

ANNEX
Supplementary Materials
to the Submission of the OIDAC to the UPR on Austria (3/2015)

**Cases of Intolerance against Christians in Austria between 2010
and 2015, sorted by time, in descending order**

1. Wayside Cross Motorsawed by Muslim

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#) | [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: An old wayside crucifix with corpus was cut down with a motor saw in Groß-Enzersdorf, Lower Austria. A Muslim of Egyptian origin whose property was located close to the cross said that he it had „annoyed him“. The cross had been a destination for pilgrimages for over 60 years.

December 2014: An old wayside crucifix with corpus was cut down with a motor saw in Groß-Enzersdorf, Lower Austria. A Muslim of Egyptian origin whose property was located close to the cross said that he it had „annoyed him“. The cross had been a destination for pilgrimages for over 60 years.

Sources:

m.heute.at/news/oesterreich/noe/art23654,1110501

m.heute.at/news/oesterreich/noe/art23654,1110822

2. Services in St. Stephan’s Cathedral Interrupted by Protest

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Arts](#) | [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Religion](#) | [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#)

Teaser: When Cardinal Schönborn was about to read the gospel in the liturgy of festivity of December 8th in St. Stephan’s cathedral, a performance artist stepped in front of the altar for a minute of silence dressed in read. Afterwards he marched out of the church together with about 20 activists to hand out leaflets picturing a naked nun eating icecream to protest celibacy. Police investigate on grounds of a violation of freedom of religious practice.

December 2014: When Cardinal Schönborn was about to read the gospel in the liturgy of festivity of December 8th in St. Stephan’s cathedral, a performance artist stepped in front of the altar for a minute of silence dressed in read. Afterwards he marched out of the church together with about 20 activists to hand out leaflets picturing a naked nun eating icecream to protest celibacy. Police investigate on grounds of a violation of freedom of religious practice.

Performance „artist“ "donhofer." called this protest "un gelato per il celebrato" (ice cream for celibacy).

Cardinal Schönborn said that he would pray for the group.

Sources:

m.kurier.at/chronik/wien/aktionisten-trugen-zoelibat-zu-grabe/101.621.661

3. Threat to Christians in Graffiti in Vienna

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Insult or Incitement](#) | [Hate Incident](#)

Teaser: A graffiti on the ground on a popular walkers' and bikers' promenade outside Augarten park reads: "Occupy all churches. We will rise." (Besetzt alle Kirchen. We will rise." This is an outright threat to Christians in Vienna

October 2014: A graffiti on the ground on a popular walkers' and bikers' promenade outside Augarten park reads: "Occupy all churches. We will rise." (Besetzt alle Kirchen. We will rise." This is an outright threat to Christians in Vienna.

4. Vandalism and Death Threats at Church in Leoben

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Insult or Incitement](#) | [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#) | [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: The Stadtpfarrkirche, the main city parish church, of Leoben was vandalised and damaged in the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 2nd. The perpetrators ripped apart paintings, and destroyed crosses and candle holders. The altar was displaced despite its heavy weight, and on the altar cross the writing „death to priests“ was smeared. The parish priest was also personally threatened with the smeared words „Priest go home, otherwise we will burn down your church.“ A woman was identified a few days later who claims that voices told her to vandalize the church.

September 2014: The Stadtpfarrkirche, the main city parish church, of Leoben was vandalised and damaged in the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 2nd. The perpetrators ripped apart paintings, and destroyed crosses and candle holders. The altar was displaced despite its heavy weight, and on the altar cross the writing „death to priests“ was smeared. The parish priest was also personally threatened with the smeared words „Priest go home, otherwise we will burn down your church.“ A woman was identified a few days later who claims that voices told her to vandalize the church.

Sources:

APA, 3.9.2014

www.tt.com/panorama/verbrechen/8933156-91/vandalen-wueteten-in-leobener-stadtpfarrkirche.csp
derstandard.at/2000005113719/Stadtpfarrkirche-in-Leoben-verwuestet

5. Vandalism of a Statue of Christ in Krems

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: An unidentified vandal destroyed a Calvary statue of Christ on the Mount of Olives of 200 kg weight in the Piaristen church in Krems. The damage amounts to 5.000 Euro. A similar act of vandalism took place 9 years ago, when a vandal was caught and condemned by court.

August 2014: An unidentified vandal destroyed a Calvary statue of Christ on the Mount of Olives of 200 kg weight in the Piaristen church in Krems. The damage amounts to 5.000 Euro. A similar act of vandalism took place 9 years ago, when a vandal was caught and condemned by court.

Source:

www.noen.at/nachrichten/lokales/aktuell/krems/top-Christusfigur-erneut-schwer-beschaedigt;art2512,564221

6. Left Wing Activists Block Registered Pro-Family Demonstration in Vienna

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#) | [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#) | [Hate Incident](#)

Teaser: On June 14th, approximately 200 left wing activists hindered a pro-family demonstration of about 50 Christians to proceed on the registered route. After the police unsuccessfully tried to persuade the left wing activists to leave, they took their names. Five activists who refused to show their ID were briefly arrested.

June 2014: On June 14th, approximately 200 left wing activists hindered a pro-family demonstration of about 50 Christians to proceed on the registered route. After the police unsuccessfully tried to persuade the left wing activists to leave, they took their names. Five activists who refused to show their ID were briefly arrested.

Sources:

mobil.diestandard.at/2000002034297/Wirbel-um-Anti-Abtreibungs-Demo-in-Wien

www.slp.at/artikel/gewalt%C3%A4tigitextextreme-und-katholische-fundamentalisten-beim-marsch-f%C3%BCr-die-familie-5854

7. Karlskirche Vandalised in Vienna

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: During the night from Friday to Saturday unknown perpetrators vandalised the world famous Karlskirche in Vienna's fourth district. The perpetrators threw several bags of paint on the stonework and some statues in front of the church. Also the words „on repression follows resistance“ were smeared on the walls. The police suspect several perpetrators. The incident was noticed Saturday morning. The damage is severe.

May 2014: During the night from Friday to Saturday unknown perpetrators vandalised the world famous Karlskirche in Vienna's fourth district. The perpetrators threw several bags of paint on the stonework and some statues in front of the church. Also the words „on repression follows resistance“

were smeared on the walls. The police suspect several perpetrators. The incident was noticed Saturday morning. The damage is severe.

Source:

wien.orf.at/news/stories/2645304/

8. Arson Attack on Church in Vorarlberg

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: Unknown offenders started a fire at the entrance of the church in Vorarlberg. At 1:20 am people walking by discovered the flames and were able to extinguish the fire, but the two 52 year-old women had to be brought to the hospital as a precautionary measure. There were suspected injuries of smoke inhalation, however, they were soon discharged.

May 2014: Unknown offenders started a fire at the entrance of the church in Vorarlberg. At 1:20 am people walking by discovered the flames and were able to extinguish the fire, but the two 52 year-old women had to be brought to the hospital as a precautionary measure. There were suspected injuries of smoke inhalation, however, they were soon discharged.

Damage occurred to the church door, walls, a wooden cross and some of the interior. After some cleaning, Sunday mass was still held in the church. The police discovered a 10 liter container which had probably held either diesel or petrol.

Source:

vorarlberg.orf.at/news/stories/2645288/

9. Religious Statues Broken in the District of Linz-Land

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: Two saint statues were damaged between Friday, March 28th and Thursday, April 3rd. The statues had been located in a niche in front of the church of Hofkirchen im Traunkreis in the district of Linz-Land. The amount of damages was not officially known. The police have undertaken an investigation and are requesting leads in order to find the culprit(s).

April 2014: Two saint statues were damaged between Friday, March 28th and Thursday, April 3rd. The statues had been located in a niche in front of the church of Hofkirchen im Traunkreis in the district of Linz-Land. The amount of damages was not officially known. The police have undertaken an investigation and are requesting leads in order to find the culprit(s).

Source:

Austrian Press Agency

10. Four Churches in Vienna Heavily Vandalised

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: Faith

Area of case: Private

Tags: Intolerance towards Religious Symbols | Vandalism (form of hate crime)

Teaser: On Saturday, March 29th, St. Stephen's cathedral, the parish church of Breitenfeld (Josefstadt), the parish church of Neuottakring (Ottakring) as well as the Lazaristenkirche (Neubau) were vandalised. The spokesperson of the diocese said the attacks have never before been so hard

March 2014: On Saturday, March 29th, St. Stephen's cathedral, the parish church of Breitenfeld (Josefstadt), the parish church of Neuottakring (Ottakring) as well as the Lazaristenkirche (Neubau) were vandalised. The spokesperson of the diocese said the attacks have never before been so hard. In the parish church of Breitenfeld, four statues were knocked over and thereby destroyed. A part of the baptismal fountain was demolished. In the Lazaristenkirche, the perpetrator/s smashed almost all statues, tore down the corpus of a wooden crucifix and broke its arms. The fingers of the solid stone statue of St. Vincent were broken off.

In the cathedral of St. Stephen's, a 37-year-old man was caught knocking over and thereby demolishing the statue of St. Jude. Before he could tear down the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, bystanders stopped and held him until police arrived. The perpetrator was calling the faithful „marionettes“.

Independent journalist Andreas Unterberger reported that he uttered Islamist motivations and that his name was Ibrahim. Nonetheless, the police released the man saying that he was psychologically deranged and that there was no reason to keep him in custody.

Sources and further information:

<http://wien.orf.at/news/stories/2639059/>

www.andreas-unterberger.at/2014/03/der-schwerste-antikirchliche-vandalismus-der-nachkriegszeit-aber-bischoefe-und-politik-schweigen/

11. Political Slogans Spraypainted on Catholic Church Building

Country: Austria

Category: Social Hostility / Intolerance

Area of case: Private

Tags: Vandalism (form of hate crime)

Teaser: Unknown perpetrators spray painted the famous Vienna church "Votivkirche" with political slogans such as "Refugees Welcome?". This is particularly strange as the parish priest and the archdiocese of Vienna did not ask the police to end a months-long occupation of the church by refugees.

November 2013: Unknown perpetrators spray painted the famous Vienna church "Votivkirche" with political slogans such as "Refugees Welcome?". This is particularly strange as the parish priest and the archdiocese of Vienna did not ask the police to end a months-long occupation of the church by refugees.

The occupation was ended when Church representatives found alternative lodging for the refugees.

Source:

orf.at

12. Church in Vienna Vandalised

Country: Austria

Category: Social Hostility / Intolerance

Attack against: Faith

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: In the church Our Lady of the Martyrs in Vienna's 15th district, candle holders were stolen and a cross was vandalised.

November 2013: In the church Our Lady of the Martyrs in Vienna's 15th district, candle holders were stolen and a cross was vandalised.

Source: known to Observatory.

13. Crucified Chicken Hurts Feelings of Believers

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Arts](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#)

Teaser: Christians in Austria were hurt by the depiction of a crucified chicken as a work of art by Deborah Sengl. The image was displayed in Wiener Neustadt in the late summer, ironically in a former church building

August 2013: Christians in Austria were hurt by the depiction of a crucified chicken as a work of art by Deborah Sengl. The image was displayed in Wiener Neustadt in the late summer, ironically in a former church building.

While the artist claims is not criticisms of the Christian faith but rather a deploration of animal suffering in food production, believers are hurt and very unhappy with the displaying of the image. The intention of the artist might be one or the other, they say, but the fact is that the image is hurtful to Christians.

Sources:

Website of artist Deborah Sengl: www.deborahsengl.com

www.katholisches.info/2013/08/06/das-gekreuzigte-huhn-von-deborah-sengl-verachtung-des-christentums-und-der-kirche-als-kunst/

14. 34 Anti-Life Activists Arrested for Attacks and Violations of Freedom of Assembly against

Praying Christians

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#) | [Hate Incident](#) | [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: A peaceful prayer-manifestation of young Christians in Salzburg was interrupted by aggressive pro-choice activists who blocked streets and insulted the Christian activists. Police officers had to rearrange the walking route of the march and finally arrested 34 pro-choice activists for the violation of freedom of assembly. Two pro-choice activists also attacked a police officer

July 2013: A peaceful prayer-manifestation of young Christians in Salzburg was interrupted by aggressive pro-choice activists who blocked streets and insulted the Christian activists. Police officers had to rearrange the walking route of the march and finally arrested 34 pro-choice activists for the violation of freedom of assembly. Two pro-choice activists also attacked a police officer.

Eva Wenzl, press spokesperson of the police in Salzburg, said that most of the arrested activists are known to the authorities due to other violations of rights in demonstrations. Local sources told the Observatory that the pro-choice activists had illegally plastered more than 100 posters in Salzburg in the weeks leading up to the pro life prayer manifestation.

Source:

<http://salzburg.orf.at/news/stories/2594803/>

15. Minister Calls Contribution of Church “Inacceptable and Dispensable” in Public Debate

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#) | [Political](#)

Tags: [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#)

Teaser: In the public debate on stepchild adoption for homosexual couples, Mrs. Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, minister for women’s affairs, calls the contribution of the Catholic Church “inacceptable and dispensable”. In German: “Die Wortmeldungen aus Kirchenkreisen sind in diesem Zusammenhang inakzeptabel und entbehrlich.”

June 2013: In the public debate on stepchild adoption for homosexual couples, Mrs. Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, minister for women’s affairs, calls the contribution of the Catholic Church “inacceptable and dispensable”. In German: “Die Wortmeldungen aus Kirchenkreisen sind in diesem Zusammenhang inakzeptabel und entbehrlich.”

source:

http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20130604_OTSO206/heinisch-hosek-stiefkindadoption-fuer-homosexuelle-paare-im-ministerrat-beschlossen

16. Monastery Raided by Masked Gunmen

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: The Salvatorian monastery of Hörbranz in the Austrian federal state of Vorarlberg was raided by masked gunmen. A monk was threatened at gunpoint. The two men, allegedly in their 30’s, escaped with several thousands of Euros.

June 2013: The Salvatorian monastery of Hörbranz in the Austrian federal state of Vorarlberg was raided by masked gunmen. A monk was threatened at gunpoint. The two men, allegedly in their 30’s, escaped with several thousands of Euros.

The perpetrators were not caught by the police. It is unclear whether they had an anti-Christian motive or not.

Source, including video material: vorarlberg.orf.at/news/stories/2587077/

17. (EU) Non-Discriminatory Hiring Laws Shown to be Problematic

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#)

Tags: [Discriminatory Equality Policies](#)

Teaser: In transposition of EU – law, Austria has adopted strict non-discrimination legislation in the employment sector. When a Christian religious official was looking for a secretary, his legal advisor asked the equal treatment commission before publishing a job advertisement: would it be permissible to reject a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman? The answer was no.

May 2013: In transposition of EU – law, Austria has adopted strict non-discrimination legislation in the employment sector. When a Christian religious official was looking for a secretary, his legal advisor asked the equal treatment commission before publishing a job advertisement: would it be permissible to reject a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman? The answer was no.

On the basis of the first four equal treatment directives, European law allows a distinction due to religion in church employment only when there is a “genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement”, such as when it comes to preaching to the faithful. The here concerned Church dignitary decided not to publish the job advertisement, but to look for someone privately. Doing so many qualified potential applicants did not hear about the job - a sad consequence of disproportionate governmental interference in its citizens’ concerns.

Source and further information: [The Observatory's Report 2012 on Legal Restrictions Effecting Christians in Europe](#)

18. Stalking Law Used Against Freedom of Assembly of Pro-Life Christians

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#) | [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#)

Teaser: Anti-stalking legislation is used against side-walk counselling or picketing. On October 25th, 2011, the state court of Graz, Styria, upheld a judgement of the first instance condemning pro-life side-walk counsellors to pay fines on the grounds of “stalking.”

May 2013: Anti-stalking legislation is used against side-walk counselling or picketing. On October 25th, 2011, the state court of Graz, Styria, upheld a judgement of the first instance condemning pro-life side-walk counsellors to pay fines on the grounds of “stalking.”

The counsellors did not aim at the private conduct of the abortionist nor at the person of the abortionist himself – but tried to reach out to the women entering the abortion clinic. Nevertheless, the court surprisingly applied the stalking provisions not in the private (for which the stalking provision was originally instituted) but in the professional realm. The court further interpreted that mere standing in front of the door of the workplace without doing or saying anything qualified as stalking, even though the alleged “victim,” the abortion doctor himself, was not able to see them himself (as he was inside the house). This wide interpretation of stalking creates a problem for freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, as it could be further interpreted as any manifestation calling for an act or an omission in the behaviour of individuals. The Austrian law has so far been applied in a discriminatory manner for specifically Christian concerns. There is also a debate in Austria about the introduction of a prohibition of pro-life manifestations in the proximities of abortion clinics, which could also lead to a violation of the freedoms of Christian citizens.

Source and further information: [The Observatory's Report 2012 on Legal Restrictions Effecting Christians in Europe](#)

19. Pharmacists Do Not Enjoy an Explicit Right to Conscientious Objection

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Conscience](#)

Teaser: In Austria, pharmacists do not enjoy an explicit right to conscientious objection. The so called “morning after pill” may be obtained either by prescription or in case of emergency without a prescription. Besides other functions, the taking of the morning after pill may result in an early abortion. The Austrian criminal code contains a conscience clause for medical staff with regard to abortion. But for pharmacists there is no such clause. It is therefore unclear, whether pharmacists have a right to conscientious objection or not. The professional representation of pharmacists says there isn’t. This body argues that there is a legal obligation to contract; and that not delivering would be an act of non-assistance to a person in danger. Therefore, pharmacists or employees of pharmacies do not dare to withhold the abortifacient drug for conscientious reasons. It is necessary to introduce a law in Austria which explicitly recognises the freedom of conscience of pharmacists.

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Source and further information: [The Observatory's Report 2012 on Legal Restrictions Effecting Christians in Europe](#)

20. Mother Forces Primary School to Remove Crucifixes

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#) | [Education](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Religion](#) | [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#)

Teaser: At a primary school in Vienna crucifixes had to be taken off the walls because a mother felt that they were a “religious paternalism”. This was possible when it turned out that less than half of the pupils are registered as Christians. For the first time since National Socialism crucifixes were banned from class rooms

May 2013: At a primary school in Vienna crucifixes had to be taken off the walls because a mother felt that they were a “religious paternalism”. This was possible when it turned out that less than half of the pupils are registered as Christians. For the first time since National Socialism crucifixes were banned from class rooms.

Vienna law for compulsory education says that when the majority of the students belong to the Christian communion, a crucifix may be installed in the class room.

Source: <http://eponymousflower.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/vienna-elementary-school-removes.html>
http://austriantimes.at/news/Education/2013-05-08/48440/Viennese_school_ordered_to_remove_crucifix

21. Anti-Christian Graffiti on Cathedral of St Pölten

Country: Austria

Category: Social Hostility / Intolerance

Attack against: Faith

Area of case: Private

Tags: Negative Stereotyping | Vandalism (form of hate crime)

Teaser: Unknown perpetrators spray painted "We do not want your crosses" on the outside wall of the Catholic Cathedral of St. Pölten in the night to May 1st. The graffiti included crossed-out signs in cross-shapes, a swastika and a so-called Kruckenkreuz (an Austrian historic sign for the right-wing government between 1934-38). Next to a clearly anti-Christian message, the Christian cross was unfairly paired with the Nazi swastika.

May 2013: Unknown perpetrators spray painted "We do not want your crosses" on the outside wall of the Catholic Cathedral of St. Pölten in the night to May 1st. The graffiti included crossed-out signs in cross-shapes, a swastika and a so-called Kruckenkreuz (an Austrian historic sign for the right-wing government between 1934-38). Next to a clearly anti-Christian message, the Christian cross was unfairly paired with the Nazi swastika.

Source and image: noe.orf.at/news/stories/2582388/

22. Common Greeting with Reference to God Discouraged in Department of Health

Country: Austria

Category: Social Hostility / Intolerance

Attack against: Faith

Area of case: Governmental | Workplace

Tags: Freedom of Religion | Intolerance towards Religious Symbols

Teaser: In the course of a debate on the health care reform in the National Assembly of Austria, the spokesman of physicians of the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ), Andreas Karlsböck criticised Health Minister Alois Stöger of the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) because he had discouraged or even prohibited the use of the common German greeting "Grüß Gott" (a greeting which literally means "Greet God") in the Department of Health

April 2013: In the course of a debate on the health care reform in the National Assembly of Austria, the spokesman of physicians of the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ), Andreas Karlsböck criticised Health Minister Alois Stöger of the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) because he had discouraged or even prohibited the use of the common German greeting "Grüß Gott" (a greeting which literally means "Greet God") in the Department of Health.

Sources and links:

www.kleinezeitung.at/nachrichten/politik/3298919/nationalrat-verabschiedet-gesundheitsreform.story

www.tt.com/%C3%9Cberblick/Politik/6485309-42/emotionale-debatte-nationalrat-segnet-gesundheitsreform-ab.csp,

<https://twitter.com/MartinGlier/status/327713933060370432>

news.orf.at/stories/2178914/

23. Burglary of Churches in Austria in 2012

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Hate Incident](#)

Teaser: Numerous cases of burglary of churches and church buildings took place in Austria in 2012.

Find here a non-exhaustive list of recorded incidents.

December 2012: Numerous cases of burglary of churches and church buildings took place in Austria in 2012. Find here a non-exhaustive list of recorded incidents.

Burglary:

- Catholic Kindergarten in Graz in September 2012
 - Ebersdorf in October 2012
 - Ehrenhausen in December 2012
 - Frohnleiten Adriach on November 15, 2012
 - Gerolding in the summer of 2012
 - Gratkorn in March 2012
 - Graz-Münzgraben several times in 2012
 - Graz-Schmerzhaftes Mutter in 2012
 - Graz-Waltendorf in December 2012
 - Kaindorf in September 2012
 - Kammern on July 14/15, 2012
 - Kirnberg an der Mank in 2012
 - Kulm in der Ramsau in May 2012
 - Lilienfeld in the summer of 2012
 - Mank in the summer of 2012
 - Maria Steinparz in the summer of 2012
 - Obergrafendorf on August 31, 2012
 - Parish building of Graz Herz Jesu in January 2012
 - Parish building of Graz-Liebenau in April 2012
 - Parish building of Graz-St. Vinzenz in March 2012
 - Parish building of Ilz in September 2012
 - Parish building of Krieglach in October and November 2012
 - Parish building of Leoben in November 2012
 - Parish building of Neudau in June 2012
 - Parish building of Pischelsdorf in October 2012
 - Parish building of Turnau in November 2012
 - Parish of St. Ruprecht a.d. Raab in October 2012
 - Parish office of Hönigsberg in October 2012
 - Parish office of Zeltweg in November 2012
 - St. Marein bei Neumarkt in September 2012
 - St. Oswald bei Plankenwarth on October 22, 2012
 - Texing in the summer of 2012
 - Türritz in August 2012
 - Wieselburg in August 2012
- Burglary of Offertory Box:
- Bad Mitterndorf in the summer of 2012
 - Deutschlandsberg on August 17, 18 and 20, 2012
 - Friedberg in November 2012
 - Gamlitz on December 20, 2012

- Gleisdorf on December 30, 2012
- Graz-Graben in 2012
- Graz-St. Josef on July 31, 2012
- Graz-Mariatrost in November-December 2012
- Graz-St. Vinzenz in November 2012
- Großlobming on March 30, 2012
- Hitzendorf in December 2012
- Kirchberg an der Raab on October 7, 2012
- Laßnitzhöhe two times in December 2012
- Murau in November-December 2012
- Mureck in Summer 2012
- Passail in November 2012
- Pölfing-Brunn in December 2012
- Scheifling in January, April und June 2012
- Selzthal in November 2012
- St. Margarethen bei Lebring in January 2012
- St. Stefan ob Leoben in 2012
- Straden in Spring 2012
- Thörl in September 2012
- Wies in 2012

Source: Submission of the Holy See to the OSCE / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for the Hate Crimes Report 2012 on May 27, 2013.

24. Vandalised Churches in Austria in 2012

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: Numerous cases of vandalism against churches and church buildings took place in Austria in 2012. Find here a non-exhaustive list of recorded incidents

December 2012: Numerous cases of vandalism against churches and church buildings took place in Austria in 2012. Find here a non-exhaustive list of recorded incidents.

- Amstetten, arson in three churches on December 23, 2012
- Bad Mitterndorf vandalised in 2012
- Deutschlandsberg vandalised twice in November 2012
- Gleisdorf vandalised on July 12, 2012
- Graz-Graben vandalised in 2012
- Graz-Kalvarienberg vandalised several times in 2012
- Graz-Mariatrost vandalised in May 2012
- Graz-Mariatrost vandalised on May 29, 2012
- Graz-Münzgraben vandalised several times in 2012
- Graz-Salvator vandalised in 2012
- Graz-Schutzengel vandalised three times in July and December 2012
- Graz-St. Peter vandalised on December 10, 2012
- Graz-St. Vinzenz vandalised in 2012
- Graz-Süd vandalised on December 26, 2012

- Graz-Thondorf vandalised in 2012
- Graz-Waltendorf vandalised in the spring and twice in December 2012
- Johann ob Hohenburg vandalised in November 2012
- Kleinzell vandalised in the beginning of 2012
- Köflach-Pichling vandalised in July 2012
- Leoben-Lerchenfeld vandalised in 2012
- Mureck vandalised in April and June of 2012
- Nesteibach Bichelkreuzkapelle vandalised in 2012
- Passail vandalised twice in 2012
- Pöllauerg, vandalised on April 7, 2012
- Schladming, vandalised on December 7, 2012
- St. Margarethen/Raab, vandalised in 2012
- St. Michael i.d. Obersteiermark, vandalised on September 14/15, 2012
- St. Oswald b. Plankenwarth, vandalised in March 2012
- Turnau, vandalised in August 2012
- Wies, vandalised in the end of 2012

Source: Submission of the Holy See to the OSCE / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for the Hate Crimes Report 2012 on May 27, 2013.

25. University Professor in Austria Calls for Death Penalty for Pope

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Insult or Incitement](#)

Teaser: During Christmas holidays 2012, Australian born Richard Parncutt, professor for music sciences at the Karl-Franzens-Universität in Graz, issued the official University website to call for death penalty for the pope as a punishment for opposing artificial birth control and condoms. The university deleted the comments and summoned Prof. Parncutt to a disciplinary meeting: "Safeguarding human rights belong to the most important principles of the University of Graz." The professor apologized

December 2012: During Christmas holidays 2012, Australian born Richard Parncutt, professor for music sciences at the Karl-Franzens-Universität in Graz, issued the official University website to call for death penalty for the pope as a punishment for opposing artificial birth control and condoms. The university deleted the comments and summoned Prof. Parncutt to a disciplinary meeting: "Safeguarding human rights belong to the most important principles of the University of Graz." The professor apologized.

Sources:

<http://kurier.at/chronik/oesterreich/grazer-professor-forderte-todesstrafe-fuer-papst/2.163.077>

<http://www.spiegel.de/unispiegel/studium/radikaler-professor-todesstrafe-fuer-leugner-des-klimawandels-a-875802.html>

26. Three Churches Set on Fire in Amstetten

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: On December 23, three churches were set on fire in the small town of Amstetten, lower Austria. One of the churches was severely damaged.

December 2012: On December 23, three churches were set on fire in the small town of Amstetten, lower Austria. One of the churches was severely damaged.

The alleged suspect - a young man - seemed confused and did not explain any motives. There is no further information available yet.

Since the aggression was directed only against churches in the area, it is not unlikely that his intent was anti-Christian.

Sources:

Public TV and news agency ORF: <http://noe.orf.at/news/stories/2564381/>

Source and copyrights of fotos: www.fotoplutsch.at

27. Series of Thievery in Austrian Churches

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Hate Incident](#)

Teaser: Since summer 2012 a series of thefts has been going on in Austrian churches around Melk. Figurines have been taken and in mid-December images have been cut out from flags used for processions

December 2012: Since summer 2012 a series of thefts has been going on in Austrian churches around Melk. Figurines have been taken and in mid-December images have been cut out from flags used for processions.

Diocesan Bishop Küng calls the situation a real dilemma for the diocese that wants to keep the churches open as a place for prayer but at the same time he worries about the security issue. The police and the diocese now call for the citizens' alertness. They suspect a gang of burglars that know the area very well.

28. TV Team Produces Satire on Church in Cathedral Without Permission

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Media](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Negative Stereotyping](#)

Teaser: In mid-November an episode of the satiric television serial "Wir Staatskünstler" (We official state artists) was filmed in the Catholic Cathedral of St Pölten without permission. Three actors working for the Austrian public service broadcaster ORF (state TV) were dressed up similarly to the group "Pussy Riot", entered the church, imitated Islamic prayer moves and called upon "mother heaven".

November 2012: In mid-November an episode of the satiric television serial "Wir Staatskünstler" (We official state artists) was filmed in the Catholic Cathedral of St Pölten without permission. Three actors working for the Austrian public service broadcaster ORF (state TV) were dressed up similarly to the group "Pussy Riot", entered the church, imitated Islamic prayer moves and called upon "mother heaven".

After producing the show, ORF asked the diocese of St Pölten for permission which the diocese rejected. It also decided not to sue the broadcaster explaining that previous transgressions had not been prosecuted.

Source:

gloria.tv

kurier.at/kultur/medien/kirchenparodie-koennte-fuer-aufregung-sorgen/1.529.272

29. Left Wing Political Youth Insults Jesus

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#) | [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Political](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Insult or Incitement](#)

Teaser: In a newspaper of the "Young Greens" of Austrian region Vorarlberger depicts Jesus with a funny smile as a gay man holding a sign "gay Jesus". While the magazine gives explicit instructions for sexual behaviour of youth, it also recommends to wear three knots in a belt, signifying "wealth, unchastity and disobedience" mocking the evangelical counsels of Christian tradition.

October 2012: In a newspaper of the "Young Greens" of Austrian region Vorarlberger depicts Jesus with a funny smile as a gay man holding a sign "gay Jesus". While the magazine gives explicit instructions for sexual behaviour of youth, it also recommends to wear three knots in a belt, signifying "wealth, unchastity and disobedience" mocking the evangelical counsels of Christian tradition.

Website of the "Young Green Movement" Vorarlberg: vbg.junge-gruene.at

30. Pro-Life Offices Vandalised

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Tags: [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#) | [Insult or Incitement](#) | [Hate Incident](#) | [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: The Vienna offices of Human Life International (HLI) were attacked and damaged during a World Prayer Congress for Life held on October 4th – 8th. During the attack the glass entrance door was broken and jars filled with black paint were through at the building, some of them making it an in and smearing computers inside. The front door of a building in which participants stayed over night was barricaded putting the people into significant risk.

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HLI Austria said that organizers had expected that anti-life activists would resort to violent counter-demonstrations during the congress: “On the Internet, fierce demonstrations and even criminal actions were planned against the congress.”

Source: www.lifesitenews.com/news/hli-offices-in-vienna-vandalized-during-world-prayer-congress-for-life

31. Hostile Graffiti on Church in Vienna

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Insult or Incitement](#) | [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: Unknown perpetrators have spraypainted the Catholic church Kirche Am Hof, which is one of the main Vienna churches in the inner city

October 2012: Unknown perpetrators have spraypainted the Catholic church Kirche Am Hof, which is one of the main Vienna churches in the inner city.

The graffiti reads sentences such as: "Oh Mary, these clerical fascists" or "Your rosaries off our ovaries", which is a protest against the pro-life orientation of the Christian churches.

The graffiti was noticed after a Catholic congress in favor of the protection of human life in its first stages had taken place in Vienna, from Oct 4 to 7.

32. NGO Calls for Withdrawal of Recognition for Russian-Orthodox Church in Austria

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Religion](#) | [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#)

Teaser: The Austrian Initiative “Religion is a private matter” seeks to deprive the Russian-orthodox Church in Vienna of its legal personality because of its involvement in the “Pussy Riot” case.

August 2012: The Austrian Initiative “Religion is a private matter” seeks to deprive the Russian-orthodox Church in Vienna of its legal personality because of its involvement in the “Pussy Riot” case. After the prosecution of and verdicts against the leaders of the rockband “Pussy Riot”, who sang and shouted “Holy Mother, blessed Virgin, expel Putin!” the sacred space of the Church of the Redeemer in Moscow, an Austrian initiative seeks to deprive the Russian-orthodox Church of its legal status.

Their main argument: The church holds a too close relationship with and systematically supports the Russian leader Putin.

Interestingly, the Initiative “Religion is a private matter” considers the legal recognition of any religion as a worrying fact.

While the verdicts against the singers of “Pussy Riot” are for many unacceptable, the legal status of Churches must not depend on the opinions they hold and interactions they choose. To call for a restriction of the institutional dimension of freedom of religion violates human rights and freedoms, and the basic principles of our society.

Source: <http://kath.net/detail.php?id=37625>

Initiative “Religion ist Privatsache”: <http://www.religion-ist-privatsache.at>

33. Violence and Damages in Aggressive Disruption of a Pro-Life Manifestation

Country: Austria

Category: Social Hostility / Intolerance

Attack against: Morals

Area of case: Private

Tags: Freedom of Association and Assembly | Insult or Incitement | Hate Incident | Vandalism (form of hate crime) | Hate Crime

Teaser: More than 80 pro-abortion-activists attacked the pro-life manifestation "1000 Crosses-March" organized by the Youth for Life and Human Life International in Salzburg-City. Blockages, insults and windows smashed kept a large number of police busy

July 2012: More than 80 pro-abortion-activists attacked the pro-life manifestation "1000 Crosses-March" organized by the Youth for Life and Human Life International in Salzburg-City. Blockages, insults and windows smashed kept a large number of police busy.

50 police officers were necessary to protect a peaceful group of demonstrators for the protection of life from pro-abortion activists who disrupted the march by sit-in blockades and insulting exclamations. One of the police officers was dangerously attacked, the use of pepper-sprays was inevitable. While the pro-life manifestation continued, violent riots took place at the Human Life International Center (HLI) in Salzburg. The police reports that seven offenders wearing black masks to hide their identity smashed seven windows and damaged the building. The damage is estimated to amount up to 10.000€.

Further information on: <http://en.gloria.tv/?media=182142>

34. Left NGO Calls for Violence Against Christians

Country: Austria

Category: Social Hostility / Intolerance

Attack against: Morals

Area of case: Private

Tags: Freedom of Religion | Exclusion (of individuals or ideas) | Freedom of Association and Assembly | Insult or Incitement | Defamation | Negative Stereotyping | Hate Incident

Teaser: The Salzburg-based NGO „Infoladen“ calls for violence against Christians when expressing pro-life views. In July they called for a counter-demonstration against a pro-life manifestation. „Let's make their 1000-crosses-manifestation a disaster!“ and „Sink the 1000 crosses!“ are some of the slogans on their website.

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In between long paragraphs of prejudices, the NGO „Infoladen“ admits that it has already used intimidation and anti-democratic means in the attempts of silences pro-life Christians:

„They just do not want to understand. Although last summer it was made sufficiently clear to Human Life International, Euro Pro Life and Youth for Life, that they and their anti-women processions are not welcome in Salzburg, they are planning another manifestation on July 25. ... Last year, the march was disturbed by blockades and successfully shortened through the courageous intervention of

emancipatory activists. The closing ceremony of the fundamentalists had to take place virtually in the exclusion of the public.“

They also pronounce a meeting point for the counter manifestation on July 25th.

No names of the leadership of the NGO nor the main organizers are given online.

Source: <http://infoladensalzburg.wordpress.com/2012/06/27/25-7-pro-choice-demo-1000-kreuze-versenken/#more-896>

35. Homeschooling Restricted in Austria

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#) | [Education](#)

Tags: [Rights of Parents](#)

Teaser: Several English – speaking Christian families who home educate their children in Austria have come under pressure by the Austrian school authorities for educating their children in English. They have been fined and threatened with the children being taken away – even though there are schools in Austria which teach exclusively in English

June 2012: Several English – speaking Christian families who home educate their children in Austria have come under pressure by the Austrian school authorities for educating their children in English. They have been fined and threatened with the children being taken away – even though there are schools in Austria which teach exclusively in English.

The homeschooling families living in Austria for work reasons are from England, Scotland, Slovakia, and the U.S.A. They are Roman and Greek Catholic. All the children are enrolled in a distance learning home school academy in the U.S.A. (the Mother of Divine Grace School) and the parents have presented to the authorities the accreditation of this school and yearly transcripts which demonstrate the educational achievement of the children.

Until 2008 the home educated children were tested yearly at the American School in Vienna in English and according to the curriculum we followed at home. Since 2008, the local school authorities have requested to test the children in the local State school according to the curriculum of that school and wholly in German even though there are hundreds of English speaking children in Austria who are permitted by the Ministry of Education to be educated and tested wholly in English at private schools. These tests are impossible for the children to pass since our children are home educated in English and they do not follow the Austria State curriculum.

When the children fail the examinations, the school authorities will then refuse permission to school the children at home claiming that the families have failed to properly educate our children.

In September 2011, the local authority fined the families for every day their children have been absent from the local school. These fines now run into several thousand Euros.

William Newton, from the United Kingdom, a homeschooling father of five, and an assistant professor for theology at a theological faculty says: „We are being frustrated in our efforts to be the primary educators of our children by the local and national school authorities in Austria.“

On 8 June 2012 the families met with the local school inspector from Scheibbs. William Newton:

„There was no movement on the part of the authorities at all and what appeared to us as a hardening of their position. He told us that if our children are not in school this September (2012) then the likelihood is that the social services will be alerted to our situation. This appears to us to be a method they are prepared to use to pressure us into sending the children to the local school. The ultimate threat, of course, is that the children shall be taken from us because we are 'mistreating' them by not sending them to the local school.“

Source: www.primaryeducators.net

Homeschooling families known to Observatory.

36. Christian Manifestation Attacked by Homosexual Activists

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#) | [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#) | [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Hate Incident](#)

Teaser: About 70 Christians demonstrated in a prayerful and peaceful walk against the Vienna "Gay pride parade" in Vienna on June 16th. They were attacked by counterdemonstration of activists for a homosexual agenda.

June 2012: About 70 Christians demonstrated in a prayerful and peaceful walk against the Vienna "Gay pride parade" in Vienna on June 16th. They were attacked by counterdemonstration of activists for a homosexual agenda.

A poster of the Christians was destroyed in attack of a member of the homosexual parade. Several chants using a variety of Anti-Christians slogans were shouted or sung, including: „Jesus Christ was a homosexual who had 12 sex partners“. They also shouted: „The pope is a pig.“ A poster of the homosexual activists read: „Catholicism is cureable.“ The registered route of the Christian manifestation was blocked by a not registered group of homosexual activists. Only an extraordinary amount of police, including special units, was able to protect the Christian group from physical violence.

View a video of the incident here: [gloria.tv](#)

37. Vienna Church St. Johann the Evangelist Vandalised

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: On June 1, an unknown person entered the parish church of St. Johann Evangelist on Keplerplatz and destroyed several windows in the second entrance doors located inside the church

June 2012: On June 1, an unknown person entered the parish church of St. Johann Evangelist on Keplerplatz and destroyed several windows in the second entrance doors located inside the church.

[View foto](#)

Source known to Observatory.

38. Pro-Life Side-Walk Counsellors Condemned by Court

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#)

Teaser: On October 25th, the state court of Graz, Styria, upheld a judgement of the first instance condemning pro-life side-walk counsellors to payments between 350 and 6200 Euro.

October 2011: On October 25th, the state court of Graz, Styria, upheld a judgement of the first instance condemning pro-life side-walk counsellors to payments between 350 and 6200 Euro. The pro-life activists prayed frequently in front of a Graz abortion clinic. The activists had peacefully prayed and offered alternatives to pregnant women upon entering the clinic by holding a sign and offering plastic embryo models.

The legal basis of this judgement is a new Austrian law banning stalking. While the law was designed to answer private stalking, it was now used in a professional context with regard to the abortionist feeling stalked by side-walk counsellors standing in front of his clinic.

The judge says that such activity "has nothing to do with freedom of expression, as the life of the abortionist had been massively affected" by the side-walk counsellors.

Read also (in German): <http://www.kleinezeitung.at/steiermark/graz/graz/2862229/stalking-berufungsprozess-abtreibungsgegnern.story>

Press release of one of the pro abortion lobby (in German, mind the biased language): http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20111025_OTS0261/schwangerschaftsabbruch-stalking-urteil-im-grazer-kampfbeter-prozess-bestaetigt

In English: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/sidewalk-counseling-effectively-criminalized-in-austria-after-pro-life-appe>

39. Anti-Discrimination Legislation Interferes with Religious Freedom

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Governmental](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Religion](#) | [Discriminatory Equality Policies](#)

Teaser: A senior Christian religious official looking for a secretary, asked the Austrian equal treatment commission before publishing a job advertisement: would it be permissible to reject a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman? The answer was no

October 2011: A senior Christian religious official looking for a secretary, asked the Austrian equal treatment commission before publishing a job advertisement: would it be permissible to reject a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman? The answer was no.

In transposition of EU – law, Austria has adopted strict non-discrimination legislation in the employment sector. When a Christian religious official was looking for a secretary, his legal advisor asked the equal treatment commission before publishing a job advertisement: would it be permissible to reject a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman? The answer was no. On the basis of the first four equal treatment directives, European law allows a distinction due to religion in church employment only when there is a “genuine, legitimate and justified occupational requirement”, such as when it comes to preaching to the faithful.

The here concerned Church dignitary decided not to publish the job advertisement, but to look for someone privately. Doing so many qualified potential applicants did not hear about the job - a sad consequence of overboarding interference in non-governmental concerns.

Source: known to Observatory.

39. Graffiti Insults Christians in Vienna's First District

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Insult or Incitement](#)

Teaser: In Postgasse, a fancy Vienna downtown street, a graffiti was placed on a residential house saying: "Pig Christians destroy the world", signed with a anarchy symbol.

September 2011: In Postgasse, a fancy Vienna downtown street, a graffiti was placed on a residential house saying: "Pig Christians destroy the world", signed with a anarchy symbol.

40. Masked Vandals Attack Pro-Life Office in Austria

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#) | [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#) | [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: The office of Johannes Bucher, the European Regional Director of Human Life International's (HLI), was attacked after a pro-life march in Salzburg, Austria. The office suffered seven broken windows, causing thousands of Euros in damage

August 2011: The office of Johannes Bucher, the European Regional Director of Human Life International's (HLI), was attacked after a pro-life march in Salzburg, Austria. The office suffered seven broken windows, causing thousands of Euros in damage.

HLI's Austria Director, Dietmar Fischer, was surprised that local media mostly ignored the attack against HLI office, organization known for promoting pro-life and family values. "Imagine the howling of the press if it were pro-lifers who smashed the windows of an abortion mill," said Mr. Fischer.

Mr. Fischer himself suffers constant persecution for his pro-life activism by a judge in Graz, Austria who ruled against him and his colleagues for supposedly "stalking" a known abortionist. He is facing a \$10,000 fine or three months in jail for providing pro-life materials to sidewalk counselors in Graz. The case is currently under appeal.

According to Gloria.tv, during a recent "Thousand Cross March" in Salzburg, almost 50 law enforcement officers were necessary to "protect the life marchers from a violence-prone group of abortion activists, many of whom shielded their identities by wearing black masks."

The abortion activists carried a banner depicting the HLI logo inside of a condom and the phrase: "Prevent forced reproduction. Abortion on demand for everyone!" .The HLI office was attacked soon after the march, and was witnessed by bystanders.

"The police report affirms that witnesses saw seven offenders dressed in black, wearing masks to hide their identities, and one wearing white hand gloves," the news report states.

Sources and full story:

http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/masked-vandals-attack-pro-life-office-in-austria?utm_source=LifeSiteNews.com+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=ad6f211fb2-LifeSiteNews_com_Intl_Headlines08_08_2011&utm_medium=email
HLIWorldWatch.org

41. Militant Left Wing Activism Against Peaceful Pro Life Manifestation

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#) | [Insult or Incitement](#) | [Hate Incident](#)

Teaser: The left wing radicals praised themselves for their actions by saying: „Over 50 emancipated people were present to block and disturb and they were not afraid of nervous cops. They prevented

stupid prayers and managed to disrupt the pro life manifestation in a way that it had to be ended early. During almost the entire pro life manifestation, they made their feminist viewpoints clear by shouting parades. They showed that militant resistance against anti-emanzipatory conditions and ass-holes is possible

July 2011: The left wing radicals praised themselves for their actions by saying: „Over 50 emancipated people were present to block and disturb and they were not afraid of nervous cops. They prevented stupid prayers and managed to disrupt the pro life manifestation in a way that it had to be ended early. During almost the entire pro life manifestation, they made their feminist viewpoints clear by shouting parades. They showed that militant resistance against anti-emanzipatory conditions and ass-holes is possible.“

Several Austrian pro life groups had organised a common manifestation against abortion on July 24th, 2011, in Salzburg. They planned and registered a walking procession through the city towards the main clinic, in which abortions are being performed in order to peacefully pray there.

As Salzburg's inner city contains several narrow roads, left wing activists managed to block the demonstrators on several occasions hindering them to continue their legally registered path. The left wing activists also prevented them from praying in front of the clinic, as well as from arriving in common at their final destination, a church, for a service. One activist was arrested, according to the left wing activists's own reports.

Source:

<https://at.indymedia.org/node/21013>

<https://at.indymedia.org/node/20999>

42. Landowner at Pilgrims' Route Prohibits Priests to Enter Property

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Exclusion \(of individuals or ideas\)](#) | [Equality](#) | [Negative Stereotyping](#)

Teaser: One of the routes to the main Austrian Catholic Shrine, MariaZell, located in the Austrian mountains, leads through the forest of Mr. Josef Rothwangl. In May 2011, Mr. Rothwangl put up a sign prohibiting priests to enter his property when accompanying children or youth. He says that he was a victim of abuse by Catholic priests himself, when he was a student at a Catholic high school. It is not clear, whether such a prohibition is legally permitted or not. The social effects are in any case problematic: The measure defames and stereotypes priests by implying that all Catholic priests are child abusers

May 2011: One of the routes to the main Austrian Catholic Shrine, MariaZell, located in the Austrian mountains, leads through the forest of Mr. Josef Rothwangl. In May 2011, Mr. Rothwangl put up a sign prohibiting priests to enter his property when accompanying children or youth. He says that he was a victim of abuse by Catholic priests himself, when he was a student at a Catholic high school. It is not clear, whether such a prohibition is legally permitted or not. The social effects are in any case problematic: The measure defames and stereotypes priests by implying that all Catholic priests are child abusers.

Sources:

<http://steiermark.orf.at/stories/516147>

[derStandard.at/1304552260035/Viele-Wege-fuehren-nach-Mariazell ";](http://derStandard.at/1304552260035/Viele-Wege-fuehren-nach-Mariazell)

43. Teacher Regularly Mocked Christianity in Class

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Education](#) | [Private](#)

Tags: [Rights of Parents](#) | [Insult or Incitement](#) | [Defamation](#) | [Negative Stereotyping](#)

Teaser: A secondary grammar school teacher in Innsbruck regularly mocks and denounces Christian faith in class. The supervisory school authority has now reprimanded

April 2011: A secondary grammar school teacher in Innsbruck regularly mocks and denounces Christian faith in class. The supervisory school authority has now reprimanded him.

When teaching about tolerance, he used excerpts from a book saying: "One has to tolerate only what one does not accept and respect, what seems to be ridiculous to the greatest extent, like the fact that Christians eat their redeemer in the course of a ritualistic-cannibalistic act."

The teacher was also accused of forbidding his pupils to use a traditional Austrian way of greeting that includes an invocation of God, calling God a "mythical creature" that has no place in a salutation.

Some pupils claim he meant to joke, but many of them, as well as the school's headmaster and the parents' association, consider this to be inappropriate.

His conduct caught the attention of the supervisory school authority. He was reprimanded, but will not have to face legal action.

Sources (German):

<http://www.tt.com/csp/cms/sites/tt/Überblick/Chronik/ChronikInnsbruck/2458299-6/grüß-gott-verboten-schulbehörde-ermittelt.csp>

<http://portal.tt.com/csp/cms/sites/tt/Tirol/2470310-2/elternvertretung-grüß-gott-verbot-unzulässig-und-nicht-tolerierbar.csp>

<http://www.tt.com/csp/cms/sites/tt/Überblick/Chronik/ChronikTirol/ChronikTirolContainer/2479587-8/lehrer-sorgt-weiter-für-aufregung.csp>

44. Pro-Life Manifestation Attacked, One Hospitalised

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Association and Assembly](#) | [Hate Incident](#) | [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: Peaceful protest of Catholic Youth pro-life Group "Jugend für das Leben" violently attacked by pro-choice forces. Member hospitalised with concussion

December 2010: Peaceful protest of Catholic Youth pro-life Group "Jugend für das Leben" violently attacked by pro-choice forces. Member hospitalised with concussion.

During a peaceful manifestation in Salzburg (Austria) on December 11, 2010, counter-demonstrators chanted intolerant phrases such as, "If Mary had had an abortion, we would have been spared people like you." After the protest and after most members of Youth for Life had left, five remained to pack and clean up. They were surrounded by pro-choice counter-demonstrators and molested. One of them suffered a concussion due to a beating and had to spend a night in the hospital.

45. Statues of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Covered in Condoms in Art Exhibit

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#) | [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Political](#) | [Arts](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#)

Teaser: The lower Austrian main building of government (NÖ-Landhaus) hosts an exhibition which displays Mary, the mother of Jesus, covered in a condom and sperma. This exhibition is funded by public money and approved by governor Erwin Prö

November 2010: The lower Austrian main building of government (NÖ-Landhaus) hosts an exhibition which displays Mary, the mother of Jesus, covered in a condom and sperma. This exhibition is funded by public money and approved by governor Erwin Pröll.

The Australian artist is called Mark Rossell. Please view his website

here:<http://www.amrossell.com/homepage/works/sculptures/new.php?location=Madonna&imgid=1>

46. Vandalism in Austrian Church Building

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Desecration](#) | [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: Repeated vandalism including defecation committed by youth in church building in Upper Austria

September 2010: Repeated vandalism including defecation committed by youth in church building in Upper Austria.

Three Austrian adolescents were convicted of vandalism in Upper Austria. The boys, aged 13 to 15, repeatedly damaged a Church "Kaplaneikirche" in Kirchberg in Kremsmünster. According to the Upper Austrian executive authorities, the boys just wanted to "be cool" and "have fun".

The local police opened investigation after several reports of wilful damage to property in the church and cemetery. Afterwards, a 15-year-old boy turned himself in and confessed to an act of vandalism on September 11th. The adolescents defecated in the church and damaged a Jesus figure as well as a church window by throwing incense balls. The public prosecution department will press charges against the boys for the suspicion of wilful damage of property. The quantum of damages is yet unknown.

47. Attacks on Pro Life Activists

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Religion](#) | [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Hate Incident](#) | [Hate Crime](#)

Teaser: Ongoing attacks against sidewalk-counseling pro life activists in Vienna filmed and published online

September 2010: Ongoing attacks against sidewalk-counseling pro life activists in Vienna filmed and published online.

The Catholic news network "gloria.tv" made a series of attacks against pro life activists engaged in sidewalk-counseling. The large abortion clinic in front of which the incidents took place is situated in the 15th district of Vienna and run by Dr. Christian Fiala.

In an Austrian newspaper, Mr. Fiala is quoted saying that he has hired two people to molest and attack all sidewalk-counselers.

In the video (www.gloria.tv/?media=95774) various attacks have been recorded: physical attacks (such as the beating of a handicapped activist), insults and swearing (also mocking religion), damage to property (e.g. cutting an activist's religious items with scissors), and theft (the wallet of an activist stolen behind his back).

The Vienna district attorney was alerted but has not done anything yet.

48. Attempt to Legally Qualify Catholic Church as Criminal Organisation

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Government Restrictions](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#) | [Morals](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Religion](#) | [Equality](#) | [Negative Stereotyping](#)

Teaser: Vienna-based lawyer Georg Zanger wants to sue leading members of the Catholic Church on grounds of membership in a criminal organisation (§ 278a StGB, Austrian Code of Penal Law

March 2010: Vienna-based lawyer Georg Zanger wants to sue leading members of the Catholic Church on grounds of membership in a criminal organisation (§ 278a StGB, Austrian Code of Penal Law).

Most regrettably, several members of the Catholic Church abused children in previous decades. 15 victims have now asked Vienna-based lawyer Georg Zanger to represent them legally.

According to Austrian daily "Die Presse", March 25th, Zanger says that if this abuse was covered up by Church officials, the entire Catholic Church could legally be qualified as a criminal organisation. The Austrian Code of Penal Law provides a prison sentence between six months and five years for members of criminal organisations.

In the heat of the debate, it is easy to overlook that the teaching of the Catholic Church is a safeguard against child abuse. Equally, its officials are forerunners in the protection of children, families and human dignity. This has been proven true on many occasions in the history of civilisation. Single instances of perverse members are not representative of the Catholic Church as a whole.

49. Fire Set in Famous Vienna Catholic Church

Country: [Austria](#)

Category: [Social Hostility / Intolerance](#)

Attack against: [Faith](#)

Area of case: [Private](#)

Tags: [Intolerance towards Religious Symbols](#) | [Desecration](#) | [Vandalism \(form of hate crime\)](#)

Teaser: Two glass doors were broken and fire set on the altar under the tabernacle. Fire did not spread and was extinguished by itself

February 2010: Two glass doors were broken and fire set on the altar under the tabernacle. Fire did not spread and was extinguished by itself.

On February 19th, unknown perpetrators entered the well-known Vienna Catholic Church "Our Lady of the Victory" by breaking two glass doors. The fire was set on the altar right under the tabernacle. As

no one was there to notice it, the fire could have spread easily, but it did not. Parish priest father Bruno Meusburger said it was a miracle that the fire extinguished by itself.

The perpetrators and their motives are not known yet. Considering that this is a very active missionary parish and that the fire was set to the altar, it is rather possible that the motive was hatred of Christianity.

Photos and a report in German on:

www.kath.net/detail.php