

ANNUAL REPORT ON HATE CRIMES

in 2020

HATE
CRIMES



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CONTENTS

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND	4
2. METHODOLOGY	6
2.1. Learning from previous experiences and data	7
2.2. Maintaining an interactive website for hate crime reporting.....	7
2.3. Monitoring national printed and electronic media	7
2.4. Reporting and double-checking hate crimes and hate incidents with the OSCE.....	8
3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS	9
3.1. Context	9
3.2. Number of incidents.....	10
3.3. Types of crimes	14
3.4. Incidents by location	14
3.5. Incidents by month.....	16
3.6. Incidents by bias motivation	16
3.7. Victims and perpetrators	17
3.8. Status of the cases	17
4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT TEAM	19
4.1. Monitoring and registering hate crimes and incidents	19
4.2. Reviewing reported hate incidents and contributing to the ODIHR Annual Report.....	19
4.3. Maintaining, updating, and promoting the website and Facebook and Twitter pages	19
4.4. Establishing an informal network of actors to monitor and register hate crimes	20
4.5. Participation in two awareness raising and capacity building workshops	20
4.6. Producing monthly bulletins on the situation with hate crimes in the country.....	20
4.7. Prepare, translate and publish the report from the monitoring in 2020.....	21
4.8. Mark the European Day of Victims of Hate Crimes.....	21
4.9. Provide legal aid to victims of hate incidents and monitor trials.....	22
4.10. Infographic with summarized data for the previous 8 years.....	25
4.11. Joint action with the city of Skopje for removal of hate graffiti	27
5. CONCLUSIONS	31
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	33
ANNEX – REGISTERED HATE CRIME INCIDENTS IN 2020	34

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

This is the 8th continuous annual report on hate crimes published by the Helsinki Committee, albeit for the first time in such unusual circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic caused global effects on an incomparable scale. The fast-growing health crisis, which hit almost every country in the world, is causing unforeseeable economic and social consequences, from which humanity is yet to recover. Given the seriousness and uncertainty of the events, many governments, including the one of North Macedonia, considered it necessary to declare a state of emergency in order to properly address the dangers and harms of the new coronavirus. And since in times of a state emergency the Government can take action beyond what would normally be allowed, it also meant an alarm for the vigilance of human rights defenders.¹ Nevertheless, the negative 'tradition' of three-digit reported hate crimes, out of which the ones on ethnic and political basis are especially numerous, continued even this year in North Macedonia.

These findings are the outcome of the 'Support North Macedonia in advancing Rule of Law and Human Rights' project which was financially supported by the OSCE Mission to Skopje, and was implemented by the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020. The Project aimed to improve legislation and institutional responses in the areas of human rights and anti-discrimination through legislative and policy amendments, the use of effective legal remedies, and by strengthening institutions. One of the goals was and still is to improve national responses to hate crimes and hate speech through monitoring, registering, and processing of hate crimes in line with the amended legislative framework. These activities were expected to raise awareness on the detrimental effects of hate speech and intolerance. Hopefully, the shared results can serve as a call for action for further prevention of hate crimes and hate speech.

The first step to ensure an efficient system that works to protect the victims of hate crimes is to build the capacities of criminal justice agencies into the sphere of registering bias incidents. More specifically, this report is designed to serve as an indicator of the scope, nature, and frequency of hate incidents perpetrated in the country.

¹ Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Special report on the situation with human rights in North Macedonia during COVID-19*, published on the 13th of October 2020.

Within its mandate as an implementing partner, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights during 2020 conducted the following activities, all of which will continue throughout 2021, with regards to hate crimes:

- 2.1.** Monitor and register hate crimes and incidents, with special attention to political, sports, peer, and violence with bias motivation among young people;
- 2.2.** Review reported hate incidents and contribute to the ODIHR Annual Report on hate crimes and incidents in the OSCE Region for 2020;
- 2.3.** Maintain, update, and promote the website www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com in Macedonian, Albanian, and English, as well as the Facebook and Twitter pages;
- 2.4.** Establish an informal network of actors to monitor and register hate crimes against specific target groups, such as the LGBTI community, Roma people, and persons with disabilities;
- 2.5.** Participate in two awareness raising and capacity building workshops organized by the Mission on prevention of hate crimes involving young people by presenting the work of the Helsinki Committee in the area of hate crimes;
- 2.6.** Produce monthly bulletins on the situation with hate crimes in the country;
- 2.7.** Prepare, translate, and publish the report from the monitoring in 2020 in Macedonian, Albanian, and English language;
- 2.8.** Mark the proposed Day of Victims of Hate Crimes (22nd of July) by organizing a press conference and the 'Turlitava' event;
- 2.9.** Provide legal aid to victims of hate incidents and monitor trials of selected cases of hate crimes on different protected characteristics;
- 2.10.** Prepare, publish, promote, and distribute an infographic with summarized data on hate crimes for the previous 8 years;
- 2.11.** Create a joint action with the city of Skopje for removal of hate graffiti.

All of the information and the collected data regarding this project during the previous 8 years is publicly available on the website of the Helsinki Committee.²

² Reports of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, available at <https://mhc.org.mk/izveshtai/>.

2. METHODOLOGY

Globally, as is the case with North Macedonia, the majority of hate crimes go unreported.³ The main reason behind this is the presumption that the victims do not trust the authorities that they will take action or fear lengthy procedures and costs.⁴ Because of this, any information that can be obtained in the direction of prevention is very important in order to understand the most common types of incidents, negative trends, places where they occur, and the ratio between victims and perpetrators. Consequently, it is important to note that hate crimes are not a phenomenon affecting only minorities, but rather a direct attack on democratic societies and the principles on which human rights are based.

Hate incidents do not happen randomly, they are a violent manifestation of divisions, stereotypes, and prejudices, phenomena that further penetrate and poison our societies. By targeting a person's identity, hate crimes cause even more damage and consequences than basic crimes. The immediate victim of hate crimes, as well as people in the immediate vicinity who belong to the same group, may experience great trauma and increased feelings of insecurity due to the fact that they have been chosen because of certain characteristics they cannot change. The best solution for hate crimes, when they have already happened, is proper prosecution and sanctioning. Such public recognition assures the victim that their experience is fully and correctly recognized, which further instills confidence between other members of the community that hate crimes will not go unpunished.⁵ In this sense, laws without proper practical application of the provisions have no greater value than the paper on which they are written.

For these reasons, it is very important to have a clear understanding of the terms and the methodology used by the authors to compile this report. Thus, it is relevant to clarify that 'hate crime' under this report is understood to be a crime motivated by intolerance, i.e. prejudice towards a certain group in society. Therefore, anyone can be a victim of hate crime, even though members of vulnerable communities are the most frequent victims. Hate crimes are often directed against members of different ethnical communities, religious and sacred buildings, Roma people, sexual minorities, and internally displaced persons.

Accordingly, the methodology for reporting hate crimes under this report is consisted of learning from previous experiences and data, maintaining an interactive website for hate crime reporting, monitoring national printed and electronic media and reporting and double-checking hate crimes, and hate incidents to the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

³ Jacobs, J. B., & Potter, K. (1998). *Hate crimes: Criminal law & identity politics*. Oxford University Press.

⁴ Lippman, M. (2009). *Contemporary criminal law: concepts, cases, and controversies*. Sage.

⁵ This is elaborated by the ECtHR in ECtHR, *Šečić v. Croatia*, Application No. 40116/02, date 31/08/2007.

2.1. Learning from previous experiences and data

In order to adopt a diagnostic approach to hate crime data collection and a robust monitoring systems, the Helsinki Committee primarily relies on previous experiences out of which we develop best practices to utilize the results. On the other hand, data collection is the first step towards combating hate crime, as reliable information and statistics are needed to develop targeted policies and customize support for victims.⁶ It is therefore essential that we build upon the previous years of work in the field and thus, the reports for 2013,⁷ 2014,⁸ 2015,⁹ 2016,¹⁰ 2017,¹¹ 2018,¹² and 2019,¹³ were all consulted prior to the writing of this report.

2.2. Maintaining an interactive website for hate crime reporting

The web portal – **www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com**, as of 2014 also accessible under **www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk**, is an interactive tool that informs citizens on hate crimes and allows users to report incidents. 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 as to the ways in which citizens can report incidents, via e-applications, Twitter, e-mail, and online forms, and displays statistical graphics. There are also tabs for FAQ, Resources, and Glossary on the web portal, under which information regarding the project, the meaning and scope of hate crimes, and publications on hate crimes are regularly published.

Throughout 2020, the project team updated all of the functionalities and the design of the website. Apart from the portal, the Facebook page and Twitter account are regularly sharing relevant information regarding the situation with hate crimes in the country. All of the materials are available in Macedonian, Albanian, and English. It is notable that the number of Facebook and Twitter followers is constantly growing, which indicates that more people display interest towards the issue.

6 This approach is also shared by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

7 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in the Republic of Macedonia in 2013*, published 15 May 2014, available at: <http://shorturl.at/fhATY>.

8 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in 2014*, published 22 July 2015, available at: <http://shorturl.at/mnqL1>, English version starts from page number 139.

9 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in 2015*, published 22 July 2016, available at: <http://shorturl.at/ATZ39>.

10 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in 2016*, published 24 July 2017, available at: <http://shorturl.at/tvBC4>, English version starts from page number 115.

11 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in 2017*, published 26 February 2018, available at: <http://shorturl.at/qN169>.

12 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in 2018*, published 10 September 2019, available at: <http://shorturl.at/dwyIW>.

13 Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Hate crimes in 2019*, published 22 July 2020, available at: <http://shorturl.at/dlyP8>.

2.3. Monitoring national printed and electronic media

The Helsinki Committee in 2020 continued to monitor a number of daily newspapers with different ideological leanings and political affiliation. Monitoring of electronic media was done on daily basis, through the two most popular internet news generators (www.time.mk and www.grid.mk), as well as by using the advanced search options under the 'News' section at www.google.com. Once a hate crime or an incident was recorded, MHC would publish it on the internet portal for reporting hate crimes – www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk. The main objective of media monitoring is to identify potential occurrences of hate incidents and to contact alleged victims for an interview, and offer them possible legal aid or trial monitoring in their case. By conducting this activity, the Committee recorded and published 104 hate crimes/incidents for the period between 1 January and 31 December 2020. The significant decline of registered incidents (104) in comparison to 2019 (159) is most likely linked to the extraordinary circumstances posed by the pandemic and the fact that numerous curfews were imposed during the state of emergency, but this will be further elaborated under the summary of main findings.

2.4. Reporting and double-checking hate crimes and hate incidents with the OSCE Mission to Skopje

Details regarding the incidents (brief description, date, time, location, source of information, victim(s) involved, perpetrator(s), 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. The tracking of the cases was largely facilitated by the continual successful functioning of the web platform for the mapping of hate crimes. Apart from being able to follow hate crime incidents online after they occurred, the OSCE Mission to Skopje received interim and final report prepared by the Helsinki Committee. These findings will also be shared with OSCE/ODIHR for their annual report on hate crimes in participating states of the OSCE.

The results are presented in the summary of the main findings, while the report also includes an annex which elaborates each hate crime incident out of the 104 that occurred in 2020.

3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings from 2020 are summarized through distribution of the data in eight categories.

3.1. Context

After the President of the Republic of North Macedonia signed the regulation declaring a state of emergency on the 18 March 2020,¹⁴ the Helsinki Committee publicly stated that the state of emergency must in no way be an excuse for the competent authorities to violate human rights. The Committee stressed that the measures to be taken must not deviate from the obligation to protect the most vulnerable categories of citizens of violence against them and that human rights and freedoms must be considered. The state is responsible for providing and protecting human rights and as such, it must not impede arbitrarily the enjoyment of human rights or restrict arbitrarily human freedoms during a state of emergency. The Helsinki Committee advised that in accordance with domestic and international standards, the restriction of rights and freedoms must in no case be discriminatory on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, national or social origin, property, or social status. Arbitrary interference would be contrary to the public interest and the common good, and government-issued regulations would be contrary to international law.

Before the state of emergency was declared, the Helsinki Committee had reorganized its work in accordance with the recommendations for prevention of the Ministry of Health. We have provided uninterrupted service for legal aid for citizens via phone and e-mail, leaving the opportunity for direct meetings in case of emergencies, so that we could first-hand hear citizens share their relevant experiences. As restrictions on freedom of movement and the economic crisis meant an inevitable blow to human rights, the Committee remained focused on the issue of hate crimes. Even though the 95 days of state of emergency,¹⁵ as well as the numerous curfews contributed towards the decrease of number of hate crimes, the prevalence of reported hate crimes in the country remained high throughout the whole year.

Having in mind that the European Commission's progress report for 2020 for the country stated that "The increasing trend of hate crime cases, registered in the civil society database, continued...,"¹⁶ and that "Efforts are needed to increase the capacity of law enforcement officers and legal professionals to prevent and prosecute all instances of violence, hate crimes and hate speech more effectively,"¹⁷ we ought to share the sentiment that more could have been done during 2020 in this regard. Adding up to the European Commission's progress report for 2019 for the country, which stated that "collection of data on hate speech is not systematic while an increase in cases

14 Decision establishing the existence of the state of emergency dated 18.3.2020 of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 68/2020).

15 The first decision was followed by 4 others. Decision dated 17.4.2020 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 104/2020), Decision dated 17.5.2020 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 127/2020), Decision dated 31.5.2020 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" 6p.142/2020) and Decision dated 15.6.2020 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 159/2020).

16 European Commission, *North Macedonia 2020 Report*, Brussels, October 2020, p. 32.

17 European Commission, *North Macedonia 2020 Report*, Brussels, October 2020, p. 34.

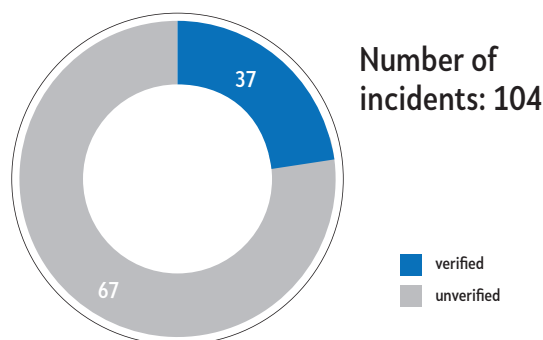
of hate crime was noted in the Civil Society database¹⁸, it seems that there is an emerging trend to ignore the problems in this sphere. It is also vital to note that the special analysis of hate crimes registered in 2013, the annual reports on hate crime in the country between 2014 and 2020, and the web portal for hate crime reporting – www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk, represent the sole and most extensive efforts to map, monitor, and report incidents of hate crime in the country.

Nevertheless, there are also positive aspects of the work within the field of combating hate crimes; some of them are:

- the fact that more than 2,000 police officers were trained to recognize hate crimes between 2015 and 2016;
- the improvements in the automatic data base systems in prosecution and judiciary that now have an optional button for registering hate crime cases;
- the amendments to the Criminal Code adopted in December 2018 that clarified provisions on hate crime and expanded the protected grounds in practice; and
- the improvement in national hate crime data collection by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

That being said, the general perception is that proper and timely recognition and registration of hate crimes by police officials and judicial authorities is still unsatisfactory. It is to be acknowledged that in 2018, after the increase of registered incidents by MoIA (33 in total), in comparison to the period from 2014 to 2017,¹⁹ when only a total of 7 incidents were registered,²⁰ the country reported only 23 incidents for 2019.²¹ The health crisis is far from over, and the economic and social crisis will intensify with each passing day of uncertainty and imposed restrictions. Hence, we hope that this report, as well as the special report,²² will serve as a guideline in the further action of decision makers because it precisely determines whose rights suffered the most in the past critical period and where urgent and effective intervention should be made so further damages can be prevented.

3.2. Number of incidents



¹⁸ European Commission, *North Macedonia 2019 Report*, Brussels, May 2019, p. 30.

¹⁹ No incidents were reported in 2014 and 2017, 5 incidents were reported in 2015, and 2 incidents were reported in 2016. See more: <http://hatecrime.osce.org/north-macedonia>.

²⁰ In 2015, the country sent statistics on 5 hate crimes reported by the police, 3 of which were prosecuted, while for 2 there was a sentence.

²¹ See more at: <http://hatecrime.osce.org/north-macedonia>.

²² Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, *Special report on the situation with human rights in North Macedonia during COVID-19*, published on 13 October 2020.

In 2020, the Committee registered a total of 104 incidents and hate crimes. The incidents were registered immediately after they were reported by the media or the Ministry of Internal Affairs. At the same time, 37 incidents (36%) were verified, while 67 (64%) remain unverified. Most of the unverified cases concern situations where according to other indicators,²³ there is a reasonable belief that these are biased incidents motivated by the ethnicity of the victim. Despite our requests for confirmation of the indicators, the Ministry is yet to verify these hate crimes/incidents.

The majority of incidents were confirmed by checking the police bulletins and media reporting on the cases. Nevertheless, the unverified incidents were included in the report due to occurrence of bias indicators, including:

- victim/witness perception;
- comments made on the spot;
- the difference between the victim and the perpetrator on ethnic grounds;
- pattern/frequency of previous incidents;
- nature of the violence;
- absence of other motives; and
- location and timing.

More specifically, the unverified incidents were included because of the information received with regards to the scene,²⁴ the type,²⁵ the time,²⁶ and the damaged property during the incident.²⁷ Unverified and verified incidents can both be seen separately on the web portal for hate crime reporting, verified cases are marked with a green textbox, while unverified cases are with a red textbox.

Ethnicity (76 incidents) and political affiliation (12 incidents) once again represent the great majority of grounds under which hate crimes were committed in 2020. Furthermore, 5 hate crimes were targeted at migrants or refugees because of their status, 4 incidents were motivated by different nationality, 3 incidents occurred due to religious beliefs, 2 incidents were motivated by sexual orientation, 1 incident was on the basis of an intellectual disability, and 1 incident was gender-based. The victims and the perpetrators are most often young people and members of different ethnicities.²⁸ Often a single incident fulfils the criteria of two or more alleged crimes, hence there is a higher number of crimes than incidents. Most of the incidents occurring as a result of political affiliation or political conviction do not involve people as victims but instead legal entities appear as victims. This is due to the fact that the majority of these incidents refer to damage of property and inflicting material damage.

Majority of alleged criminal offences include: Violence (66), Bodily and severe bodily harm (8), Causing national, racial or religious hate, discord or intolerance (8), Robbery (7), Damaging of property (5), Serious threat (4), Mutilating symbols (3), and Threatening safety (3). The details of the

23 Location, manner of execution, involvement of minors and high school students.

24 E.g., ethnically mixed neighbourhoods and schools, bus routes used by members of different ethnic communities, places where hate crimes already occurred in the past.

25 E.g., a larger group of juveniles attacking one or more victims without being provoked, group fights, assault on a bus or at a bus station.

26 E.g. after a previous fight as a form of revenge, after school hours, during or after a sporting event.

27 E.g., places of religious rites.

28 Mainly Macedonians and Albanians.

incidents, such as a short description, date, time, location, source of information, involved victim/s, perpetrator/s, status of the case, response by the authorities, the impact on victim/witness and the community can be found in the Annex to this report named "Hate Crime Incidents in 2020". In the same Annex, there is a field for 'bias indicators' that is incorporated in each separate incident. It includes data on the perception of the victim/witness, the comments made on the spot, the difference between the victim and the perpetrator on the grounds of ethnicity, the pattern/frequency of previous incidents, the nature of violence, the absence of other motives, and the location and time. Apart from providing additional information about the incident, this section is particularly useful to understand why unverified incidents are also included in this report.

In March 2020, the MHC sent its Annual Hate Crime Report for 2019 to the OSCE/ODIHR.²⁹ The Helsinki Committee remains the only non-governmental organization that informs the OSCE/ODIHR about the hate crime situation in the country. The tendency of the increasing numbers of hate crime incidents noted in 2018 that continued in 2019, seemed to have dropped significantly this year. However, the COVID-19 situation influenced this area of life as well and it is not possible to accurately predict the reasons for the drop in 2020 at this moment.

With only 12 registered incidents due to political affiliation and belief, it might be said that the number of incidents with political bias motivation has decreased after several years.³⁰ This is due to the resolution of numerous long-lasting internal and external political issues. The incidents in 2020 in this sphere mostly involved damage of property of SDSM/VMRO-DPMNE or serious threat to members and sympathizers. Considering that the incidents intensified in January 2019, immediately after the vote on the amendments to the Constitution for implementation of the 2018 Prespa Agreement, and in April before and during the presidential elections, as well as at the end of the year, shortly after the parliamentary elections were announced for April 2020, this year there were no particular periods when hate crimes based on political affiliation were peaking. Furthermore, the severity of these incidents is not comparable to those between 2016 and 2019. This course does not follow the trends from previous years when these types of incidents were on the rise before and during the early parliamentary elections in 2014, the presidential elections that same year, the early parliamentary elections in 2016, as well as the local elections in 2017, while this year the number remained in the same range between 1 and 2 per month, even in the period before the July parliamentary elections. Nevertheless, considering the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 and the drastically different approach to the political campaigns, it is not possible to distinguish at this point whether the general atmosphere in the country in this regard has improved.

The second noticeable trend relates to the number of incidents based on Macedonian or Albanian ethnic background of the perpetrator/victim. In 2013, these incidents amounted to 84% of all incidents (98 out of 116), while in 2014 the percentage was 61% (53 out of 87). During the course of 2015, only 36% of the incidents (16 out of 44) occurred between Macedonians and Albanians,³¹

²⁹ See: <http://hatecrime.osce.org/north-macedonia>.

³⁰ Excluding last year.

³¹ Compared to the incidents registered in 2013 and 2014, the biggest change here was with regards to the victims, majority of which were refugees or migrants. At the end of 2014 and during the course of 2015, the country witnessed an unprecedented numbers of refugees transiting through the country in an attempt to enter the EU Schengen Area. 21 out of the 44 incidents (48%) in 2015 involved an attack or robbery (including armed robbery) against refugees or migrants during their transit through the country. During these incidents, at least 62 (almost 50% of all recorded victims) Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi, and Moroccan citizens fell victims of a hate crime. See the Annual report on hate crimes in 2015.

in 2016 – 49% of the incidents (34 out of 70),³² and in 2017 – 29 incidents (41%).³³ In the last years, there has been no significant decrease in these types of incidents, and they have remained the most pressing issue, even more so if we have in mind that a large majority of the victims and perpetrators in these incidents are juveniles. In 2018, the number of registered hate crime incidents based on ethnic background increased again to 64% (79 out of 123) of all registered incidents. In 2019, 85% of all registered incidents (135 out of 159) occurred due to the ethnicity of victims/perpetrators, making these incidents the most common and worrying as in the past (2013/2014). Having this in mind, the drop to 73% this year could be seen as a significant decrease, but once again, due to the restrictions imposed because of COVID-19 and the drastically different approach to the everyday life, it is not possible to distinguish at this point whether the general atmosphere in the country in this regard has improved.

After several years, and for the second time in a row, 2 separate incidents motivated by the sexual orientation/gender identity of the victim were registered. This potentially means that the confidence in the institutions has increased among the LGBTI community because of the positive messages and support provided publicly by the ruling party and some of the public political figures. However, this fact does not necessarily mean that the society has become more tolerant towards the LGBTI community. In that regard, it must be noted that state authorities failed to investigate properly the incidents from 2013 and 2014, and the police failed to arrest any of the perpetrators yet again this year.

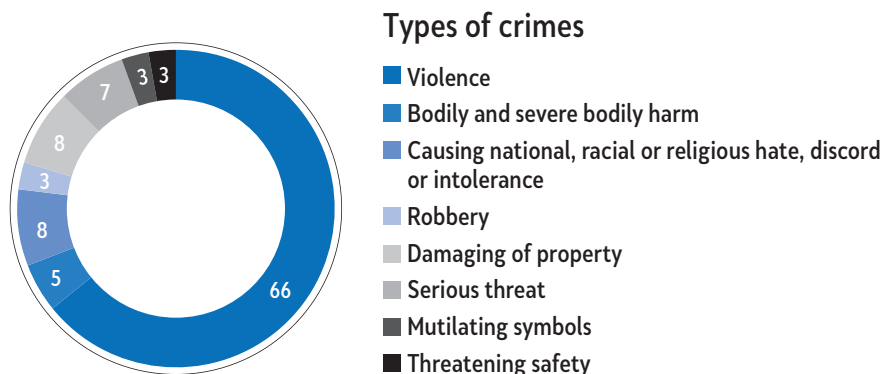
The hate crime amendments of the Criminal Code that were passed in December 2018, came into force on 8 January 2019. This is a very significant legislative change and as a result of it there should be an increase in criminal prosecution of hate crimes. This is the first year of implementation and thus it is still too early to draw conclusions, but it is important to note that the country reported 23 incidents for 2019. This is a surprising decrease having in mind that there was an increase of officially registered incidents by the MoIA, i.e. in 2018,³³ hate crimes were recorded by the police, while in 2017 no incidents were reported, 2 incidents were reported in 2016 and 5 were reported in 2015.³⁴

32 2016 and 2017 were both characterized by a severe political crisis and a lot of violence between political parties. For more, see the Annual Reports on Hate Crimes in 2016 and 2017.

33 In 2017, the aforementioned types of incidents particularly intensified after the political party VMRO-DPMNE failed to secure a majority of at least 61 MPs within the constitutional time limit and during the negotiations for establishing a Government. During the year, the number of hate crimes committed on grounds of political affiliation or political conviction went up again in the wake of the pre-election campaign for the local elections. This shows the immediate causality between hate speech that is widely used during pre-election campaigns and the consecutive hate crimes. See Annual Report for 2017.

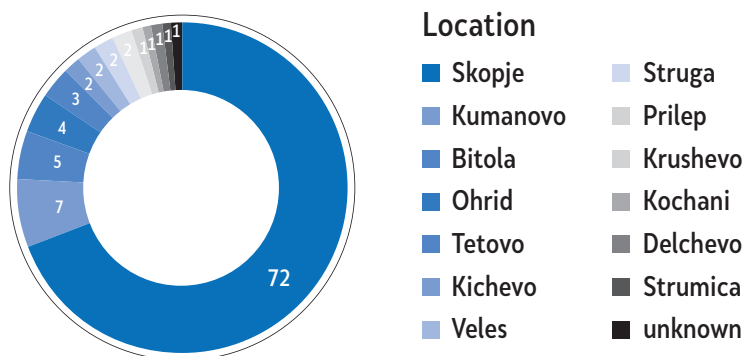
34 See more: <http://hatecrime.osce.org/north-macedonia>.

3.3. Types of crimes



The majority of incidents were committed by young people and there are also a large number of unknown perpetrators. Victims and perpetrators are usually members of different ethnic communities,³⁵ whilst the reported incidents were related to some of the criminal acts laid down in the Criminal Code. Most of the alleged crimes include: Violence (66), Bodily and severe bodily harm (8), Causing national, racial or religious hate, discord or intolerance (8), Robbery (7), Damaging of property (5), Serious threat (4), Mutilating symbols (3), and Threatening safety (3). It often happens that one incident meets the criteria for two or more alleged crimes and that is why there might be a greater number of crimes than incidents present in the data.³⁶

3.4. Incidents by location

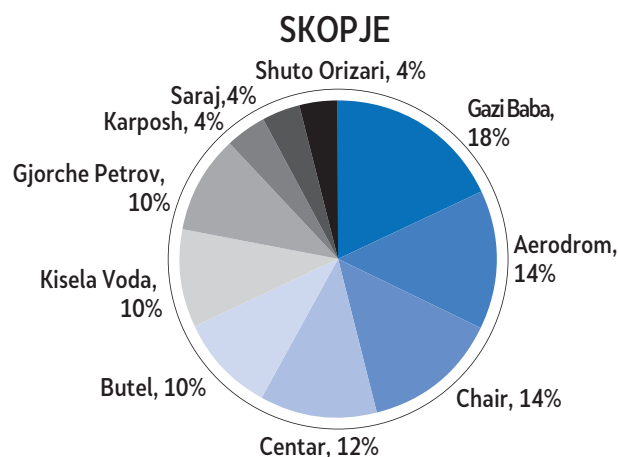


The majority of incidents – 72 (69,2% of all registered) – occurred in Skopje and its surrounding municipalities. There were 7 incidents in Kumanovo; 5 in Bitola; 4 in Ohrid; 3 in Tetovo; 2 in Kichevo, Veles, Struga, and Prilep; 1 incident in Krushevo, Kochani, Delchevo, and Strumica, and the location for 1 incident is unknown.

³⁵ Mostly but not limited to: Macedonians and Albanians.

³⁶ Hate crimes are determined by the Criminal Code, while incidents comprehend a broader range of cases that are inclusive of offences such as hate graffiti, nationalistic chants, and so on.

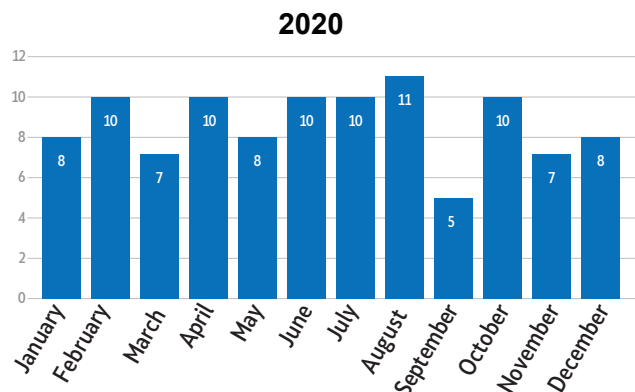
Most of the cities are located in regions in which there are significant minority of ethnic Albanians (Skopje, Kumanovo, Kichevo, and Struga), ethnic Macedonians (Tetovo and Gostivar), ethnic Vlachs (Krushevo) or several minorities that together constitute a significant part of the population (Bitola, Ohrid, Strumica, and Kochani). Debar is one of the rare towns where Macedonians and Albanians live together that registered no hate crimes in 2020.



The incidents in Skopje and its vicinity, again involved most of the attacks between members of the Macedonian and Albanian ethnic groups, and the damaging of property of political parties. By percentage, these incidents are with highest representation at the municipality of Gazi Baba with 18%. Furthermore, such incidents are registered in all of the other 9 municipalities in Skopje, Aerodrom, and Chair 14%; Centar 12%; Butel, Gyorche Petrov, and Kisela Voda 10%; and Karposh, Shuto Orizari, and Saraj 4%. The fact that some municipalities register less incidents does not lead to the conclusion that those incidents rarely occur there, but rather that they are not regularly reported. Shuto Orizari is predominantly inhabited by ethnic Romani, Chair and Saraj by ethnic Albanians, while the ethnic Macedonians are a majority in the other municipalities. Many incidents in Skopje occurred in buses,³⁷ most of which commute between neighbourhoods that are inhabited by ethnic Macedonians and Albanians. Other incidents include an attack of a group of students against an individual student or fights between two opposing groups.

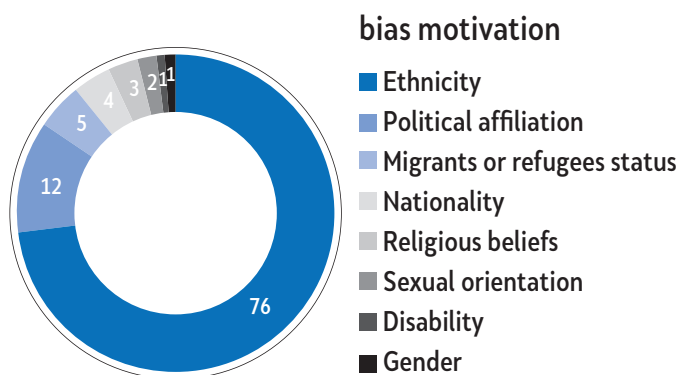
³⁷ The media sometimes reported on the location where a bus was attacked, but not on their number.

3.5. Incidents by month



The highest number of incidents occurred in August (11). There were 10 incidents in February, April, June, July, and October; 8 in January, May, and December; 7 in March and November, and 5 in September (the lowest). Even though there are usually trends as to the months with most hate crimes, this year there were no such periods.³⁸

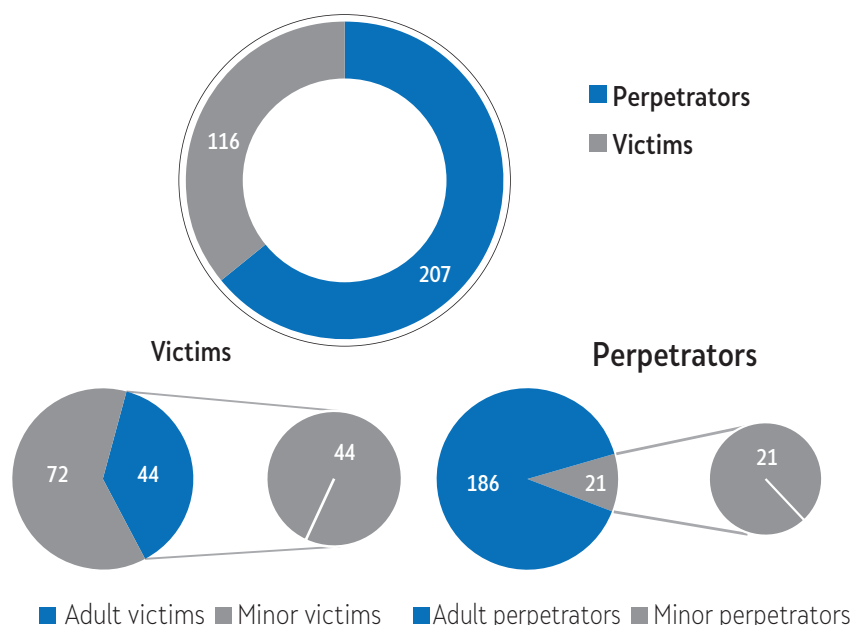
3.6. Incidents by bias motivation



Ethnicity (76 incidents) and political affiliation (12) represent the great majority of grounds under which hate crimes were committed in 2020. Furthermore, 5 hate crimes were targeted at migrants or refugees because of their status, 4 incidents were motivated by different nationality of the victim, 3 incidents occurred due to religious beliefs, 2 incidents were motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims, 1 incident was on the basis of an intellectual disability, and 1 incident was gender-based. Most of the incidents involved ethnic Macedonians and Albanians as victims and perpetrators.

³⁸ Once again, this is due to the measures imposed to deal with the COVID-19 virus. Although the country held parliamentary elections on the 15 July, there was no increase in the months prior to July.

3.7. Victims and perpetrators



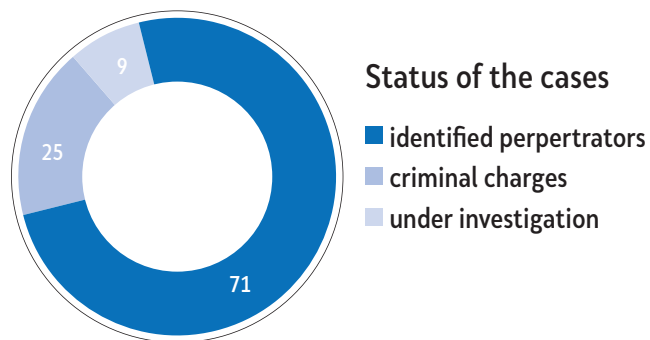
Over the course of the year, there were at least 116 victims (out of which 44 minors) and 207 (21 minors) perpetrators of hate crimes. Whenever the media reported about an undefined number, for example between 10 and 15 perpetrators, the lower value was used for the purpose of this report. Whenever it was reported that 'a group' of perpetrators committed the hate crime, the report used the value of 3 people. In most of the incidents, the perpetrators acted as a group and a significant part of the victims and the perpetrators are young males.

3.8 Status of the cases

Considering that there is no hate crimes database, the cases were registered by contacting the police, monitoring the media, and obtaining information directly from the victims. For each of the observed incidents, the Helsinki Committee sent a request for information to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to obtain details on the status of the cases. The Committee sent requests for public information to the Ministry regarding all of the registered incidents, and received information for all of the months.

In the responses,³⁹ it was observed that they have started registering some incidents explicitly as hate crimes, 9 out of 104 from this report; however, this is still not at a regular basis and it seems to be done rather arbitrarily. Namely, these incidents concerned cases involving threats against politicians via internet and cases of spreading racial and xenophobic material via computer systems. Thus, most of the received responses from the Ministry regarding 2020 incidents were unsatisfactory and did not answer the questions in the requests; therefore, they did not contain any specific information regarding the incidents and only noted whether the event was recorded or not by the MoIA.

³⁹ The MOI provided information on all of the cases, that is 104 out of the 104 registered incidents.



From the responses it was noted that MoIA identified 71 perpetrators from a total of 207 registered, 9 cases are under investigation, while 25 criminal charges were pressed and the MoIA registered 17 incidents as misdemeanors against the public order. In their responses to cases of property damage or defiling graves, the MoIA emphasized that these types of crimes are charged upon a private lawsuit. In 2 cases, the victims refused to press any charges. However, once again the status of the largest number of the incidents remains unknown.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT TEAM

The activities are designed to provide indicators of the scope, nature, and frequency of hate crimes perpetrated in the country. Through this approach, we aim to work on the prevention of hate crimes and hate speech through improved legislation, increased public awareness, and by building capacities of criminal justice agencies and registering biased incidents.

4.1. Monitoring and registering hate crimes and incidents, with special attention to political, sports, peer violence and violence with bias motivation among young people

The Helsinki Committee continued monitoring a number of newspapers with different ideological leanings and political affiliation. The monitoring of electronic media was done on daily basis, through the two most popular internet news generators (www.time.mk and www.grid.mk), as well as by using the advanced search options under the 'News' section of www.google.com. Once a hate crime or an incident was recorded, the Committee published it on the internet portal for reporting hate crimes – www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk.⁴⁰ As previously mentioned, by conducting this activity the Helsinki Committee recorded and published 104 hate crimes/incidents for the period between 1 January and 31 December 2020.

The focus on political and sport events, as well as peer violence and violence with bias motivation among young people, was shifted online due to the numerous curfews that were imposed during the state of emergency and the extraordinary circumstances present during the reporting period. Therefore, these sources were not utilized as during the previous years and the main starting points for information were the electronic media, the MoIA's daily bulletins and legal aid beneficiaries that approached the Committee's legal team.

4.2. Reviewing reported hate incidents and contributing to the ODIHR Annual Report on Hate Crimes and Incidents in the OSCE Region for 2020

In March 2020, the Helsinki Committee sent its Annual Report on Hate Crimes for 2019 to ODIHR.⁴¹ The Committee remains the only organization that informs the ODIHR of the situation with hate crimes in the country.

4.3. Maintaining, updating, and promoting the website www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com and Facebook and Twitter pages in Macedonian, Albanian, and English

The web portal – www.zlostorstvaodomraza.com,⁴² is an interactive tool enabling citizens to report hate crimes and to receive information on the matter. It contains an interactive map

⁴⁰ See also activity 4.3. below.

⁴¹ See <https://hatecrime.osce.org/north-macedonia?year=2019>.

⁴² As of 2014 also accessible under www.zlostorstvaodomraza.mk.

showing the exact or approximate location of the incidents. The home page lists the categories of hate crimes and bias motivations, provides information as to the ways in which citizens can report incidents, via e-applications, Twitter, e-mail, and online forms, and displays statistical graphics. There are also tabs for FAQ, Resources, and Glossary on the web portal, under which information regarding the project, the meaning and scope of hate crimes, and publications on hate crimes are regularly published.

Throughout 2020, the project team updated all of the functionalities and the design of the website. Apart from the portal, the Facebook page and Twitter account are regularly sharing relevant information regarding the situation with hate crimes in the country. All of the materials are available in Macedonian, Albanian, and English. It is notable that the number of Facebook and Twitter followers is constantly growing, which indicates that more people display interest towards the issue. Throughout December 2020, the Facebook page showed a reach of 201,776 people or around 10% of the population of North Macedonia.⁴³

4.4. Establishing an informal network of actors to monitor and register hate crimes against specific target groups, such as the LGBTI community, Roma people, and persons with disabilities

During the reporting period, the Helsinki Committee held several meetings with representatives from the MoIA. There was a general agreement to cooperate, and the focal points were assigned by the MoIA state secretary. Furthermore, the project team compiled a list of national CSO's, formal and informal groups, that work with specific target groups. Nevertheless, due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 situation, this activity had to be paused at this second step and thus it was not fully implemented throughout 2020. The actions will be continued during 2021 as we also expect to be able to mark the International Day of Victims of Hate Crimes. Instead, both activities were replaced with alternative undertakings last year.⁴⁴

4.5. Participation in two awareness raising and capacity building workshops organized by the OSCE Mission on prevention of hate crimes involving young people by presenting the work of the Helsinki Committee in the area of hate crimes

The project team secured participation in both workshops. We presented the main project findings between 2013 and 2020 and discussed previous hate crime incidents.

4.6. Producing monthly bulletins on the situation with hate crimes in the country

During the reporting period, the Helsinki Committee produced 12 monthly bulletins for for each month.⁴⁵ They were published on the Committee's website, the project's website, and the Facebook page 'Zlostorstva od omraza'.⁴⁶ The data segregation by month is available on the following links:

1. [January bulletin](#), published on the 20 February;⁴⁷
2. [February bulletin](#), published on the 20 March;⁴⁸
3. [March bulletin](#), published on 20 April;⁴⁹
4. [April bulletin](#), published on 15 May;⁵⁰

⁴³ This section is repetitive due to the fact that it is both part of the methodology and a project activity.

⁴⁴ See below activities 4.10 and 4.11.

⁴⁵ In Macedonian called: Месечници за криминалот од омраза.

⁴⁶ Hate Crimes.

⁴⁷ Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/ijlJN>.

⁴⁸ Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/qsDhV>.

⁴⁹ Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/cdwM1>.

⁵⁰ Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/nvGK5>.

5. [May bulletin](#), published on 15 June;⁵¹
6. [June bulletin](#), published on 15 July;⁵²
7. [July bulletin](#), published on 15 August;⁵³
8. [August bulletin](#), published on 20 September;⁵⁴
9. [September bulletin](#), published on 15 October;⁵⁵
10. [October bulletin](#), published on 15 November;⁵⁶
11. [November bulletin](#), published on 10 December;⁵⁷
12. [December bulletin](#), published on 10 January;⁵⁸

The Helsinki Committee included a separate section on hate speech and hate crimes in its monthly reports on the situation with human rights, which are distributed to state institutions, media, NGOs, other relevant stakeholders, regional partners, international organizations, and foreign embassies in the country.

4.7. Preparing, translating, and publishing the report from the monitoring in 2020 in Macedonian, Albanian, and English

This annual report was prepared, translated, and published online on the Helsinki Committee's website and the portal zlostorstvaodmraz.com during January and February 2021. The hard copy, just as it was the case with the previous Annual Reports, will be sent by post to all relevant institutions, media, and organizations.

With regards to the Annual Hate Crimes Report for 2019, the electronic version was sent to over 200 institutions, media, and organizations, whilst the hard copy was delivered by post to 27 Basic and 4 Appellate Courts, the Supreme Court, 22 Basic and 4 Higher Public Prosecutor's offices, the Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia's office, 37 institutions, and 11 organizations.

4.8. Marking the proposed Day of Victims of Hate Crimes, 22 July, by organizing a press conference and the 'Turlitava' event

Due to restriction imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures imposed for protection against spreading the virus, this activity, along with part of activity 4.4.,⁵⁹ were not implemented this year. We hope that we will be able to continue with the implementation of both activities during 2021. As for this year, both activities have been replaced with alternative undertakings.⁶⁰ Nonetheless, in order to mark 22 July,⁶¹ the Helsinki Committee issued a press release commemorating the day, as we also published the Annual Report on Hate Crime in 2019. The media published 43 articles in Macedonian and Albanian with regards to this.

51 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/vALN7>.

52 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/czCHI>.

53 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/gioLV>.

54 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/jGJK9>.

55 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/rvER0>.

56 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/cizE8>.

57 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/pvL08>.

58 Available at the following link: <http://shorturl.at/cyDGJ>.

59 Establishing an informal network of actors to monitor and register hate crimes against specific target groups, such as the LGBTI community, Roma people, and persons with disabilities.

60 See below activities 4.10 and 4.11.

61 European Day of Victims of Hate Crimes.

In regular times, 22 July event is a half-day gathering called 'Turlitva – It is tastier together' and it involves speeches, music, and socializing between participants of different ethnic backgrounds during a degustation of traditional Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, Roma, Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian, and Vlach food, such as Turlitava – a traditional Balkan dish. This activity aims to celebrate tolerance and peaceful coexistence between members of different communities in the country.

4.9. Providing legal aid to victims of hate incidents and monitoring trials of selected cases of hate crimes on different protected characteristics

In the period between January and June, the Helsinki Committee provided legal aid in three cases. Two of the cases were regarding two separate incidents in February where young Roma boys were targeted and assaulted in public transport because of their ethnicity. For both cases, the Helsinki Committee submitted criminal charges to the public prosecution. The third case was regarding the assault against a young boy because of the color of his skin and his race, registered in 2019. As reported last year, the Committee together with the mother submitted criminal charges against two unknown perpetrators to the public prosecution in Skopje. Due to the pressed charges, the mother and the victim were asked to give another statement regarding the incident in front of a police inspector. The victim and his mother were accompanied to the police station in Kisela Voda by a legal advisor from the Committee.

From July to December, the Committee provided legal aid in two cases. The first case concerned a gay man, who received serious death threats on Facebook because he is a member of the LGBTI community and because he defended the rights and freedoms of the members of this community in comments. From the content of the threats he received, it was visible that the threatener in the past, not only verbally, but also physically attacked and harassed members of marginalized communities. The team of the Helsinki Committee, together with the victim, submitted criminal charges to the Police Station 'Centar' - PS 'Beko' based on Article 144 of the Criminal Code for the crime 'Endangering safety', with special emphasis on paragraph 2 as a qualified form of this act committed out of hatred. Instead of the evidence provided being the basis for police officers to act on a criminal charge by contacting a competent prosecutor and a cybercrime inspector, the police officers took on the role of prosecutor, interpreting the law on their own, arguing that the case should be registered as a simple complaint, and the victim to further seek legal protection in a private lawsuit. This voluntarism of the police officers is not new. On the contrary, when reporting a series of hate crimes, the behavior of police officers is the same, insolent, and unprofessional. However, the fact that the victim was persistent and was accompanied by a legal advisor, lead to the prosecution of the crime *ex officio*.

The other case is about a hate crime on the basis of a disability. A parent of a child with autism reported to the Committee that the whole family are victims of harassment and serious threats by two neighbors in the apartment building where they live. The neighbors repeatedly knocked on the family's door, shouting that they would kill them and their nine-year-old autistic child, to which they were referring to as 'mentally retarded'. The background of these attacks is the noise allegedly caused by the child. The family reported the case to the police station, but it all ended with a police report, after which no follow-up action was taken by the authorities for the harassment of the family and the child with intellectual disability. In 2018, the police filed criminal charges for 'Endangering security' under Article 144 of the Criminal Code, which was rejected by the Public Prosecutor's Office because the specific event did not meet the elements of a crime prosecuted *ex officio*.

According to legal instructions of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the family filed a private criminal lawsuit against the neighbors. The criminal proceedings are scheduled for March next year which will be

monitored by the Committee's legal team. The criminal offense of endangering the safety of a child, on the ground of his intellectual disability, which is obviously motivated by the already existing intolerance and prejudice against members of this vulnerable group, can be qualified as hate crime. The Public Prosecutor's Office incorrectly rejected the criminal charges by wrongly qualifying the crime. Having this in mind, the Committee filed criminal charges against the perpetrators for the crime of endangering security, as a hate crime. Considering that the other members of the family are victims of discrimination by association on the ground of disability, we also submitted a report complaint to the Commission on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination. Additionally, a report complaint was submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs in the MoA for the unprofessional and unlawful actions or the lack of appropriate action by the police officers.

The monitoring of trials was also an ongoing activity. For the purposes of this report, we are highlighting four cases.

1. Case 'Sazdo'

The Helsinki Committee monitored the trial against three young men who beat to death the young 'Komiti' member Nikola Sazdovski – Sazdo due to alleged ethnic intolerance on 29 June 2018. The case ended in the first instance court procedure, and two of the defendants were found guilty for murder and sentenced to 19 years imprisonment each. The public prosecution and the court did not recognize this case as a hate crime at any stage, failing to send a proper message to the public and potential perpetrators. The Committee continues to monitor the developments of the case in front of the Appellate Court.

To clarify, both the victim and the perpetrators were 19 and 20 years old. The victim was severely beaten at a frequented bus stop in Skopje by three peers, after which he fell in a coma and passed away ten days later as a result of the injuries.⁶² According to the indicators of the case, there was a reason to believe that the fight was motivated by ethnic intolerance between Macedonians and Albanians and this is why the case was registered by the Helsinki Committee as a hate crime. At first, the Primary Prosecutor qualified the act as violence, but after the death of the victim, the case was requalified as a murder committed in a vicious manner. The Committee has been monitoring the court proceedings with particular attention from the very beginning and noted, with concern, that the court has continuously violated the provisions of the Law on Criminal Procedure. Since the beginning of the main hearing, the Committee's monitors observed that the Judiciary Council, in particular the president of the Judiciary Council, was acting in accordance with the outdated Law on Criminal Procedure instead of the provisions in force. Such rough violations of procedural law endangers the entire process and the accused's rights, which might result with impunity of the perpetrators due to process violations.

The Helsinki Committee pointed that in every procedure, such as this one, the court must be objective, impartial and ought to observe strictly the provisions regulating the procedure in order to guarantee fair trial to the accused and protect the rights of the damaged and the victim. Only this approach can lead to a just process. By the end of 2018, the prosecution was still in the process of submitting evidence.⁶³ On 23 April 2019, the Criminal Court sentenced Besir Belja and Skender Demiri to 19 years in prison for the murder of Nikola Sazdovski – Sazdo. The third defendant Jeton Luzha was on the run and unavailable to the authorities until September 2020, when he was extradited from Germany. According to the Criminal Court, the defendants who acted together are guilty of brutally killing Nikola Sazdovski. The brutal manner

⁶² 9th of July, 2018.

⁶³ Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Annual Report on hate crimes in 2019.

of deprivation of life was also pointed out by the Prosecution in the indictment and the accused also need to pay monetary compensation for mental pain to the members of Nikola's family.

2. Attacks on the LGBTI Support Centre

One of the most striking cases of inaction of the Public Prosecutor's Office regarding hate crimes are the six attacks on the LGBTI Support Center, a branch of the Helsinki Committee, in the period from 2012 to 2016. CSOs called for swift clarification of cases, detection of perpetrators, and effective prosecution of violence, causing general danger and racial and other discrimination. No action has been taken by the prosecutors so far, even though the attackers were recorded by security cameras. In February this year, another incident motivated by sexual orientation was registered. The incident involved billboards with LGBTI messages in Bitola that were damaged with drawings of Nazi signs. Regardless of the positive messages and support provided publicly by the Government and public political figures, to this day, the judicial authorities have not resolved this or any of the previous acts of hate crimes against the LGBTI community.⁶⁴

3. Case 'Milenko Nedelkovski'

The Committee followed the case against the public figure Milenko Nedelkovski for inciting national hatred and violence regarding the fires in Greece in August 2018. The Basic Criminal Court in Skopje acquitted the journalist Milenko Nedelkovski. The indictment against the journalist Milenko Nedelkovski was filed for publishing a Facebook status with hate speech, which was initiated by the Public Prosecutor's Office *ex officio*. The reason for such a verdict was the inability of the Public Prosecutor's Office to prove the charges against Nedelkovski, which the court deemed to be evidence of the crime. During 2 years and 19 hearings, the witnesses (inspectors from the Ministry of Internal Affairs) summoned by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the expertise submitted by the Prosecution, did not prove Nedelkovski's guilt. Throughout the process, Nedelkovski claimed that all this was done to silence him and to deprive him of his freedom of expression, action, speech, and opinion. In the past, Nedelkovski was notorious for his constant use of hate speech and inciting of discrimination and violence against persons and groups on the basis of sex, race, color, gender, marginalized group, ethnicity, language, nationality, social origin, religion or belief, other beliefs, education, political affiliation, personal or social status, mental or physical disability, and age.

4. Case 'Monstrum'/'Monster'

The Committee monitored the trial of the case 'Monstrum' where 5 persons were killed on Easter Eve in 2012. Alil Demiri, Afrim Ismailovic, Agim Ismailovic, Fejzi Aziri, Haki Aziri, and Sami Ljuta were arrested in 2012, shortly after the bodies of four young men, Filip Slavkovski, Aleksandar Nakevski, Cvetanco Acevski, and Kire Trickovski, all between the age of 18-20, were found on April 12, before Easter. The bodies were found near Smilkovsko Lake, not far from Skopje. They were lined up in a row, indicating that they had been executed. The body of 45-year-old Borce Stevkovski was found nearby. At the time, the news of the killings raised ethnic tensions after a group of Macedonians staged protests, violent at moments, blaming the country's largest minority, Albanians, for the killings. In June 2014, the Skopje Criminal Court found all suspects guilty. They received the longest possible sentences for the crime of terrorism – life imprisonment. According to the verdict at the time, Alil Demiri and Afrim Ismailovic killed the five Macedonians with automatic rifles, while the others allegedly provided logistical support. The defendants pleaded not guilty, arguing that the case was a political "set-up" by the Government.

⁶⁴ The Helsinki Committee reported about this at: <http://shorturl.at/dBW79>.

This case became even more controversial when similar suspicions were expressed by the Albanian parties in the country, as well as by the largest opposition party at that time, the Social Democratic Union, which is in power today. In the unexpected turn of events in October 2017, the prosecution proposed to the Supreme Court to abolish life sentences, which it did. The retrial began in May 2018. The defendants continued to prove their innocence, and the prosecution announced new evidence. So far, several eyewitnesses, forensic experts, and politicians have testified before the court. The trial is ongoing.

4.10. Infographic with summarized data for the previous 8 years

The Infographic depicted the hate crimes data collected from 2013 to 2020 as a closure to the cooperation between the OSCE and the Helsinki Committee. It was published in Macedonian, Albanian, and English on the International Human Rights Day on 10 December and it had great reception among the general public with several media outlets reporting about the matter. The social media posts reached 44,405 people and they were shared by more than 40 media outlets. Up to 1 January 2021, the Helsinki Committee has recorded 773 hate crimes and all of the data can be found in the following picture.

DATA ON HATE CRIMES

FEBRUARY 2013 – DECEMBER 2020

Total number of incidents **773**



MOST COMMON TYPE OF INCIDENTS



At least



967 victims



2 538 offenders

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS



INCIDENTS BY LOCATION



Institutional response to cases



Identified offenders	326
Investigation	198
No information	196
Victim refused to report	53



Legal resolution

Criminal charges	131
Misdemeanor charges	75
Unregistered	56

A criminal act against a natural or legal entity or related entities or property, committed entirely or partially due to real or hypothetical (imaginary) characteristic or connection of the entity with a certain race, skin color, nationality, ethnicity, religion or persuasion, mental or physical handicap, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or political persuasion is considered a hate crime.

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

4.11. Joint action with the city of Skopje for removal of hate graffiti

This action intended to cover hate graffiti throughout the town. The coordination with the cabinet of the mayor was agreed and we acted on several locations throughout the city. The results of the monitoring of hate speech in the Republic of North Macedonia conducted by the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, shows a double increase of registered reports in 2020 compared to 2019. The insults are mostly found on social networks, in public spaces in the form of signs, and in the form of graffiti on buildings and billboards. Having this in mind, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights requested Approval from the Municipality of the City of Skopje for removal, i.e. covering the written inscriptions and graffiti that contain hate speech on buildings and surfaces on the territory of the City of Skopje. These actions were carried out over the months of November and December, at several locations throughout the city where the articles and graffiti containing hate speech were registered. In this regard, we reiterate that tolerance is key to maintaining peace and to the economic and social progress of all people, and this is especially true of societies like ours that are multiethnic and multicultural.

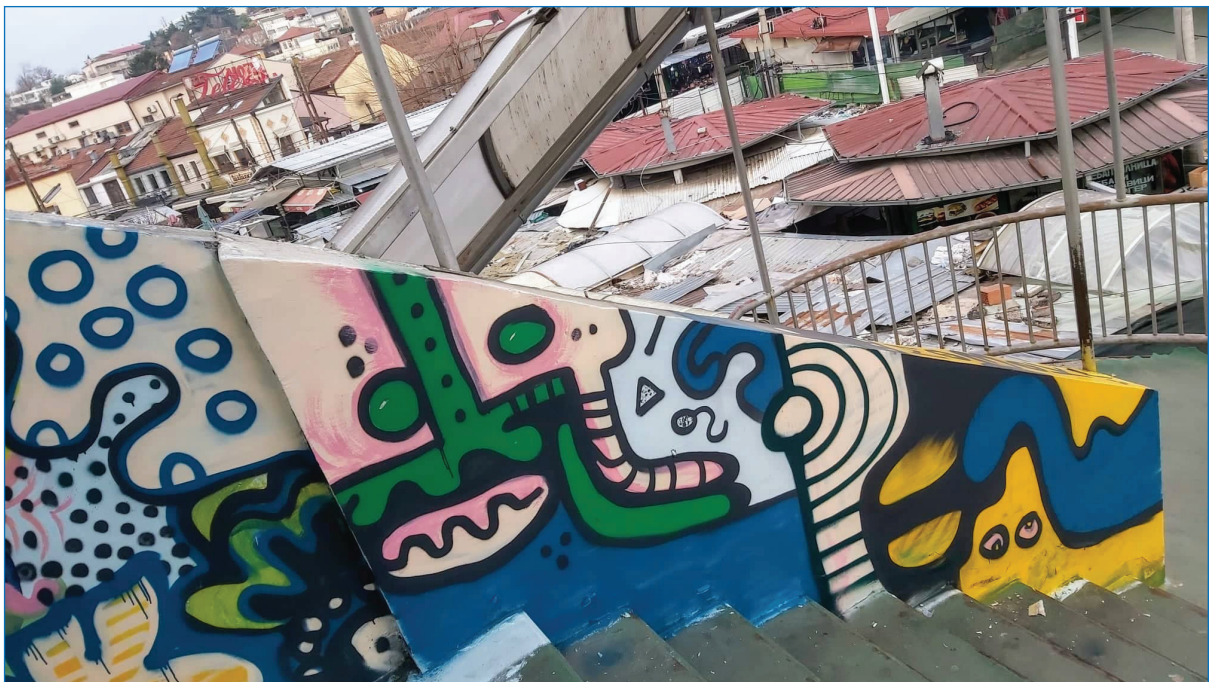
We managed to cover three places throughout the city in Bit Pazar, Aerodrom, and Avtokomanda and it had great reception among the general public with several media outlets reporting about the matter. All of the details are available on the social media posts. The graffiti artists are Kamelija Kalamernikova and Pande Eftimov.



Part of a bridge in Bit Pazar prior to the action



Part of a bridge in Bit Pazar after the action



Part of a bridge in Bit Pazar after the action

The reception of the local population was overwhelmingly positive, people were supportive and offered assistance to the graffiti artists. Nevertheless, the project coordinator received several hate messages and one threat online not to interfere with 'local art'.



Part of Aerodrom prior to the action



Part of Aerodrom after the action

Similar to the first action, the reception of the local population was overwhelmingly positive, people were supportive and offered assistance to the graffiti artists. Nevertheless, the project coordinator received several hate messages online and one threat on physical wellbeing by a profile named 'Фамилија Аеродром' to be careful when passing through the municipality if he decides to continue with the actions.



Part of Avtokomanda prior to the action



Part of Avtokomanda after the action

Similar to the other two actions, the reception of the local population was overwhelmingly positive, people were supportive and offered assistance to the graffiti artists. Nevertheless, the project coordinator received several hate messages online.

5. CONCLUSIONS

North Macedonia is still struggling with prevention and collection of data on hate crimes. The problem is even bigger when one acknowledges the reality that this issue is rarely or almost never discussed in the public discourse and it is uncertain whether we can expect any changes to the findings of this report in the near future. It is not very likely that we will soon have at our disposal comprehensive and comparable plan as to how to approach this matter. Hate crimes are usually not reported, and even when they end up as formal complaints, they are not properly investigated by the authorities because they are not trained to identify and respond to hate crimes. All of this affects youngsters the most, especially the ones that happen to be part of another minority group such as the LGBTI community, who are left on their own with no systemic protection of their identity characteristics.

This report has shown that hate crimes usually take place in public and that large number of incidents occurred in buses, near bus stations, around schools, and close to train stations. Many hate crimes are committed out of revenge or as a consequence of a previous incident between ethnic Macedonian and ethnic Albanian youngsters. Having in mind that very little effort has been made in view of preventive measures, human rights education, and raising public awareness, it is to be expected that these negative trends will continue to emerge as the institutions ignore the issue. The conclusions of this report can be summarized in the following points:

- The tendency of the increasing numbers of hate crime incidents noted in 2018 that continued in 2019 was decreased this year; however, due to the extraordinary circumstances in the country during 2020, caused by COVID-19, it would be too early to draw conclusions as to this trend;
- There was a decrease in the number of incidents occurring on grounds of ethnicity and the number of such incidents fell from 86% to 73,1% of all registered incidents. Once again, due to the restrictions imposed because of COVID-19, and the drastically different approach to the everyday life, it is not possible to distinguish at this point whether the general atmosphere in the country in this regard has improved. Almost all of these incidents happened between members of the Macedonian and Albanian ethnicities, and they continue to be the cause of greatest concern bearing in mind that the vast majority of victims and perpetrators of those incidents are juveniles/youth;
- Hate speech used by politicians during public debates and campaigns, often results in hate crimes committed by their supporters. Hate speech is also widely used in the comment sections of electronic media that generates political news;
- There has been a slight decline in the number of incidents motivated by political affiliation, but the trend from the previous two years regarding politically biased incidents remains the same this year;
- Beside the fact that in the previous years the Government has taken its first steps towards increasing the protection of the rights of the LGBTI community, and the fact that new public prosecutor was elected, the cases of hate crime against LGBTI community registered 2013-2015 are still unresolved by the prosecutor's office;
- It is still unclear whether the authorities are aware of the distinction between hate crime and hate speech;

- Some of the hate crimes are committed as revenge for previous incidents between the Macedonian and Albanian youth and against the Roma community;
- Bias motivated crimes are still not properly registered or investigated by the police and prosecutor's offices;
- Very few efforts have been made to introduce preventive measures, including education about human rights and raising public awareness, especially among high school students and young people, bearing in mind that the majority of the victims and a significant number of the perpetrators are juveniles or young adult people; and
- Given the fact that the phenomenon of hate crime is not treated as a separate issue, the state does not offer special protection and support to the victims.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Public engagement strengthens the confidence in the institutions. Prosecutors do not have to wait for a notable and highly-publicized hate crime case to start building contacts with the community. Regular communication and consultation with community groups can yield positive results by improving the willingness of victims and witnesses to cooperate with law enforcement and increase their understanding of what is happening in the community. These contacts can also ensure that in the face of growing inter-community tensions, the police can better calm the situation and know when to increase police presence to address community concerns. The recommendations that we have in this regard are the following:

- Ensure prompt and effective investigation and prosecution of hate crimes by ensuring that bias motives are taken into consideration throughout criminal proceedings;
- Take appropriate measures to facilitate the reporting of hate crimes by victims, including measures to build trust in the police and other state institutions;
- 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 registered by law enforcement authorities; the number of convictions; the bias motives behind these crimes; and the sentences handed down;
- Ensure that victims of hate crime are supported and protected;
- Promote training for relevant practitioners coming into contact with victims of hate crime, thereby enabling them to efficiently assist these victims; and
- Enhance preventative measures, *inter alia* by reflecting remembrance in human rights education, history curricula and relevant training, taking steps to educate the public, especially minors and young people on the values of cultural diversity and inclusion, and aiming for all sectors of society to have a role in combating such intolerance.

ANNEX – REGISTERED HATE CRIME INCIDENTS IN 2020

1. Violence on a public bus, line no. 57

What happened: On 01.01.2020, at 11:50 p.m., at SIA Skopje, G. T. (42) from Skopje reported that at 10:50 p.m., on a public bus, line no. 57, three individuals assaulted his son and stole his money. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 01.01.2020, at 10:50 p.m., Skopje (public bus, line no. 57).

Source of information: MoLA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 237, Criminal Code of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – Previous assaults on the public bus line no. 57.

Status of the case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MoLA has no confirmation on the incident's indicators.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation between different ethnic groups in society.

2. A physical assault on two minors in Skopje

What happened: On 03.01.2020, at 1:00 a.m., at SIA Skopje, B. B. (49) and M. A., both from Skopje, reported that on 02.01.2020, around 10:40 p.m., their children were physically assaulted by two individuals on Pariska Komuna Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 02.01.2020, around 10:40 p.m., Pariska Komuna Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MoLA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) underage victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – previous incidents on the same location.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MoLA has no confirmation on the incident's indicators.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

3. A hate crime incident at a parking lot on Goce Delcev Blvd.

What happened: On 13.01.2020, at 4:30 p.m., at SIA Skopje, E. S. (32) from Kosovo reported that around 2:30 p.m., at a parking lot on Goce Decev Blvd., two individuals physically assaulted her and stole a laptop from her vehicle Skoda Superb with Kosovo licence plates. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 13.01.2020, at 2:30 p.m., Goce Delcev Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 237, Criminal Code of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of the case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation between different ethnic groups in society.

4. A cyber hate crime

What happened: On 17.01.2020, the External Crime Office in Kochani pressed criminal charges against S. J. (61) from the village of Cheshinovo and D. A. (36) from the village of Obleshevo on reasonable grounds to suspect that they committed the crime 'Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System'. In the course of 2019, S. J. posted photographs and statuses on his Facebook profile promoting or inciting hatred and violence.

Date, time, and place of incident: Unknown.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) identified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and inciting violence through social networks is becoming a very common manner of committing hate crimes.

Status of case: Criminal charges pressed.

Response of the local authorities: Perpetrators identified, criminal charges pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

5. Unlawful deprivation of freedom of a Moroccan migrant

What happened: On 17.01.2020, around 11:00 a.m., at the Police Station Sopot, M. M. (25) from Palestine and H. S. (26) from Morocco, migrants accommodated at the Transit Centre Tabanovce, reported that A. K. (28) from Morocco was held captive for two days in a house in the village of Vaksince by individuals from Pakistan and Vaksince in order to extort money from him. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 16-17.01.2020, Vaksince village.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Unlawful Deprivation of Freedom (Article 140, paragraph 2 of CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the migrant status, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnicity;
2. *Location* – the irregular migrant route passes through the village of Vaksince and is the location of regular incidents due to the migrant status.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents/indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and stability in the country.

6. Peer violence

What happened: On 24.01.2020, at 03:00 p.m., at the police station Gazi Baba, L. K. (51) from Skopje reported that on the same day, around 12:50 p.m., on Sava Mihajlov Street her 16-year-old son was physically assaulted by another minor. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 24.01.2020, at 12:50 p.m., Sava Mihajlov Street.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) minor.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) underage perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – this location is visited by individuals of different ethnicity.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

7. Peer violence in a public institution due to mutual intolerance

What happened: On 27.01.2020, at 03:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that around 2:45 p.m., in the court yard of a public institution on Pero Nakov Street, J. R. (18) from Skopje was physically assaulted by A. Sh. (19) from Skopje due to mutual intolerance. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 27.01.2020, at 2:45 p.m., a public institution on Pero Nakov Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

8. Four minors assaulted another minor in the centre of Skopje

What happened: On 27.01.2020, at 6:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, M. S. (56) from Skopje reported that around 4:00 p.m., on the crossroad between Macedonia Street and Louis Pasteur Street in Skopje, his underage son was physically assaulted by four under aged individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 27.01.2020, at 4:00 p.m., the crossroad between Macedonia Street and Louis Pasteur Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator (I. J. 49).

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* - the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and stability in the country.

9. An altercation between two groups in front of a school on Treta Makedonska Brigada Blvd.

What happened: On 03.02.2020, at 5:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that in front of a school on Treta Makedonska Brigada Blvd., the public peace and order was disrupted by a fight between two groups, some of which were minors. In the fight, U. D. (18) from Skopje was stabbed and taken to the Clinics Mother Theresa for medical assistance. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 03.02.2020, at 5:00 p.m., a school on Treta Makedonska Brigada Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – previous incidents have occurred at this location.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: MoIA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and cohabitation among the different ethnic groups in society.

10. An altercation among students at a student dormitory in Skopje

What happened: On 04.02.2020, at 11:30 p.m., at SIA Skopje, P. S. (24) from the village of Miravci, Gevgelija, reported that around 11:00 p.m., in a student dormitory on Aleksandar Makedonski Blvd., M. M. (22) from Serbia and himself were physically assaulted by G. V. (21) from Albania. The police issued a report and determined a violation of Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Date, time, and place of incident: 04.02.2020, at 11:00 p.m., a student dormitory on Aleksandar Makedonski Blvd.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Violation of Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order determined.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and cohabitation among the different ethnic groups in society.

11. Nazi symbols drawn on marketing billboards

What happened: On 03.02.2020, three marketing billboards were installed on three different locations in Bitola, as part of an art action. The billboards advertised the fictive medication Homophobiol as part of an artist's intervention in public space. The same evening, two of the billboards in the town were sprayed with white colour, while the following evening, on 04.02.2020, Nazi symbols were drawn on them with black

colour. On 05.02.2020, the billboards were completely sprayed with black colour. On 14.02.2020, the LGBTI Support Centre reported the event to MoIA SIA Bitola.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 03.02.2020, time undetermined, Bitola.

Source of information: Report at the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Instigating Hatred, Conflict, and Intolerance on a National, Racial, Religious, and Other Discriminatory Basis (Article 319, CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: Undetermined.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is sexual orientation, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Sexual orientation* – the presence of the LGBTI community in a public space is a target of violence, attempts to erase the billboards and vandalism;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – hate speech and previous assaults against LGBTI people.

Case status: Reported submitted to SIA Bitola.

Response of the local authorities: MoIA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among the different groups in society.

12. An assault on a student on a public bus due to his ethnicity

What happened: On 09.02.2020, after a previous misunderstanding with another passenger on a public bus, line no. 45, S. U. was assaulted by two controllers of the Public Transport Company. One of the controllers selected S. U. out of the entire bus, demanding to see his ticket. While S. U. was reporting the incident on the emergency phone line 192 and was talking to a police officer, the controllers were threatening to hit him, shouting, and exhibiting violent behaviour towards him. They grabbed him by his arm and forced him out of the bus, during which S. U.'s mobile phone fell down. During the entire incident the individual was talking to a police officer on the telephone. After the controllers forced him out at a bus stop, they deprived him of his ticket by force to inspect it, and then threw it on the ground. One of the controllers lit up a cigarette, threatening to put it out from S.U.'s forehead. Before they left, they threatened him again, telling him he had no idea who he was dealing with. On 25.02.2020, the Helsinki Committee pressed criminal charges against X. X., employed as controllers at the Public Transport Company for having committed the criminal offence Racial and Other Discrimination, Article 417 of the Criminal Code of RNM.

Date, time, and place of incident: 09.02.2020, correct time undetermined, on a public bus, line no. 45, Skopje.

Source of information: A report to the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Racial and Other Discrimination (Article 417, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Location* – previous assaults against individuals on public buses.

Status of case: Criminal charges against X. X., employed as controllers at the Public Transport Company for having committed the criminal offence Racial and Other Discrimination, Article 417 of the Criminal Code of RNM.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

13. A boy stabbed with a sharp object at a bus stop in the village of Bojane

What happened: On 10.02.2020, around 3:50 p.m., at SIA Skopje, the City General Hospital 8 September reported that they had admitted a patient with a wound inflicted by a sharp object. Police officers inspected the incident and determined the individual's identity as Sh. M. (18) from the village of Chajane, Skopje. According to the report, around 3:00 p.m., in the village of Bojane, J. N. from Bojane boarded the bus and stabbed Sh. M. with a sharp object in the left thigh. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: On 10.02.2020, around 3:00 p.m., a bus stop in the village of Bojane.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Violence (Article 243, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – the event was preceded by previous incidents.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

14. Violence against Roma children on a public bus, line no. 5

What happened: On 12.02.2020, around 9:00 p.m., on a public transport bus, line no. 5, an unidentified individual, angered by the noise on the bus, confronted the Roma children who were singing and talking loudly. Some of the children stopped immediately, but the perpetrator continued insulting and humiliating them on an ethnic basis and colour of skin with the words: "You are disgrace for the country, there's no escaping you." After this, he physically assaulted the child dressed in a red jacket who had been singing previously, striking him in the eye and several times on the head. Apart from physically assaulting the child, the perpetrator endangered his safety, his life, and bodily integrity by threatening to take him to an unknown place. Additionally, the perpetrator forced the children to clean the garbage from the bus, and when the bus was drawing near the bus stop "T.C. Biser", he grabbed the child he had been abusing, told him to get off the bus, and then pulled him out by force. He dragged the child on the concrete road, hitting his head from the ATM on the bus stop in the process. At that moment, several unidentified boys run toward the perpetrator, after which he escaped the scene.

Date, time, and place of incident: 12.02.2020, around 9:00 p.m., bus line no.5 bound towards the municipality Aerodrom.

Source of information: Petition to the Helsinki Committee.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous incidents have occurred on public transportation;
3. *Hate speech* – the perpetrator humiliated the victims on the basis of ethnicity and colour of skin with the words: "you are disgrace for the country, there's no escaping you."

Status of case: On 25.02.2020, the Helsinki Committee pressed criminal charges against X.X. for having committed the offence "Violence" pursuant to Article 386, paragraph 5 of the Criminal Code of RNM.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

15. Violence on bus line no. 57

What happened: On 19.02.2020, around 1:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that on a public bus, line no. 57, headed from Radishani to Butel, on Aleksandar Urdarevski Street, the public peace and order were disturbed by a fight due to mutual intolerance between three teenagers aged 15 to 16, on one side, and five teenagers aged 13 to 16, on the other, all from Skopje. The police issued minutes and determined a misdemeanour pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 3 and Article 34 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Date, time, and place of incident: 19.02.2020, around 1:00 p.m., bus line no.57, Aleksandar Urdarevski, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newspaper.

Victim(s) involved: Several underage victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several underage perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – the incident occurred on a public transport bus line on which the commuters belong to different ethnicities.

Status of case: Closed.

Response of the local authorities: Minutes were issued and a misdemeanour was determined according to Article 11, paragraph 3 and Article 34 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and cohabitation among the different ethnic groups in society.

16. A minor assaulted in Aerodrom

What happened: On 21.02.2020, around 5:00 p.m., B. I. (56) from the village of Brest reported at SIA Skopje that around 1:10 p.m., near a grocery store on Venjamin Machukovski Street, his 17-year-old son was physically assaulted by E. N. and O. N. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 21.02.2020, around 1:10 p.m., near a grocery store on Venjamin Machukovski Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) minor.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) identified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on unaccompanied teenagers on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and particularly the safety of children and young people in surroundings that should be safe for them (schools, public transport, the environment where they live and commute).

17. Peer violence in a primary school in Butel 1

What happened: On 25.02.2020, at 12:30 p.m., at the Chair Police Station, E. A. (42) from Skopje reported that on 14.02.2020, his underage son, a student at the Zivko Brajkovski Primary School, was physically assaulted by two other students after classes in the vicinity of the school. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 14.02.2020, Zivko Brajkovski Primary School, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) underage perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults of unaccompanied teenagers on the street, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown

Response of the local authorities: MolA is taking measures to find the perpetrators.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and particularly the safety of children and young people in surroundings that should be safe and secure for them (schools, public transport, the environment where they live and commute).

18. Teenagers assaulted in Skopje

What happened: On 27.02.2020, at 1:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, G. A. (57) from Skopje, and later Z. Gj. (42) at 3:00 p.m., reported that on 26.02.2020, their underage sons were physically assaulted by four individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 26.02.2020, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) underage victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Four (4) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to find the perpetrators and solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

19. An altercation among students at a Skopje mall

What happened: On 01.03.2020, at 8:45 p.m., it was reported that the public order and peace were disturbed in a Skopje mall by a fight among A. T. (20), B. H. (20) and F. P. (21), all from Skopje, on one side, and E. M. (21), E. M. (24) and A. I. (24), all from the village of Dolno Svilare, Saraj, on the other. Minutes were issued, determining a violation of Article 11, paragraph 3 from the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Date, time, and place of incident: 01.03.2020, a Skopje mall.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Several victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Minutes were issued, determining a violation of Article 11, paragraph 3, from the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Order and Peace.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

20. A hate cybercrime

What happened: On 11.02.2020, SIA Ohrid pressed criminal charges against D. R. (46) from the Ohrid village Podmolje on reasonable grounds to suspect that he committed the criminal offence "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System." The abovementioned, on 26.11.2019, on the social network Facebook, posted indecent comments, spreading racial and xenophobic written material and inciting hatred, discrimination or violence, causing feelings of fear and jeopardy.

Date, time, and place of incident: undetermined time precisely, on the social network Facebook.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System. (Article 394-g, paragraph 1, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and calling to violence on social networks is becoming a common manner of committing hate crime.

Status of case: Criminal charges pressed by SIA Ohrid to the Public Prosecutor Ohrid.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed against D. R. (46) from the Ohrid village of Podmolje.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

21. A teenager assaulted in front of a coffee bar on Jane Sandanski Blvd.

What happened: On 11.03.2020, at 11:21 p.m., S. A. (53) from the village of Patishka Reka, Skopje reported at SIA Skopje that around 11:00 p.m., at a coffee bar on Jane Sandanski Blvd, his 17-year-old son was physically assaulted by two individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 11.03.2020, at 11:30 p.m., a coffee bar on Jane Sandanski Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* - the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

22. Three individuals assaulted a minor

What happened: On 13.03.2020, at 10:00 p.m., R. R. (50) from Skopje reported at SIA Skopje that his 16-year-old son was physically assaulted by three individuals around 8:00 p.m. on Mara Madjurechka Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 13.03.2020, at 8:00 p.m., Mara Madjurechka Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

23. A physical assault on a minor

What happened: On 21.03.2020, at 5:30 p.m., M. M. (39) from Skopje reported that on 20.03.2020, around 4:30 p.m., her 17-year-old son was physically assaulted by another teenager on Aleksandar Urdarevski Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 21.03.2020, at 4:30 p.m., Aleksandar Urdarevski Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) underage perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

24. A physical assault on the porch of a coffee bar on Treta Makedonska Brigada Blvd.

What happened: On 09.03.2020, at 01:00 a.m., N. P. (44) from the village of Marino, Skopje, reported at SIA Skopje that around 00:05 a.m., his 17-year-old son and M. I. (18) from the village of Jurumleri, Skopje, were physically assaulted by two individuals on a porch of a coffee bar on Treta Makedonska Brigada Blvd. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 09.03.2020, at 00:05 p.m., a porch of a coffee bar on Treta Makedonska Brigada Blvd.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims (1 minor).

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

25. A physical assault on Video Smilevski Bato Blvd.

What happened: On 17.03.2020, at 08.30 a.m., V. A. (30) from Skopje was physically assaulted by three individuals on Vidoe Smilevski Bato Blvd., Skopje. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 17.03.2020, at 08:30 p.m., Video Smilevski Bato Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

26. Violence on a public transport bus, line no. 65

What happened: On 02.04.2020, at 6:00 p.m., A. S. (54) from Skopje reported at SIA Skopje that around 5:45 p.m., on a public transport bus, line no. 65, headed from Rashtak to Centre, on Alija Avodvic Street, he was physically assaulted by two unidentified individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 02.04.2020, 5:45 p.m., on a public transport bus, line no.65, Alija Avodvic Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community. The population in that part of the city is from different ethnicity, mostly Macedonian, Roma, and Albanian.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

27. Migrants assaulted in the vicinity of the villages Ljubodrag and Novo Selo

What happened: On 03.04.2020 at SIA Kumanovo, M. A. (27) from Syria reported that around 7:30 p.m., in the vicinity of the villages of Ljubodrag and Novo Selo, Kumanovo, several unidentified individuals in a vehicle threatened him with knives, asking for money from M. A., his brother, and two other friends, after which they assaulted them, stealing 100 euros and two mobile phones. The case is being solved.

Date, time, and place of incident: 03.04.2020, 7:30 p.m., in the vicinity of the villages of Ljubodrag and Novo Selo, Kumanovo.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One victim.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 237 from CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Location* – the event occurred on the migrant and refugee route transiting through the country.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

28. Desecration of graves in the Kamnik Graveyards

What happened: On 09.04.2020, at 10:15 a.m., at SIA Skopje it was reported that an unidentified individual damaged around 50 grave stones in the Kamnik graveyards on Juznomoravski Brigadi Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 09.04.2020, at 10:15 a.m., Juznomoravski Brigadi Street, Kamnik Graveyards.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: No victims.

Type of crime(s): Desecration of Graves (Article 400, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Manner* – similar incidents of desecrated gravestones in Christian orthodox graveyards had been previously registered in this part of the city.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

29. Migrants assaulted on a road leading from the village of Lojane to the village of Vaksince

What happened: On 10.04.2020, at 03.00 a.m., at SIA Kumanovo, M. J. (21) and A. A. (23), both from Pakistan, reported that on 09.04.2020, around 10:00 p.m., on the road from the village of Lojane to Vaksince, five unidentified Pakistani individuals stole money and a mobile phone by force from, physically assaulted them, wounding M. J. with a knife and A. A. with a hard object. M. J. and A. A. were both taken to the Kumanovo General Hospital for medical care. The crime scene was inspected by SIA Kumanovo and measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 09.04.2020, at 10.00 p.m., road from the village of Lojane to Vaksince.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Five (5) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Location* – the event occurred on the migrant and refugee route transiting through the country.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation in the country.

30. A church in the village of Smilkovci robbed

What happened: On 11.04.2020, at 5:30 p.m., at SIA Skopje, B. T. (52) from the village of Creshovo, Skopje, reported that in the time frame from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., unidentified individuals entered an unfinished church in the village of Smilkovski and stole money. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 11.04.2020, 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., a church in construction in the village of Smilkovci.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: No victims.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 238, CC of RNM), Damage to Objects of Others (Article 243, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is religious beliefs, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Target location* – a religious object;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents*.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

31. A politically motivated cybercrime

What happened: On 13.04.2020, the Cybercrime and Digital Forensics Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in coordination with the Primary Public Prosecutor's Office – Skopje pressed criminal charges against B. T. (68) on reasonable grounds that he committed the offence "Endangering the Safety" prescribed and punishable with Article 144, paragraph 4 and "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System" prescribed and punishable with Article 394-d from the Criminal Code of RNM. Namely, the reported individual posted a status on the social network Facebook with offensive and threatening content against the president of a political party on 13.04.2020.

Date, time, and place of incident: 13.04.2020, undetermined time, the social network Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newspaper.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Endangering the Safety (Article 144 paragraph 4, CC of RNM), Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: One (1) identified perpetrator.

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

1. *Political affiliation* – the victim and the perpetrator have different political beliefs;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and inciting violence on social networks is becoming a more common method of committing hate crimes.

Status of the case: Perpetrator identified.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges were pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

32. An assault with a hard object on an individual in Butel

What happened: On 20.04.2020, at 10:20 p.m., at SIA Skopje, F. Z. (51) from Skopje reported that on Radishanska Street around 5:00 p.m., in Skopje, he was assaulted with a hard object by several unidentified individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 20.04.2020, at 5:00 p.m., Radishanska Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Violence (Article 386, CC of RNM). Bodily Injury (Article 135 from CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Location* – the event occurred in a municipality populated by diverse ethnic population, where intolerance thrives among ethnic communities.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

33. Inciting violence through social networks

What happened: On 22.04.2020, SIA Bitola pressed criminal charges against J. F. (42) from Prilep on reasonable grounds to suspect that he committed the criminal offence "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System". The individual reported posted a photograph on his Facebook profile of busses transporting Macedonian citizens arrived from abroad and quarantined in Bitola and publically called for these individuals to be burned alive and killed on 28.03.2020, at 6:51 a.m.

Date, time, and place of incident: 28.03.2020, at 6:51 a.m., on the social network Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System".

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnicity, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and inciting violence on social networks is becoming a more common method for committing hate crimes.

Status of the case: Perpetrator identified.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and cohabitation among the different ethnic groups in society.

34. Criminal charges against three teenagers due to a physical assault on another teenager

What happened: On 25.04.2020, SIA Kumanovo pressed criminal charges against three teenagers at the age of 17, 16, and 14, all from Kumanovo, on reasonable grounds that they committed the criminal offence "Violence". On 23.02.2019, at the Memorial Ossuary in Kumanovo, around 1:15 a.m., the reported individuals assaulted A. A., causing him injuries.

Date, time, and place of the incident: On 23.02.2019, around 1:15 a.m., at the Memorial Ossuary Kumanovo.

Source of information: MolA's daily bulletin.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

Type of crime(s): Violence.

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) identified underage perpetrators.

Brief description of the event with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults against unaccompanied teenagers on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Perpetrators identified.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

35. Serious threats against a member of the Government on Facebook

What happened: On 28.04.2020, the Cybercrime and Digital Forensics Department at MolA, pressed criminal charges against S. M. (45) from Skopje on reasonable grounds that he committed the criminal offence "Endangering the Safety" pursuant to Article 144, paragraph 4. The reported individual posted a serious threat against the life of a member of the Government on his Facebook profile on 24.04.2020, at 9:25 a.m.

Date, time, and place of incident: 24.04.2020, at 9:25 a.m., Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

Type of crime(s): Endangering the Safety (Article 144, paragraph 4 CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

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

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and inciting violence on social networks is becoming a more common method for committing hate crimes.

Status of case: Identified perpetrator.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

36. An altercation with casualties on Roosevelt Street

What happened: On 02.05.2020, at 1.16 p.m., at SIA Skopje it was reported that in the City General Hospital "St. Naum Ohridski", E. A. (25) from Shtip was brought to the hospital with severe bodily injuries caused by a sharp object. According to his statement, he received the injuries in the vicinity of the Trade Centre Mavrovka when accompanied by his wife and brother they were assaulted by four unidentified individuals. The Public Prosecutor was informed of the incident. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 02.05.2020, between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m., in the vicinity of the Trade Centre Mavrovka.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Three (3) victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and perpetrators belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

37. Peer violence in Dracevo

What happened: On 04.05.2020, at 01.15 a.m., V. Ch (38) from Skopje reported that on 03.05.2020, around 11.40 p.m., he and J. A. (40) were physically assaulted by several unidentified individuals on Makedonsko-Kosovska Brigada Street.

Date, time, and place of incident: 03.05.2020, around 11:40 p.m., Makedonsko-kosovska Brigada Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Location* – previous incidents on the same location.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

38. Hate speech against politicians

What happened: On 08.05.2020, the Cybercrime and Digital Forensics Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs pressed criminal charges against B. P. (32) from Skopje and currently working in Germany on reasonable grounds to suspect that he committed the criminal offence of "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System." The reported, via an information system, on 06.05.2020, sent an e-mail containing hate speech to a member of a political party and to a member of the Government. Afterwards, B. P. posted hate speech on his Facebook profile referring to the president of a political party. Furthermore, on the same day, B. P. posted hate speech on the Facebook profile of a TV station.

Date, time, and place of incident: Time unspecified, on the social network Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newspaper.

Victim(s) involved: Several victims.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: One (1) identified perpetrator.

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

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and inciting violence on social networks is becoming a more common method of committing hate crimes.

Status of the case: Perpetrator identified.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

39. A physical assault on Vtora Makedonska Brigada

What happened: On 12.05.2020, SIA Ohrid pressed criminal charges against B. B. (30) from Ohrid, on reasonable grounds to suspect that he committed the criminal offence of "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System." From March to April, the reported system posted content spreading xenophobic material and incited hatred via an information.

Date, time, and place of incident: Time unspecified (from March to April), on the social network Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newspaper.

Victim(s) involved: No victims.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – inciting and spreading ethnic hatred and inciting violence on social networks is becoming a more common method of committing hate crimes.

Status of the case: Perpetrator identified.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

40. An individual from Skopje assaulted by three unidentified individuals

What happened: On 15.05.2020, at 6.00 p.m., M. B. (34) from Skopje reported that he was physically assaulted by three unidentified individuals on Brsjachka Buna Street.

Date, time, and place of incident: 15.05.2020, at 6:00 p.m. Brsjachka Buna Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – similar incidents have been previously registered in this part of the city.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

41. An individual assaulted on Krste Misirkov Blvd.

What happened: On 25.05.2020, at 1.49 p.m., D. K. (21) from Skopje reported that he was physically assaulted by three individuals around 1:25 p.m. on Krste Misirkov Blvd. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 25.05.2020, at 1:25 p.m. Krste Misirkov Blvd.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – similar incidents have been previously registered in this part of the city.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

42. 15-year-old Afghani migrant found with gunshot wounds on the Kumanovo-Tabanovce highway

What happened: On 26.05.2020, at 6:25 p.m., at SIA Kumanovo it was reported that an individual was lying on the road on the Kumanovo-Tabanovce highway. Police officers inspected the crime scene and determined that the individual was a migrant from Afghanistan, aged around 15, wounded in the leg. He was transported to the Kumanovo General Hospital, where he was treated for a gunshot wound in the right shin and received medical care. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 26.05.2020, at 6:25 p.m., the Kumanovo-Tabanovce highway.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

Type of crime(s): Violence (Article 386, CC of RNM). Bodily Injury (Article 135 CC).

Perpetrator(s): Unknown.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the migrant status, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – the location of the irregular migrant route where incidents due to the migrants' status are common.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among members of different religions in society.

43. A physical assault on a minor in Ranka Milanovic

What happened: On 27.05.2020, at 11:30 p.m., at SIA Skopje, G. A. (47) from Skopje reported that around 9:45 p.m., his 14-year-old son was physically assaulted with hard objects by several individuals in a park on Metodija Andonov Chento Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 27.05.2020, 9:45 p.m., a park on Metodija Andonov Chento Street.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to different ethnic communities;
2. *Location* – similar incidents have often occurred at this part of the city.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: There is no specific response, measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and reflect particularly poorly on children's development and conduct.

44. Headquarters of a political party on Anri Barbis Street damaged

What happened: On 31.05.2020, at 12:26 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that an unidentified individual damaged a window of the headquarters of a political party on Anri Barbis Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 31.05.2020, at 12:26 p.m., Anri Barbis Street.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: No victims.

Type of crime(s): Damages to Objects of Others (Article 243, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Unidentified perpetrator.

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

1. *Target location* – political/municipal building;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – these types of incidents are registered before every election.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: The police is working on solving the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general political and political situation in the country.

45. A teenager assaulted on the crossroad between Ivan Haginikolov and Kiro Fetak Street

What happened: On 02.06.2020, at 02:30 a.m., at SIA Skopje, S. P. (45) from Skopje reported that on 01.06.2020, around 11:15 p.m., on the crossroad between Ivan Haginikolov and Kiro Fetak Street, his 14-year-old son was physically assaulted by an individual. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 01.06.2020, around 11:15 p.m., the crossroad between Ivan Haginikolov and Kiro Fetak Street.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attacker belonged to different ethnic communities;
2. *Location* – similar incidents have often occurred in this part of the city.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

46. A young man wounded with a sharp object at the Ramstor Mall in Skopje

What happened: On 09.06.2020, around 7:30 p.m., at SIA Veles, A. S. N. and J. A., both from Afghanistan, reported that they were assaulted by two individuals who had had robbed them of their money. According to the report, while they were moving on the highway bounded for Serbia, near the village of Kalaslari, Veles, one of the assaulters offered to drive them to the border for 200 euros, which they accepted. According to the report, when they got in the vehicle they were joined by another person and after a short drive they were physically assaulted by the two, who threatened them with a gun and took their money. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 09.06.2020, around 7:30 p.m., the village of Kalaslari, Veles.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) adult victims.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 237, Criminal Code of RNM), Violence (Article 386, Criminal Code of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the migrant status, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – the irregular migrant route passes through this location, where incidents are common due to the migrant status.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and stability in the country between different ethnic groups in society.

47. A cyber hate crime

What happened: On 17.06.2020, SIA Ohrid pressed criminal charges against O. D. (23) from the village of Labunishta, Struga on reasonable grounds to suspect that he committed the crime "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System". On 31.03.2020, the reported posted offensive and threatening content on the social network Facebook and spread racial and xenophobic statements, promoting or inciting hatred and discrimination against a certain group of citizens.

Date, time, and place of incident: Time unspecified, social network Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: No.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the perpetrator spread hate speech against a different ethnic community;
2. *Manner* – social networks, particularly Facebook, are becoming a very common space for committing this type of incidents.

Status of case: Criminal charges pressed.

Response of the local authorities: The perpetrator was detained and criminal charges are going to be pressed against him pursuant Article 394-d of the CC of RNM.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

48. A physical assault in the City Park in Skopje

What happened: On 20.06.2020, at 01:20 a.m., at SIA Skopje, B. P. (19) from Skopje reported that at 12:30 a.m., while with A. M. in the City Park, near the fountain on Ilinden Blvd., he was physically assaulted with a glass bottle by five unidentified individuals following a misunderstanding. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 20.06.2020, 12:30 a.m. City Park, near the fountain on Ilinden Blvd.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Five (5) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and attackers belonged to different ethnic communities;
2. *Location* – the location is visited by mixed ethnic population.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

49. A 17-year-old student assaulted in Zdravko Cvetkovski High School

What happened: On 21.06.2020, at 9:27 p.m., at SIA Skopje, T. S. (39) from Skopje reported that around 8:45 p.m., in the Pushkin Park on Pushkinova Street, his underage son was physically assaulted by an unidentified individual. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 21.06.2020, around 8:45 p.m., Pushkin Park on Pushkinova Street.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attacker belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: The police is working on solving the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and reflect particularly poorly on children's development and conduct.

50. A teenager beaten on Gjorgji Kazepov Street

What happened: On 21.06.2020, at 10:30 p.m., at SIA Skopje, I. S. (33) from Skopje reported that around 10:00 p.m., on Gjorgji Kazepov Street, his underage son was physically assaulted with a stone by another underage person. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 21.06.2020, around 10:00 p.m., Pushkin Park on Pushkinova Street.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter, electronic media.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) underage perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and reflect particularly poorly on children's development and conduct.

51. Robbery of Afghani migrants

What happened: On 23.06.2020, SIA Veles pressed criminal charges against M. D. (21) from Veles, on reasonable grounds to suspect that he committed the criminal offence "Robbery". On 09.06.2020, while driving his vehicle Hyundai Pony, together with an underage companion from Kumanovo, near the village of Karaslari, the reported noticed A. S. N. and J. A. from Afghanistan as they were walking on the highway leading from Greece to Serbia. They offered to drive them to the Serbian border for 200 euros, which the migrants accepted and got inside the vehicle. The driver headed for the old road leading to Veles. At one moment, he stopped the vehicle and asked for 200 euros for gas. The damaged refused, citing the previous agreement, after which the reported and the teenager physically assaulted them and threatened to pull out weapons on them. After this, the migrants gave them 200 euros and managed to take a mobile phone which was the possession of the reported individual's brother.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 09.06.2020, near the village of Kalaslari, Veles.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 237, Criminal Code of RNM), Violence (Article 386, Criminal Code of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the migrant status, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Location* – the irregular migrant route pass through this location, where incidents are common due to the migrant status.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: The perpetrator was detained, awaiting for criminal charges.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and stability in the country between different ethnic groups in society.

52. A 12-year-old teenager stabbed with a sharp object near Zelen Pazar Green Market in Skopje

What happened: On 23.06.2020, at 7:59 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that a 12-year-old teenager was stabbed in the back with a sharp object by an unidentified individual. The teenager was transported to

the City General Hospital "Naum Ohridski", where a doctor diagnosed his injuries. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 23.06.2020, near the Zelen Pazar Green Market in Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) minor.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on unaccompanied teenagers on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: The police is working on solving the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and particularly the safety of children and young people in surroundings that should be safe for them (schools, public transport, the environment where they live and commute).

53. An explosion in a bakery on Gjorche Petrov Street

What happened: On 21.06.2020, at 03:40 a.m., on Gjorche Petrov Street, after receiving a call early in the morning informing that an explosion had occurred and smoke was rising in a bakery, the police investigated the crime place. Initially, the police was suspecting an explosive device due to the damage of the space – the front door was displaced from its frame, the windows shattered with additional damage inside the building. There were no casualties. The vice-president of the political party VMRO-DPMNE, Vlado Misajlovski, in a statement for the media, stated that the bakery was in the ownership of his family.

Date, time, and place of incident: 21.06.2020, at 03:40 a.m., a bakery on Gjorche Petrov Street.

Source of information: Media.

Victim(s) involved: No victims.

Type of crime(s): Damage to Objects of Others (Article 243, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Unidentified perpetrator.

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

1. *Target location* – the property belonged to the spokesperson of a political party;
2. *Time* – the incident occurred before elections.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general and political situation in the country.

54. Violence in a school on Prizrenska Street

What happened: On 03.07.2020, at 8:20 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that in the school yard on Prizrenska Street, three unidentified individuals who had arrived in a vehicle Volkswagen Touran with unknown licence plates, started harassing A. K. (18) and two 15-year-old and one 17-year-old teenagers, and then physically assaulted other 15 and 16-year-olds, inflicting injuries on them. Next, the unidentified individuals shot 2-3 bullets in the air from a gun and left the scene. A team from SIA Skopje inspected the crime scene and found one bullet fragment. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 03.07.2020, at 8:20 p.m., a school yard on Prizrenska Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) adult and four (4) underage victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) identified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on unaccompanied teenagers on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and particularly the safety of children and young people in surroundings that should be safe for them (schools, public transport, the environment where they live and commute).

55. An assault on an individual from the village of Arachinovo

What happened: On 05.07.2020, around 10:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, S. B. (23) from the village of Arachinovo, reported that on 10th Street, near the Arachinovo Bridge, he was physically assaulted by B. N. from Arachinovo and three more individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 05.07.2020, at 10:00 p.m., 10th Street, near the Arachinovo Bridge, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator and three (3) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

56. A physical assault on a public bus, line no. 45

What happened: On 06.07.2020, at 9:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, D. S. (22) from Skopje reported that around 9:05 p.m., on Metodija Andonov Chento Street, on a bus, line no. 45, due to mutual intolerance, the public peace and order was disturbed by a physical assault between the assaulted and D.M. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 06.07.2020, at 9:05 p.m., Metodija Andonov Chento Street, on a bus, line no. 45.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults against young people on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

57. A 16-year-old boy stabbed with a knife in a Chair Park

What happened: On 07.07.2020, at 10:26 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that in the City General Hospital St. Naum Ohridski, a 16-year-old teenager from Skopje was admitted, who, according to the report, was stabbed with a knife by one individual after a previous argument with him and another individual near the fountain in a Chair Park, around 10:10 p.m. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 07.07.2020, at 10:26 p.m., near the fountain in a Chair park, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) minor.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on unaccompanied teenagers on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and particularly the safety of children and young people in surroundings that should be safe for them.

58. Headquarters of a political party on Srekjko Puzalka Street damaged

What happened: On 10.07.2020, at 10:20 a.m., at the Gazi Baba Police Station, it was reported that the front window of the headquarters of a political party on Srekjko Puzalka Street was damaged by graffiti with offensive content. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 10.07.2020, at 10:20 a.m. Srekjko Puzalka Street.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: No victims.

Type of crime(s): Damages to Objects of Others (Article 243, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Unidentified.

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

1. *Target location* – political/municipal building;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – these types of incidents are registered before every election.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general and political situation in the country.

59. Criminal charges against an individual from the village of Tuin for spreading racial and xenophobic material over the internet

What happened: On 10.07.2020, the External Office for Criminal Affairs, Kichevo, pressed criminal charges against B. A. (30) from the village of Tuin, Kichevo, on reasonable grounds that he committed the criminal offences "Abuse of Personal Information" and "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System". On 17.05.2020, the reported posted photographs of two police officers on Facebook without their consent, with a comment that incited hatred.

Date, time, and place of incident: 17.05.2020, the social network Facebook.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and perpetrator belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents*

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed against the perpetrator.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

60. A physical assault during early parliamentary elections

What happened: On 15.07.2020, at 11:00 a.m., in the yard of the school "Zini Hani", in the village of Veleshta, Struga, V. Kj. (31) and A. Kj. (28), both from the same village, disturbed the public peace and order. First, they insulted and then physically assaulted a police officer who was on duty securing the early parliamentary elections. After the case is completely documented, the attackers are going to face criminal charges.

Date, time and place of incident: 15.07.2020, at 11:00 a.m., the yard of the school "Zini Hini", the village of Veleshta, Struga.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) identified perpetrators.

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

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – these types of incidents are registered before every election.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and the political situation in the country.

61. An assault on two teenagers near a school on Zenevska Street

What happened: On 19.07.2020, at 1:30 a.m., at SIA Skopje, S. K. A. (44) from Skopje reported that on 18.07.2020, around 9:40 p.m., in the vicinity of a school on Zenevska Street in Skopje, her 16-year-old son, who was together with another 16-year-old teenager, were physically assaulted by a group of unknown individuals following an argument with them. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 19.07.2020, at 9:40 p.m., in the vicinity of a school on Zenevska Street in Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) minors.

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

Perpetrator(s): A group of perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on unaccompanied teenagers on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society, and reflect particularly poorly on children's safety and development.

62. Several individuals physically assaulted a young man on Partizanski Odredi Blvd.

What happened: On 20.07.2020, at 11:50 a.m., at the Police Station Gjorche Petrov, N. M. (22) from Skopje reported that around 08:00 a.m., on the Partizanski Odredi Blvd., he was physically assaulted by several individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 20.07.2020, at 08:00 a.m., Partizanski Odredi Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on unaccompanied young people on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

63. Criminal charges pressed for the offence "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System"

What happened: On 21.07.2020, SIA Ohrid pressed criminal charges against J. J. (25) from the village of Bukojchani, Kicevo, on reasonable grounds that he committed the criminal offence "Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System". On 08.05.2020, the reported posted a threatening comment on a post on the official profile of MolA, spreading hatred, discrimination, or violence.

Date, time, and place of incident: 08.05.2020, no specific time and place.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: No.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via an Information System (Article 394-d, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and perpetrator belonged to a different ethnic community;

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Criminal charges pressed against the perpetrator.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

64. A physical assault during the Ilinden state holiday

What happened: On 01.08.2020, at 02:05 a.m., at the Police Station Krushevo, it was reported that the public peace and order was disturbed by a fight at the location called Gumenje, Krushevo, between K. K. (33) from Krushevo, on one side, and H. J.(18), J. Gj.(22), A. N.(19), B. J.(41) and a 16-year-old teenager, all from Skopje (they were all part of the group that came on the cavalry from Lisiche, Skopje), on the other side. A police officer from the Police Station Krushevo shot a warning shot from his gun to stop the fight. Police officers from the Police Station Krushevo inspected the scene and took measures to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 01.08.2020, 02:05 a.m., location called Gumenje, Krushevo.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Five (5) perpetrators and one (1) underage perpetrator.

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

1. *Political affiliation* – the victim and supporters belonged to a different political party;
2. *Time of incident* – during a state holiday.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety and political situation in the country.

65. An assault on a zebra crossing on Cvetan Dimov Street

What happened: On 06.08.2020, at 02:00 a.m., at SIA Skopje, G. V. (29) from Skopje reported that around 01:30 a.m., he was physically assaulted on a zebra crossing on Cvetan Dimov Street by three unknown individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 06.08.2020, at 01:30 a.m., Cvetan Dimov Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

66. Three teenagers assaulted on 11th Oktomvri Street

What happened: On 05.08.2020, at 8:30 p.m., at SIA Skopje, a 17-year-old teenager from Skopje reported that he was physically assaulted by two unidentified individuals driving a BMW vehicle on 11th Oktomvri Street while walking with two other underage acquaintances. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 05.08.2020, at 8:30 p.m., 11th Oktomvri Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Three (3) underage victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults against young people on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

67. A physical assault on Nikola Parapunov Street

What happened: On 10.08.2020, at 01:10 a.m., H. M. (36) from Skopje reported that on 09.08.2020, at 11:55 p.m., on Nikola Parapunov Street, he was physically assaulted by two unidentified individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 09.08.2020, at 11:55 p.m., Nikola Parapunov Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults late at night on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

68. A teenager assaulted on Naroden Front Street

What happened: On 10.08.2020, at 03:50 a.m., I. S. (44) from Skopje reported that on 09.08.2020, around 11:40 p.m., his 17-year-old son was physically assaulted by another person on Naroden Front Street. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 09.08.2020, at 11:40 p.m., Naroden Front Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults against young people on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

69. An incident in Struga between football fans from Bitola and Struga

What happened: On 16.08.2020, around 9:00 p.m., at OIA Struga, Gj. D. (21) from Bitola was detained because he assaulted and attempted to prevent a police officer from performing his duties involving security. The individual in question physically assaulted a football fan from Struga before a match on the Zenska Plaza in Struga, while walking with a big group of fans from Bitola. Afterwards, he also assaulted a police officer who attempted to prevent the assault. Criminal charges are going to follow.

Date, time, and place of incident: 16.08.2020, at 9:00 p.m., Zenska Plaza, Struga.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) unidentified perpetrator and several unidentified perpetrators (fans).

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – altercations between football fans.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

70. Violence on Franjo Kluz Street

What happened: On 22.08.2020, at 00:10 a.m., at SIA Skopje, A. R. (28) from Skopje reported that he was physically assaulted by several individuals on Franjo Kluz Street in Skopje. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 22.08.2020, at 00:10 a.m., Franjo Kluz Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults late at night on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

71. A physical assault on ASNOM Blvd.

What happened: On 22.08.2020, at 3:35 p.m., at SIA Skopje, D. J. (21) from Skopje reported that around 11:45 a.m., on ASNOM Blvd., he was assaulted with a hard object by K. N. and another person. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 22.08.2020, at 11:45 a.m., ASNOM Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator and one (1) unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous assaults on the same location.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

72. Three individuals recorded and posted an assault on another person on TikTok

What happened: On 22.08.2020, the TV station Sitel shared a short video posted on the social network TikTok, which features three individuals recording an assault on one person. The ethnicity of the assaulters in the video is "marked" (with the Albanian flag) as well as that of the assaulted (with the flag of North

Macedonia). Still, the conversation between the assaulters and assaulted cannot be heard because it was muted and replaced with music. MoIA released a news statement, informing that they are working on solving the case and would dully inform the public of the outcome.

Date, time, and place: No specific time, social network TikTok.

Source of information: Media (TV Sitel).

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several unidentified perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults against young people on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

73. A physical assault on the crossroad between Goce Delcev Blvd. and Krste Misirkov Blvd.

What happened: On 23.08.2020, at 11:00 p.m., S. R. (47) from Skopje reported that on the crossroad between Goce Delcev Blvd. and Krste Misirkov Blvd., he was physically assaulted by three individuals. The police is working on solving the case.

Date, time, and place of incidents: 23.08.2020, at 11:00 p.m., the crossroad between Goce Delcev Blvd. and Krste Misirkov Blvd., Skopje.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous assaults on the same location.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

74. A physical assault on a teenager on Alija Avdovic Street

What happened: On 25.08.2020, at 4:30 p.m., D. A. (48) from Skopje reported that on Alija Avdovic Street in Skopje, his 17-year-old was physically assaulted by N. N. The police is working on the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 25.08.2020, at 4:30 p.m., Alija Avdovic Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) identified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – assaults on young people on streets, near schools, on busses.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to completely solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among different ethnic groups in society.

75. Football fans shouting out offensive words implying death and gas chambers for a certain ethnic community

What happened: On 13.09.2020, around 2:50 p.m., or more precisely before the football match between FC Vardar and FC Shkendija at the National Arena Todor Proevski – Skopje, the fans, on their way to the Arena, shouted out offensive implications, inciting national hatred and intolerance.

Date, time, and place of incident: 13.09.2020, 2:50 p.m., City Park, near the fountain on Ilinden Blvd.

Source of information: electronic media, newspapers and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Inciting Hatred, Conflict, and Intolerance on a National, Racial, Religious, and Other Discriminatory Basis (Article 319, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Numerous.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motives are ethnic origin and the location where the incident occurred (the City Park), as well as the fact that it was caused by a football fan group, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the potential victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – Previous assaults near the stadium and between football fans.

Status of the case: A notice submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Response of the local authorities: MolA confirmed the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and aggravate the ethnic polarization, leading to an additional increase in hate crimes caused by different ethnicities.

76. Politically motivated violence

What happened: On 17.09.2020, around 5:15 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that two individuals on a motorcycle assaulted Lj. P. (56) from Tetovo with metal objects on Zlatko Shnajder Street in Skopje. Measures are being taken to find the perpetrators and solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 17.09.2020, 5:15 p.m., Zlatko Shnajder Street, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter, electronic media, newspapers, and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, male, 56 years old.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is political affiliation because the victim in question is the leader of the civil movement Treta. He is also one of the leaders of the protests against the change of the country's name and a member of the political party Voice for Macedonia, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Political affiliation* - the victim and the attacker had different political views.

Status of case: Written notice against an unknown perpetrator submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office Skopje.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and aggravate the political polarization, leading to an additional increase in hate crimes incited by different political views.

77. A minor assaulted a 22-year-old individual from Tetovo

What happened: On 19.09.2020, at 00:05 a.m., at the Police Station Tetovo, Z. S. (22) from Tetovo reported that on 18.09.2020, around 11:00 p.m., in the park behind the St. Nikola Church in Tetovo, while in the company of I. D. and P. S., both from Tetovo, he was physically assaulted with a heavy object by two unidentified individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 19.09.2020, around 11:00 p.m., behind the St. Nikola Church in Tetovo.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, male, 22 years old.

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

Perpetrator(s): One known perpetrator, a 16-year old minor, and one unknown perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motives are ethnic origin and the location where the incident occurred (a religious object), with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnicity;

2. *Religion and conviction* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different religion or had different religious beliefs;

3. *Target location* – a religious object;

4. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous assaults on people near religious objects.

Status of case: Written notice against one of the perpetrators, a 16-year-old minor from Tetovo, submitted to PPO.

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society, particularly among young people.

78. Football fans shouting out offensive words implying the extermination of a certain ethnic community

What happened: On 19.09.2020, around 3:00 p.m., right before the football match between FC Macedonia Gjorce Petrov and FC Vardar, on Gjorce Petrov Blvd. in Skopje, the fans, on their way to the match, shouted out offensive messages instigating national hatred and intolerance.

Date, time, and place of incident: 19.09.2020, around 3:00 p.m., Gjorce Petrov Blvd. in Skopje.

Source of information: electronic media, newspapers and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Inciting Hatred, Conflict, and Intolerance on a National, Racial, Religious, and Other Discriminatory Basis (Article 319, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Numerous.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motives are ethnic origin and the location where the incident happened (in front of the stadium), as well as the fact that it was caused by a football fan group, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the potential victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous assaults near the stadium and between football fans.

Status of the case: A notice submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Response of the local authorities: MolA confirmed the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and aggravate the ethnic polarization, leading to an additional increase in hate crimes caused by different ethnicities.

79. A physical assault on a minor

What happened: On 20.09.2020, at 11:00 p.m., at the Police Station Shuto Orizari, a parent reported that his 17-year-old son was physically assaulted by a 21-year-old male.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 20.09.2020, at 11:00 p.m., on Guadalajara Street in the Municipality of Shuto Orizari in Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) underage victim.

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

Perpetrator(s): One perpetrator, a 21-year-old male.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin because the minor spoke a language different from the one of the perpetrator, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and the attacker spoke a different language;
2. *Skin colour* – the victim was assaulted because he had a different skin colour from the perpetrator;
3. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the perpetrator belonged to a different ethnic community;
4. *Location* – Shuto Orizari is a municipality populated by diverse ethnicities and similar incidents have been previously registered.

Status of case: The Police Station Shuto Orizari issued minutes on a determined misdemeanour pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order against one individual.

Response of the local authorities: No specific response and apart from the police's reaction and registering the case as a misdemeanour other measures were not undertaken.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and aggravate the ethnic polarization, leading to an additional increase in hate crimes caused by different political affiliation.

80. A 26-year-old fan stabbed in the City Park in Skopje

What happened: On 20.09.2020, around 00:15 a.m., A. R. (26) (a member of a football fan club) was assaulted by O. S. (24) (who assaulted him with a knife) and A. B. (18) (both members of another football fan club) while accompanied by other individuals in the City Park. Immediately after the case was reported, police officers undertook measures and activities and the case was solved and the perpetrators detained.

Date, time, and place of incident: 20.09.2020, 00.15 a.m., in the City Park, near the fountain on Ilinden Blvd. Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily news letter, electronic media, newspapers and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: 1 (one) victim, male, 26 years old.

Type of crime(s): Inciting National, Racial and Religious Hatred, Conflict, and Intolerance (Article 319, CC of RNM) and Violence (Article 386, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) perpetrators, young males at 18 and 24 years of age.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motives are the ethnic origin and the location where the incident happened (the City Park), as well as the fact that it was among football fan groups, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attackers belonged to a different ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous assaults near the stadium and between football fans.

Status of the case: Criminal charges pressed against the perpetrators.

Response of the local authorities: MolA confirmed the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and aggravate the ethnic polarization, leading to an additional increase in hate crimes caused by different ethnicities. The 26-year-old stabbed male was urgently transported to a private hospital due to the severe bodily injuries and is still recovering.

81. Police brutality due to different skin colour

What happened: On 24.09.2020, a video was posted on social media clearly showing police officers in Bitola assaulting members of the Roma community. The incident occurred on 22.09.2020, when three Roma individuals had a traffic accident with their vehicle, hitting a concrete wall. The traffic police was patrolling near the accident, and without any reason the police officers ordered the individuals out of the vehicle and started to brutally beat them without asking them if they required medical care. The individuals were detained in the police station until 5:00 a.m., where they were insulted and harassed with different offensive expressions related to their ethnicity, language, and skin colour. The individuals wanted to report

the case to the Internal Control, Criminal Investigation, and Professional Standards Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but were denied the opportunity.

Date, time, and place: 22.09.2020 in Bitola.

Source of information: social and electronic media, newspapers, and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: Five (5) victims, all adult males.

Type of crime(s): Harassment in the Performance of Duty (Article 143, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) adult perpetrators, police officers.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motives are skin colour, the assumed ethnic origin and language, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victims and the attackers spoke different languages;
2. *Skin colour* – the victims were assaulted because they had a different skin colour from the perpetrators;
3. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the perpetrators belonged to a different ethnic community;
4. *Location* – Bitola is a municipality populated by diverse ethnicities and similar incidents have been previously registered, particularly when the victims were Roma.

Status of case: After an investigation, on 25.09.2020 the Internal Control Department pressed criminal charges against the police officer G. P. on reasonable grounds for having committed the criminal offence "Harassment in the Performance of Duty".

Response of the local authorities: MolA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society and significantly diminish citizens' trust in the police.

82. A physical assault on the basis of different ethnicity

What happened: On 27.09.2020, at the Police Station Centre, a 21-year-old man reported to the police that another 21-year-old man physically assaulted him with no particular reason.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 27.09.2020, in the Municipality of Centre, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) 21-year-old male.

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

Perpetrator(s): One perpetrator, a 21-year-old male.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin because the minor spoke a language different from the one of the perpetrator, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and the attacker spoke different languages;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the perpetrator belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: The Police Station Centre issued minutes and determined a misdemeanour pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order against one individual.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe that the case was solved with the misdemeanour charges.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

83. An altercation among minors near the Skopje City Park

What happened: On 02.10.2020, around 8:50 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that on Street No. 1732, a 14 and 15-year-old minors, both from Skopje, on one side, and a 15-year-old minor from the village of Shishevo, on the other side, disturbed the public peace and order with an altercation. Minutes on misdemeanours were issued pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 02.10.2020, at 8:50 p.m., near the Skopje City Park, in front of the Stadium Entrance.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Three (3) victims, all minors, one 14-year-old and two 15-year-old boys.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) perpetrators, all minors, one 14-year-old and two 15-year-old boys.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin because the minors spoke different languages, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the minors in question spoke different languages;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the minors involved belonged to a different ethnic community.

Status of case: The Police Station Centre issued minutes and determined a misdemeanour pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order against all individuals in the incident.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe the case was solved with the misdemeanour charges.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

84. Several incidents in the village of Kravari during a football match

What happened: On 11.10.2020, at 6:00 p.m., at the Police Department Velushnica-Bitola, A. S. (41) from the village of Drslajca, Struga, a football referee, reported that around 3:45 p.m. he was physically assaulted in Kravari by A. R. (25) from Bitola, J. Kj. (23), and A. M. (32), both from the village of Grnchari, Resen. On the other hand, J. Kj. reported that he was physically assaulted by G. L. (43) from Struga, assistant football referee, and the match in Kravari was interrupted. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 11.10.2020, at 6:00 p.m., near the village of Kravari, Bitola.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims, one 23-year-old and one 41-year-old.

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

Perpetrator(s): Four (4) perpetrators, aged 23, 25, 32 and 43.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is ethnic origin because the football referee and his assistant were assaulted and insulted due to their ethnicity, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and perpetrators belonged to a different ethnicity;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – altercations during sports events.

Status of case: SIA Bitola - Police Department Velushina undertook measures and activities to solve the case.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe that misdemeanour charges are going to follow against the perpetrators pursuant to the Law on Prevention of Violence and Indecent Behaviour during Sports Events.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

85. Police brutality with revenge elements directed against Roma from Bitola

What happened: On 21.10.2020, only a few weeks following the case when Roma members were assaulted by police officers in Bitola, the civil initiative AVAJA shared information to the public on a new case in Bitola bearing indications of police brutality but also elements of revenge on the part of police officers. According to AVAJA, this time the police used excessive force against a mature Roma woman and her son: "The woman's son was on a lunch break from work and was not wearing a mask at that moment because he was eating outdoors. However, the police officer approached him and demanded to see his identification papers for not wearing a mask outdoors because he intended to fine him (EVEN THOUGH WEARING MASKS OUTDOORS WAS STILL NOT MANDATORY). The Roma man did not have an I.D. with him, hence his mother offered her I.D. to the police officer. The police officer called a back up and the son was detained with the mother because she refused to leave him alone with the police officers. After they boarded the police van, the son and the woman were VIOLENTLY BEATEN, during which the police officer yelled at them "You Gypsies, go ahead and make a video now, you ain't got nothing on me"! The adult Roma woman is in a life-threatening condition! The Emergency Care Services were called to treat the assaulted woman since due to her asthma she could not breathe during the assault! At present, the woman is suffering from anxiety and a compromised health condition! On the day of the assault, her husband attempted to report the case at the police station three times, however no one wanted to see him. At the moment, the woman's husband is attempting to report the case again to the police in Bitola – we expect that this time the police will let him report the case and take proper measures!!! Another attempt to cover the case is troubling, and the fact that the other police officers failed to act promptly indicates to a necessity of thorough reforms in police work!" – informed AVAJA. The Helsinki Committee and the Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers provided the victims with a lawyer through a joint project. The woman and her son were not held in detainment and are presently feeling well; however, the police refused to make a report on the case on several other occasions.

Date, time, and place: 20.10.2020, at 2:00 p.m. in Bitola.

Source of information: social and electronic media, newspapers, and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims, adult male and a female (mother and son).

Type of crime(s): Harassment in the Performance of Duty (Article 143, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) adult perpetrators, police officers.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motives are skin colour, the assumed ethnic origin and language, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victims and the attacker spoke a different language;

2. *Skin colour* – the victims were assaulted because they had a different skin colour from the perpetrator;

3. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and the attacker belonged to a different ethnic community;

4. *Location* – Bitola is a municipality populated by diverse ethnicities and similar incidents have been previously registered, particularly in cases where the victims were of Roma ethnicity.

Status of case: Upon an investigation, a procedure was initiated before the Primary Criminal Court Bitola.

Response of the local authorities: MoIA has no confirmation on the indicators of the incidents.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and cohabitation among the different ethnic, and linguistic groups in society and significantly diminish citizens' trust in the police. Considering the troubling indications, the Department for Internal Control, Criminal Investigation, and Professional Standards at the Ministry of Internal Affairs should have fully investigated the case and issued proper disciplinary measures against the involved police officers if the suspicion proved grounded, and furthermore pressed criminal charges. Unfortunately, this was not the case and the procedure was initiated completely only by the victims, the witnesses and the civil society organizations.

86. A physical assault on a minor in Aerodrom, Skopje

What happened: On 24.10.2020, at 02:30 a.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that on 23.10.2020, around 10:50 p.m., in the Municipality of Aerodrom, a 16-year-old boy was physically assaulted by several individuals. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 23.10.2020, around 10:50 p.m., in the Municipality of Aerodrom, Skopje.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, a 16-year-old minor from Skopje.

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

Perpetrator(s): Two (2) adult perpetrators, male.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the boy was assaulted because he spoke a different language, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and perpetrators spoke a different language;

2. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and perpetrators belonged to a different ethnicity;

Status of case: The Police Station Aerodrom issued minutes on a determined misdemeanour pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order against two perpetrators.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe that the physical assault was solved with the misdemeanour charges.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

87. A physical assault near the Skopje City Park

What happened: On 25.10.2020, at 00:50 a.m., A. J. (20) from Skopje reported that he and M. J. (19) were assaulted by several individuals in the City Park. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 25.10.2020, around 00:50 p.m., near the Skopje City Park.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims, adult males, 19 and 20-year-old from Skopje.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several perpetrators, all male.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the victims were assaulted because they spoke a different language, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victims and perpetrators spoke a different language;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the victims and perpetrators belonged to a different ethnicity.

Status of case: The Police Station Karposh issued minutes that a report was made pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order against several perpetrators.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being undertaken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

88. A migrant assaulted near the village of Umin Dol, Kumanovo

What happened: On 29.10.2020, at SIA Kumanovo, it was reported that around 1:00 p.m., in the village of Umin Dol, Kumanovo, one person threatened to rob M. U. (26) from Pakistan. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of incident: 29.10.2020, around 1:00 p.m., near the village of Umin Dol, Kumanovo.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, a 26-year-old male.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 237, Criminal Code of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): One (1) perpetrator, an adult male.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the refugee or migrant status, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Refugee or migrant status* – the victim is a male with a migrant status;
2. *Location* – the incident took place on the migrant and refugee route transiting through the country.

Status of the case: SIA Kumanovo pressed criminal charges against D. S. from Skopje before the PPO Kumanovo on reasonable grounds for having committed the criminal offence Robbery pursuant to Article 237 of the CC of NRM.

Response of the local authorities: The proceedings are ongoing.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic groups in society, particularly the safety of refugees and migrants transiting the territory of RNM.

89. A gay man receives a death threat on the basis of his sexual orientation

What happened: On 30.10.2020, after receiving serious death threats on Facebook for being a member of the LGBTI community, and for posting the rights and freedoms of LGBTI people, the individual D. P. sought free legal aid from the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. It was clear from the death threats

that the perpetrator verbally and physically harassed and assaulted members of marginalized communities in the past.

Date, time, and place: 30.10.2020, around 11:00 a.m., on the social network Facebook.

Source of information: Free legal aid office at the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) 35-year-old victim.

Type of crime(s): Endangering the Safety (Article 144 paragraph 2, CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: One (1) 40-year-old perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is sexual orientation, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Sexual orientation* – the LGBTI community in the public and online space is a target of violence and often subjected to threats;

2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – hate speech and previous assaults on members of the LGBTI community.

Status of the case: The team from the Helsinki Committee, together with the victim, pressed criminal charges before the Police Station Centre Beko pursuant to Article 144 of CC of RNM for the criminal offence Endangering the Safety, with special emphasis on paragraph 2 as a qualified form of this hate crime.

Response of the local authorities: The evidence provided to the police officers was not sufficient for them to act on the criminal charges (by contacting the competent public prosecutor and an inspector from the computer crime department). Instead, they assumed the role of prosecutors themselves, claiming that the victim should have submitted a plain complaint instead of pressing criminal charges, and seek court protection in a private lawsuit. Police officers volunteering with assistance in this manner is nothing new. On the contrary, police officers always behave in a similar manner when victims report hate crimes – impolitely and unprofessionally. However, the victim was persistent, and with the help of a legal adviser managed to get the offence prosecuted ex officio.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country, and the cohesion among the different groups in society, particularly the health and safety of LGBTI people.

90. A physical assault on two minors from Gjorce Petrov

What happened: On 01.11.2020, at 08:46 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that in Gjorce Petrov, two minors from Skopje were physically assaulted by several other individuals, one of whom had a sharp object. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 01.11.2020, around 08:46 p.m., in the municipality of Gjorce Petrov, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) underage victims.

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

Perpetrator(s): A group of perpetrators, at least one of whom had a sharp object.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the victims were assaulted because they spoke different languages, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the minors in question spoke a different language;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to a different ethnicity.

Status of case: SIA Skopje issued a notification before the PPOS against an unknown perpetrator for having committed the criminal offence Violence pursuant to Article 386 of the Criminal Code.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities responded that measures are being taken to solve the criminal offence.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

91. Stab wounds suffered by a Turkish citizens during a physical assault

What happened: On 10.11.2020, at 09:23 p.m., at SIA Skopje, it was reported that A. O. U. (29) from Turkey, residing in Skopje, was brought in the Mother Theresa Clinics with severe bodily injuries suffered during a physical assault somewhere in the City Centre by several individuals, whereupon one of the individuals inflicted stab wounds with a sharp object on him. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 10.11.2020, around 09:23 p.m., in the municipality of Centre, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, 29-year-old male.

Type of crime(s): Severe Bodily Injury (Article 131, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): A group of perpetrators, of whom at least one had a sharp object.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed national origin since the victim was assaulted because he belonged to a different nationality, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim spoke a different language from the attackers;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to different nationality.

Status of case: SIA Skopje issued a notification before the PPO Skopje against an unknown perpetrator for having committed the criminal offence Severe Bodily Injury pursuant to Article 131, CC of RNM.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities responded that measures are being taken to solve the criminal offence.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different national, ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

92. A physical assault near a playground in the municipality of Gazi Baba

What happened: On 13.11.2020, at 03:00 p.m., at SIA Skopje, A. S. (19) from the village of Idrizovo, Skopje, reported that around 01:30 p.m., he was assaulted by a minor near a playground in the municipality of Gazi Baba. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 13.11.2020, at 01:30 p.m., near a playground in the municipality of Gazi Baba, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) 19-year-old male from the village of Idrizovo, Skopje.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) perpetrator, a minor.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the victim was assaulted because he spoke a different language, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and the attacker spoke a different language;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnicity.

Status of case: The Police Station Aerodrom issued minutes on a misdemeanour pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe that the case was solved by pressing misdemeanour charges.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

93. A physical assault on a citizen from the Republic of Albania

What happened: On 13.11.2020, around 10:30 p.m. at SIA Strumica, A. K. from Albania reported that he was physically assaulted by S. U. (55) from Valandovo in a casino in Valandovo. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 13.11.2020, at 10:30 p.m., in the municipality of Valandovo.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, adult male, foreign citizen.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) perpetrator, a 55-year-old man from Valandovo.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed national origin since the victim was assaulted because he had different nationality, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and the attacker spoke a different language;
2. *National origin* – the involved individuals belonged to a different nationality.

Status of case: The Police Station Valandovo submitted a request for pressing misdemeanour charges against U. S. (55) from Valandovo for having committed a misdemeanour pursuant to Article 6 and 12 of the Law on Misdemeanours against the Public Peace and Order.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe that the case was solved by pressing misdemeanour charges.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different national, ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

94. A physical assault on an 18-year-old boy at Bit Pazar

What happened: On 19.11.2020, at the Police Station Bit Pazar, an 18-year-old boy reported that he was assaulted by an unknown man between the stalls of the Bit Pazar Market Place. It is assumed that the motive was the boy's different ethnicity.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 19.11.2020, at 3:40 p.m., Bit Pazar, municipality of Chair.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, 18-year-old male.

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

Perpetrator(s): One (1) perpetrator, male.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the victim was assaulted because he had different ethnicity, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and the attacker spoke a different language;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the victim and the attacker belonged to a different ethnicity;
3. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous assaults on people on this location.

Status of case: The police is still working on finding the perpetrator.

Response of the local authorities: The police informed us that charges are going to be pressed once the case is solved and the perpetrator found.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

95. An altercation among eight minors aged 14 to 17

What happened: On 21.11.2020, at the Police Station Gjorce Petrov, several police officers detained eight minors, aged 14 to 17. The police acted upon a report according to which at 9:30 p.m. that same day, near a coffee bar, several individuals assaulted two minors, who were accompanied by three of their friends, with hard objects. The reason for the assault and the consequent fight was the different ethnicity of the minors. The police station informed us that charges are going to be pressed once the case is solved.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 21.11.2020, at 9:30 p.m., municipality of Gjorce Petrov, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Five (5) victims, two of whom minors, all male.

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

Perpetrator(s): Eight (8) perpetrators, all minors aged 14 to 17.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the assault took place because the boys spoke different languages, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the minors in question spoke a different language from the attackers;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to different ethnicities.

Status of case: SIA Skopje solved the case, the perpetrators were found and criminal charges were pressed before the PPO Skopje.

Response of the local authorities: The authorities believe the case was solved with the measures they undertook.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

96. Desecration of the Bulgarian Tourists' Memorial in Ohrid

What happened: On 27.11.2020, in the morning, someone destroyed the memorial on the shore of the Ohrid Lake honouring the Bulgarian tourists who lost their lives during a journey on the Ilinden ship in an accident on 05.09.2009.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 27.11.2020, in the morning, in the municipality of Ohrid.

Source of information: social networks, electronic media, newspapers, and TV stations.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Instigating Hatred, Conflict, and Intolerance on a National, Racial, Religious, and Other Discriminatory Basis (Article 319, CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: A group of perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is national basis since the incident occurred because the memorial is honouring Bulgarian tourists, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous desecration of memorials of similar nature;
2. *Time of incident* – right after the Bulgarian veto during the negotiation framework for EU accession of North Macedonia;
3. *National basis* – the memorial is honouring Bulgarian tourists.

Case status: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Response of the local authorities: MoLA condemned the violent act, while the investigation is still ongoing.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different national, ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

97. A church robbed in Tetovo

What happened: On 05.12.2020, at an undetermined time, an unknown perpetrator took the money donated from the churchgoers to the Holy Mother of God Church in Tetovo.

Date, time, and place of incident: 05.12.2020, undetermined time, the Holy Mother of God Church in Tetovo.

Source of information: MoLA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Robbery (Article 238, CC of RNM), Damage to Objects of Others (Article 243, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): Unidentified perpetrator.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is religious believes, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Target location* – a religious object;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous incidents of similar nature.

Status of case: The police is still looking for the perpetrator.

Response of the local authorities: Police officers from the Tetovo Police Station inspected the crime scene and are undertaking measures to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country.

98. The state flag hanging on the Skopje-Sever Train Station set on fire

What happened: On 08.12.2020, at 07.12 a.m., at SIA Skopje, Gj. Z., an employee of the North Macedonian Railways, reported that an individual set the state flag on fire hanging on the Skopje-Sever Train Station. Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 08.12.2020, in the morning, in Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Instigating Hatred, Conflict, and Intolerance on a National, Racial, Religious, and Other Discriminatory Basis (Article 319, paragraph 1, CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: Unknown.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is national basis since the incident occurred because the flag is a symbol of North Macedonia, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous incidents of similar nature;
2. *National basis* – setting the flag of a specific state on fire.

Case status: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Response of the local authorities: Unknown.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different national, ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

99. A physical assault on a 22-year-old man and damage to his vehicle

What happened: On 11.12.2020, a 22-year-old citizen of Skopje reported to the police that two unknown individuals physically assaulted him and damaged his vehicle.

Date, time, and place of incident: 11.12.2020, 10:00 a.m., on Makedonsko-Kosovska Brigada Street, Municipality of Chair, Skopje

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, a 22-year-old man.

Type of crime(s): Violence (Article 386, CC of RNM), Damage to Objects of Others (Article 243, CC of RNM).

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

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the assault occurred because the victim spoke a language different from the attackers, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim and the attackers spoke a different language;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to different ethnic communities.

Status of case: Unknown.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

100. Harassment and threats due to intellectual disability

What happened: On 12.12.2020, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights registered a case reported by a parent of an autistic child. Namely, the entire family had suffered harassment and threats by two neighbours from the building. The neighbours, on several occasions, kicked and hit the door of the apartment, yelling they would kill the family and their nine-year-old autistic child because they couldn't stand the noise that the child, whom they called "mental", was supposedly making.

Date, time, and place of incident: continuously in the past two years, in the municipality of Bitola.

Source of information: Reported to the Helsinki Committee.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims, a minor, and the parent.

Type of crime(s): Endangering the Safety (Article 144, CC of RNM).

Perpetrators: Two (2) perpetrators, adult males, the victim's neighbours.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the child's disability as the basis for the harassment and threats, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous incidents of similar nature;
2. *Disability* – the neighbours, on several occasions punched and kicked the front door of the family, shouting death threats against the family and their nine-year-old autistic child because they couldn't stand the noise that the child, whom they kept calling "mental", was allegedly making.

Status of the case: The family reported the case to the police station; however, the police only made a report, failing to undertake any actions before the institutions regarding the harassment the family and the child with intellectual disability had suffered by the neighbours. Namely, in 2018, the police pressed criminal charges for the criminal offence Endangering the Safety pursuant to Article 144 of the CC of RNM before the competent public prosecutor; however, the prosecutor rejected the case with the explanation that the specific incident did not fulfil all the elements of a criminal offence prosecuted ex officio. Accordingly to the legal remedy, the family pressed private criminal charges against the perpetrators. The court scheduled a hearing for March 2021 and Helsinki's legal team is planning to monitor the proceedings. In this regard, it has to be stressed that hate crimes do not occur in a vacuum but are a violent manifestation of prejudices which further erode society. Bearing this in mind, the offence Endangering the Safety of a child due to its intellectual disability so obviously manifested with intolerance and prejudices towards members of this vulnerable group, qualifies as a hate crime. The Public Prosecutor's Office was wrong to reject the criminal charges and qualify the criminal charges incorrectly. Consequently, the Helsinki Committee is going to press criminal charges against the perpetrators of the offence Endangering the Safety as a hate crime.

Response of the local authorities: Despite the continuous harassment reported to the police several times, the family received only a notification from the police station that the neighbours were warned verbally, without offering any additional explanation. Due to the discriminatory behaviour of the neighbours and the police's inadequate protection of the family against discrimination, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights is going to provide legal aid to the family and submit a petition to the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination on the basis of disability immediately after its members are appointed. In addition, the Helsinki Committee is going to submit a petition to the Internal Control Department at MoIA in order to examine the unprofessional and unlawful actions of the police officers.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety of the family and particularly endanger the free movement of a minor. Such treatment of people with intellectual disability is further reflected in the public discourse and enhances stigmatization in society.

101. A physical assault on a 19-year-old male in Skopje

What happened: On 12.12.2020, at 11:01, at the Police Station Aerodrom, a 19-year-old man reported a physical assault from several individuals near the Skopje Transport Centre.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 12.12.2020, at 11:01 p.m., municipality of Aerodrom, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, a 19-year-old male.

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

Perpetrator(s): A group of unknown perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the assault took place because the victim spoke a language different from the attackers, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victim spoke a different language from the attackers;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to different ethnicities.

Status of case: SIA Skopje is working on finding the perpetrators.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

102. A physical assault from three individuals

What happened: On 16.12.2020, at 4:49 p.m., at SIA Skopje, D. M. reported that he and R. KJ. were physically assaulted by three individuals on Vera Radosavlevic Street.

Date, time, and place of incident: 16.11.2020, 04:49 p.m., municipality of Gazi Baba, Skopje.

Source of information: MolA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Two (2) victims, adult males.

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

Perpetrator(s): Three (3) perpetrators, all adult.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the assault took place because the victims spoke a language different from the attackers, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victims involved spoke a different language from the attackers;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to different ethnicities.

Status of case: SIA Skopje is working on finding the perpetrators.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

103. A physical assault on a minor in Gazi Baba

What happened: On 16.12.2020, at 8:00 p.m., in Gazi Baba, a 43-year-old parent reported that his son was physically assaulted by an unknown group without a specific reason.

Date, time, and place of the incident: 16.12.2020, 8:00 p.m., municipality of Gazi Baba, Skopje.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: One (1) victim, an underage male.

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

Perpetrator(s): Several perpetrators.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the assault took place because the victim spoke a language different from the attackers, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Language* – the victims involved spoke a different language from the attackers;
2. *Ethnic origin* – the individuals involved belonged to different ethnicities.

Status of case: SIA Skopje is working on finding the perpetrators.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

104. A photograph and an offensive Facebook post inciting violence

What happened: On 23.12.2020, the Internal Affairs Department in Prilep pressed criminal charges against S. M. (36) from Prilep on reasonable grounds that he committed the criminal offence Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via a Computer System. C. M. posted an offensive photograph and a comment inciting violence on his Facebook profile on 28.10.2020.

Date, time, and place of incident: 28.10.2020, Facebook social network.

Source of information: MoIA's daily newsletter.

Victim(s) involved: Undetermined.

Type of crime(s): Spreading Racial and Xenophobic Material via a Computer System (Article 394-d, paragraph 1, CC of RNM).

Perpetrator(s): A 36-year-old male from Prilep.

Brief description of the incident with bias indicators: In this incident, the bias motive is the assumed ethnic origin since the offensive photograph and comment inciting violence were directed towards a specific ethnic group in the country, with the bias indicators being:

1. *Ethnic origin* – the perpetrator belonged to one ethnic community and incited violence against another ethnic community;
2. *Pattern of previous incidents* – previous incidents of similar nature.

Status of case: Criminal charges pressed against the perpetrator.

Response of the local authorities: Measures are being taken to solve the case.

Impact on the victims and the community: These types of incidents call into question the general safety in the country and the cohabitation among the different national, ethnic and linguistic groups in society.

