)

**What happened:** Several masked perpetrators, armed with baseball bats attacked two people from Skopje in public transportation bus. No.65, inflicting bodily harm.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** September 13<sup>th</sup>, 01:00hrs, Public transportation bus No.57, Chento, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media netpress.com.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two persons with unknown nationality.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386), Bodily harm (Art.130).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown group of perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the population in the village of Rashtak (the village to which bus No. 65 commutes) and other transit locations of the route of bus No.65, the ethnicity of the victim may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted a report to the public prosecutor for the act of Violence against an unknown perpetrator.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 74. Fight among girl students in Skopje high school “Marija Kiri Sklodovska”

**What happened:** Two groups of girl students (Macedonians and Albanians) from Skopje high school „Marija Kiri Sklodovska“ got into a fight during their gym class. According to one of the Macedonian students, the Professor, who is Albanian, hit one of the Macedonian girls.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** September 26<sup>th</sup>, 14:00hrs, Skopje high school “Marija Kiri Sklodovska”.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media plusinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two groups of female students, one Macedonian, and one Albanian.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Two groups of female students, one Macedonian, one Albanian, and one high school professor (Albanian).

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the groups that got into a fight differs. Also, the Professor is Albanian, while the girl he hit is Macedonian.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public, during gym class.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that don't have any information in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 75. Members of Supporters clubs Shverceri and Vojvodi were throwing stones at each other (verified)

**What happened:** During the football match between FC Teteks from Tetovo, and FC Shkupi from Skopje, the members of the supporters clubs Shverceri (Shkupi) and Vojvodi (Teteks) started chanting

offensive slurs at each other, after which they started throwing stones at each other, damaging one Ambulance vehicle.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** October 14<sup>th</sup>, 15:00hrs, Tetovo City Stadium.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media plusinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person with unknown nationality.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386), Damaging of other's property (Art. 243) CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of members of two Supporters Clubs, one comprised of Macedonian, and other of Albanian supporters

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident that occurred during a sports match is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* – the ethnic composition of the Supporters clubs differ one from the other. Shverceri are an Albanian Supporters Club, while Vojvodi are Macedonian.

2. *Cultural difference between perpetrator and victim* – at the time of the incident, both groups were engaged in activities promoting their culture and group identity.

3. *Comments* – The incident followed an exchange of offensive slurs between the members of the Supporters clubs.

4. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

5. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for complete clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 76. One minor was injured in public transportation bus No. 2 (unverified)

**What happened:** One minor boy was attacked by a larger group, gaining head injuries. The incident occurred in a public transportation bus No.2 on the Partizanski Odredi Blv, while there was a football match between two teams, whose supporters clubs have different ethnical belonging and previous history of violent behavior during matches.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 13:40hrs, public transportation bus No.2 on the Partizanski Odredi Blv in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media novatv.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor boy with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Harm (Art.130 CCRM), Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown number of perpetrators with unknown ethnic origin, acting as a large group.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - The public bus No. 2 route includes Saraj, a large village inhabited predominantly by Albanians, so it can be logically assumed that the passengers of this bus will have similar ethnical belonging as well, while the incident occurred in a area predominantly inhabited by Macedonians.

2. *Location and timing* – The incident occurred in a public transportation bus No. 2, whose line leads to a village with predominant Albanian ethnic structure. Also it happened during a football match between two teams, whose supporters clubs have different ethnical belonging and previous history of violent behavior during matches

3. *Nature of violence* - The incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted a report to the public prosecutor for the act of Violence against an unknown perpetrator.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 77. The LGBTI community was attacked in the Old Bazaar in Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** During the celebration of the second anniversary of the LGBTI Support Center, a group of approx. 40 masked perpetrators run by the coffee bar and stoned the object, while more than sixty people were inside. During the attack two guests were in front of the premises, and the group started hitting them with glass bottles and punches, yelling that “they have to leave” and that “there is no place in the Old Bazaar for faggots”. Several of the guest inside gained small lacerations from the broken glass.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 21:30hrs, Coffee Bar Damar, Skopje Old Bazaar.

**Source of information:** Public announcement of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two people that gained serious bodily injuries, approx. Sixty people inside the coffee bar.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Harm (Art.130 CCRM), Damaging of other’s property (Art.243), Violence (Art.386), Endangerment of safety (Art.144) Endangerment by dangerous means during a fight or argument (Art.133).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown group of approx. thirty perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is sexual orientation and gender identity, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Cultural difference between perpetrator and victim* – at the time of the incident, the victims were engaged in activities promoting and celebrating their culture, sexual orientation and gender identity, and it happened on the date of the second anniversary of the opening of the LGBTI Support Centre.

2. *Comments* – the perpetrators made offensive and threatening comments about the victim’s community.

3. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the sixth attack against the LGBTI Support Centre and its activities in the Old Bazaar during the two years of its existence.

4. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

5. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have registered the incident and have submitted a report to the Public prosecutor. However, there are no information related to the motive of the incident, and the MOI states that they have registered only the act of violence unknown perpetrator/s.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the country.

### 78. Four gay men attacked with stones (verified)

**What happened:** Four gay men (two of which are minors) were attacked with stones by two Albanian

boys. During the attack, the perpetrators were screaming homophobic slurs in Albanian language.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> of November (precise date unknown), 12:00hrs, in the vicinity of the Faculty for Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** Four gay men (two of which are minors).

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Two unknown perpetrators, Albanian males.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unreported (victim’s choice).

**Response of local authorities:** N/A.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society.

### 79. Four injured in a fight in public transportation bus No.64-a (verified)

**What happened:** According to an eye-witness, in public transportation bus No.64-a, a group of approx. fifteen Albanian boys and girls attacked three Macedonian boys, beating them with belt buckles. Four minors complained that they have sustained injuries. The eye-witness reported that the group of Albanian minors has been terrorizing passengers for a while. The MOI reported that the two groups got into a fight.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, 14:20hrs, public transportation bus No.64-a, Partizanski Odredi Blv, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media press24.mk, Daily Gazette of MOI.

**Victim(s) involved:** Three or four minors. Three of them are Macedonians.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386), Bodily Harm (Art.130), Endangerment of Safety (Art.144).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of approx fifteen young (15-20y/o) Albanians.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* – According to witness statements, the ethnicity of the perpetrators differed from the victim’s.

2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted misdemeanour charges against nine people aged 15-19 y/o.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 80. Fight among pupils in Skopje high school “Zef Ljush Marku” (unverified)

**What happened:** Several students got into a fight in Skopje high school “Zef Ljush Marku”. The Police had to intervene to stop the fight.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** November 7<sup>th</sup>, 18:00hrs, Skopje high school “Zef Ljush Marku”.

**Source of information:** Local electronic media plusinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Several high school students with unknown ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Several high school students with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Presumed difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity* - Due to the mixed ethnic composition of the school the pupils attend, the ethnicity of the victims may differ from the one of the perpetrators.

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted misdemeanour charges against seven pupils aged 16-18y/o.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 81. One pupil was stabbed near the high school “Zdravko Cvetkovski” (verified)

**What happened:** Following an argument, a fifteen y/o Albanian student from Skopje high school “Zdravko Cvetkovski” stabbed a sixteen y/o Macedonian student from the same school. According to the media, several days later the Director of the school and the Head Teacher of the victim’s class asked the parents of the victim to transfer their son into another school in order to avoid further incidents.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** November 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:30hrs, Leptokarija Trade Centre, near high school “Zdravko Cvetkovski” in Skopje.

**Source of information:** National TV Kanal 5, national newspaper Dnevnik.

**Victim(s) involved:** One sixteen y/o Macedonian male high school student.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386), Severe Bodily Harm (Art.131).

**Perpetrator(s):** One fifteen y/o Albanian high school student.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity.*

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted criminal charges to the public prosecutor for the act of Violence against one person.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 82. One student was stabbed, three others injured in inter-ethnic fight in Tetovo (verified)

**What happened:** A fight broke out in Tetovo high school “Kiril Pejchinovic”, when a group of young Albanians entered the premises in this school, where lessons are held only in Macedonian language. When the group entered the premises, the high school security service didn’t stop them, and soon

after, an argument broke out between the group of Albanian boys and several students from the school. The argument was followed by a fight, where a fifteen y/o Albanian from Tetovo stabbed a sixteen y/o Macedonian student from Tetovo high school “Kiril Pejchinovic”. Three others were injured. The rest of the classes were cancelled and the Police escorted the pupils of the high school to their homes.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, 15:30hrs, high school “Kiril Pejchinovic” in Tetovo.

**Source of information:** National TV Telma, national electronic media Press24.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One sixteen y/o Macedonian male high school student, three others youngsters with unspecified ethnic origin.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386), Severe Bodily Harm (Art.131), Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Endangerment of Safety (Art.144), Endangerment by dangerous means during a fight or argument (Art.133).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of Albanian youngsters.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity.*

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Timing* – the incident occurred on the Day of the Albanian Flag.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted criminal charges against one 15y/o for Attempt of homicide, and against two other 15y/o for being accomplices in the act.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

### 83. Stabbing among young people on the Day of Albanian flag (verified)

**What happened:** On the Day of Albanian flag there was a fight that culminated with stabbing among young people in the vicinity of Skopje high school “Cvetan Dimov”. The injured youngsters were Albanians and after the incident they were transferred in Skopje City Hospital for medical treatment.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, 15:30hrs vicinity of Skopje high school “Cvetan Dimov”, municipality of Chair.

**Source of information:** National newspaper Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two Albanian males (18 and 26 y/o).

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386), Severe Bodily Harm (Art.131), Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Endangerment of Safety (Art.144), Endangerment by dangerous means during a fight or argument (Art.133).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of youngsters with unknown ethnic origin.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

2. *Timing* – the incident occurred on the Day of the Albanian Flag.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they have submitted a report to the public prosecutor for the act of Severe bodily harm against an unknown perpetrator.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 84. One boy was stabbed during the commemoration of the Day of Albanian flag (verified)

**What happened:** In the vicinity of Skenderbeg square, during the commemoration of the Day of the Albanian Flag, a 20 y/o Albanian boy was stabbed five times with a sharp object.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, time unspecified, vicinity of Skenderbeg Square, Skopje

**Source of information:** National newspaper Nova Makedonija.

**Victim(s) involved:** One 20 y/o Albanian male.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386), Severe Bodily Harm (Art.131), Endangerment by dangerous means during a fight or argument (Art.133).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

2. *Timing* – the incident occurred on the Day of the Albanian Flag.

3. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this is the third stabbing that occurred on the Day of the Albanian Flag among youngsters

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for complete clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 85. Police officer and members of supporters club injured in Tetovo (verified)

**What happened:** A group of 30-40 members of FC Vardar's Supporters club Komiti arrived unannounced at the stadium and attempted to enter and to watch the football match between FC Renova and FC Vardar. The organizer of the match didn't allow their entrance, and meanwhile a larger group of supports of the opposite team gathered around them. A verbal argument and exchange of slurs occurred, followed by throwing stones between the members of the two supporters clubs. The Police intervened, preventing further escalation of the incident. One police officer was injured. According to Komiti, several of their members sustained injuries as a result of the Police intervention

**Date, time and location of the incident:** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13:30hrs, Tetovo City Stadium.

**Source of information:** National electronic media A1on.mk and ekipa.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One Police officer.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386), Participation in a Fight (Art.132), Endangerment of Safety (Art.144), Endangerment by dangerous means during a fight or argument (Art.133) Assaulting public official while conducts matters related to security (Art. 383).

**Perpetrator(s):** 30-40 members of Supporters club Komiti and unknown number of supporters of FC Renova.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** In this incident that occurred during a sports match, the bias motive is the ethnic origin, citizenship or language, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference between perpetrator and victim on ethnicity.*

2. *Nature of violence* – The incident was carried out in public.

3. *Timing* – the incident occurred prior the football match between FC Renova and FC Vardar.

4. *Location and timing* – The incident followed the presence of a minority group (Macedonian supporters) in a predominantly Albanian environment.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of local authorities:** The MOI answered on the Request for information sent by the Committee that they are undertaking the necessary measures for complete clarification of the case.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different ethnic communities in the society.

#### 86. A minor was attacked by a group of four unknown perpetrators because of his sexual orientation (verified)

**What happened:** A minor was physically attacked by a group of four unknown perpetrators because of his sexual orientation. When the group walked by the victim, one of them hit the victim, addressing him with the words "Get away from here, you faggot!". After that, the group followed the victim for the next 10-15 minutes.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** December 8<sup>th</sup>, 19-20h, place known as Lawyer's Street, Krste Misirkov Blv, Skopje.

**Source of information:** interview with the victim.

**Victim(s) involved:** A minor was physically attacked but he wasn't injured.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Art.386).

**Perpetrator(s):** Four unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is the sexual orientation of the victim, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Victim perception* – the victim perceives this incident as hate crime.

2. *Location* – The incident occurred on location commonly known as LGBT cruising area.

3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public.

4. *Lack of other motives.*

**Status of the case:** Unreported (victim's choice).

**Response of local authorities:** N/A.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general security situation of sexual minorities in the society, especially on locations where they are known to frequent.

#### 87. Demolishing of branch office of DUI in Chair (unverified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators demolished the local branch office of DUI in Skopje municipality of Chair.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** December 24<sup>th</sup>, municipality of Chair, Skopje.

**Source of information:** National electronic media kurir.mk (Albanian edition).

**Victim(s) involved:** Except the material damage, there were no direct victims in this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damaging of other's property Art. 243 CCRM.

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of incident with bias indicators:** The bias motive in this incident is political affiliation

and political persuasion, and the bias indicators in this incident are:

1. *Location* – the target is a place of political significance to the targeted group.

2. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation.

**Response of local authorities:** To the moment of writing of this report, the Police haven't answered the Request for information of public character that was sent by the Committee in relation to this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This type of incidents brings into question the general political situation in the country and the cohabitation between the different groups in the society.



# ЗЛОСТОРСТВА ОД ОМРАЗА



КОМИТЕТ ЗА ЧОВЕКОВИ  
ПРАВА НА РЕПУБЛИКА  
МАКЕДОНИЈА

