

ANNUAL REPORT ON HATE CRIME

IN 2015

HATE
CRIMES



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Publisher:

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

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CONTENTS

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT	94
2. METHODOLOGY	95
2.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media	95
2.2 Providing free legal aid to victims	95
2.3 Monitoring court cases on hate crimes	95
2.4 Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to OSCE/ODIHR	96
2.5 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting	96
2.6 Providing information and resources for other CSOs	96
2.7 Taking part in trainings and events organized by the OSCE/ODIHR	96
3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS	97
3.1 Background	97
3.2 Number of incidents	97
3.3 Types of crimes	98
3.4 Incidents by location	99
3.5 Incidents by month	99
3.6 Incidents by biased motivation	100
3.7 Victims and perpetrators	100
3.8 Status of the cases	100
4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT TEAM	102
4.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media	102
4.2 Providing free legal aid to victims	102
4.3 Monitoring court cases on hate crimes and response by the judiciary	103
4.4 Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to OSCE/ODIHR	106
4.5 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting	106
4.6 Cooperation with civil society organizations for awareness raising	107
4.7 Awareness raising in high schools where hate incidents were registered	107
4.8 Working group on Hate Crime legislation amendments	107
4.9 Marking of 22 July - the European Day for the Victims of Hate Crime	108
5. CONCLUSIONS	108
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	109
ANNEX	110
Hate Crime Incidents in 2015	110

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

This report is the outcome of the “Strengthening National Capacity to Tackle Hate Crime 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 2015. 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. Continued monitoring of incidents/hate crimes with special attention to sports violence with bias motivation;
2. Provided free legal aid to victims of hate crimes;
3. Monitored trials and the response of the judiciary in selected cases of hate crimes on different protected characteristics;
4. Reviewed reported hate cases and contributed to the ODIHR Annual report on hate crimes and incidents in the OSCE Region;
5. Maintained, updated and translated the website www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk;
6. Cooperated with civil society organizations for awareness raising of hate crime concept;
7. Undertook activities for awareness raising in high schools where hate incidents were registered;
8. Took part in the Working group on Hate Crime legislation amendments; and
9. Marked the proposed Day of victims of hate crimes

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 and www.grid.mk), as well as by using the advanced search options under the “News” section of 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. 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, reporting the criminal offence, 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 commences: 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 a trial and receiving decisions by courts 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 Mission to Skopje

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 Mission to Skopje. 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 Mission to Skopje 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.zlostorstvaodmraza.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 Annual Report on Hate Crime for 2014 in July 2015.¹ 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. 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 in the country 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/ODIHR in the country and the Western Balkan region (Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro). Besides taking part in trainings and events organized by OSCE, members of the project team attended two professional events with relation to hate crime in Germany.

1) Available at: <http://www.mhc.org.mk/analysis/309>

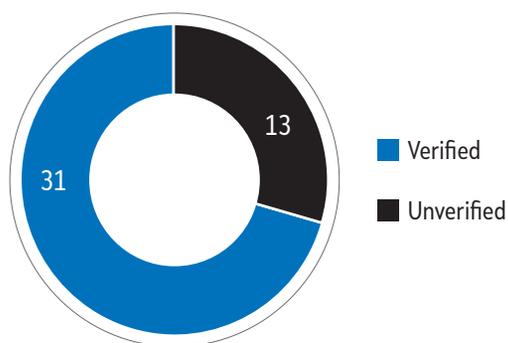
3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS

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.”² ODIHR 2014 Hate crime reporting internet portal notes that “ODIHR observes that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia does not collect data and statistics on hate crimes.”³ EU Commission 2015 Progress Report on the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia states that “data collection on the reporting, investigation and prosecution of (...) hate crime is not yet systematic.”⁴ In 2014, the MHC published a special analysis on hate crimes registered in 2013.⁵ That analysis, together with the Annual Report on Hate Crime in 2014,⁶ this report, and the web portal for hate crimes reporting – www.zlostorstvaodmrza.mk, 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 2015, a total of 44 hate crimes and incidents were registered. Most of the Incidents were registered once they were reported by media or the Ministry of Interior, while 4 of the incidents were reported by MHC’s observers. 31 incidents were verified by means



of contact with the police, police bulletins, media reporting, and meetings with victims. 13 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 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,

2) 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.odihp.org/hcr2012/pdf/Hate_Crime_Report_full_version.pdf

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

4) European Commission, 2015 Progress report for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Brussels, 10 November 2015, pg. 21.

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

6) Available at: <http://www.mhc.org.mk/publications/309>

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. religious worship places). The unverified and verified reports can be seen separately on the web portal for hate crimes reporting. In the Annex of this report, the verified and unverified incidents emphasized with a note in the brackets following the title of the incident.

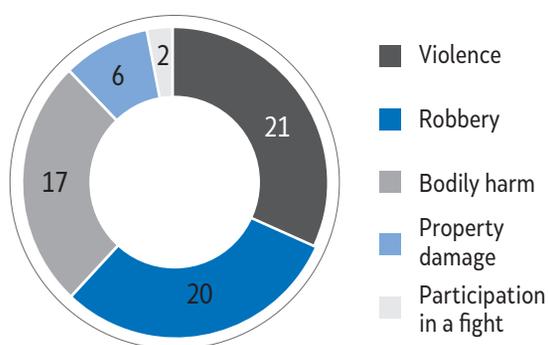
Compared to the incidents registered in 2013 and 2014, the biggest change is with regard to the victims, majority of which are now refugees or migrants. At the end of 2014 and during the course of 2015 the country witnessed an unprecedented numbers of refugees transiting through the country in an attempt to enter the EU Schengen zone. 21 out of the 44 incidents (48%) in 2015 involved an attack or robbery (including armed robbery) against refugees or migrants during their transit through the country. During these incidents, at least 62 (almost 50% of all recorded victims) Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi and Moroccan citizens fell victims of a hate crime.

Another striking difference between 2013/2014 as compared to 2015 is the fact that in 2015 not a single hate incident due to the sexual orientation/gender identity of the victim was registered. This fact does not necessarily mean that the society has become more tolerant towards the LGBT community. It must be noted at this point that the state authorities failed to properly investigate the incidents in 2013 and 2014, and the police failed to arrest the great majority of perpetrators. The failure of the state to act in protecting the victims, the refusal of the Parliament to include sexual orientation as a ground on which discrimination and hate crimes may occur, and the plans of the Government to constitutionally define marriage as a community between man and women only, has had a negative effect on the LGBT people who might be afraid to report crimes committed against them.

The third huge, but positive difference is the number of incidents due to the Macedonian or Albanian ethnic belonging of the perpetrator/victim. In 2013, these incidents amounted to 84% of all incidents (98 out of 116), while in 2014 the percentage was 61% (53 out of 87). During the course of 2015 only 15 incidents (34%) occurred between Macedonians and Albanians.

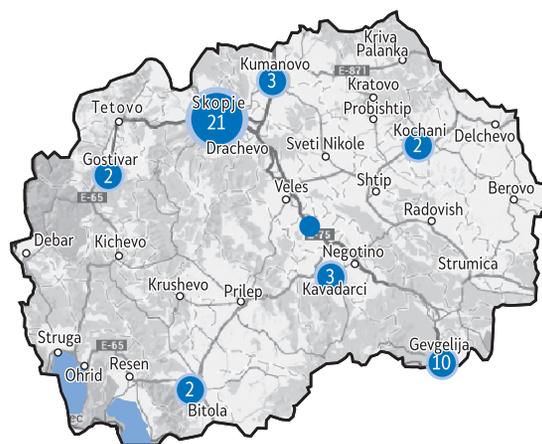
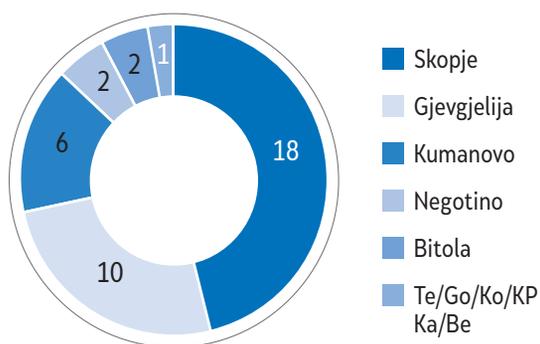
3.3 Types of crimes

The majority of crimes were committed by youngsters and robbers. Victims and perpetrators



are usually members of different ethnic backgrounds (Macedonian and Albanian), while many victims are of Moroccan, Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan ethnic background. The registered incidents were linked to the alleged criminal offense as prescribed by the Criminal Code of the country. The majority of alleged criminal offences include: Violence (21), Robbery, including armed robbery (20), Bodily harm, including severe bodily harm (17), Property damage

(6), and Participation in a fight (2). Additionally, one of the incidents falls under the Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national ground alleged criminal offence. 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.

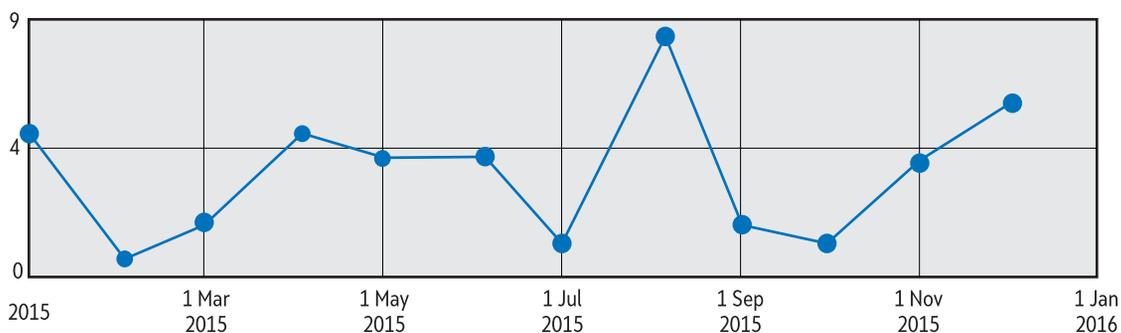


3.4 Incidents by location

The majority of incidents (41%) occurred in Skopje (municipalities of Centar, Chair, Gazi Baba, Karposh, and Aerodrom) and its metropolitan area. There were 10 incidents in Gevgelija, 6 in Kumanovo, 2 in Bitola and Negotino, and 1 incident in Tetovo, Gostivar, Kocani, Kriva Palanka, Kavadarci and Veles (all cities with their metropolitan area).

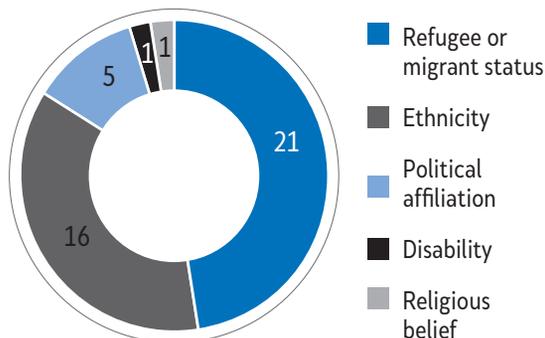
The cities in which the most incidents occurred are located alongside the Pan-European Corridor X Highway. In Skopje, most of the incidents involve attacks between members of the Macedonian and Albanian ethnic communities, while in other cities most incidents took place in the vicinity of the highway used by refugees on their route to the European Union.

3.5 Incidents by month



August was the month during which the biggest number of incidents occurred – 9 (20% of all incidents during the year) while in both February and October, only 1 incident was registered.

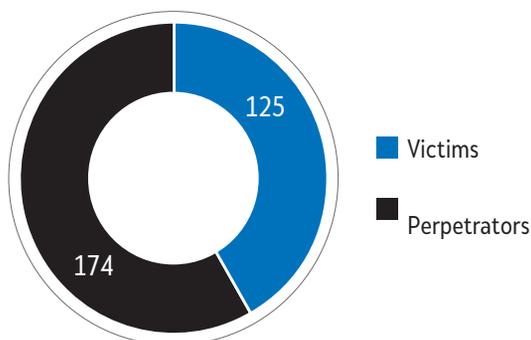
3.6 Incidents by biased motivation



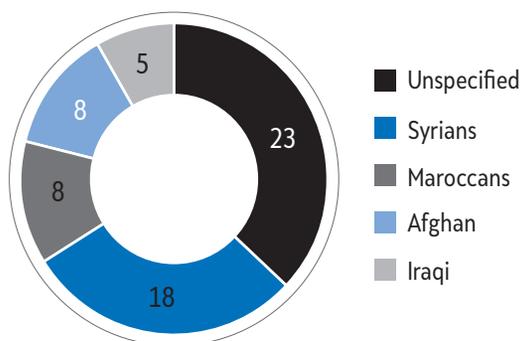
The majority of hate crimes occur due the status of a refugee or migrant of the victim (48%) or the different ethnic belonging of the victim and the perpetrator (43%). Almost all of these incidents involve ethnic Macedonians and Albanians as both victims and perpetrators, and Moroccans, Syrians, Iraqi and Afghan refugees as victims. Political affiliation amounted to 11% of all incidents. One incident involved religious belief and another one disability as grounds.

3.7 Victims and perpetrators

There were a minimum of 125 victims and 174 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.



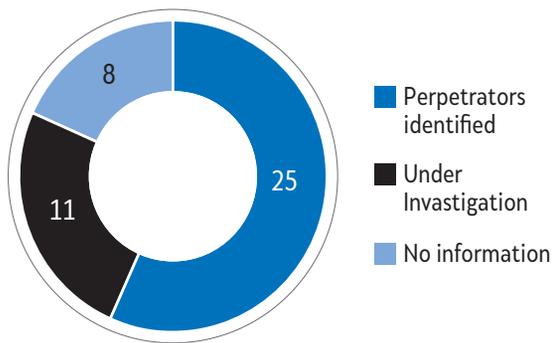
Whenever it was reported that a “group” of perpetrators committed a hate crime, the value used for this report was 3 persons. The youngest victim is 14 years old. In 34 out of the 44 incidents the perpetrators acted in a group. The majority of victims are refugees or migrants (almost 50% of all victims) and male juveniles with Macedonian citizenship. In most of the incidents involving refugees or migrants, media and the police did not provide details with regard to their citizenship. As of November 2015, not a single refugee of Syrian, Afghan, or Iraqi origin (SIA) was attacked or robbed. This is most probably due to the fact that as of that month only SIA citizens were deemed refugees, while all other foreign nationals arriving from Greece were considered “economic migrants”. SIA refugees were allowed entry in the Transit Centre for Refugees in the City of Gevgelija (temporary border crossing with Greece) and were transported by train to the Transit Centre for Refugees in the village of



Tabanovce (temporary border crossing with Serbia). Non-SIA citizens were not allowed to enter the country, but many (most of them Moroccans) did so through illegal passages.

3.8 Status of the cases

The police located suspected perpetrators connected to a minimum of 25 out of the 44 incidents. A minimum of other 11 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 the status of the case in 8 of the incidents. Out of the 5 incidents in which the bias motive is political affiliation, 4 are still under investigation. The incidents still under investigation involve victims who are either members or supporters of the opposition political parties. The single politically motivated incident in which

one perpetrator has been identified involves a victim, member of the ruling political party, VMRO-DPMNE. Criminal charges have been passed against perpetrator(s) with regard to 14 of the registered incidents by the police. Misdemeanor charges have been passed against perpetrator(s) in 4 incidents. Both criminal and misdemeanor charges have been passed in 1 incident, while for 2 of the incidents, the police found no grounds to press charges.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT TEAM

4.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media

MHC monitored 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 and www.daily.mk), as well as by using the advanced search options under the “News” section of www.google.com. Once a hate crime or an incident was recorded, MHC published it on the internet portal for reporting hate crimes – www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk (see activity 4.5 below). By conducting this activity, MHC recorded and published 44 hate crimes/incidents for the period between 1 January and 31 December 2015.

4.2 Providing free legal aid to victims

Unlike in 2013 and 2014 when MHC was both contacted by hate crime victims and had a chance to locate a number of victims by contacting media that have reported about an incident, in 2015 not a single victim addressed MHC for legal aid. However, MHC managed to locate two victims by contacting the cable TV broadcaster Shenja. Additionally, MHC continued to provide free legal aid to Mr. Kocho Andonovski (the first openly gay man in the country) who was attacked on the Main Square in Skopje while preparing for the Fifth March of Tolerance organized by MHC.

There are a number of reasons for the lower number of victims that received free legal aid services in 2015, as opposed to 2013-2014: 1) lower number of incidents; 2) big number of unknown perpetrators; 3) no victims approached MHC; 4) victims who are refugees and migrants left the country soon after an incident; 5) victims did not approach media; 6) possible fear of secondary victimization, and 7) previous lack of appropriate reaction by the institutions of the state. Faced with this problem and wishing to conduct this project activity (i.e. provide legal aid to victims in at least 3 incidents, as it was the case in 2013-2014 when legal aid was provided to victims in 10 incidents) MHC sent 78 incident-related requests for information to the Ministry of Interior, all courts, and all basic public prosecution offices in the country. This was also done with view of finding out whether any hate crime incidents are being investigated or being processed in court (see activity 4.3 below) so that MHC would be in a position to meet victims and offer its free legal aid services. However, due to privacy issues, the Ministry of Interior and the Public prosecution offices did not share personal information of the victims, while there was only one ongoing case in one court of the country. However, that case concerned proceedings against a perpetrator, with no victims in the case (for the criminal offence of causing national, racial or religious hate, discord or intolerance).

1. Members of the Vardar fan club “Komiti” attack Albanians from the village of Batinci

The first incident in which free legal aid was provided took place on the Main Square in Skopje on 9 August 2015. Following the end of the football match between FC Vardar and FC Shkupi, four

masked members of the fan club “Komiti” arrived at the Main Square where, at around 9:45pm, they physically attacked three juveniles hitting them with glass bottles, after which they left the square (for more details see Incident Nr. 25 in the Annex, or visit www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk where a separate article that includes pictures and a video can be found).

The incident was reported by the cable TV broadcaster Shenja, after which MHC contacted the TV, asked for the identity of the victims, and offered its free legal services. On 17 August 2015, contact was established with two of the victims who provided statements and medical documents. They stated that even though police officers were present at the square, they did not react to the incident. MHC prepared a complaint that was sent to the Sector for Internal Control within the Ministry of Interior. Beside explaining the details of the incidents and the inactivity of the police officers, MHC proposed that the video recordings from the cameras on the square be inspected with a view of identifying the perpetrators. The Sector replied that the police managed to obtain the video recordings and that the case was under investigation. On 27 September 2015, the Ministry of Interior on its website informed that 3 of the perpetrators were identified and arrested. All of them were minors at the age of 17. The Ministry of Interior lodged a criminal complaint to the Public prosecution office for the criminal offence “Violence”.

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

The second incident in which legal aid was offered took place on 17 November 2012. MHC organized the fifth “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. The judgment was pronounced in January 2015. The perpetrator was sentenced to 7-month imprisonment by the first instance court. However, given that the judgment did not specifically refer to Article 39 (5) of the Criminal Code (aggravating circumstances in sentencing due to a criminal offence being committed out of bias), MHC prepared an appeal which was sent to a higher court by the plaintiff and it also appealed the part that there was no obstruction of the public assembly in its name with a separate appeal. The higher court quashed the first instance decision ordering the trial to be repeated (for further details about the trial and the provision of free legal aid see activity 4.3 below).

4.3 Monitoring court cases on hate crimes and response by the judiciary

In order to carry out this activity, MHC sent information requests to the Ministry of Interior for almost every incident it recorded. Additionally, requests were sent for 11 other incidents that were deemed “suspicious” but no specific bias indicator could be established for them to be registered on www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk and incorporated in the Annex containing hate crime incidents. Out of the 47 requests sent to the Mol, MHC received answers to 45 of them. According to the replies, four incidents were recorded as misdemeanors. The replies by Mol in which it was stated that a criminal complaint was lodged, did not provide the number of the criminal complaint sent to the Public prosecution offices (see details in Annex). For a breakdown of the answers see “Status of the cases” below.

In May 2015, MHC sent information requests with regard to hate crime related incidents to all 31 national courts (26 basic, 4 appellate and the Supreme Court) that have a criminal jurisdiction

and to all 22 basic public prosecutor offices. The requests were sent by post. Courts and prosecutor offices were asked to provide information regarding the number of scheduled, ongoing, and finished proceedings in relation to hate crimes for the period between 1 March 2013 until the answer was provided (between 5 May and 13 July 2015).⁷ The requests were sent with regard to the following typical hate crimes, as specified in the Criminal Code:

1. Violation of citizens' equality (Article 137)
2. Exposure of the Macedonian people and nationalities to ridicule (Article 179)
3. Causing national, racial or religious hate, discord and intolerance (Article 319)
4. Spreading racist and xenophobic material via information system (Article 394-d)
5. Approving or justifying genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes (Article 407-a)
6. Racial or other discrimination (Article 417) and

7. Any other crime committed because of a person's national and social background, political and religious belief, material and social condition, sex, race or color of the skin (Article 39(5)).

In an average period of one month, all 31 courts and 22 public prosecutor offices sent their answers back to MHC. Below is a breakdown of the answers:

Requests sent:	53
Answers received:	53
Positive answers:	11 (4 basic courts, 1 appellate court, 6 PP offices)
Cases in the last 2 years:	42 (7 basic courts, 5 appellate court, 30 PP offices)
Finished cases:	32 (5 final verdict passed, 27 rejected by PP offices)
Ongoing cases:	4 (3 PP office/investigation, 1 basic court)

Positive replies were sent by the PP offices in Bitola, Gevgelija, Skopje, Struga, and Tetovo, the basic courts in Kichevo, Skopje, Struga, and the Appellate court in Gostivar.

Only a few courts shared details regarding the length and/or type of the imposed sentences. At the end of 2015, MHC sent additional requests to obtain all of the final verdicts in possession of the courts. Judgments and decisions were sent to MHC by all courts.

The Basic Court Skopje I provided one Decision KC-KP.6p.1427/13 for a case that involves an alleged victim, who is a transsexual person, of the criminal offence Violation of citizens' equality (Article 137, Criminal Code). The victim complained that the president of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination has violated her equality because he signed the decision adopted by the Commission, by which a complaint submitted by the alleged victim in 2011 was dismissed. After the criminal complaint lodged by the alleged victim to the Public Prosecution Office in Skopje was rejected (PPO considered that the criminal offence is not prosecuted ex-officio), the alleged victim continued the proceedings in front of the Basic court Skopje I through a subsidiary criminal lawsuit.

⁷) This activity was first performed in 2013. According to the answers received by the public prosecution offices and the courts for the period between 2009 and 2013, there was a total of 14 cases, 11 for which a verdict has been passed and 3 were ongoing (1 PP office/investigation, 2 appellate courts/appeal). At that time there were no scheduled cases, while the highest imposed sentence was 5-month imprisonment

The Court decided to reject the lawsuit arguing that the president has only signed the decision by the Commission, while the Commission was the body to adopt it after carefully considering the facts.

The Basic Court in Kichevo provided two decisions, K.6p.68/2013 and K.6p.54/2013. The case K.6p.68/2013 involves a perpetrator who has committed the criminal offence Exposure of the Macedonian people and nationalities to ridicule (Article 179, Criminal Code). The perpetrator, a citizen of Macedonian ethnic origin, in February 2013, while standing on his balcony, due to his mental condition – paranoid schizophrenia – started shouting “You are Shiptars, you are garbage, this is not yours, go away from here!” to a family of Albanian ethnic origin. A couple of days later, the perpetrator appeared in front of the door leading to the house of the same family and started shouting “Shiptars may not live here, Shiptars are dirty, leave the house because there is no place for Shiptars here, this is Macedonian land, if you do not leave I will burn your whole family”. According to the Basic Court in Kichevo, by acting so the perpetrator has committed the Exposure of the Macedonian people and nationalities to ridicule offence. The Court ordered a six-month security measure against the perpetrator, imposing mandatory treatment in a psychiatric institution. The case K.6p.54/2013 involves a criminal lawsuit lodged by an assistant medical doctor against four nurses. He claimed that they have committed more than 30 criminal offences. Given that many of those offences carried a sentence longer than 3 years, the Basic court in Kichevo forwarded the case to the Basic Court in Gostivar.

The Basic Court in Prilep provided one Judgment K.6p.110/13 for a case that involves a perpetrator, a Macedonian of Turkish origin, an employee in a primary school, who in November 2012 entered one of the offices of the school and was asked by four female teachers about their transportation to the school. He then replied by shouting “We will decide who will drive you!”. When one of the teachers asked him not to shout because they are in a teacher’s office, he shouted “Your office!? You lost the country, in four years, in the Municipality of Dolneni, no Macedonians will be here!”. The Basic Court in Prilep considered this to be a Racial or other discrimination (Article 417, Criminal Code). The court imposed a three-year suspended sentence that would not be executed if the perpetrator does not commit another criminal offence in a probation period of one year. Last, one case was still ongoing in front of the Basic Court in Struga. The case K.6p.227/14 involves a perpetrator charged with Causing national, racial or religious hate, discord and intolerance (Article 319, Criminal Code).

Due to the difficulties in obtaining data with regard to ongoing trials with regard to hate crimes (see explanation under activity 4.2 above) MHC was able to only finish its direct trial monitoring with regard to the incident during the “March of Tolerance” in Skopje in 2012. MHC was monitoring the trial K.br.1644/13 in Skopje. This trial involves sexual orientation as a ground on which the perpetrator attacked two NGO activists, one of which 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.

After 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 did not specifically refer to Article 39 (5) of the Criminal Code (aggravating circumstances in sentencing due to a criminal offence being committed out of bias) due to which reason MHC prepared an appeal that was sent to the higher court by the plaintiff as well as a separate appeal in MHC's name with regard to the obstruction of the public assembly. In December 2015 the higher court through its Judgment KK-990/15 quashed the first instance judgment and ordered the trial to be repeated. In its reasoning, inter alia, the higher court stated that the judgment is illegible and that the first instance court will have to address the issues raised in both of the appeals prepared by MHC.

4.4 Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to OSCE/ODIHR

Between 1 January and 31 December 2015, MHC registered 44 hate crimes/incidents. 31 incidents were verified, while 13 are still unverified. Ethnicity (16 incidents), the status of a refugee or migrant (21), and political affiliation (5 incidents) represent the great majority of grounds under which hate crimes were committed in 2015. Additionally, 7 incidents occurred during or after sport matches between teams supported by Macedonians and members of the Albanian community in the country. Victims and perpetrators are usually members of different ethnic backgrounds (Macedonian, Albanian, Moroccan, Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan) or supporters of the two biggest political parties in the country (SDSM and VMRO-DPMNE).

The majority of alleged criminal offences include: Violence (21), Robbery (20), Bodily and heavy bodily harm (17), and Damaging of other's property (6). 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 can be found in the Annex titled "Hate crime incidents in 2015" of this report. In the same Annex, there is a "biased indicators" field, which is incorporated in every separate incident. It includes data on: 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 of other motives; and Location and timing. Besides providing additional information with regard to the incidents, this section is especially useful for understanding why an unverified incident was included in the report.

4.5 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting

The web portal – www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com (as of 2014 accessible also under 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. In 2015 media continued using the portal as a credible source, using data and screenshots from it on their webpages.

In 2015, the Annual Report on Hate Crimes in the country in 2014 prepared by the MHC was uploaded to the portal in Macedonian, Albanian and English. During the reporting period, 44 incidents, over 10 pictures, 4 videos, and 1 resource document were uploaded to the portal. The definitions of certain crimes and the aggravating circumstances in sentencing were updated with the new hate

crime grounds introduced by the amendments of the Criminal Code in 2014 (see the Glossary section of the website). Additionally, the portal is now available in English and Albanian and most of the registered incidents and portal contents can be read in those languages as well.

4.6 Cooperation with civil society organizations for awareness raising

MHC responded to a call for participation in a European informal network on hate crime victims, led by RAA Sachsen, a German NGO working in the field of hate crime. Two workshops were organized in Berlin in March and May 2015. The topic of the workshops was “Guidelines and Support Standards for Victims of hate Crime in Europe”. A publication on the topic is expected in March 2016. In August 2015, a member of the project team held two lectures at the Youth Educational Forum Summer Academy in Skopje. The topic of the lectures was “Young People and the Police”. In December 2015, a member of the project team attended the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference in Belgrade during which time he held a presentation on the topic “Refugees, Victims of Hate Crime” in the country. The conference was attended by more than 100 NGO representatives from the OSCE region. Team members attended other conferences and events abroad (Montenegro and Croatia), and took part in trainings as lecturers for the judiciary (Skopje), and the police (Strumica). Additionally, MHC included a separate section on hate crimes in its monthly reports (for the months a considerable number of hate crimes have been registered) on the situation with human rights in the country which are distributed to state institutions, media, NGOs, international organizations, and foreign embassies in the country. Finally, MHC continued updating its hate crime awareness Facebook page (<http://goo.gl/8yY5Lk>) and the Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/HateCrimesMK>).

4.7 Awareness raising in high schools where hate incidents were registered

Together with the Institute for Human Rights and Peace from Caen, France, MHC organized a Youth Summer School in August 2015 in Ohrid. The special focus of the Summer School was on hate crime and hate speech in the country and France. Joint lectures by experts from the country and France were offered to 20 participants (10 from the country and 10 from France) at the age between 19 and 24 years. MHC had 5 reserved places for high school students who have studied in the schools in which most of the hate crimes were recorded between 2013 and 2015. 3 out of the 10 places were filled by candidates from the following such schools: Panche Karagiozov, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, and Arseni Jovkov

4.8 Working group on Hate Crime legislation amendments

The project coordinator became a member of the Working group on Hate Crime legislation amendments. Beside OSCE and MHC, the group was composed of representatives from the state institutions (Mol, MoJ, Basic public prosecutor’s office in Skopje, Appellate court in Skopje, Commission for protection from discrimination, and Macedonian Academy for Sciences and Arts), and representatives from academia and the NGO sector. Five meetings were held in the Macedonian Academy for Sciences and Arts, chaired by the president of the Academy. At the end of 2015, the draft-amendments were presented at a stakeholder-conference in the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors in Skopje. The work of the working group was praised and there was broad agreement between the representatives of the state institutions that such amendments are indeed necessary, especially with regard to the Criminal Code and the by-laws regulating the work of the police. A number of remarks and comments of the stakeholders with a view of improving the amendments

were accepted by the working group, and the amendments are now in their final draft version, ready to be proposed for adoption by the Parliament.

4.9 Marking of 22 July - the European Day for the Victims of Hate Crime

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, while the second event was organized as an in-kind contribution in the City Park in Skopje. It was organized for a second time after the first in 2014, and was titled “Turlitava 2 - It is tastier together”. The event 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).

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.
- The number of incidents between ethnic Macedonians and Albanians has fallen considerably as compared to 2013 and 2014.
- 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 still not properly reported or investigated by the police.
- Relevant practitioners have started receiving training regarding the identification and response to hate incidents through the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, with support of the OSCE Mission.
- 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 victims were refugees transiting through the country on their way to the European Union, but also the youths in the country.
- Hate crimes usually occur in a public place, or along the Pan-European Corridor X Highway.
- Some of the hate crimes are committed out of revenge or retribution for a previous incident between both the Macedonian and the Albanian youth.

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. These recommendations were given in the Annual Report on Hate Crime in 2014, but given that the State failed to implement them, they are repeated in this report as well.

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 2015

1. Migrants were robbed near Negotino (unverified)

What happened: Six migrants were robbed by unknown perpetrator, who took 100 EUR from them.

Date, time and location of the incident: January 3rd, time unspecified, village of Przdevo, Negotino.

Source of information: The electronic media Plusinfo.

Victim(s) involved: Six Afghan nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): One 55 y/o male perpetrator.

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 in ethnic background* – the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim are members of a group (Afghan migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against one person.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of ss entering and passing through the country.

2. Branch office of Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia (SDSM) stoned in Madzari, Skopje (verified)

What happened: Unknown perpetrators vandalized the branch office of the party, breaking the several windows. After the incident, around the premises several candles were lit.

Date, time and location of the incident: January 8th, early hours, Madzari, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Lokalno.

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 the bias indicators are:

1. *Target location* – Target is the branch office of the largest opposition party;

2. *Gestures at the scene* – After the incident the perpetrator/s lit several candles around the premises;

3. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Under investigation.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered 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.

3. Four Syrian nationals assaulted and robbed near Gradsko (verified)

What happened: On the road Gradsko – Veles, in the vicinity of the place called Venule, several unknown perpetrators have assaulted and robbed four Syrian nationals, taking them money, mobile telephones, and Syrian passports.

Date, time and location of the incident: January 21st, 16:30 hrs, on the road Gradsko – Veles, in the vicinity of the place called Venule.

Source of information: The electronic media Republika.

Victim(s) involved: Four Syrian nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of several perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background* – the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

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

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident. However, they reported via the media that they undertake the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

4. Stabbing in Mavrovka Trade Centre, Skopje (unverified)

What happened: Three unknown perpetrators assaulted three young men from the village of Arachinovo and one from Skopje, inflicting knife wounds. All four of them were taken to the hospital, where one victim was diagnosed with heavy bodily harm, and the other three with minor injuries.

Date, time and location of the incident: January 26th, 18:30 hrs, Mavrovka Trade Centre, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Plusinfo.

Victim(s) involved: Two 18 y/o and one 23 y/o males from Arachinovo, and one 21 y/o male from Skopje.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Endangerment with dangerous mean during fight or argument (Art.133 CCRM), Bodily harm (Art.130 CCRM), Heavily bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of three perpetrators.

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. *Pattern of previous incidents* – the incident occurred in an area where multiple hate crime incidents of violent assaults occurred in 2013 and 2014;

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

3. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that the case has been registered as Violence (Art,386

CCRM). However, when the case was clarified, MOI submitted eight criminal complaints for the criminal act of Participation in a fight (Art. 132 CCRM). This means that criminal complaints were filed against the victims as well.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

5. Fight and shooting in Aerodrom, 14 y/o boy injured (unverified)

What happened: Two unknown perpetrators assaulted two sixteen y/o and one fourteen y/o boys on a parking lot behind Kapitol Trade Centre. The victims managed to escape, but they got separated. The perpetrators followed and caught up with the 14 y/o boy, and assaulted him again. After he managed to escape for the second time, the perpetrators got back to the Kapitol TC and fired several shots in unknown direction. The 14 y/o boy was taken to hospital, where was diagnosed with bodily injuries.

Date, time and location of the incident: January 27th, 2015, municipality of Aerodrom, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Mkd.

Victim(s) involved: Two 16 y/o and one 14 y/o males from Skopje.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two unknown perpetrators.

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. *Possible difference in ethnic background between perpetrators and victims* – the incident occurred in an area populated predominately by Macedonians. However, the media reports that one 16 y/o boy was taken into Police custody, in the Police station Bit Pazar, which has jurisdiction over an area populated predominately by Albanians;
2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public;
3. *Lack of other motives.*

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

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that criminal charges against two perpetrators were submitted for the acts of Violence and Endangerment of safety.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

6. Members of Supporter's club Shverceri attacked fans of FC Skopje (verified)

What happened: After the football match between FC Shkupi and FC Skopje, ten members of the Supporter's club Shverceri (FC Shkupi) assaulted fans of FC Skopje. When the Police tried to detain one member of SC Shverceri, they were obstructed by another.

Date, time and location of the incident: February 28th, 16:00 hrs, Metalurg Stadium, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Plusinfo.

Victim(s) involved: Unknown number of fans of FC Skopje.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Obstruction of an official while conducting official matter (Art.382 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): A group of ten members of SC Shverceri.

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 in ethnic background* – the members of SC Shverceri are Albanians, while the fans of FC Skopje are predominately Macedonians;

2. *Timing* – the incident occurred after a football match between clubs with supporters / fans from different ethnic background, after a change in minority presence in the area (Albanian supporters in neighbourhood populated predominately by Macedonians);

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

4. *Lack of other motives*.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against two suspects for the act of Violence.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country and the safety of people present at sports matches.

7. Syrian national was attacked and robbed (unverified)

What happened: Syrian national was attacked by two unknown persons, who took 1.600 EUR from him. He was taken into hospital, where he was diagnosed with bodily injuries and kept for further treatment.

Date, time and location of the incident: March 17th, 19:45 hrs, Negotino.

Source of information: The electronic media Makfax.

Victim(s) involved: One Syrian national.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Bodily harm (Art.130 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of three perpetrators.

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:

2. *Difference in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

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

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

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

8. A group of young people assaulted three people in Tetovo (unverified)

What happened: A larger group of young people assaulted two high school students and a 26 y/o male in the yard of the elementary school “Andrea SavevskiKikish”, inflicting them with bodily injuries in the area of the neck and head.

Date, time and location of the incident: March 19th, 12:45 hrs, in the yard of the elementary school “Andrea SavevskiKikish”, Tetovo.

Source of information: The electronic media Lokalno.

Victim(s) involved: Three young people, two of which are minors.

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

Perpetrator(s): Unknown large group of young people.

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 in ethnic background* – the incident occurred in an area populated by people with mixed ethnic composition;
2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public;
3. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Misdemeanour charges passed.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) stated that misdemeanour charges were passed against six people.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

9. Vehicle of an activist of SDSM was burned in Bitola (unverified)

What happened: The vehicle of a known member and activist of the SDSM was set on fire.

Date, time and location of the incident: April 14th, 02:45 hrs. TodorDaskalo Street, Bitola.

Source of information: Web portal Dnevnik.

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 generic danger (Art.288 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* – according to a statement given for the media, the victim perceives this incident as bias motivated;
2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public;
3. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: The incident was reported to the authorities.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) stated 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.

10. Supporters of Football Club Shkupi attacked players of FC Vardar (youth) (verified)

What happened: Supporters of FC Shkupi-1927, assaulted players of FC Vardar (youth). The incident occurred after the football game when the supports jumped over the safety fence and assaulted the players while they were leaving the stadium.

Date, time and location of the incident: April 15th, 18:00 hrs, Chair Stadium, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Makfax.

Victim(s) involved: Unknown number of players of FC Vardar (youth).

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown number of supporters of FC Shkupi.

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 in ethnic background* – the supporters of FC Shkupi are Albanians, while the players of FC Vardar are predominately Macedonians;
2. *Timing* – the incident occurred after a football match between clubs with supporters / fans from different ethnic background, after a change in minority presence in the area (Albanian supporters in neighbourhood populated predominately by Macedonians);
3. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public;
4. *Lack of other motives*.

Status of the case: Misdemeanor charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted misdemeanour charges against two suspects, and against the legal entity responsible for safety during the game.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country and the safety of people present at sports matches.

11. Migrants attacked and robbed, one of them injured (verified)

What happened: Five people wearing camouflage military uniforms and masks assaulted and robbed a group of eighteen migrants. During the robbery, one of the assailants used a firearm, wounding one of the victims in the leg. The victims, however, managed to overpower the assailant with the firearm, took the weapon, and reported the case to the Police.

Date, time and location of the incident: April 16th, 01:00 hrs, village of Studenicani, near Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Kajgana.

Victim(s) involved: Eighteen migrants (nationality not specified) were attacked and robbed, one Syrian national was injured with a firearm.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Heavily bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM), Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of five perpetrators.

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:

2. *Difference in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges for the acts of Robbery and Unauthorized manufacture, holding, mediating or trading with weapons or explosive materials. The number of suspects is not specified.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

12. Another vehicle of an activist of SDSM was burned in Bitola (verified)

What happened: The vehicle of a known member and activist of the SDSM was set on fire.

Date, time and location of the incident: April 16th, 02:30 hrs. Mihajlo Andonovski Street, Bitola.

Source of information: National TV media 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), Causing generic danger (Art.288 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* – according to a statement given for the media, the victim perceives this incident as bias motivated;
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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they are taking the necessary measures for clarification of the incident.

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

13.The President of the youth branch of VMRO DPMNE in the municipality of Centar was kidnapped and beaten (unverified)

What happened: Three perpetrators driving in a vehicle assaulted five young people (among which was the President of the youth branch of VMRO DPMNE in the municipality of Centar). After four of them managed to run away, the assailants caught the President of the youth branch, continued beating him, forced him into the vehicle and drove him for a short period around the neighbourhood and took pictures of him in the vehicle.

Date, time and location of the incident: April 18th, 02:00 hrs. Municipality of Centar, Skopje.

Source of information: National electronic media Kurir.

Victim(s) involved: Five young people were assaulted, one of which was beaten more severely and illegally deprived of his freedom for a short period of time.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Illegal deprivation of freedom (Art.140 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Three males.

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. *Witness perception* – several media reported that the assailants were members and activists of SDSM;
2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public, photographs were made of the victim during the incident;
3. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Misdemeanour charges were pressed.

Response of local authorities: The MOI answered upon a Request for public information sent by the committee that three misdemeanor charges were pressed for the act of physical assault. Despite several media reporting that the MOI will submit criminal charges for the deprivation of freedom as well, to the moment of writing this report, the Committee has no such information.

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

14. Migrants assaulted with a knife (verified)

What happened: In the yard of the mosque, three people assaulted and robbed an Afghanistan national. The victim gained severe bodily harm and the assailants took his mobile telephone and approx. 400 EUR.

Date, time and location of the incident: May 15th, 02:00 hrs, the masque in the village of Lojane, Kumanovo.

Source of information: The electronic media Kumanovskimuabeti.

Victim(s) involved: One Afghan national.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Heavily bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM), Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Group of three perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Afghan migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against three suspects for the act of Robbery.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

15. Two Syrian nationals robbed in the City Park in Kumanovo (verified)

What happened: Five unknown perpetrators assaulted and robbed two Syrian nationals. The assailants took a wrist watch and 500 EUR.

Date, time and location of the incident: May 15th, 19:00 hrs, City Park, Kumanovo.

Source of information: The electronic media A1on.

Victim(s) involved: Two Syrian nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of five perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against five suspects for the act of Robbery.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

16. High School graduate attacked for waving the national flag (verified)

What happened: Several perpetrators assaulted a high school graduate and his friend, because they placed a national flag in the hall of the hotel Kontinental, where the student celebrated his graduation. After the celebration, the father of the graduate came to drive his son home. On the road, their vehicle

was first followed by a Mercedes vehicle. Short after, they were forcibly stopped by an Audi vehicle. From the Audi, several people came out with wooden bats and threatening to use a firearm, they damaged the vehicle. During the attack, three of the victims gained minor injuries from shattered glass.

Date, time and location of the incident: May 25th, 22:30 hrs, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media mkd-news.

Victim(s) involved: Four people in total – two of them attacked in hotel Kontinental, and another two when were driving one of the victim's car.

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

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of young people.

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 in ethnic background* – the incident occurred in an area populated by people with mixed ethnic composition;
2. *Presumed difference in ethnic background* – the victims were promoting their nationality (placing a flag) 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: Misdemeanor and criminal charges passed.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) stated that misdemeanor charges were passed against two people for the assault in front of the hotel, and criminal complaints are submitted against three people for the act of Violence for the latter incident.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

17. Syrian migrants assaulted and robbed near Gevgelija (verified)

What happened: Five Syrian nationals, after passing the border illegally, were assaulted by seven or eight unknown perpetrators in the village of Smokvica. The assailants took 1.000 EUR and three mobile telephones from the victims.

Date, time and location of the incident: May 28th, 01:30 hrs, village Smokvica, Gevgelija.

Source of information: The electronic media Kajgana.

Victim(s) involved: Five Syrian nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of 7-8 perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victims differ; the victims are members of a group (Syrian migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against seven suspects for the act of Robbery.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

18. Migrants kidnapped and held in Vaksince (verified)

What happened: In the village of Vaksince, a house was detected, where captured migrants are being held. A large number of people were held in several small, but overcrowded rooms. They weren't able to escape, due to the armed people that were securing the premises. A video footage was released, where one can notice how the "guards" beat the migrants. The migrants were forced to pay for their freedom, after which they were allowed to continue towards Serbia by foot.

Date, time and location of the incident: Unspecified period in May and June, village of Vaksince near Kumanovo.

Source of information: Channel 4 media, United Kingdom.

Victim(s) involved: Large number of migrants.

Type of the crime(s): Abduction (Art.141 CCRM), Violence (Art 386 CCRM), Bodily harm (Art. 130).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown large group of perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victims differ; the victims are members of a group (migrants of foreign descent) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian and Albanian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents*– this incident is the latest of a growing trend of bias motivated violence against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against four suspects for the act of Smuggling migrants (Art 418-b CCRM).

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

19. Incident on the basketball match between the youth teams of Feni Industry and Shkupi (verified)

What happened: After the first half of the game, when the second referee called a technical foul, all of the players and the assistant coach of BC Shkupi entered the court and wanted to assault the referee. The delegate of the Macedonian Basketball Federation terminated the game, and requested for Police officers to safely escort the referees in the locker rooms. During the incident, the players of Shkupi were throwing plastic bottles towards the audience. After the incident, all members of BC Shkupi were escorted to Skopje. However, another media reports that the Police, during the intervention injured two basketball players and one other Albanian boy. According to this media, over 200 fans of BC Feni expressed their anger by nationalistic and racial hate.

Date, time and location of the incident: June 9, 17:00 hrs, Kavadarci.

Source of information: The electronic media Sport365 and Zurnal.

Victim(s) involved: One Referee, possible victims among the players of Shkupi and their fans (by use of Police force).

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown number of supporters of BC Shkupi.

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 in ethnic background* – the supporters and most of the players of BC Shkupi are Albanians, while the players and fans of BC Feni Industry are predominately Macedonians;
2. *Timing* – the incident occurred after a basketball match between clubs with supporters / fans from different ethnic background, after a change in minority presence in the area (Albanian players and supporters in neighbourhood populated predominately by Macedonians);
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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that PS GJ Kavadarci contacted PS GJ Bit Pazar and asked to call the perpetrators and to issue misdemeanor charges. However, there is no information on whether the suspects were found or misdemeanor charges passed.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country and the safety of people present at sports matches.

20. Vehicle of an Vice-President of SDSM was vandalised in Skopje (unverified)

What happened: While the Vice-President of SDSM was participating in a debate, an unknown perpetrator/s vandalised her vehicle, slashing the tires with a sharp object. She reported the incident to the Police.

Date, time and location of the incident: June 22nd, 14:00hrs, municipality of Centar, Skopje.

Source of information: Web portal Fokus.

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. *Victim perception* – according to a statement given for the media, the victim perceives this incident as bias motivated;
2. *Timing* – the incident occurred while the victim was promoting the group she is politically affiliated with (participated in a live debate);
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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered 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.

21. Assaultants assaulted and robbed a migrant in Kumanovo (verified)

What happened: Two unknown persons offered a Syrian national a ride to Serbia. Soon after a third person joined them. Then one of the perpetrators pulled out a metal pipe and started hitting the

victim in the back, after which they stole his backpack that contained three mobile telephones and a larger amount of money (EUR and \$). Then, they left the victim on the road and went in a unknown direction.

Date, time and location of the incident: June 29th, 18:00 hrs, Karposhneighbourhood, Kumanovo.

Source of information: The electronic media Kumanovskimuabeti.

Victim(s) involved: One Syrian national.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Violence (Art.386 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of three perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background* – the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against unknown perpetrator for the act of Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

22. Syrian migrant robbed (verified)

What happened: One male stole two backpacks that belong to a Syrian national, while he was waiting to state his intention for seeking asylum.

Date, time and location of the incident: July 4th, 18:00, 13-14hrs, City Park, Gevgelija.

Source of information: Daily gazette of MOI.

Victim(s) involved: One Syrian national.

Type of the crime(s): Theft (Art.235 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): One male perpetrator.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of thefts, robberies and assaults against migrants.

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

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident. However, they reported via the media that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

23. 3000 EUR stolen from migrants (verified)

What happened: Four Iraqi nationals were intercepted by a vehicle with three people inside. The perpetrators robbed the victims under threat of firearm, taking approx. 3000 EUR.

Date, time and location of the incident: July 16thth, 03:45hrs, village of Negorci.

Source of information: The electronic media Makfax.

Victim(s) involved: Four Iraqi nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of three perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Iraqi migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against unknown perpetrator for the act of Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

24. Two migrants robbed in Gevgelija (verified)

What happened: Two migrants from Syria and Iraq were robbed by two unknown perpetrators in the vicinity of the Railroad Bridge in Gevgelija. The perpetrators took two mobile phones, approx. 800 EUR and their passports.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 2nd, 05:30hrs, in the vicinity of the Railroad Bridge in Gevgelija.

Source of information: The electronic media sky.mk.

Victim(s) involved: One Syrian, and one Iraqi national.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Two unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background* – the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian and Iraqi migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against unknown perpetrator for the act of Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

25. Members of Supporter's club Komiti attacked a group of people on "Macedonia" Square in Skopje (verified)

What happened: After the football match between FC Shkupi and FC Vardar, approx. twenty members of the Supporter's club Komiti (FC Vardar) assaulted a group of people on "Macedonia" Square, after saying that the Square is no place for Albanians, inflicting severe injuries on the victims

Date, time and location of the incident: August 9th, 21:00 hrs, "Macedonia" Square, Skopje.

Source of information: The media Alsat-M.

Victim(s) involved: Approx ten Albanian people, including women.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Heavy bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Approx. twenty members of SC Komiti.

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 in ethnic background* – the members of SC Komiti are Macedonians, while the victims are Albanians;
2. *Timing* – the incident occurred after a football match between clubs with supporters / fans from different ethnic background;
3. *Comments at the scene* – During the incident, the perpetrators stated that "Macedonia" Square is no place for Albanians.
4. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public;
5. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted against two perpetrators.

Response of local authorities: The MOI reported via the media that they have submitted criminal charges against two suspects for the act of Violence. Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they are undertaking the necessary measures for full clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country and the safety of people present at, or in vicinity of sports matches.

26. Members of Supporter's club Komiti attacked two Albanians that live in Belgium (unverified)

What happened: After the football match between FC Shkupi and FC Vardar, unknown number of members of the Supporter's club Komiti (FC Vardar) assaulted two Albanians that live in Belgium.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 9th, time unspecified (after 21:00 hrs), City Mall, Skopje.

Source of information: The media republika.

Victim(s) involved: Two Albanian males.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Heavy bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown number of members of SC Komiti.

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 in ethnic background* – the members of SC Komiti are Macedonians, while the victims are Albanians;
2. *Timing* – the incident occurred after a football match between clubs with supporters / fans from different ethnic background;

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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have no information for the specified case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country and the safety of people present at, or in vicinity of sports matches.

27. Two 17 y/o boys assaulted (unverified)

What happened: Unknown group of people assaulted two males, minors, without any motive or reason, inflicting injuries on their heads and bodies.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 12th, 00:10 hrs, Street Red Municipality, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media mkd.mk.

Victim(s) involved: Two males, minors.

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

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of people.

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 in ethnic background* – the incident occurred in an area populated by people with mixed ethnic composition;

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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted a Written report to the Public prosecutor.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

28. Two boys beaten near Trade Center Mavrovka (unverified)

What happened: A group of unknown perpetrators assaulted two boys without any motive or reason.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 12th, 01:00hrs, near Trade Center Mavrovka, Skopje.

Source of information: The media Telma.

Victim(s) involved: Two young people, one of which is minors.

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

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of young people.

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 in ethnic background* – the incident occurred in an area populated by people with mixed ethnic composition;

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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the

Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

29. Robbery in Gevgelija: Syrian migrants robbed by armed group (verified)

What happened: Two migrants from Syria were robbed by armed group of two men and a woman in Violeta Park in Gevgelija. The perpetrators took mobile phones and money.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 13nd, 04:00hrs, Violeta Park in Gevgelija.

Source of information: The media Sitel.

Victim(s) involved: Two Syrian nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Two unknown male and one female perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted against unknown perpetrators.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges against unknown perpetrators.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

30. Macedonian nationals, mistaken for Syrian migrants were assaulted (verified)

What happened: Two perpetrators from Veles attempted to rob two Macedonian minors, but stopped the robbery when the victims started talking in Macedonian language. Later, one of the perpetrators stole a bag from a Syrian national, after which started to run away. When he noted that a group of migrants were in pursuit, he fired one shot from a gas gun in the air.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 15th/16th, 11:30-04:00hrs, in Gevgelija.

Source of information: The electronic media telegraf.mk.

Victim(s) involved: One Syrian, and two Macedonian nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Armed robbery (Art.236 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Two male perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges for the act of Robbery (Art. 237 CCRM).

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

31. Migrant from Afghanistan beaten and robbed near Kumanovo (verified)

What happened: Migrant from Afghanistan was robbed by two armed male perpetrators. During the robbery, the assailants hit the victim in the head with a hand gun. The perpetrators took his backpack that contained 1200 EUR and two mobile phones.

Date, time and location of the incident: August 25th, 18:00hrs, Shupljikamen the vicinity of Kumanovo.

Source of information: The electronic media kumanovskimuabeti.

Victim(s) involved: One Afghan national.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Bodily Harm (Art. 130 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Two unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Afghan migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have submitted criminal charges for the act of Robbery (Art. 237 CCRM) against four perpetrators.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

32. A boy was stabbed near the Philip II monument in Skopje (verified)

What happened: A group of 4-5 unknown perpetrators assaulted three boys. One of the victims was stabbed with a knife. The Committee contacted the victims and confirmed that there wasn't any motive or reason for the attack, and that the assailants were Albanians, and the victim Macedonians.

Date, time and location of the incident: September 13th, 03:00hrs, Str. CrvenaOpstina, Skopje.

Source of information: The media Reporter, communication with the victims.

Victim(s) involved: Three young males.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Severe bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of 4-5 Albanian males.

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 victims perceive the incident as biasly motivated
2. *Difference in ethnic background* – the perpetrators were Albanians, and the victims Macedonians;
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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the

Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

33. Two boys beaten in front of high school in Gostivar (unverified)

What happened: A group of approx. 10 unknown perpetrators assaulted a 16 y/o boy in front of “ZivkoBrajkovski” high school in Gostivar. A 22 y/o male tried to interfere and defend the victim, but the assailants assaulted him as well. The 16 y/o had minor, and the 22 y/o had major injuries.

Date, time and location of the incident: September 15th, 21:00hrs, in front of “ZivkoBrajkovski” high school in Gostivar.

Source of information: The media Telma.

Victim(s) involved: Two young people, one of which is minor.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Bodily harm (Art.130 CCRM), Heavily bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of approx. 10 young people.

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 in ethnic background* – the incident occurred in an area populated by people with mixed ethnic composition;
2. *Nature of violence* – the incident was carried out in public;
3. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Misdemeanor charges pressed.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have pressed misdemeanor charges against three perpetrators.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

34. Two high school students beaten (unverified)

What happened: A group of approx. 15 unknown perpetrators assaulted two high school students at a bus station without any motive or reason. After the assault, the perpetrators got into a bus No. 55.

Date, time and location of the incident: October 2nd, 20:00hrs, bus station in the center of Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media localno.mk.

Victim(s) involved: Two minors.

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

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of approx. 15 young people.

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 in ethnic background* – after the incident, the perpetrators got into bus No.55, which transits in an area populated by people with mixed ethnic composition;
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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the

Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

35. Two migrants robbed at Tabanovce (verified)

What happened: Two migrants at Tabanovce were robbed by an armed group of unknown perpetrators that threaten them with guns and knives. The assailants took all of their personal belongings and money. The incident was witnessed by an observer from the MHC that was on the scene.

Date, time and location of the incident: November 1st, 22:00hrs, at Tabanovce border crossing area.

Source of information: Observer from the MHC.

Victim(s) involved: Two migrants of unknown ethnic origin.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Two unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (foreign migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

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

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have undertaken the necessary measures for clarification of the case, and that they have determined that the event took place behind the border line of RM, into territory of Republic of Serbia, and therefore, the MOI doesn't have jurisdiction in the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

36. Religious object demolished after protest in Kriva Palanka (verified)

What happened: After a massive protest in Kriva Palanka called "Against islamization of Kriva Palanka", in front of an Islamic religious object, a group of unknown perpetrators demolished the object leaving graffiti with Christian messages at the scene

Date, time and location of the incident: November 6th, time unknown, in Kriva Palanka.

Source of information: The electronic media faktor.mk.

Victim(s) involved: Except the material damage, there are no direct victims of 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):A group of unknown perpetrators.

Brief description of incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the religious belonging or belief, and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in religious background* – the religious background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the target is an Islamic religious object, and the perpetrators were Christians;
2. *Graffiti left at the scene* – the perpetrators left graffiti with Christian content at the scene;
3. *Pattern of previous events* – this incident followed a massive anti-Islamic protest;

4. *Lack of other motives.*

Status of the case: Under investigation.

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident. However, they reported via the media that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of different religious communities in the country.

37. Two Serbian nationals stabbed in Skopje Old Bazaar (verified)

What happened: Two Serbian nationals (supporters of Basketball Club Crvena Zvezda) were beaten and stabbed by a group of 15-20 Albanians in the Old Bazaar without any motive or reason.

Date, time and location of the incident: November 9th, 21:00hrs, in the Old Bazaar in Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media Telegraf.rs.

Victim(s) involved: Two Serbian national.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Heavily bodily harm (Art.131 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of 15-20 Albanian males.

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 in ethnic background* – the victims are Serbians, and the perpetrators Albanians;
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: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the different communities in the country and the safety of foreign tourists.

38. Two Moroccans robbed near Katlanovo (verified)

What happened: Two migrants from Morocco were robbed by three unknown armed perpetrators in the vicinity of Katlanovo. The perpetrators took approx. 300 EUR and two passports.

Date, time and location of the incident: November 22nd, 19:40hrs, in the vicinity of Katlanovo, near Skopje.

Source of information: The electronic media makfax.com.

Victim(s) involved: Two Moroccan nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Three unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background* – the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Moroccan migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Investigation stopped.

Response of local authorities: Answering upon a Request for information of public character, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) answered that they have clarified the case and decided not to press charges due to the different statements from victims.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

39. Migrants attacked near Gevgelija (verified)

What happened: Two migrants from Morocco were assaulted and robbed by seven unknown perpetrators in the vicinity of Gevgelija. The perpetrators intercepted the victims with two vehicles, presented themselves as police officers, and started beating them and robbed them taking 400 EUR.

Date, time and location of the incident: December 3rd, 08:00hrs, in the vicinity of Gevgelija.

Source of information: Field observer of MHC.

Victim(s) involved: Two Moroccan nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM) Bodily harm (Art.130 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Seven unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Moroccan migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

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

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

40. Three people presenting as police officers robbed two migrants near Gevgelija (verified)

What happened: Two migrants from Morocco were beaten and robbed by three unknown perpetrators in the vicinity of village Smokvica, Gevgelija. The perpetrators presented themselves as police officers, and started beating them with baseball bats, threatening with stun guns and robbed them taking 600 EUR and two mobile phones.

Date, time and location of the incident: December 7th, 22:00hrs, in the vicinity of village Smokvica, Gevgelija.

Source of information: The electronic media kumanovskimuabeti.

Victim(s) involved: Two Moroccan nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM), Bodily harm (Art.130 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Three unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Syrian migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Criminal charges submitted.

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident. However, they reported via the media that they have submitted criminal charges.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

41. Group fight in bus No.64 (verified)

What happened: A group of approx. 10 people got into a fight in a public bus No.64. According to eyewitnesses, in the fight participated two groups, Macedonians and Albanians. The Police intervened and took the participants into custody

Date, time and location of the incident: December 15th, 20:00hrs, bus No.64, Karposh 1, Skopje.

Source of information: The electronicmediaPlusinfo.mk.

Victim(s) involved: Unknown group of young people.

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

Perpetrator(s): Unknown group of young people.

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 in ethnic background* –according to eyewitnesses, in the fight participated two groups, Macedonians and Albanians;

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

Status of the case: Unknown.

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the ethnic coexistence between the two major communities in the country.

42. A person with disability beaten and robbed (verified)

What happened: A taxi driver, after picking up a passenger with disability called two friends and forced the victim to buy them drinks, to smoke marijuana and beat and robbed him, taking 6500 MKD.

Date, time and location of the incident: December 22nd, time unknown, near village of Orizari, Kocani.

Source of information: The media Sitel.

Victim(s) involved: One male with disability.

Type of the crime(s): Violence (Art.386 CCRM), Bodily harm (Art.130 CCRM), Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Three males.

Brief description of incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the disability of the victim, and the bias indicator is:

1. *Nature of violence* – the incident occurred when the taxi driver noticed that the victim was a person with disability, and called the two other perpetrators;

Status of the case: Reported to the local authorities, status unknown.

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon

the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of people with disability in the area.

43. Three Moroccans robbed near village of Grciste, Valandovo (verified)

What happened: Three migrants from Morocco were robbed by five unknown armed perpetrators in the vicinity of village Grciste, Valandovo. At first, one person offered to drive them to the border for a compensation of 130 EUR, after which, four others approached and under the threat of firearm, took their backpacks and a mobile telephone.

Date, time and location of the incident: December 25th, 08:00hrs, in the vicinity of village Grciste, Valandovo.

Source of information: The electronic media makfax.com.

Victim(s) involved: Three Moroccan nationals.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Five unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Moroccan migrants) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Case reported to local authorities, status unknown.

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

44. Migrant from Morocco robbed near village of Grciste, Valandovo (verified)

What happened: One migrant from Morocco was robbed by two unknown perpetrators in the vicinity of village Grciste, Valandovo. At first, the perpetrators offered to drive him to the border, after which, they hit him in the head in the vehicle and asked for money, taking 400 EUR.

Date, time and location of the incident: December 25th, 13:00hrs, in the vicinity of village Grciste, Valandovo.

Source of information: The electronic media makfax.com.

Victim(s) involved: One Moroccan national.

Type of the crime(s): Robbery (Art.237 CCRM).

Perpetrator(s): Two unknown perpetrators.

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 in ethnic background*– the ethnic background of the perpetrators and the victim differ; the victim is a member of a group (Moroccan migrant) that is overwhelmingly outnumbered by members of another group (Macedonian population) in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest of a growing trend of robberies and assaults against migrants.

Status of the case: Under investigation.

Response of local authorities: To the moment of writing this report, the MOI hasn't answered upon the Request for public information that the Committee has sent in relation to this incident. However, they reported via the media that they are undertaking the necessary measures for clarification of the case.

Impact on the victim(s) and the community: This incident puts into question the safety of migrants entering and passing through the country.

