



SOAR

STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE
OF AT-RISK RELIGIOUS SITES AND COMMUNITIES

MAY 2022

ISSUE

11



EDITORIAL NOTE

WORKING TO KEEP PLACES OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITIES SAFE IN EUROPE

We are excited to present to you our May 2022 Newsletter!

This Issue showcases the most important SOAR events that took place this month and relevant recently issued publications & international developments.

It also contains further information regarding SOAR's upcoming events and engagements. Furthermore, as per our traditional section on Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents we regret to inform you that we were able to identify around 119 incidents on this occasion.

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EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

The Network for
Religious and
Traditional
Peacemakers



FCA
Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe
**ACE-
CAE
EU**

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EUROPE DAY

WHEN: 09 MAY

Every year on May 9, we celebrate Europe Day. The date marks the Schuman Declaration of 1950. The declaration was presented on 9th of May 1950 by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman.

It is "**considered to be first official step in the creation of what is now the European Union.**"

The SOAR team would like to use this occasion to celebrate peace and unity across Europe and beyond. Cooperation, tolerance, and diversity solidifies Europe and show's its strength in the face of adversity. Thus, we would like to recall EU's motto "United in diversity" to highlight the importance of unity, diversity and peace.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE

WHEN: 16 MAY

The UN resolution 72/130 declared 16th of May the International Day of Living Together in Peace. This day is about accepting difference and living together in peace.

The SOAR Project affirms its commitment to peace, diversity, inclusion and harmony as we work to protect places of worship across all faith communities and cultures.



SOAR ON “SECURITY BY DESIGN FOR PROTECTING PLACES OF WORSHIP” EXPERT ROUNDTABLE



WHEN: 12 MAY

WHERE: ONLINE

One of the first online briefings which focused on “Security by Design for Protecting Places of Worship” was held online on 12 May 2022. The event was co-hosted by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and featured a roundtable of experts from the SOAR project.



SOAR BASELINE RESEARCH DISSEMINATION EVENT



WHEN: 27 MAY

WHERE: ONLINE

On the 27th of May, the SOAR team organised the research dissemination event for Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities (SOAR) project.

The event discussed the findings of the Participatory Baseline study on the security challenges faced by religious sites and policies, advancing the security and safety of places of worship in our 7 pilot countries.



TRAINING EVENT- NANCY



WHEN: 08 MAY

WHERE: NANCY, FRANCE

The SOAR project has delivered a Protective Security Training event on the 8th of May, 2022, in Nancy, France. In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, law enforcement collaborators, community members and volunteers from Places of Worship.

The SOAR project engaged with at risk communities to ensure that places of worship and congregations are protected by providing FREE security training and resources



NANCY

8TH MAY 2022

TRAINING EVENT – METZ



WHEN: 15 MAY

WHERE: METZ, FRANCE

The SOAR project organised community safety and security training for women and youth congregant in Metz, France, on the 15th of May 2022. The attendees received comprehensive information related to security and got the chance to further engage with our team.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).

To request a training event in your location please do so [Here](#).



METZ

15TH MAY 2022

TRAINING EVENT – LILLE



WHEN: 21 MAY

WHERE: LILLE, FRANCE

We are pleased to share with you that on the 21st of May, the SOAR project delivered a successful training event in Lille, France. We are excited to be coming here for the second time this year and to contribute to the protection of places of worship and communities. We received a warm welcome and an overwhelming support from Lille and are excited to continue our work in Europe and beyond.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).



LILLE

21st MAY 2022

TRAINING EVENT – COLOGNE



WHEN: 28 MAY

WHERE: COLOGNE, GERMANY

On the 28th of May the SOAR project organised a training event in Cologne Germany. The SOAR team was eager to engage with religious leaders, local authorities, and other stakeholders on topics of security and security by design.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).

To request a training event in your location please do so [Here](#).



KOLN

28th MAY 2022

TRAINING EVENT – MONTPELLIER



WHEN: 29 MAY

WHERE: MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

On the 29th of May 2022, the SOAR team delivered a successful training event in Montpellier, France. Attendees were not only able to receive quality training on security of places of worship but also got the opportunity to engage with our team and share their overall concerns in relation to the subject.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).



MONTPELLIER
29th MAY 2022

SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT-METZ



WHEN: 15 MAY

WHERE: METZ, FRANCE

On 15th of May 2022, the SOAR team conducted risk assessments for Metz places of worship. This activity is of high importance considering the recent arson incident that saw 3 incendiary bottles being placed in front of the facade of the Merkez Camii Center Mosque in Metz.

If you would like request a training event in your location or a risk assessment for your place of worship, please do so [Here](#).



METZ
15TH MAY 2022

SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT-LILLE



WHEN: 21 MAY

WHERE: LILLE, FRANCE

On the 21st of May, our SOAR team conducted risk assessments in Lille places of worship. Lille place of worship were aided in ensuring that reasonable precautions are in place for the safety and security of their worshipers, workers, and volunteers.

If you would like request a training event in your location or a risk assessment for your place of worship, please do so [Here](#).



LILLE

21ST MAY 2022



COPENHAGEN

24TH MAY 2022

SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT-COPENHAGEN



WHEN: 24 MAY

WHERE: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

On the 24th of May, our team traveled to Denmark to conduct risk assessments in Copenhagen. We received a warm welcome and were eager to share our knowledge and skills with religious communities.

If you would like request a training event or a risk assessment for your place of worship, please do so [Here](#).

EU-LEVEL NETWORK DIALOGUE ON GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS FOR SECURITY BY DESIGN



WHEN: 02 JUNE

WHERE: ONLINE

This network dialogue meeting seeks to contribute to the development of bespoke standards for places of worship. It will discuss standards and best practice guidance for ensuring security by design for religious sites.

To register for the event please do so [Here](#). If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).



POLICY ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE



WHEN: JUNE

WHERE: ONLINE (FRANCE)

The SOAR project is organising a Policy Roundtable Dialogue in June 2022 in France. The event is targeted towards, community members, law enforcement, local, regional, and national authorities, policymakers. Keep an eye on the events section of the SOAR website for details.

If you would like to register for this or our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).

POLICY ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

Keep an eye on the
events section of the
SOAR website for details

POLICY ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE



WHEN: 14 JUNE

WHERE: ONLINE (GERMANY)

The SOAR project is organising a Policy Roundtable Dialogue in June 2022 in Germany. The event is targeted towards, community members, law enforcement, local, regional, and national authorities, policymakers. Keep an eye on the events section of the SOAR website for details.

If you would like to register for this or our upcoming events, please do so [Here](#).



**POLICY ROUNDTABLE
DIALOGUE**

Keep an eye on the
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**EU LEVEL
NETWORK DIALOGUE ON
GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS FOR
SECURITY BY DESIGN**

DIALOGUE FOR EXISTING RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

 **AMSTERDAM**
28th JUNE 2022

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
www.soarproject.eu/events

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EU-LEVEL NETWORK DIALOGUE ON GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS FOR SECURITY BY DESIGN



WHEN: 28 JUNE

**WHERE: AMSTERDAM, THE
NETHERLANDS**

This event includes consideration by working groups of whether standards or best practice guidance is required specifically for ensuring security by design for religious sites, whether planning for new construction, renovations, or security upgrades of existing facilities. Event registration [Here](#).

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENT – BORDEAUX



WHEN: 15 JUNE

WHERE: BORDEAUX, GERMANY

The SOAR Project is delighted to announce our upcoming training event in Bordeaux, France!

Increased attacks on religious institutions and communities across Europe have prompted a focus on the vulnerability of places of worship, and the need for focused support and training, which the SOAR project provides.

Event registration [Here](#).



ANTISEMITISM REPORT 2021

ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE WIEN

WHEN: 13 MAY

WHERE: AUSTRIA

On the 13 of May 2022, the Jewish Community Vienna published the Antisemitism Report for 2021. The Community recorded a total of 965 anti-Semitic incidents in 2021.

It is reported that there has been an increase of 65% of incidents. It is the highest number recorded by the community since recording began 20 years ago.

CIDI: ONLINE ANTISEMITISM RESEARCH



WHEN: 24 MAY

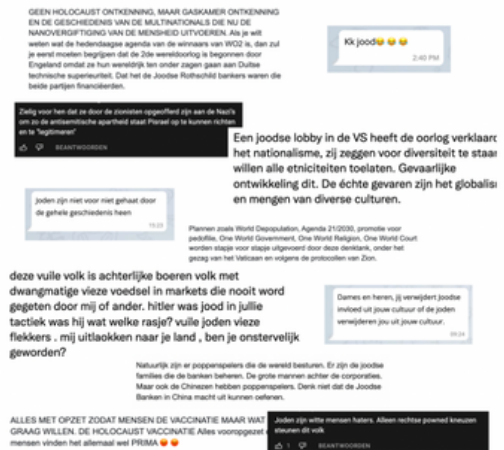
WHERE: THE NETHERLANDS

On the 24th of May 2022, the Israel Information and Documentation Center and Central Jewish Council published a research paper relating to 2020 Online Antisemitism.

On behalf of CIDI and CJO the Utrecht Data School of Utrecht University counted over 200,000 anti-Semitic messages online in Dutch.

Onderzoek Online antisemitisme in 2020

Utrecht Data School
Universiteit Utrecht



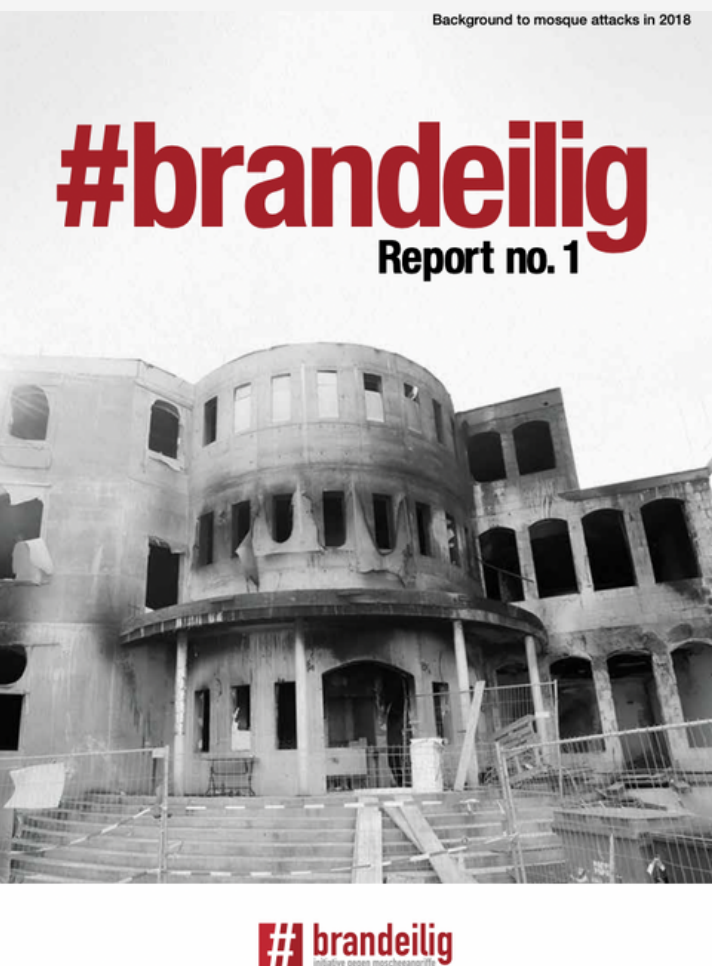
#BRANDEILIG REPORT



WHEN: 24 MAY

WHERE: GERMANY

On 24th of May 2022, the #brandeilig initiative published their report into 2018 mosques attacks in Germany. The publication reviewed 120 incidents against mosques that took place in 2018. The report concludes that "[a]fter an attack, mosque communities are largely on their own, the detection rate is very low, insurance companies rarely pay and expressions of solidarity are often only heard from other Muslim communities."



MEDIA DOCUMENTED **ATTACKS** AGAINST PLACES OF WORSHIP AND RELATED INCIDENTS:

25 APRIL-25 MAY

The following list does not represent the true extent of attacks against religious sites within the given timeframe.

Rather, it is a representation of some incidents presented in and covered by the media. The indicated dates represent either the date of the incident or the date of discovery of the incident.



France

- 27 April: Church theft.
- 29 April: Church theft.
- May: Cemetery theft.
- 01 May: Church vandalism.
- 02 May: Racist attack near mosque.
- 05 May: Mosque attacked.
- 05 May: Mosque tagged.
- 08 May: Mosque vandalised.
- 09 May: Cemetery theft.
- 10 May: Cemetery theft.
- 12 May: Church theft.
- 18-19 May: Church fire.



Germany

- April: Church vandalised.
- 22-26 April: Church damage.
- May: Jewish and Christian Graves desecrated.
- 01 May: Damage on church property.
- 01-02 May: Church theft.
- 01-02 May: Attempted Church theft.
- 02 May: Church riot.
- 02-03 May: Church theft.
- 02-06 May: Church damage.
- 04-05 May: Church attempted arson.
- 05 May: Mosque theft.
- 09 May: Arson in church vicinity.
- 09 May: Drug deal in church courtyard.

10 May: Church arson.
 11 May: Fire damage at the Islamic Cultural Center.
 11 May: Church damage.
 11-12 May: Church damage.
 11-20 May: Church break-in.
 12 May: Attempted school 'Nazi attack'.
 13 May: Church smeared.
 14 May: Church burglary.
 15 May: Mass disturbed.
 13-14 May: Burglary in church.
 13-14 May: Church smeared.
 15-16 May: Church theft.
 15-17 May: Church theft.
 15-20 May: Church theft.
 15-22 May: Church theft.
 17 May: Church theft.
 18 May: Church theft.
 19 May: Mosque smeared.
 20 May: Church damage.
 20-21 May: Church vandalism.



20-21 May: Church smeared.
 20-21 May: Church smeared.
 21 May: Church arson.
 21 May: Church damage.
 21 May: Church arson.
 21 May: Church fire.
 21-22 May: Church vandalism.
 25 May: Church arson.
 25 May: Church theft.



Italy

April: Man urinates on church.
 April: Church thefts.
 April: Church vandalism.
 May: Church vandalism.
 May: Church vandalism.



UK

May: Church vandalised.
 01 May: Church vandalised.
 01 May: Man harassed outside POW.
 01-02 May: Church theft.
 02 May: Man attacked inside mosque.

07 May: Church vandalised.
 07 May: Church theft.
 10 May: Church vandalised.
 10 May: Church theft.
 17 May: Attack against mosque.
 18 May: Mosque damaged.
 25 April: Church vandalised.
 19 May: Church arson.



Hungary

01 May: Synagogue vandalised.
 21 May: Synagogue break-in.



Austria

28 April: Church vandalised.
 05-06 May: Church smeared.
 06 May: Church theft.



Romania

04 May: Church fire.
 17 May: Church theft.



Spain

April: Church vandalised.



Belgium

May: Cemetery theft.
 07 May: Fire behind church.



Sweden

April: Graves vandalised.
 01 May: Quran burned in front of a mosque.



Croatia

02-03 May: Church vandalised.



Lithuania

10 May: Holocaust monument destroyed.



Poland

18 May: Celebration disturbed.



Moldova

02 May: Church fire.



Ireland

21 May: Church vandalised.



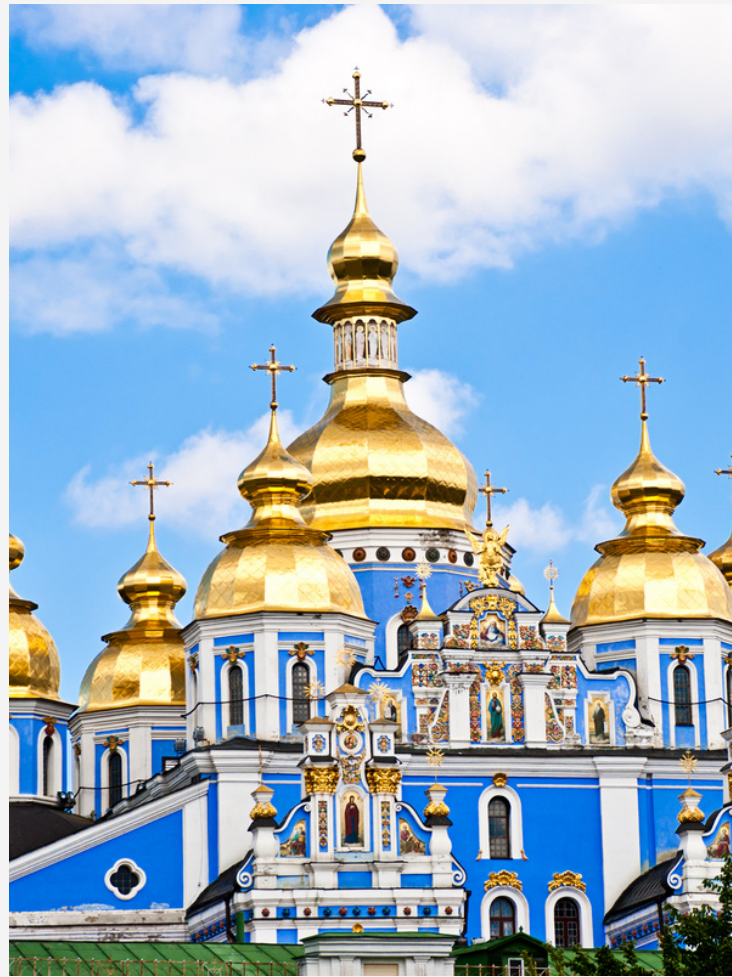
Turkey

May: Allegations of new Hagia Sophia vandalism.



Ukraine

May: Church damaged.
 May: Church damaged.
 May: Church damaged.
 May: Church damaged.
 May: Parish damaged.
 May: Church damaged.
 May: Synagogue destroyed.
 May: Church damaged.
 May: Church damaged.
 01 May: Church disturbance.
 01-02 May: Church damaged.
 02 May: Church fire.
 02 May: Church damaged.
 02 May: Monastery damaged.
 03 May: Priest died during shelling.
 06 May: Church damaged.
 08 May: Church damaged.
 08 May: Church vandalised.
 08 May: Church smeared.
 09 May: Church smeared.



10 May: Church damaged.
 17 May: Church damaged.
 19 May: Church damaged.
 21 May: Attempt to capture POW.
 21 May: Attempt to capture POW.
 22 May: POW captured.
 22 May: Priest assaulted.
 22 May: Church seized.
 22-23 May: Church damaged.

February-May: At least 116 spiritual sites ruined in Ukraine by Russian attacks.

REQUEST A SOAR TRAINING EVENT OR RISK ASSESSMENT



**WHERE: GERMANY, FRANCE,
THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM,
DENMARK, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA**

The SOAR Project is committed to help communities safe. As part of our project we deliver protective security training and risk assessments for places of worship.

If you would like to request a SOAR training event or a risk assessment for your place of worship please do so [Here](#).

Registration for upcoming events: [Here](#).



SOAR RESOURCES



SOAR is delighted to present to you the most important publications in the field of security of places of worship.

Our Resources page contains SOAR and other publications that are designed to aid you in keeping your place of worship safe.

The Resources page is available [Here](#).



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