

# ANNUAL REPORT ON HATE CRIME

IN 2016

HATE  
CRIMES



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# CONTENTS

<b>1. ABOUT THE PROJECT</b> .....	<b>118</b>
<b>2. METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>119</b>
2.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media .....	119
2.2 Providing free legal aid to victims .....	119
2.3 Monitoring court cases on hate crimes .....	119
2.4 Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to the OSCE Mission to Skopje .....	120
2.5 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting .....	120
<b>3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>121</b>
3.1 Background .....	121
3.2 Number of incidents .....	121
3.3 Types of crimes .....	122
3.4 Incidents by location .....	123
3.5 Incidents by month .....	124
3.6 Incidents by biased motivation .....	124
3.7 Victims and perpetrators .....	124
3.8 Status of the cases .....	125
<b>4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT TEAM</b> .....	<b>126</b>
4.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media .....	126
4.2 Providing free legal aid to victims of hate crimes and monitoring trials .....	126
4.3 Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents to OSCE/ODIHR .....	127
4.4 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting .....	128
4.5 Contribution to 8 police-training workshops .....	128
4.6 Marking of 22 July – European Day for the Victims of Hate Crime .....	128
<b>5. CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>129</b>
<b>6. RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>130</b>
<b>ANNEX I</b> .....	<b>131</b>
Hate Crime Incidents in 2016 .....	131

# 1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

This report is the outcome of the “Enabling effective response against 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 2016. The Project’s overall goal was to contribute to the development of effective and sustainable rule of law mechanisms and a legal system that protects the rights of all citizens. To that end, the OSCE continued to assist the national stakeholders in adopting and implementing the designed improvements to the hate crime and hate speech legislation, advanced the capacities of relevant institutions and civil society organizations to tackle these phenomena, raised greater awareness among the general and the expert public on the consequences of bias incidents, and expanded the regional academic exchange.

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

1. Continued monitoring incidents/hate crimes with special attention to sports violence with bias motivation;
2. Provided free legal aid to victims of hate crimes and monitored trials;
3. Reviewed reported hate cases and contributed to the ODIHR Annual Report on hate crimes and incidents in the OSCE Region for 2015;
4. Maintained, updated and translated the website [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk);
5. Contributed to 8 workshops on addressing hate crimes by presenting its monitoring findings and techniques, organized by the Police Development Unit of the OSCE Mission; and
6. Marked the proposed Day of Victims of Hate Crimes - 22nd July by organizing a press conference and organized the “Turlitava” No. 3 event

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Monitoring national printed and electronic media

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

### 2.2 Providing free legal aid to victims

Whenever an alleged victim was identified and contact was established, MHC offered its free legal aid services. Meetings were arranged with the victim or his/her family. Meetings took place either in the office of the MHC or at a location proposed by the victim. During the meeting, an interview was conducted. In cases in which an incident/crime was alleged, a written statement was taken and the victim was asked to fill in a standard request for free legal aid. Additionally, victims were also asked to enclose copies of the documents relevant for their case. Support was offered in empowering victims through encouragement, accompanying them to the police stations, reporting the criminal offence, finding an attorney at law who would represent them free of charge, 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 regarding hate crimes and 2) following information received by the courts regarding scheduled and ongoing trials relating to hate crimes. Prior to the MHC's observer conducting 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 the 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 the 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 from being able to follow hate crime incidents online after they occur, the OSCE Mission to Skopje received one interim and one final report prepared by the MHC. This annual 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.zlostorstvaodomezna.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomezna.mk) is an interactive tool enabling citizens to receive information on and report 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 are provided. Besides being available in Macedonian, the portal is also accessible in English and Albanian.

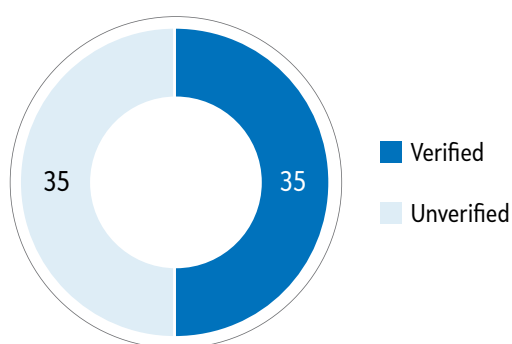
## 3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS

### 3.1 Background

ODIHR's 2015 hate crime reporting internet portal shows that the country has sent statistics on 5 hate crimes reported by the police, 3 of which were prosecuted, while for 2 there was a sentence. However, ODIHR observed that "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not reported on hate crimes separately from cases of hate speech."<sup>1</sup> The EU Commission 2016 Progress Report on the country states that "There is no systematic data collection in place on the reporting, investigation and prosecution of hate speech and hate crime. Data collected by civil society shows such crimes are not adequately pursued by the authorities."<sup>2</sup> In 2014, MHC published a special analysis on hate crimes registered in 2013.<sup>3</sup> That analysis, together with the annual reports on hate crime in the country for 2014 and 2015,<sup>4</sup> this report, and the web portal for hate crimes reporting – [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk), represent the first and most comprehensive 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 2016, a total of 70 hate crimes and incidents were registered. Most of the incidents were registered once they were reported by media or the Ministry of Interior, while 3 of the incidents were reported by MHC's observers. 35 incidents were verified



by means of contact with the police, police bulletins, media reporting, and meetings with victims. 35 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, bus lines used by members of different ethnic communities, places where a hate crime has already occurred in the

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

2) European Commission, 2016 Progress report for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Brussels, 9 November 2015, pg. 61.

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

4) Available at: <http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk/page/index/2>

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 (verified are marked with a green text-button, while the unverified with a red text-button). In Annex I of this report, following the titles of the incidents the verified/unverified status is indicated in brackets.

Compared to the hate crimes registered in 2015, there was a 60% increase in incidents in 2016 (44/70). The biggest change involves the political affiliation or belief as a biased motivation due to which hate crimes were committed. The increase of these types of hate crimes from 2015 to 2016 is 320% (5/21). Compared to the incidents registered in 2013 and 2014, the biggest change in 2015 and 2016 is regarding the victims, a great number of which are migrants and refugees. At the end of 2014 and during 2015 and 2016, the country witnessed an unprecedented number of refugees transiting through the country in an attempt to enter the EU Schengen zone. 11 out of the 70 incidents in 2016 involved an attack and robbery of refugees and migrants during their transit through the country. During these incidents, at least 31 (almost 35% of all recorded victims) Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi and Moroccan citizens fell victims of a hate crime.

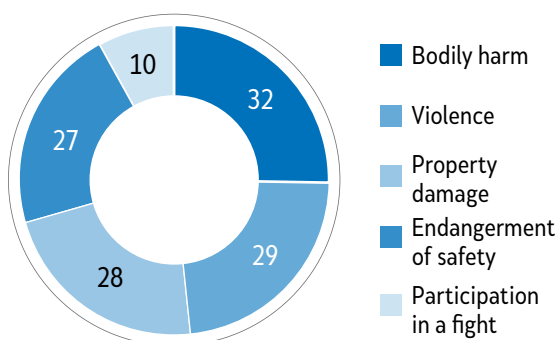
Another striking difference between 2013 and 2014 as compared to 2015 and 2016 is the fact that in 2015 and 2016 not a single hate crime incident due to the sexual orientation/gender identity of the victim was registered. This fact does not necessarily mean that the society has become more tolerant towards 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 not a single perpetrator was arrested by the police. 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 failed attempt in 2015 of the Government to constitutionally define marriage as a community between a man and women only, has had a negative effect on the LGBT people who might be afraid to report crimes committed against them.

The last 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). In 2015 only 34% such incidents (15 out of 44) occurred. During 2016, 34 incidents (almost 50%) occurred between Macedonians and Albanians. The falling trend between 2013 and 2015 changed in 2016. Even though less frequent than in 2013 and 2014, these incidents were the most worrying in 2016, as was the case in the past.

### 3.3 Types of crimes

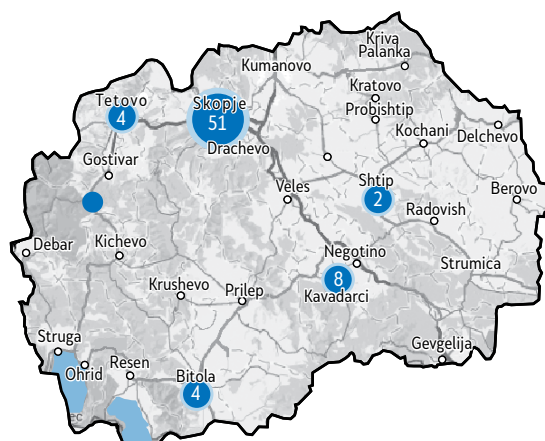
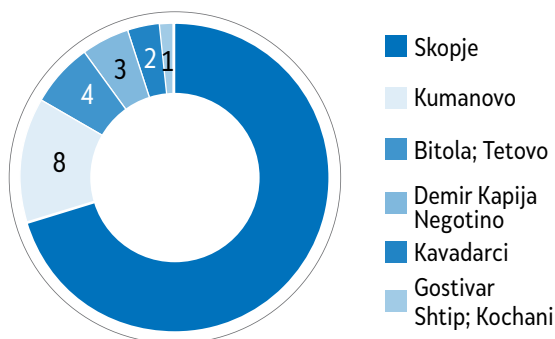
The majority of crimes were committed by youngsters, vandals, and robbers. Victims and perpetrators are usually members of different ethnic backgrounds (Macedonian and Albanian), while many victims are of Moroccan, Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan ethnic background. The registered incidents were linked to the alleged criminal offense as prescribed by the Criminal Code of the country. Most alleged criminal offences include: Bodily harm, including severe bodily harm (32), Violence (29), Property damage (28),



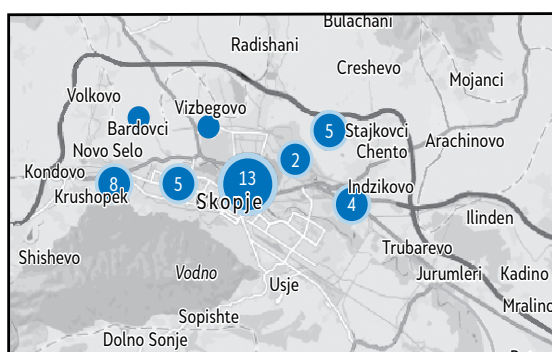


Endangerment of safety (27), Participation in a fight (10), and Robbery, including armed robbery (9). Additionally, 24 of the incidents fall under the Incitement of hate, discord and intolerance on national, racial, religious or other discriminatory ground and 1 incident falls under racial discrimination. Often the criminal offences 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



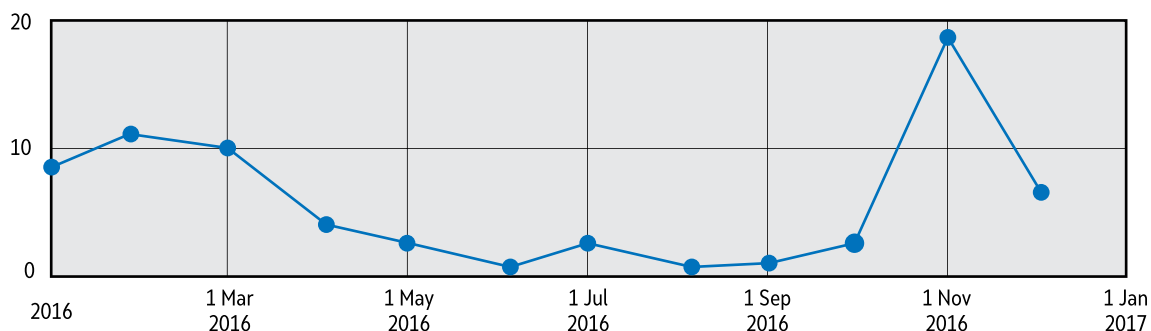
43 of the incidents (70%) occurred in Skopje and its metropolitan area. There were 8 incidents in Kumanovo, 4 in Bitola and Tetovo, 3 in Demir Kapija and Negotino, 2 in Kavadarci, and 1 in Gostivar, Shtip, and Kochani (location based on the metropolitan area of cities).



Many cities in which the incidents occurred are located alongside the Pan-European Corridor X. Incidents took place near the highway used by refugees on their route to the EU.

In Skopje, incidents involve attacks between members of the Macedonian and Albanian ethnic communities and damaging of property of political parties. These incidents were recorded in the municipalities of Chair (8), Gyorche Petrov (7), Karposh (6), Kisela Voda (4), Centar and Butel (3), Arachinovo (2), and Aerodrom, Chucher Sandevo, and Saraj (1).

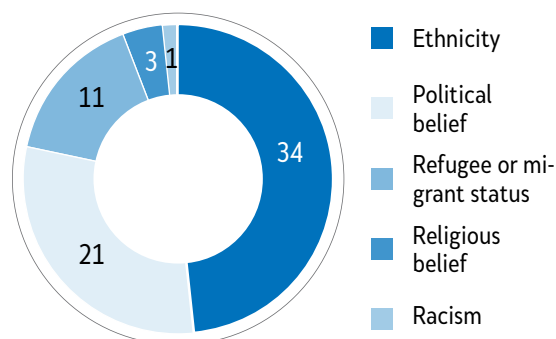
### 3.5 Incidents by month



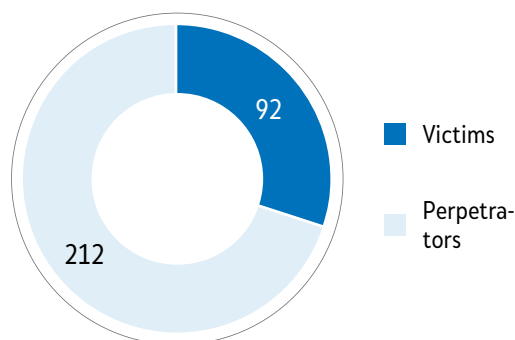
November was the month during which the biggest number of incidents occurred – 18 (26% of all incidents during the year). There were 12 incidents in February and 10 in March. 2 incidents were registered in October, and there was only 1 registered incident in June, August, and September. The reason for the sharp increase in incidents in February, March, and November was the political crisis accompanied by escalating levels of hate speech, and the scheduled and later postponed (for April then June) Early Elections in 2016 that ultimately took place in December.

### 3.6 Incidents by biased motivation

Hate crimes occurred due to ethnelical belonging (46%), political affiliation (33%), status of a refugee or migrant of the victim (16%), religious affiliation (4%), and racism (1%). Almost all incidents involve ethnic Macedonians and Albanians as both victims and perpetrators, and refugees and migrants as victims.



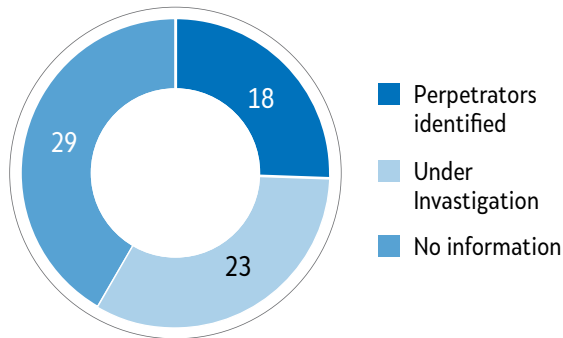
### 3.7 Victims and perpetrators



There were a minimum of 92 victims and 212 perpetrators of hate crimes during 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 clear majority of victims are male juveniles and refugees or migrants. At least 26 of the victims were juveniles and 31 were migrants. Most of the migrant victims were of Moroccan origin (15). At least 28 of the perpetrators were juveniles.

### 3.8 Status of the cases

For every incident that it recorded, MHC sent an information request to the Ministry of Interior to inquire about the status of the case. The last requests, including follow up requests were sent



in January 2017 and were received during February and March 2017. At the time this report was completed, the Ministry provided information for 65 out of the 70 incidents. The police located suspected perpetrators connected to a minimum of 18 out of the 70 incidents for which it provided information. A minimum of 29 other incidents were reported to the police and were under investigation. The police informed that they have not registered and were unaware of

8 of the incidents recorded by MHC. Criminal charges have been passed against perpetrators in 13 incidents, 2 of which against an unknown perpetrator. Misdemeanor charges have been passed against perpetrators in 7 incidents

## 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](http://www.time.mk) and [www.daily.mk](http://www.daily.mk)), as well as by using the advanced search options under the “News” section of [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). Once a hate crime or an incident was recorded, MHC published it on the internet portal for reporting hate crimes – [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk) (see activity 4.4 below). By conducting this activity, MHC recorded and published 70 hate crimes/incidents for the period between 1 January and 31 December 2016.

### 4.2 Providing free legal aid to victims of hate crimes and monitoring trials

Unlike in 2013 and 2014 when MHC was both contacted by hate crime victims and had a chance to locate victims by contacting media that have reported about an incident, this was not the case in 2016. There are several reasons for this: 1) lower number of incidents; 2) big number of unknown perpetrators; 3) smaller number of victims approached MHC; 4) victims who are refugees and migrants left the country soon after an incident; 5) victims did not approach media; and 6) MHC’s research in 2015 showed that there is only one pending hate crime case in all the courts in the country.

Legal aid was provided to 11 refugees and migrants from Syria and Morocco. The first incident took place on 15 January 2016 in the vicinity of the village of Rechica, near Kumanovo (see incident number 6 in Annex I). While travelling to the Temporary Centre for Refugees in Tabanovce, Kumanovo, a local observer of the MHC (engaged in another project with regard to monitoring the situation with the refugee crisis) noticed 8 migrants of Moroccan origin who were previously threatened with a gun, attacked with knives and robbed by a group of three unknown perpetrators. The local observer accompanied the victims to the police station in Kumanovo and reported the case with all details that were known about the perpetrators. The police station in Kumanovo claimed that the case is under investigation, however in MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that such incident has not been reported to SIA Kumanovo.

The second incident took place on 26 April 2016 and involved a refugee victim from Syria who was attacked on the way from the Temporary Centre for Refugees in Tabanovce to the village of Vaksince (see incident number 32 in Annex I). The refugee was attacked and robbed by an unknown group of perpetrators after which he returned to the Centre in Tabanovce. Once in the Centre, he addressed MHC’s local observer on shift in the Centre who brought him to the police officers in the Centre where the crime was reported and registered. In May 2016 police investigation was ongoing with the perpetrators still on the loose.

The third incident took place on 12 August 2016 and involved two refugees from Syria who were on the way from the village of Vaksince to the Temporary Centre for Refugees in Tabanovce (see incident number 42 in Annex I). Both were attacked by five unknown perpetrators, one suffered an injury caused by a knife. Once in the Centre, the refugees addressed the Red Cross and MHC's local observer on shift who brought them to the police officers in the Centre who registered the crime. In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event by two persons from Syria who were placed in TC Tabanovce, measures were taken by police officers from SIA Kumanovo, and thus it was established that there was a violation of the public peace and order with a "Physical attack". The Public Prosecutor of PPO Kumanovo was notified and measures were being taken for resolving the incident.

Regarding trial monitoring, in May 2015, MHC received answers to its information requests from all 26 basic courts in the country about hate crime related trials that are ongoing.<sup>5</sup> Only one trial was ongoing in the Basic Court in Struga involving a hate crime (Causing national, racial or religious hate, discord or intolerance) registered by MHC in August 2013. The crime concerns one defendant, a member of the Islamic religious community, who was charged because of his illegal activities connected to interrupting the local population in building a church.<sup>6</sup> Allegedly, the defendant interrupted a judge that was already on the spot, performing a judicial inspection in relation to a case of the Orthodox Church 'St. Atanasija' against the Municipality of Struga. The defendant loudly addressed a group of assembled citizens, telling them that the village is Muslim and therefore it is no place for Christians, supposedly causing sense of religious hatred among the witnesses and the other attendees. The case was reported by the judge at the Basic Court in Struga, present on the spot. In March 2017, MHC received an answer to its request for information – the final judgment – from the Basic Court in Struga. The defendant was found guilty and a suspended sentence of one-year imprisonment was imposed. It will not be executed if the defendant does not commit another crime in the following two years.

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

Between 1 January and 31 December 2016, MHC registered 70 hate crimes/incidents. 35 incidents were verified, while 35 are still unverified. Ethnicity (34 incidents), political affiliation or political belief (21 incidents), and refugee or migrant status (11 incidents) represent the great majority of grounds under which hate crimes were committed in 2016. Additionally, 3 incidents occurred due to religious affiliation or religious beliefs, and 1 incident amounted to racial discrimination. 1 of the incidents took place during a sport match while 24 of the incidents fulfilled the criteria of the "causing national, racial or religious hate, discord or intolerance" criminal offence. The alleged victims and perpetrators are usually members of different ethnic backgrounds (Macedonian, Albanian, Moroccan, and Syrian) or supporters of the two biggest political parties in the country (SDSM and VMRO-DPMNE) or their coalition partners.

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

5) Annual Report on Hate Crime in 2015, pg. 105. Available at: [http://www.mhc.org.mk/system/uploads/redactor\\_assets/documents/2017/ZLORSTVA\\_OD\\_OMRAZA\\_2015\\_EN.pdf](http://www.mhc.org.mk/system/uploads/redactor_assets/documents/2017/ZLORSTVA_OD_OMRAZA_2015_EN.pdf)

6) For more details, see Annual Report on Hate Crime in 2013, Annex I, Incident No. 59, pg. 49. Available at: [http://www.mhc.org.mk/system/uploads/redactor\\_assets/documents/692/HATE\\_CRIMES\\_MACEDONIA\\_-\\_ANNUAL\\_REPORT\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mhc.org.mk/system/uploads/redactor_assets/documents/692/HATE_CRIMES_MACEDONIA_-_ANNUAL_REPORT_2013.pdf)

on the victim(s) and the community can be found in Annex I of this report titled “Hate crime incidents in 2016”. 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 about the incidents, this section is especially useful for understanding why an unverified incident was included in the report.

In April 2016 MHC sent its Annual Report on Hate Crimes for 2015 to ODIHR. In November 2016 ODIHR published a summary of 34 reported incidents and included it on its Hate Crime Reporting website.<sup>7</sup> MHC remains the only organization that informs ODIHR of the situation with hate crime in the country.

#### **4.4 Maintaining an interactive website for hate crimes reporting**

The web portal – [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com) (as of 2014 accessible also under [www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk](http://www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk)) is an interactive tool enabling citizens to receive information on and report 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 are provided. Both the Facebook group and the Twitter account were updated periodically.

During the reporting period, 70 incidents, 24 pictures, and 2 videos were uploaded to the portal. The Annual Report on Hate Crimes in 2015 was uploaded in Macedonian, Albanian, and English under the “Resources” tab. All the incidents that were registered in 2015 were translated into Albanian and English and are now available on the portal in these languages as well.

#### **4.5 Contribution to 8 police-training workshops**

The workshops were held in the 8 geographical regions of the country during the project reporting period. Project team members Voislav Stojanovski and Pavle Bogoevski contributed by giving a presentation of the main project findings between 2013 and 2016 and discussing hate crime incidents with more than 200 high ranking police officers.

#### **4.6 Marking of 22 July – 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 in the City Park in Skopje. It was organized for a third time after the first in 2014, and was titled “Turlitava 3 - 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). A solid number of media representatives attended both the press-conference and the cultural event and reported about the messages of tolerance sent by the participants.

<sup>7</sup> <http://hatecrime.osce.org/former-yugoslav-republic-macedonia>

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- There was a 60% rise in the number of incidents in 2016 compared to 2015.
- The State has made the first steps in collecting data on hate crimes, however this is not publicly available and it is unclear whether authorities know the difference between hate crime and hate speech.
- Refugees and migrants transiting through the territory of the country are at great risk of falling victim to hate crime.
- Following the fall in the number of incidents involving members of the Macedonian and Albanian ethnic communities in 2015, the number of these incidents rose again in 2016.
- Some of the hate crimes are committed out of revenge or retribution for a previous incident between both the Macedonian and the Albanian youth.
- Most of the incidents take place in the City of Skopje, but also alongside the Pan-European Corridor X, near the highway used by refugees and migrants on their way to the European Union.
- Political parties often use hate speech during public debates and during election campaigns that results in hate crime being committed by their supporters.
- Bias motivated crimes are still not properly reported or investigated by the police.
- Very little efforts have been made for preventive measures including human rights education and raising awareness among the public.
- By not treating the hate crime phenomena as a separate issue, the State does not offer special protection and support to victims.
- 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 demonstrates a lack of public trust in the system.
- The majority of victims were juveniles as well as refugees transiting through the country on their way to the European Union

## 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.<sup>8</sup> As a country aspiring to join the EU, it should follow the recommendations contained in the Conclusions which are broadly in line with the recommendations contained in the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 9/09: Combating Hate Crimes, and the view of the MHC:

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

<sup>8</sup> Available at: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/139949.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/139949.pdf)



# ANNEX I

## HATE CRIME INCIDENTS IN 2016

### 1. Moroccans robbed near Demir Kapija (verified)

**What happened:** Two Moroccan migrants were robbed near Demir Kapija by three unknown persons who intercepted them and threatened their lives, after which they stole 1,750 euros and a mobile phone.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 6 January, around 13:30, near Demir Kapija

**Source of information:** Daily newspaper "Utrinski Vesnik".

**Victim(s) involved:** Two Moroccan people.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** 3 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Moroccan migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Not registered.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that such a criminal offence had not been registered in the area of SIA Veles.

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

### 2. A group of Moroccan migrants attacked (verified)

**What happened:** Three Moroccan nationals were robbed near Demir Kapija by three unknown persons who threatened them with a gun and robbed them of 900 euros.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 6 January, around 20:00, near Demir Kapija

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Three Moroccans.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC of), Burglary (Article 236, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** 3 unknown perpetrators

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Moroccan migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Not registered.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that such a criminal offence had not been registered in the area of SIA Veles.

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

### 3. Moroccans tortured with a baseball bat and electro shocks (verified)

**What happened:** Near Skopje, at a railway station outside the city, two Moroccan migrants were tortured by three unknown persons with baseball bats and electric shocks after they robbed them of 300 euros, passports and a "Sony" mobile phone.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 7 January, at 13:15, at a railway station near Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two Moroccans.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC), Violence (Article 386, CC), Burglary (Article 236, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** 3 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Moroccan migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the incident, the Public Prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Kumanovo was informed about the incident and a record was made of the reported incident which was sent via official mail to SIA Skopje for further investigation.

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

### 4. Moroccans attacked near Kumanovo (verified)

**What happened:** Two migrants, Moroccan nationals, who had been attacked the previous day near Skopje, were yet again attacked near Kumanovo and physically assaulted by two persons who were driving them in a PMV, after which one of the victims managed to escape and the other one was attacked with fists and sustained visible physical injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 8 January, at 23:50, near Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium "Kumanovski muabeti".

**Victim(s) involved:** Two Moroccans

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily Injury (Article 130, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** 2 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Moroccan migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the incident, the Public Prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Kumanovo was informed about the incident and a record was opened on the reported incident, which was sent via official mail to SIA Kumanovo for further investigation.

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

## 5. An attempt to burn a church in Saraj (verified)

**What happened:** An unknown person using flammable liquid caused a fire in the church "Sv.Zlata Meglenska" in Saraj, Skopje, thereby igniting and destroying the front door of the church.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 14 January, around 2 o'clock after midnight, in the Municipality of Saraj, Skopje

**Source of information:** Daily newspaper "Dnevnik".

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown perpetrator

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

1. *Location of the incident* – an Orthodox Christian Church in a predominantly Albanian environment.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted a report on the inspection of the crime scene to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Skopje.

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

## 6. Migrants from Morocco attacked and robbed near the village of Rechica, Kumanovo (verified)

**What happened:** 8 economic migrants from Morocco were attacked by an armed group of three persons who got out of a silver car of the brand BMW X5, after which they physically attacked the refugees and took away their belongings. One member of the group of attackers was in possession of a gun, while the rest had knives.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 15 January, around 00:15, near the gas station "Detoil" by the motorway, near the village of Rechica, Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** An observer from the Helsinki Committee.

**Victim(s) involved:** 8 Moroccans.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Burglary (Article 236, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** 3 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the

victims; the victims are members of a group (Moroccan migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Unclear.

**Response of Local Authorities:** The police station in Kumanovo claimed that the case is under investigation, however in MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that such incident has not been reported to SIA Kumanovo.

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

## 7. Frescoes and icons destroyed with a knife in the church in Arachinovo (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators damaged the frescoes and icons by drawing genitalia with a knife in the only Orthodox Church of "St. Thalelaeus" in the village of Arachinovo in Skopje, after which they demolished the interior of the church.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 27 January, time unknown, in Arachinovo, Skopje

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown perpetrators

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

1. *Location of the incident* – an Orthodox Christian Church in a predominantly Albanian environment;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – ever since the conflict in 2001, the church is a constant target of unknown offenders who have been demolishing the church dining room and kitchen as well as the gravestones of Macedonian citizens

**Status of the case:** Not registered

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that such incident has not been reported to SIA Skopje.

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

## 8. Robbery committed over a migrant from Iraq (verified)

**What happened:** Near the railway station in Demir Kapija, a group of unknown perpetrators committed robbery over refugee from Iraq. Once they saw that the refugee was asleep, they began to beat him with fists and kicks to the body and head, after which they robbed him of a cell phone and 50 euros.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 29 January, around 23:00, near the railway station in Demir Kapija.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium "Plusinfo".

**Victim(s) involved:** One Iraqi

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown perpetrators

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the

victims; the victims are members of a group (Iraqi migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Criminal charges filed against six persons for the criminal offense “Robbery”.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Veles took appropriate measures and action on documenting the event, criminal charges were filed with the Public Prosecutor’s Office in Veles against six persons due to a reasonable suspicion that they committed the crime “Robbery” pursuant to Article 237, paragraph 1 of the CC.

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

### 9. A nineteen-year-old boy stabbed in the chest (not verified)

**What happened:** A nineteen-year-old boy was stabbed in the chest and abdomen with a sharp object while getting off the city bus no. 19 at the bus station at “Treska” in Skopje. The boy, along with two of his friends, got off the bus, after which four other unknown persons got off the same bus and stabbed him in the chest and abdomen. The Emergency Center found that the boy had suffered a heavy bodily injury (punctured pleural cavity).

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 1 February, around 21:00, bus station at “Treska” in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium “Makfax”.

**Victim(s) involved:** One nineteen-year-old person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Heavy bodily injury (Article 131, CC), Violence (Article 386, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 4 unknown perpetrators

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – shortly before the incident, the perpetrators and the victim were in the bus no. 19 which transits through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted a written report to the Public Prosecutor’s Office on 04.02.2016.

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

### 10. Group fight in the Zef Ljush Marku Secondary School (not verified)

**What happened:** Two groups of students participated in a fight in the schoolyard of the “Zef Lush Marku” Secondary School. In one of the groups, there were three minors from Skopje and one minor from Gostivar, while in the other group, there were four minors from the Village of Batinci, Skopje. The persons exchanged a few punches and kicks, and at one point, a person from the second group took out a knife and cut a student from the first group four times on the head, and thus inflicted upon him a visible bodily injury.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 9 February, at 09:45, in the school yard of “Zef Ljush Marku” Secondary School in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Republika.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Participation in a Fight (Article 132, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of students from the “Zef Ljush Marku” Secondary School in Skopje

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the different ethnicity of the students in the aforementioned Secondary School, it is possible that the involved groups are of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanor procedure

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted a request for initiation of criminal proceedings to Primary Court Skopje 1 Skopje – Misdemeanor Department on 19.04.2016.

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

### 11. A ten-member group robbed three migrants (verified)

**What happened:** A group of unknown perpetrators robbed three nationals of Sri Lanka in the village of Vizbegovo near the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers. While the three persons were walking on a street, they were intercepted by 10 unknown male persons dressed in dark clothes with masked heads and surrounded them, and thus by threatening them and by means of physical force robbed them of two mobile phones, 120 euros and an identity card for asylum, after which they left the place of the event. By doing so, the perpetrators gained an illegal profit of around 51,000 MKD.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 11 February, at 12:45, near the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers in the village of Vizbegovo.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Three migrants from Sri Lanka.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC), Burglary (Article 236, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 10 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Sri Lankan migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted a Report to the Public Prosecutor's Office – Skopje on 17.02.2016.

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

### 12. Minors attacked while on the bus (not verified)

**What happened:** A seventeen-year-old and two of his friends aged sixteen and seventeen were physically attacked by several persons on a JSP city bus no. 65.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 12 February, around 12:20, on a JSP bus no. 65, at “Anton Popov” Street in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Reporter.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Three minors.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the perpetrators and the victim were on the city bus no. 65 which transits through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanor procedure.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated SIA Skopje submitted a request for initiation of misdemeanor charges to Primary Court Skopje 1 Skopje – Misdemeanor Department on 17.03.2016.

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

### 13. Minors attacked a boy in Tetovo (not verified)

**What happened:** Four minors, dressed in black hooded sweatshirts, in front of a building on “Blagoja Toska” Street in Tetovo, attacked a 16-year-old boy and broke his nose with fists.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 12 February, around 13:00, in front of a building on “Blagoja Toska” Street in Tetovo.

**Source of information:** Daily Newspaper “Vest”.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Participation in a Fight (Article 132, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 4 unknown minors.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against unknown perpetrators with the Public Prosecutor’s Office – Tetovo for the criminal act “Heavy bodily injury”.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Tetovo submitted the criminal charges against unknown perpetrators to the Public Prosecutor’s Office – Tetovo for the criminal act “Heavy bodily injury”.

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

### 14. Four boys attacked a classmate in front of “Lazar Tanev” Secondary School (not verified)

**What happened:** A third-year student in the “Lazar Tanev” Secondary School in Skopje was physically attacked by his classmates at the entrance of the Secondary School. After the incident, the boy was transferred to the Clinical Center by an ambulance, where he was given medical assistance.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 17 February, around 13:40, at the “Lazar Tanev” Secondary School

**Source of information:** Electronic Medium Reporter.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Participation in a Fight (Article 132, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 4 persons, three of whom were minors and one was an adult

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the different ethnic origin of students in the aforementioned school, it is possible that the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victim;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje filed a request for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure with the Primary Court Skopje 1 Skopje – Misdemeanour Department on 01.03.2016.

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

## 15. Students attacked at “Dimitar Vlahov” Secondary School in Skopje (not verified)

**What happened:** Minors – students at the “Dimitar Vlahov” Secondary School in Skopje, were physically attacked on few occasions by several persons at the Transport Center in Skopje, at the parking space under the overpass by the depot of the Towing Service.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 20 February, around 13:30, at the parking space under the overpass by the depot of the Towing Service near the Transport Center in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Reporter.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** Several minors.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of several unknown persons

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the different ethnic origin of students in the aforementioned school, it is possible that the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victim;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje filed a request for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure with the Primary Court Skopje 1 Skopje – Misdemeanour Department.

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

## 16. Attack on several minors at the quay (not verified)

**What happened:** A group of several minors was physically attacked by a group of five-six other persons around 20 years of age.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 20 February, around 22:00, on “Kej 13 Noemvri” Street.



**Source of information:** Electronic medium Republica.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** A group of several minors

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of several perpetrators around 20 years of age.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – within the past few years, near the quay and the city park, there have been many ethnically-motivated incidents;
2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje documented the incident for initiation of criminal charges and measures were being taken for the solving of the case.

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

## 17. Thirteen injured in a fight between fan groups "Varvari" and "Balisti" (verified)

**What happened:** 13 persons, out of whom 11 Montenegrin nationals and two members of the Macedonian community were injured in a massive fight between fans of FC "Budukjnost" from Podgorica and FC "Shkendija" from Tetovo, which occurred at a place called "Sretkovski most" in front of the passage "Straza". According to the police, the incident occurred after one of the ten buses transporting fans of "Shkendija" who attended the match in Kichevo stopped on the road, and on the opposite side of the road encountered two buses transporting fans of FC "Budukjnost" to the match with "Vardar" Skopje. Fans of FC "Shkendija" started throwing stones at the buses which stopped and then Montenegrin fans got out of the bus, and thus started a huge fight in which stones and other objects were used for fighting. Due to the severity of the incident, two Montenegrin fans were taken to the Emergency Center in Skopje after receiving medical aid, while the other nine injured Montenegrin fans received medical aid at the hospital in Gostivar.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 21 February, at 12:30, at the "Straza" passage

**Source of information:** Electronic media SportClub and Makfax.

**Victim(s) involved:** 13 persons, out of whom 2 severely injured and nine less severely injured fans of FC "Budukjnost" as well as two less severely injured fans of FC "Shkendija"

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC), Heavy bodily injury (Article 131, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of an unknown number of FC "Shkendija" fans.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident which happened at a sporting event, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the members of the fan clubs (Varvari and Balisti) are of a different ethnicity;
2. *Time* – the incident happened after a football match between fan clubs/team supporters which are of a different ethnicity.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against 14 persons for the crime of "Participating in a fight".

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after complete documenting and clearing out of the criminal event, the outer office of Criminal Affairs in PS Gostivar filed criminal charges before the competent Public Prosecutor's Office in Gostivar on 22.02.2016 against 14 people including 11 citizens of the

Republic of Montenegro and 3 nationals based on the existence of grounds for suspicion that the perpetrators are guilty of the crime “Participation in fight” stipulated in Article 132 of the Criminal Code. **Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** These types of incidents call into question the safety in the country in general, the coexistence of different ethnic groups in the society and the safety of people attending or near sports matches.

### 18. A fight between fans of “Vardar” and “Budukjnost” in GTC (not verified)

**What happened:** A group of fans of FC “Budukjnost” was attacked by a group of fans of FC “Vardar” while they were sitting in one of the cafés on “Kej 13 November” in Skopje. The mass fight took place in GTC Skopje where a few store windows were broken. Fans hit each other with glass bottles, metal, and other objects, after which the “Varvari” headed towards the “Holiday Inn” Hotel. In the incident, one of the fans from Skopje was more seriously injured, while two Montenegrin fans were less severely injured. **Date, time and location of the incident:** 21 February, at 17:15, on “Kej 13 Noemvri” Street and GTC Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Sport365 and daily newspaper “Dnevnik”

**Victim(s) involved:** 3 persons, one of whom was a more severely injured fan from Skopje, while less severely injured were two fans from Montenegro

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC), Heavy bodily injury (Article 131, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** An unknown number of fans of FC “Budukjnost” and FC “Vardar”.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident which happened at a sporting event, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and bias indicators are:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident was preceded by another one from the day before when fans of FC “Budukjnost” participated in a fight with fans of FC “Shkendija”;
2. *Nature of violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Unknown (According to media reports, 23 fans of FC “Budukjnost” were detained and fined).

**Response of Local Authorities:** By the time of the writing of this report, MOI had not responded to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** These types of incidents call into question the safety in the country in general, the coexistence of different ethnic groups in the society and the safety of people attending or near sports matches.

### 19. A minor attacked a boy and was later caught in a JSP bus (not verified)

**What happened:** A sixteen-year-old minor from Skopje, in the company of several other persons, without any known motive or reason, physically attacked D. M.(21) from Skopje by punching him in the face area. After the attack, the minor and the others who were with him got on a JSP bus in order to flee the scene but was caught and taken to a police station by police officers.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 22 February, around 20:00, on “Krstevac Petkoc Misirkov” Boulevard in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Reporter.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** One person

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** One minor.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanor procedure

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje filed a request for initiation of a misdemeanor procedure with the Primary Court Skopje 1 Skopje – Misdemeanor Department on 01.03.2016.

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

## 20. Todor Petrov physically attacked (verified)

**What happened:** Todor Petrov, the President of the *World Macedonian Congress* (WMC), was physically attacked by several unknown persons after the consecration of the cross's foundation stone in Butel where he attended the laying of the foundations of the 51-meter cross, the construction of which was an initiative of WMC. According to the media information, Petrov was given medical aid at the Emergency Center in Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 27 February, at 12:17, "Kazablanka" Restaurant in Butel, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic Medium Emagazin, Daily Newspaper Dnevnik, electronic medium Lokalno, National TV medium Telma.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of several perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident which happened at a sporting event, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and bias indicators are:

1. *Perception of the victim* – according to the statement issued for the media, the victims perceives the incident as bias-motivated;

2. *Time* – the incident happened shortly after the consecration of the cross's foundation stone in Butel;

3. *Location* - The incident occurred in an area inhabited by a population of different ethnicity and religious affiliation;

4. *Nature of violence* - the incident took place in public;

5. *Lack of other motives*.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against three suspects for the attack.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted the criminal charges to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Skopje.

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

## 21. A bloody incident in Tetovo (not verified)

**What Happened:** In the yard of the Tetovo high school "7-mi Mart" occurred a fight in which two 19-year-olds from Tetovo were injured. According to the police, seven people were involved, two of whom were 19-year-olds and five of whom were 18-year-olds, all from Tetovo. At first, the two groups started a verbal argument that quickly turned into a fight and one 19-year-old acquired two stab wounds in the back, probably from a knife, and his peer ended up with a serious injury on his hand

from a hit. Both of them were provided with medical assistance in the Tetovo Clinical Hospital where the injured with stabs in the back was held for further treatment.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 4 March, at 16:00, in the school yard of “7-mi Mart” High School in Tetovo.

**Source of information:** Television channel 24 Vesti.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two persons.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Students from the “7-mi Mart” High School

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality and language and bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the different ethnicity of students attending the school in question, it is possible that the two groups involved are of different ethnicities;
2. *Nature of violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Tetovo submitted the criminal charges for the criminal act of “Violence” to the Public Prosecutor’s Office – Tetovo.

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

## 22. Minor attacked in Gjorche Petrov (not verified)

**What happened:** Near the “Gorce Petrov” school, a 15-year-old minor who was celebrating his birthday with his friends was intercepted by three men, one of whom had a baseball bat. The three men went towards the minor and his companions and physically attacked him: one of the three grabbed him by the neck and pushed him into the bushes, after which he tried to hit him with his fist, but the victim managed to escape and reported the event by telephone. When he headed towards the “Gjorche Petrov” police station, one of the attackers took the bat and tried to hit the victims in the head, but failed to do so.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 5 March, around 21:00, near “Gjorche Petrov” Primary School in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Sitel Television program.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Threatening with a dangerous tool during a fight or a quarrel (Article 133, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of three unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;
2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted the criminal charges to the Public Prosecutor’s Office – Skopje.

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

### 23. A minor injured in Tetovo (not verified)

**What happened:** A 17-year-old minor from Tetovo was physically attacked by three unknown persons. The minor was taken to the Clinical Center in Tetovo for medical care.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 5 March, around 12:00, at “Fushtanska” Street in Tetovo.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Reporter.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily Injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of three unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in a town inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Not registered

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that a check had been carried out, after which it was established that such an incident had not been reported to the PC-Tetovo.

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

### 24. Boys attacked in Gjorche Petrov (not verified)

**What happened:** Two persons at the age of 18 and 19, with no apparent motive or reason, were physically attacked by punches in the face area and sides of the body by several unknown persons.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 9 March, around 21:00, on “Gjorche Petrov” Street in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Sitel Television Program.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two persons.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of several unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje documented the filed criminal charges and measures were being taken for resolving the incident.

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

### 25. A minor stabbed another minor at a bus stop (not verified)

**What happened:** A 17-year-old minor stabbed another 16-year-old minor with a knife in the chest. The injured was given medical care at the “8-mi Septemvri” General Hospital where he was treated for a bodily injury.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 12 March, around 22:00, at a bus stop on “Partizanski Odredi” Boulevard.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Lokalno.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Heavy bodily injury (Article 131, CC), Participation in a fight (Article 132, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** One minor

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the location of the incident which took place at a bus stop for buses transiting through areas inhabited by people of a different ethnicity, it is possible that the ethnicity of the perpetrator is different from the ethnicity of the victim;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted a request for initiation of a misdemeanour procedure to the Primary Court Skopje 1 Skopje – Misdemeanour Department on 24.03.2016.

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

## 26. Damaged bus of FC "Shkendija" fans (not verified)

**What happened:** An unknown perpetrator damaged a side window of a bus with licence plates from Tetovo with a hard object. The bus was transporting fans of FC "Shkendija" from Tetovo. There were no injured in the incident. According to the "Iliria News" portal, the perpetrators were members of the Macedonian community.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 13 March, around 13:40, on "Metodija Andonov – Chento" Street in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk, Electronic medium Iliria News.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – it is possible that the incident was caused by football fans of a different ethnicity to one of the fans being transported with by the bus.

**Status of the case:** Under investigation

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Tetovo documented the filed criminal charges for the criminal act "Damage to objects of others", an act that is prosecuted as a private lawsuit. The documentation was submitted to SIA Skopje where appropriate measures were being taken for identifying the perpetrators of the criminal act.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This incident calls into question the ethnic coexistence between the two largest communities in the country and the safety of people attending or near sports matches.

## 27. Minors injured in a fight at "Chairchanka" (not verified)

**What happened:** Two seventeen-year-old boys, after a previous argument, were physically attacked by another group of minors, and thus suffered bodily injuries by an unknown, hard object. The minors

were transferred to “Sv. Naum Ohridski” General Hospital where they received medical treatment.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 14 March, around 13:30, near TC Chairchanka, Skopje

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Kurir.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** Two minors.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of several minors

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA submitted the filed criminal charges to the public Prosecutor’s Office in Skopje.

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

## 28. Student beaten in Kumanovo (verified)

**What happened:** A 13-year-old minor, a member of the Macedonian community, was beaten up by 7 students, members of the Albanian community from a different school, while he was waiting for the bus at a bus stop on his way from school to home. The minor was punched and beaten, after which he lost consciousness and ended up with bodily injuries. The minor was harassed by one of the attackers even the day before the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 22 March, around 10 o’clock, bus stop near “Toli Zordumis” School in Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** Television program Telma.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 7 minor Albanians.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – a different ethnicity of students attending the aforementioned school;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed request for initiation of a misdemeanor procedure

**Response of Local Authorities:** In the response to a request for public information submitted by Committee to the MOI regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Kumanovo filed a Request for initiation of a misdemeanor procedure to the Primary Court in Kumanovo, Juvenile Judge.

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

## 29. Offices of the DPSM party in Kumanovo damaged (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators demolished the headquarters of the *Democratic Party of Serbs in Macedonia* (DPSM). According to the initial inspection, the headquarters were not robbed, given that the full computer equipment, the printers and projectors were still at the headquarters, but the entire documentation was scattered around.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 29 March, around 23:30, headquarters of DPSM, Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Kumanovski muabeti.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of a political party;

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against one person.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that criminal charges were filed against one person due to the existence of grounds for suspicion of having committed the crime of "Burglary". Additionally, in the response, it is stated that the motive for the aforementioned events would be determined during the procedure.

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

### 30. 18-year-old boy attacked on the street (not verified)

**What happened:** An 18-year-old person, with no apparent motive or reason, was physically attacked by two unknown attackers who hit him with a rubber object on the head.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 30 March, around 21:20, on "Bosna I Hercegovina" Street in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One Person

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Two unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA documented the filed charges and measures were being taken for resolving the incident.

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

### 31. 17-year-old boy attacked while on a bus (not verified)

**What happened:** A 17-year-old boy was physically attacked on the bus no. 9 which was traveling from Topansko Pole to Bit Pazar by a few unknown persons, and thus he suffered bodily injuries.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 3 April, around 13:45, on bus no. 9.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC)



**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown young people.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place on the city bus no. 9 which transits through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity;
2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that according to the record checks of SIA Skopje, it was established that the injured person had opted not to pursue for physical attack, for which an official note was drafted by PC Bit Pazar for information obtained from a direct conversation with a citizen.

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

### 32. Robbery of a refugee in Vaksince (verified)

**What happened:** Several unknown persons committed robbery on a Syrian citizen. The person left the Reception Center Tabanovce, and on his way to a store in the village of Vaksince he was intercepted by the perpetrators, who threatened his life and demanded his money, and after he refused to give any, they physically attacked and robbed him of 10 EURO and 2,400 MKD.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 26 April, around 12:00, in the Village of Vaksicne, Municipality of Lipkovo.

**Source of information:** Daily Newsletter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Victim(s) involved:** One Syrian.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of several unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Syrian migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred.
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that an inspector from SIA Kumanovo submitted a Notification to PPO Kumanovo on 13.05.2016 regarding the criminal act of "Robbery" as stipulated in Art. 237 in CC.

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

### 33. A member of the Executive Board of SDSM Bitola shot in the leg (not verified)

**What happened:** Borche Petkovski, a member of the Executive Board of the SDSM party in Bitola and a former Member of Parliament, was injured by a bullet in the leg while he was talking to some friends, standing on a sidewalk. He was immediately transferred to the Bitola hospital, and after the medical intervention, a bullet was removed from his thigh. It is not certain if he was intentionally shot or if the incident occurred due to a stray bullet.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 27 April, around 13:00, Municipality of Karposh, Bitola.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Exclusive.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Political function* – the victim is a senior official in the main opposition party;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against an unknown perpetrator.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event to SIA Bitola, a complete review was conducted, and after the documentation was completed, criminal charges were filed with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Bitola against an unknown perpetrator on grounds for suspicion of committing the crime of "Causing a general danger", punishable under Article 288 of the CC.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** These types of incidents call into question the political stability of the country in general.

#### 34. VMRO-DPMNE headquarters damaged on "Vostanichka" Street (verified)

**What happened:** On "Vostanichka" Street in Skopje, in a building where the headquarters of VMRO-DPMNE is located in Skopje, several unknown persons shattered the glass of the front door and the glass on both sides of the door.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 30 April, around 01:30, party headquarters of VMRO-DPMNE on "Vostanichka" Street, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Reporter.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC)

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

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the governing political party;

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of Local Authorities:** By the time of the writing of this report, MOI had not responded to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident.

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

#### 35. An incident because of political affiliation (not verified)

**What happened:** After the protest of GDOM in Bitola, a larger group of people from Bitola rushed to the house of one of the leaders of "The Bitola Movement", the civil activist Ilija Baltovski. According to witnesses, the group shouted insults and curses at Baltovski, booed him and hissed at him. At that time, his family was in the house, while Baltovski was not at home.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 10 May, around 23:45, in front of the house of Ilija Baltovski, Municipality of Nedopirlivi, Bitola.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Sakam da kazam.

**Victim(s) involved:** There were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violation of the public peace and order.

**Perpetrator(s):** A larger group of people from Bitola.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the house of a civil activist and leader of the so-called “Bitola Movement”, known to the public for participation in demonstrations for the resignation of the mayor of Bitola and the withdrawal of the abolition issued by the President as well as in the group that organizes guerrilla actions in Bitola;

2. *Perception of the victim* - according to a statement given to the media, the victim perceives the incident as bias-motivated;

3. *Time* - the incident happened shortly after the protest of GDOM in Bitola;

**Status of the case:** Closed, misdemeanours or crimes were not established.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that during the protest, there were not any established misdemeanours or crimes which are prosecuted ex officio.

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

### 36. Destroyed headquarters of SDSM (not verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators destroyed the SDSM party headquarters in Shtip and caused serious material damage, after which they shattered and took away the entire documentation of the party.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 10 May, around 23:50, headquarters of the SDSM party in Shtip.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Meta Novinska Agency.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the governing political party;

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the Public Prosecutor was immediately informed about the incident and a full investigation was conducted on the scene, after which SIA Shtip filed criminal charges with the Public Prosecutor’s Office in Shtip for the criminal act of “Burglary” punishable under Art. 236 of CC.

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

### 37. Destroyed premises of the SDSM party in Kisela Voda (verified)

**What happened:** In the premises of the SDSM municipal organization in Kisela Voda, there was a raid by unknown perpetrators during which the locks on six rooms doors were broken, three laptops were stolen as well as two desktop computers and a projector. Additionally, two other computers were damaged and their hard drives along with other parts were removed.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 23 May, around 02:00, the municipal organization of SDSM in Kisela Voda.

**Source of information:** Daily newspaper Utrinski Vesnik.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Burglary (Article 236, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

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

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the municipal organization of the main opposition party;

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje submitted a record of conducted investigation to the Public Prosecutor's Office – Skopje.

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

### 38. Migrants attacked near the village of Dubrovo (not verified)

**What happened:** Five migrants were attacked by four persons in the village of Dubrovo. Prior to the attack, the migrants were intercepted by the persons who offered them transportation to the border crossing with R. Serbia with a PMV "Audi", for which they required 1000 euros, but the migrants paid them 400 euros. The migrants got into the vehicle which was driven by one of the persons and headed to Negotino. Shortly after that, a little further than the village of Udovo, the other two persons, dressed in police uniforms, stopped the vehicle transporting the migrants and started searching them for money. The migrants resisted them and managed to take control of the "Audi" vehicle of the secondly accused, and thus managed to escape.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 7 June, around 22:00, the village of Dubrovo

**Source of information:** Daily Newsletter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

**Victim(s) involved:** Five migrants.

**Type of the crime(s):** Attempted robbery (Article 237, CC), Fraud (Article 247, CC), False presentation (Article 391, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Four perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred.

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges by SIA Veles against four persons.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated after the reporting of the event, PS Kavadarci filed criminal charges against four persons with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Negotino, i.e. against E. E. (26) from Germany, A. B. (36) from Veles, N. S. (23) from Veles, and A. M. (20) from Skopje due to the existence of grounds for suspicion that the first person had committed the following three criminal offenses:

“Fraud” under Art. 247, Paragraph 1 of CC, “False presentation” under Art. 391, and “Attempted robbery” under Art. 237 in reference to Art. 19 of CC; the other three perpetrators committed two criminal offenses: “False presentation” under Art. 391 and “Attempted robbery” under Art. 237 in reference to Art. 19 of CC.

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

### 39. A bus stoned at Bit Pazar; an eighteen-year-old heavily injured (not verified)

**What happened:** Unknown persons stoned a bus at the Bit Pazar market. An eighteen-year-old who was on the bus was hit by a stone in the head. He was immediately transferred to the Emergency Center where he was held for treatment. At the time of the incident, the bus was transiting from the center of the city towards Avtokomanda. According to MOI, the incident occurred when a group of unknown persons stoned the JSP bus no. 50 at the bus stop near the “Sultan” hotel on “Krste Misirkov” boulevard.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 12 July, around 23:45, bus stop at “Sultan” Hotel, on “Krste Misirkov” boulevard.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Telegraf.

**Victim(s) involved:** One eighteen-year-old person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the bus no. 50 transits through an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity; the bus stop where the bus was stoned is in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of violence* – it was a public incident;

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje was taking measures and actions for solving the crime and establishing the identity of the perpetrators who would be charged appropriately.

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

### 40. Four cars stoned after the football match between “Shkendija” and “Mlada Boleslav” (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown, masked perpetrators stoned four cars in the Skopje municipality of Gjorche Petrov shortly after the end of the football match between FC “Shkendija” and FC “Mlada Boleslav” from the Czech Republic. The incident happened when the perpetrators began throwing various objects such as stones and paving tiles at four cars. The police informed that the following vehicles were stoned: Audi automobile with license plates from Tetovo, driven by A. M. (27) from the village of Prshovce, a BMW automobile with Swiss license plates, driven by I.N. (42) from the village of Dolno Palchishte, and an Audi 7 automobile with German license plates, driven by A. T. (41) from Gostivar.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 28 July, around 22:00, on “Gjorche Petrov” Street, Skopje

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity; shortly after the end of the football match which involved a football team whose fans are assumed to be of different ethnicity than the persons who live in the area where the incident occurred;
2. *Time* – the incident took place shortly after a football match which involved a team whose fans are assumed to be of a different ethnicity than the persons who live in the area where the incident occurred.

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that shortly after the reporting of the incident, police officers from PS "Gjorche Petrov" went to the location of the incident and talked to the person who reported it, and thus he stated that he would not file charges and he would refrain from initiating further proceedings.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This incident calls into question the safety in the country in general, the coexistence of different ethnic groups in the society and the safety of people attending or near sports matches.

#### 41. A bus stoned in Gjorche Petrov (not verified)

**What happened:** An unknown person stoned a bus in motion on the route Avtokomanda-Saraj. The incident occurred when an unknown person, broke several windows by throwing stones at the "Jutong" JSP bus in Skopje on "Boris Sarafov" street in Skopje. The incident occurred three and a half hours after the stoning of four cars after the football match between "Shkendija" and "Mlada Boleslav".

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 29 July, around 00:30, on "Boris Sarafov" Street, Gjorche Petrov, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Pres 24.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the bus transited through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity; the street where the bus was stoned is located in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity;
2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident;
3. *Pattern of previous incidents* – during the same night, only three-and-a-half hours before this incident, four automobiles had been stoned after the end of the football match between "Shkendija" and "Mlada Boleslav".

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that on 05.08.2016, an authorized person from JSP filed a report in PS "Gjorche Petrov" for criminal charges as well as that SIA Skopje took measures and action for solving the criminal case and establishing the identity of the perpetrator who would face charges.

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

## 42. Two Syrians attacked on the way from Lojane to Tabanovce (verified)

**What happened:** Two migrants from Syria, traveling from the village of Lojane towards TC “Tabanovce” were attacked by five unknown persons, at which point one of the migrants was cut on the upper hand with a knife.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 12 August, around 16:30, on road Lojane-Tabanovce.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Libertas.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two Syrian nationals.

**Type of the crime(s):** Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Violence (Article 386, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** 5 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (Syrian migrants) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred.

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event by two persons from Syria who were placed in TC Tabanovce, measures were taken by police officers from SIA Kumanovo, and thus it was established that there was a violation of the public peace and order with a “Physical attack”. The Public Prosecutor of PPO Kumanovo was notified and measures were being taken for resolving the incident.

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

## 43. A 16-year-old boy attacked while on the bus (not verified)

**What happened:** A 16-year-old boy was attacked on the JSP bus no. 50 by ten other minors, at which he was slapped and a knife was pointed at his lower back.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 15 September, around 13:00, on a JSP bus no. 50, on the route from “Bit Pazar” to the municipality of Avtokomanda.

**Source of information:** Daily newspaper *Nova Makedonija*.

**Victim(s) involved:** One minor.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of around ten unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In the incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the perpetrators and the victim were riding on the bus no. 50 which transits in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity; it is possible that the ethnicity of the perpetrator is different from the ethnicity of the victim;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident;

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that in the statement given to police officers in PS “Gazi Baba”, the victim declared that he did not want to report any incidents or submit a record for filing charges.

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

#### 44. A student fight in the secondary school GUC “Zdravko Cvetkoski” (not verified)

**What happened:** Students from the secondary school GUC “Zdravko Cvetkoski” physically attacked two minors from the same school. The minors were injured and taken to “8 September” General Hospital for medical care.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 14 October, at 17:45, GUC “Zdravko Cvetkovski”, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium TV21mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two minors.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC)

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 3 students at GUC “Zdravko Cvetkovski”.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In the incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the different ethnicities of students attending the aforementioned school, it is possible that the members of the two groups were of different ethnicity;
2. *Nature of violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against three persons.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje filed criminal charges against three persons with the competent Public Prosecutor’s Office.

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

#### 45. Anti-Semitic leaflets in the center of Skopje (verified)

**What happened:** Leaflets with anti-Semitic messages were placed on several vehicles in the center of Skopje.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 19 October, around 09:00, in the center of Skopje.

**Source of information:** The incident was reported to the Helsinki Committee by a representative from the *Jewish Community of the Republic of Macedonia*.

**Victim(s) involved:** There were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Racial or other discrimination (Article 417, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In the incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Content of the leaflets* – the leaflets contain anti-Semitic messages.

**Status of the case:** Not registered.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the incident in question was not reported to a police station of general jurisdiction in the city of Skopje.

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

#### 46. High school student stabbed on the JSP bus no. 65B (not verified)

**What happened:** On the JSP bus no.65B which rode towards the village of Smilkovci in Skopje, while



a 16-year-old minor from the village of Creshevo – Skopje was sitting on the second floor of the bus along with several other persons, at the bus stop in front of the gas station on “Metodija Andonov Chento” Street, three unknown male persons at the age of around 16-17 got on the bus and sat near the injured person. At one point, one of the persons approached the injured and physically attacked him by hitting him with punches and kicks, at which point the other persons joined him and continued to beat, pull and harass the injured and one other person. One of the perpetrators who held a knife in his hands and put it close to the neck of a female person. At that point, with the intent to deter the perpetrator, the injured pushed him. In that moment, the perpetrators started waving with their knives at him and his friend, and cut him on the right shinbone. A short time after, when the doors of the bus opened, the perpetrators fled.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 4 November, 12:15, on the JSP bus no. 65B.

**Source of information:** Daily newspaper Dnevnik; Daily Newsletter of MOI

**Victim(s) involved:** One person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC), Threatening the safety (Article 144, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** One unknown person.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In the incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the perpetrator and the victim were on the bus no. 65 which transits through an area inhabited by people of different ethnicities; in areas with people of different ethnicities, it is possible that the victim and the perpetrator are of different ethnicities;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of violence on the JSP bus no. 65.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje was taking appropriate measures and actions for establishing the perpetrator’s identity who violated the public peace and order by a physical attack and appropriate charges would be filed against him.

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

#### 47. Young men attacked while on the JSP bus no. 65 (not verified)

**What happened:** In PS Gazi Baba, F. A (18) from the village of Creshevo – Skopje, reported that on the same day, at around 11:50 on “Anton Popov” street, more specifically on JSP bus no. 65, who transited on the route Rashtak-Skopje, was physically attacked by a male person at the age of 18, who hit him with a fist on the face area, and thus visibly injured him, causing a swelling and redness on his face. The physical attack happened with no apparent motive or reason. Measures are being taken for resolving the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 4 November, at 11:50, on “Anton Popov” Street, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Pres24.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** One person.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In the incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of different

ethnicities; it is possible that the victim and the perpetrator are of different ethnicities;

2. *Nature of violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Unknown

**Response of Local Authorities:** By the time of the writing of this report, MOI had not responded to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident.

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

#### 48. Two children suspected of an attempted murder (not verified)

**What happened:** After a verbal argument, two 14-year-old children heavily injured an 18-year-old person near the "Stop" café on "Bitpazarska" Street. The children attacked the person intentionally by punching him in the head and chest and thus caused the injured party to fall on the ground and gain a serious bodily injury which manifested as a head injury with brain injury, bleeding, and lungs filled with liquid. Due to the inflicted injuries, his life was in danger. The Public Prosecutor's Office was asked to impose detention of the two children.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 6 November, at 01:00, "Bitpazarska" Street, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Daily newspaper Fokus.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Heavy bodily injury (Article 131, CC).

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

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In the incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the incident took place in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicities; it is possible that the victim and the perpetrators are of different ethnicities;

2. *Nature of violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Filed criminal charges against two persons.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje filed criminal charges against two persons with the Public Prosecutor's Office in Skopje.

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

#### 49. Windows broken at the SDSM headquarters in Arachinovo (verified)

**What happened:** Early in the morning, unknown perpetrators broke the glass of four windows of the SDSM party headquarters in Arachinovo.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 7 November, around 5:00, SDSM headquarters in Arachinovo.

**Source of information:** Television channel Telma, Electronic medium MKD.mk

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the main opposition political party.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje was taking all measures and actions for solving the criminal act and identifying the perpetrators.

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

### 50. Two boys beaten while on a bus in Bitpazar (not verified)

**What happened:** At 17:00, near Bit Pazar, while the JSP bus no. 50 was moving on the route from Bit Pazar to Centar, around ten, unknown persons physically attacked two seventeen-year-old boys from the villages of Orman and Mirkovci on the top floor of the bus. According to MOI's information, both minors suffered visible injuries with swelling on their faces and bodies.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 10 November, around 17:00, on a JSP bus no. 50, on the Bit Pazar – Centar route.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Plusinfo.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two minors.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of ten unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the perpetrators and the victim were in the bus no. 50 which transits through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity; it is possible that the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje was taking all measure and actions for solving the crime of disturbance of the public peace and order, after which charges would be filed accordingly.

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

### 51. The facade of the Museum of Albanian Alphabet in Bitola damaged (verified)

**What happened:** An unknown perpetrator damaged the facade of the Museum of Albanian Alphabet, owned by the Ministry of Culture, where the marble and the plastic panel from the front door of the museum were sprayed with black color, and a swastika was drawn on the wall next to the front door.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 13 November, at 11:00, Museum of Albanian Alphabet, Bitola.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium MKD.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the Museum of Albanian Alphabet.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information

regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event and under the Public Prosecutor's authorization in Bitola, an investigation was conducted by SIA Bitola. At SIA Bitola, the incident was registered as a criminal act of "Damage to objects of others" which in accordance with Article 243, paragraph 1 of CC is prosecuted as a private lawsuit. Additionally, the response also stated that measures were being taken for resolving the incident and identifying the perpetrators.

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

## 52. Migrants robbed at Bit Bazar (verified)

**What happened:** Two asylum-seekers, placed in the Reception Center for asylum seekers Vizbegovo, were beaten and robbed by four unknown persons near Bit Pazar in Skopje. The refugees had visible injuries on their bodies. After the robbery, the attackers headed in an unknown direction. The case was reported to the police but was not published in MOI's Daily Newsletter.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 17 November, around 13:20, near Bit Pazar, Skopje.

**Source of information:** A representative from the Non-government Organization Legis.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two persons – asylum-seekers.

**Type of the crime(s):** Robbery (Article 237, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** 4 unknown perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Difference in ethnicity* – the ethnicity of the perpetrators is different from the ethnicity of the victims; the victims are members of a group (refugees, asylum seekers) which is significantly outnumbered by citizens of the area where the incident occurred;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in a growing trend of robberies and attacks on migrants.

**Status of the case:** Not registered.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the incident in question had not been reported to the general police station of the city of Skopje.

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

## 53. Repeated attack on the Museum of Albanian Alphabet (verified)

**What happened:** On the Day of the Albanian alphabet, late in the evening, unknown perpetrators vandalized the Museum of Albanian Alphabet in Bitola. The perpetrators smashed the glass front door of the museum with paving bricks, and hung a poster featuring a lion with a sword who cuts heads of the two-headed eagle with a sword and wrote "Death to Shiptars". Over the plaque, they placed another poster that reads "Stop Shiptar-ization" and crossed out the Albanian national symbol – a double-headed eagle.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 21 November, around 23:00, Museum of Albanian Alphabet, Bitola.

**Source of information:** Electronic media MKD.mk., SDK.mk. 24vesti, TV Tera.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** 2 unknown perpetrators.

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

1. *Target location* – the target museum is the Museum of Albanian Alphabet in Bitola;
2. *Time* – the incident happened on the night of 22 November, the Day of Albanian Alphabet;
3. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this is a second attack on the Museum of Albanian Alphabet within a period of around ten days.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event and under the Public Prosecutor's authorization in Bitola, an investigation was conducted by SIA Bitola. At SIA Bitola, the incident was registered as a criminal act of "Damage to objects of others" which in accordance with Article 243, paragraph 1 of CC is prosecuted as a private lawsuit. Regarding the reported incident, the records of the video surveillance were examined and two males were observed at the time of the incident. Additionally, the response also stated that measures were being taken for resolving the incident and identifying the perpetrators.

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

#### 54. Windows broken at the VMRO-DPMNE headquarters in Negotino (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators damaged the windows of the VMRO-DPMNE local committee premises.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 23 November, at night, VMRO-DPMNE party headquarters on "Marshal Tito" Street in Negotino.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Telegraf.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the ruling party;

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated after the reporting of the event, an investigation was conducted and the report was delivered to PPO Kavadarci.

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

#### 55. VMRO-DPMNE headquarters damaged in Negotino (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators damaged the windows of the VPMRO-DPMNE local committee premises on "Partizanska" Street in Negotino. This is the second incident of damage caused in the headquarters of this political party after the breaking of the windows of another party headquarters on "Marshal Tito" Street.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 23 November, at night, VMRO-DPMNE headquarters in Negotino.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Telegraf.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the ruling party;

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event, an investigation was conducted and the report was delivered to PPO Kavadarci.

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

## 56. Minors beaten at Bit Pazar (not verified)

**What happened:** Two seventeen-year-old students from the "Vlado Tasevski" Secondary School were attacked by 10 to 15 unknown persons who were students at the same school. Just before the attack, the perpetrators got off the JSP bus no. 50. The doctor who examined the two minors established bodily injuries and one of the minors was held for further medical treatment.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 23 November, at 14:30, near Bit Pazar, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Makfaks.

**Victim(s) involved:** Two minors.

**Type of the crime(s):** Violence (Article 386, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of 10 perpetrators.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – due to the different ethnicity of the students in the aforementioned secondary school, it is possible that the perpetrators and the victims are of a different ethnicity;

2. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that an authorized person from JSP gave a statement for filing of criminal charges on 05.08.2016 at the PS "Gjorche Petrov", and that SIA Skopje was taking measures and action for resolving the incident and establishing the identity of the perpetrators who would face criminal charges.

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

## 57. Another billboard of DUI damaged in Kumanovo (verified)

**What happened:** An unknown perpetrator damaged a billboard with content of the DUI political party on "JNA" Street in Kumanovo.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 25 November, around 12:30, on "JNA" Street in Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Kumanovonews.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Damage to an object* – the billboard contained political material of the DUI party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging billboards with political content during the pre-election period.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of Local Authorities:** By the time of the writing of this report, MOI had not responded to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident.

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

### 58. A billboard of DUI damaged in Kumanovo (verified)

**What happened:** An unknown perpetrator damaged the billboard which contained political materials of the DUI party, placed on the crossroad on "11 Oktomvri" Street and "11 Noemvri" Street in Kumanovo.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 25 November, around 12:30, "JNA" Street, Kumanovo.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Kumanovonews.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Damage to an object* – the billboard contained political material of the DUI party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging billboards with political content during the pre-election period.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event, UPS of SIA Kumanovo investigated the billboard placed on "11 Oktomvri" and "11 Noemvri" Street in Kumanovo, and thus it was established that unknown perpetrator(s) ripped the poster on both sides of the billboard. The incident was photo-documented by the investigation team of SIA Kumanovo and the Public Prosecutor of PPO Kumanovo was notified about the incident. Additionally, the response stated that measures were being taken for solving the case.

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

### 59. Billboard of the BESA political party ignited (verified)

**What happened:** During the night, in the municipality of Gjorce Petrov, unknown perpetrators ignited the billboard that contained promotional material of the BESA political party. According to Orhan Murtezani, the party's spokesman, the incident was caused by "an enemy of the Albanians".

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 25 November, during the night, the municipality of Gjorce Petrov, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Libertas.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Damage to an object* – the billboard contained political material of the BESA party;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging billboards with political content during the pre-election period.

**Status of the case:** Not registered.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the aforementioned incident had not been reported to a general police station in the city of Skopje.

**Impact on the victim(s) and the community:** This incident calls into question the political stability of the country in general as well as the ethnic coexistence between the two largest communities in the country.

## 60. Two billboards with photos of the DUI political campaign partly burned (verified)

**What happened:** In the municipality of Gjorche Petrov, an unknown perpetrator burned two billboards with photos of members of the DUI political party.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 25 November, around 14:25, on the crossroad at "Gjorche Petrov" Street and "Kuzman Shapkarev" Street, municipality of Gjorche Petrov, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Skopjeinfo.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Damage to objects* – the billboard contained political material of the DUI party;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging billboards with political content during the pre-election period.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje was taking measures and actions for resolving the incident and identifying the persons involved who would face criminal charges accordingly.

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

## 61. Headquarters of VMRO-DPMNE damaged in Kavadarci (verified)

**What happened:** Unknown perpetrators damaged the headquarters of the VMRO-DPMNE political party and thus broke glass from the window on the back side of the building.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 25 November, around 23:30, "Moshka Pijade" Street, Kavadarci.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Telegraf.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or



intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the ruling party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging headquarters of political parties during the pre-election period.

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event, PS Kavadarci investigated the crime scene and established that the crime "Damage to objects of others" (Art. 243 of CC) had been committed, and since this crime is prosecuted as a private lawsuit, no criminal charges were filed with PPO against the unknown perpetrator(s).

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

## 62. JSP bus no. 65 stoned, a 17-year-old boy injured (not verified)

**What happened:** A 17-year-old boy from the village of Bulachani in Skopje suffered a head injury while riding the JSP bus no. 65 which was stoned by unknown perpetrators. He was rushed to the "Ss. Naum Ohridski" hospital in an ambulance, where he was held for further treatment for bodily injuries.

The bus driver reported to the Police Station Gazi Baba that while he was driving the bus, transiting the regular route of no. 65, an unknown perpetrator threw a rock in the direction of the bus and broke one of the windows on the second floor. In the MOI's Daily Newsletter it was stated that measures were being taken for finding the perpetrator and resolving the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 29 November, around 21:55, on the JSP bus no. 65 which was on "Metodija Andonov Chento" Street and "Palmiro Toljati" Street, Skopje.

**Source of information:** TV Alsat.

**Victim(s) involved:** One seventeen-year-old person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** An unknown perpetrator.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the city bus no. 65 transits through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity; the location where the bus was stoned is in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this the latest incident in the growing trend of cases of stoning the JSP bus no. 65;
3. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

**Status of the case:** Unknown.

**Response of Local Authorities:** By the time of the writing of this report, MOI had not responded to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident.

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

## 63. Threatening the security in the SDSM headquarters in Kochani (not verified)

**What happened:** Unknown persons forcibly entered the campaign headquarters of the Municipal

Committee of SDSM located in the “Shoping Centar” Kocani, where four members were present and they were threatened with physical force. Thereby, one of the persons removed the election poster material, which was placed on the window of the headquarters, he threw it into a cardboard box and left. In MOI’s Daily Newsletter it is stated that measures were being taken for finding the perpetrators and resolving the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 30 November, 18:55, headquarters of Municipal Committee of SDSM located in “Shoping Centar” – Kochani.

**Source of information:** MOI Daily Newsletter.

**Victim(s) involved:** Four persons.

**Type of the crime(s):** Threatening the safety (Article 144, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** A group of unknown perpetrators.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the main opposition party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging billboards with political content during the pre-election period.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI’s response to the Committee’s request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that after the reporting of the event and on the authorization of the Public Prosecutor, an investigation was conducted by the investigation team from the Outer Criminal Affairs Office in Kochani. Also, a witness of the incident was questioned and the Public Prosecutor in Kochani was informed about the undertaken measures, and thus it was established that there were elements of a criminal act under Article 392, paragraph 1 of CC, i.e. autocracy, which is prosecuted as a private lawsuit. The incident was also reported with PPO Kochani and the PO issued an order for taking measures upon the reported incident. Acting upon the order, the entire case material was delivered to PPO.

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

#### 64. Another JSP bus stoned, driver injured (not verified)

**What happened:** The person I. R. (38) from the village of Arachinovo, a driver of the JSP bus no. 65 in Skopje, called the MOI and reported that on “Methodija Andonov- Chento” Street, near the place called “The Houses”, while he was driving the bus, an unknown person threw a paving tile at the windscreen. I. R. suffered injuries of the eye area and was transferred to the “Majka Tereza” Clinical Center. After he received the necessary medical care, he was discharged from the hospital to home care.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 1 December, at 22:00, on the JSP bus no. 65 which was on “Metodija Andonov-Chento” Street, near the place called “Three Houses”.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Republika.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** One person.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Bodily injury (Article 130, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown perpetrator.

**Brief description of the incident with bias indicators:** In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, nationality or language and the bias indicators are:

1. *Assumed difference in ethnicity* – the city bus no. 65 transits through an area inhabited by people of a different ethnicity; the location where the bus was stoned is in an area inhabited by people of different ethnicity;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this the latest incident in the growing trend of cases of stoning the JSP bus no. 65;

3. *Nature of the violence* – it was a public incident.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje was taking measures and actions for resolving the criminal act of "Causing general danger" and establishing the identity of the perpetrator who would face criminal charges accordingly.

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

### 65. Windows broken at the BESA headquarters (verified)

**What happened:** During the night, at an unspecified time, in the village of Slatino, municipality of Tearce, an unknown perpetrator/perpetrators damaged the front glass of the pre-election headquarters of the BESA political party with a rock.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 6 December, at night, BESA party headquarters in the village of Slatino, municipality of Tearce.

**Source of information:** Electronic media Lokalno.mk; Fax.al.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. Target location – the target location is the pre-election headquarters of the BESA political party;

3. Pattern of previous incidents – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging headquarters of political parties during the pre-election period.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Tetovo investigated the crime scene and notified the Public Prosecutor under whose orders the reported incident is a crime prosecuted as a private lawsuit.

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

### 66. SDSM headquarters damaged in the village of Viniche (not verified)

**What happened:** During the afternoon, the headquarters of the SDSM political party located next to the church in the village of Viniche was damaged. An unknown perpetrator forcibly broke the front door, entered the building, scattered the documents and the advertising material, and also took some of it away.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 7 December, around 17:52, SDSM party headquarters in the village of Viniche.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Lokalno.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the pre-election headquarters of the BESA political party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging headquarters of political parties during the pre-election period.

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the person who reported the incident was informed that he/she should submit a report to the nearest police station, but he failed to deliver a written statement.

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

### 67. Billboard of DUI ignited in the municipality of Gjorche Petrov (verified)

**What happened:** In the municipality of Gjorche Petrov, an unknown perpetrator partly burned two billboards with photographs of members of the DUI political party.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 8 December, around 03:00, on "Gjorche Petrov" Street, at the former location of "Baumarket" in Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Lokalno.mk.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Damage to an object* – the billboard contained political material of the DUI party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging billboards with political content during the pre-election period.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that SIA Skopje – Unit for On-scene Inspection and Analysis took photos, and the damaged party was notified that the committed crime "Damage to objects of others" is prosecuted as a private lawsuit and that they should submit a report to the competent police station.

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

### 68. Window broken of a political headquarters in the municipality of Kozle (verified)

**What happened:** in the period from 11.12.2016 to 13.12.2016, on "Kozle-1" Street, in the premises of a political party, an unknown perpetrator broke a window. According to media information, measures were being taken for finding the perpetrator and resolving the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** from 11.12.2016 to 13.12.2016, political party headquarters in the municipality of Kozle.

**Source of information:** TV Sitel.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of a political party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging headquarters of political parties during the pre-election period.

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

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the person who reported the incident was informed that the crime "Damage to objects of others" is prosecuted as a private lawsuit and a report should be submitted to the nearest police station. The person was contacted several times by police officers from PS Karposh.

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

#### 69. Theft in a party headquarters in Kavadarci (not verified)

**What happened:** An unknown perpetrator committed burglary at the headquarters of a political party in Kavadarci. The perpetrator entered and seized several packs of water and juices, a small heater, and a coffee maker. According to the media information, measures were being taken for finding the perpetrator and resolving the incident.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** In the period from 12.12.2016 to 13.12.2016, political party headquarters in Kavadarci.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium Libertas.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Burglary (Article 236, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of a political party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of damaging headquarters of political parties during the pre-election period.

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that PS Kavadarci investigated the crime scene and established that the crime "Theft" (Article 235, paragraph 2 of CC) was committed, and since this crime is prosecuted as a private lawsuit, charges had not been filed with PPO against an unknown perpetrator.

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

#### 70. SDSM headquarters damaged in Bardovci (verified)

**What happened:** Early in the morning, an unknown perpetrator damaged the SDSM political party

headquarters in the village of Bardovci. The unknown perpetrator broke two windows of the building with a rock.

**Date, time and location of the incident:** 14 December, party headquarters of SDSM, in Bardovci, Skopje.

**Source of information:** Electronic medium 24vesti.

**Victim(s) involved:** Aside from the material damage, there were no victims of this incident.

**Type of the crime(s):** Damage to objects of others (Article 243, CC), Causing hatred, discord or intolerance on national, racial, religious and other discriminatory ground (Article 319, CC).

**Perpetrator(s):** Unknown.

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

1. *Target location* – the target location is the headquarters of the main opposition party;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – this incident is the latest in the growing trend of robbing and damaging headquarters of political parties during the pre-election period.

**Status of the case:** Closed.

**Response of Local Authorities:** In MOI's response to the Committee's request for public information regarding this incident, it is stated that the person who reported the incident was informed that the committed crime "Damage to objects of others" was prosecuted as a private lawsuit, for which he/she should submit a report to the closest police station. The person was contacted by police officers from PS "Karposh" several times and he stated that he did not want to file charges and refused to participate in further proceedings.

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