



MEĐURELIGIJSKO VIJEĆE U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI
МЕЂУРЕЛИГИЈСКО ВИЈЕЋЕ У БОСНИ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНИ
Interreligious Council in Bosnia-Herzegovina

MONITORING AND RESPONSES TO ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS AND OTHER HOLY SITES IN BIH

(PROTECTIONS OF HOLY SITES)

REPORT ON THE PILOT PROJECT November 1st 2010 – October 31st 2011

1. Introduction

“Monitoring and Responses to Attacks on Religious Buildings and Other Holy Sites in BiH” is a one-year pilot project that has been implemented in cooperation of the Inter-religious Council in Bosnia Herzegovina (IRC), the Nansen Dialogue Center Sarajevo (NDC) and the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights (OC). It is developed within the framework of the wider project *“A Universal Code on Holy Sites”* run by four partners: One World in Dialogue (EVID), Search for Common Ground (SfCg), Religions for Peace (RfP), including European Council for Religious Leaders (ECRL) and the OC.

2. Summary

During the period of implementation of the pilot project (November 1st 2010 – October 31st 2011) IRC office received 56 reports on attacks on churches, mosques, synagogues and graveyards as well as religious officials who are in close connection with the Holy Sites. However, this is probably not the overall number of attacks on religious sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but rather number of those attacks that were reported to the Interreligious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are still religious officials who do not wish to report attacks to Interreligious council in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The fact is that none of the churches and religious communities was exempt from attacks on their property, and places of attacks are distributed throughout the country. Out of the total of 56 attacks, 30 of them happened in Republic of Srpska while 26 happened in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of the **total number of 56 attacks** that occurred in this period, there are **28 attacks on the facilities of the Islamic community, 17 attacks on the facilities of the Serbian Orthodox Church, 9 attacks the facilities of the Catholic Church and 2 attacks on the facilities of the Jewish community.**



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During the project implementation the IRC staff identified two main types of attack. The first type is economically motivated attacks, which are aimed at gaining material benefits. The other type of attacks, which are more in focus of the IRC and which we are trying to eradicate are hate-based attacks. Unfortunately, there are some cases that have elements of both types.

When it comes to a rate of solved cases or number of identified perpetrators we got following results. Out of 56 cases of attacks on religious sites that are reported to IRC, in 17 cases police did succeed in finding perpetrators. In percentage it is 30, 36% of all cases reported to IRC.

1. LIST OF RECEIVED REPORTS

Here is the list of all received reports on attacks on religious buildings during the period of the Project.

Ref. No	Name of building	Religious community/Church	Location	Date
001-11/2010	Samostan Sestara	Katolička crkva-Biskupija banjolučka	Banja Luka	5.11.2010
002-11/2010	Milosrdnica	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Bijeljina	Bijeljina	5.11.2010
003-11/2010	Mezarje "Brčanska malta" Gradsko mezarje "Lipić"	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Bijeljina	Bijeljina	10.11.2010
004-11/2010	župna crkva – Ovčarevo Grobља «Bogduša» u Brajkovićima, «Sviba» i «Šikalovo groblje» u Grahovčićima	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Općina Travnik Brajkovići i Grahovčići, Općina Travnik	10.11.2010
005-11/2010	Sinagoga «Kuća mira» Župni ured Presvetog Srca Isusova Pravoslavni manastir svetog proroka Jeremije u Rožnju	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska Jevrejska zajednica-Jevrejska opština u Doboju	Doboj	19.11.2010
006-11/2010	Sinagoga «Kuća mira» Župni ured Presvetog Srca Isusova Pravoslavni manastir svetog proroka Jeremije u Rožnju	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Doboj	25.11.2010
007-11/2010	Sinagoga «Kuća mira» Župni ured Presvetog Srca Isusova Pravoslavni manastir svetog proroka Jeremije u Rožnju	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvorničko-tuzlanska	Rožanj, Općina Sapna Kopači, Opština Novo Goražde	26.11.2010
008-11/2010	Turbeta Sijerčića	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Goražde	Goražde	12.12.2010
009-12/2010	Hram Sv. Proroka Ilije	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Ilijaš	15.12.2010
010-12/2010	Hram Sv. Proroka Ilije	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Zavidovići	22.12.2010
011-12/2010	Crkva Sv. Josipa Mezarje u haremu Gradske Džamije	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Prnjavor	Prnjavor	7.1.2011
012-01/2011	Džamija Tekija Džamija Stupnica(Salihija) Zgrada Medžlisa Gacko	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Bosanska Gradiška	Gradiška	11.1.2011
013-01/2011	Džamija Tekija Džamija Stupnica(Salihija) Zgrada Medžlisa Gacko	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Banja Luka	Banja Luka	13.1.2011
014-01/2011	Džamija Tekija Džamija Stupnica(Salihija) Zgrada Medžlisa Gacko	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Gacko	Gacko	22.1.2011
015-01/2011	Džamija Tekija Džamija Stupnica(Salihija) Zgrada Medžlisa Gacko	Jevrejska zajednica-Jevrejska opština Zenica	Zenica	25.1.2011
016-01/2011	Sinagoga u Zenici	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Sarajevo, Općina Novo Sarajevo	28.1.2011
017-01/2011	Hram Preobraženja Gospodnjeg Hram Vaznesenja Gospodnjeg	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvorničko-tuzlanska	Gračanica	1.2.2011
018-02/2011	Hram Preobraženja Gospodnjeg Hram Vaznesenja Gospodnjeg			

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019-02/2011	Hram Svete Trojice Župni ured Presvetog Srca Isusova	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvorničko-tuzlanska	Tumare, Općina Lukavac	1.2.2011
020-02/2011		Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Doboj	13.1.2011
021-02/2011	Crkva Sv. Georgija	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvorničko-tuzlanska	Tuzla	16.2.2011
022-02/2011	Hram Preobraženja Gospodnjeg	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Sarajevo, Općina Novo Sarajevo Sarajevo, Općina Stari Grad	22.2.2011
023-02/2011	Katedrala Srca Isusova	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Sarajevo, Općina Stari Grad	25.2.2011
024-03/2011	Franjevački samostan sv. Ante	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Općina Stari Grad	3.3.2011
025-03/2011	Džamija Višići	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis Čapljina	Višići, Općina Čapljina	3.3.2011
026-03/2011	Samostan Sv. Bonaventure	Katolička crkva-Nadbiskupija vrhbosanska	Visoko	18.3.2011
027-03/2011	Ured Muftije banjalučkog Urijanska Džamija u Bosanskom Novom (Novi Grad)	Islamska zajednica-Muftijstvo banjalučko	Banja Luka	31.3.2011
028-04/2011	Džamija i kancelarija MIZ- a Doboj	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Bosanski Novi	Novi grad	1.4.2011
029-05/2011		Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Doboj	Doboj	16.5.2011
030-05/2011	Hram Sv. Save	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Zavidovići	23.5.2011
031-05/2011	Hram rođenja sv. Jovana Krstitelja	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Bilješevo, općina Kakanj	23.5.2011
032-05/2011	Hram Vaznesenja Gospodnjeg	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Drivuša, općina Zenica	23.5.2011
033-05/2011	Hram Sv. proroka Ilije	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Busovača	26.5.2011
034-05/2011	Čaršijska-Cerića Džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Bosanska Dubica	Kozarska Dubica	31.5.2011
035-06/2011	Crkva Sv. Save	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Blažuj	2.6.2011
036-06/2011	Hram Sv. Proroka Ilije	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Mutnica, općina Zenica	13.6.2011
037-06/2011	Sefer-begova džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Banja Luka	Banja Luka	13.6.2011
038-06/2011	Sefer-begova džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Banja Luka	Banja Luka	13.6.2011
039-06/2011	Sefer-begova džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Banja Luka	Banja Luka	15.6.2011
040-06/2011	Sefer-begova džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Banja Luka	Banja Luka	21.6.2011
041-06/2011	Gradska džamija Musluk (Atik Ali-pašina) džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Bosanska Dubica	Kozarska Dubica	29.6.2011
042-08/2011		Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Foča	Foča	2.8.2011
043-08/2011	Hram Sv. Joakima i Ane	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvorničko-tuzlanska	Dubnica, općina Kalesija	5.8.2011
044-08/2011	Mezarje "Šehitluci"	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Fojnica	Alaupovka, općina Fojnica	10.8.2011
045-08/2011	Džamija u Hrankoviću Gradsko groblje-harem Prnjavor	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Teslić	Hranković, opština Teslić	15.8.2011
046-08/2011		Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Prnjavor	Prnjavor	19.8.2011
047-09/2011	Džamija Begsuja	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Zvornik	Zvornik	6.9.2011
048-09/2011	Sefer-begova džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e	Banja Luka	12.9.2011

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049-09/2011	Sefer-begova džamija	Banja Luka Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Banja Luka	Banja Luka	21.9.2011
050-09/2011	Hram Začeca svetog Jovana Krstitelja Napad na sveštenika-Hram Sv. Vaznesenja Gospodnjeg	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Mitropolija dabrobosanska	Zimča, općina Visoko	23.9.2011
051-10/2011		Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvoničko-tuzlanska	Gračanica	4.10.2011
052-10/2011	Napad na gl. imama	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Gacko	Gacko	17.10.2011
053-10/2011	Napad na gl. imama	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Bosanska Dubica	Kozarska Dubica	17.10.2011
054-10/2011	Čaršijska-Šić džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Modriča	Modriča	24.10.2011
055-10/2011	Hram Sv. Velikomučenice Nedelje	Srpska pravoslavna crkva-Eparhija zvoničko-tuzlanska	Srnice, općina Gradačac	27.10.2011
056-11/2011	Sefer begova džamija	Islamska zajednica-Medžlis IZ-e Banja Luka	Banja Luka	2.11.2011

4. Analyzes of attacks and incidents

During the project implementation period we realized that there are still too many attacks on religious sites and other places of importance for churches and religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that period, IRC staff identified (2) main types of attacks on Holy Sites. The first type is driven by criminal intention to gain some material value out of it and this kind of attack is ineradicable. The other type of attacks, which are more in focus of the IRC and which we are trying to eradicate are attacks motivated by religious and ethnic hatred. During the period of monitoring implementation we have been trying to determine motives behind these incidents. In some cases it is very easy to determine these motives since it is obvious that the only interest was to gain some material value out of it. Like the case in Doboj, where the parish office of the Catholic Church was a target of burglary, or the case of attack on the Serbian Orthodox Church in Zenica, where the church bells were stolen. But in some cases we have situation where some items or the altars are desecrated. These cases can not be classified as economically motivated ones. Examples of attacks of such kind are the attacks on orthodox church in Sarajevo, Catholic church in Ovcarevo (Travnik) or frequent attacks on Sefer-bey mosque in Banja Luka. It is very interesting and symptomatic that almost all cases of attacks happened to the minority groups in different local communities. So, for example Islamic community religious sites are under attacks mostly in Republic of Srpska entity, where the Bosniak Muslim population represents a minority. Analogous to that attacks on Serbian Orthodox Church facilities mostly occur on the territory of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Orthodox Serbs are the minority. Same can be noticed regarding

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attacks on the Catholic Church. It is very hard to determine “hot spots” of incidents, since the incidents happened all over the country. But we must say that, IRC office received total of 7 reports of attacks on Sefer-bey mosque located in Banja Luka. Regarding cooperation and support from the local administration we find different approaches in different places of attack. There are some good examples of how local administration can be involved in all process of response to the attack.

One very good example is response to attack on Serbian Orthodox Church in Blazuj that was organized on June 3rd 2011. Municipality administration did it's best to reduce the consequences of this attack. Not only that they positively responded to IRC's invitation to jointly condemn the attack, but they condemned the attack on municipality's official web page. In addition, municipality mayor agreed to finance repainting of the church in order to remove offending graffiti. Police also reacted in highly professional manner which resulted in identification of perpetrators, their arrest and finally indictment for inciting religious hatred.

Other good example is similar case of graphitized mosque in Modrica, incident that happened on October 23rd 2011. Even though IRC responded to this attack only by condemning statement, municipality mayor visited injured party, showed solidarity with them and agreed to publicly condemn this attack and to financially support repainting of the mosque. Police work was also done in very good manner, resulting with identification of perpetrators.

5. Conclusions regarding inter-religious responses

All the responses are organized by the Secretariat of the Inter-religious council in Bosnia and Herzegovina through regular hierarchy of churches and religious communities. We can be satisfied with the participation of the religious leaders on all levels in the project. From the very beginning of the project we had support of higher religious leaders. When it comes to religious leaders on local level, we have different experiences in different cases. Usually they understand problems of minorities because all religious groups are minorities in some parts of the country and they are all familiar with similar stories. That's the reason why they are usually very keen to participate in these events and to show solidarity with their colleagues from different faith communities. However, there is still need to persuade the religious officials of the need to report an attack.

6. Analyzes of Media reports

The project is having good reception in the media from the beginning. Media representatives recognized importance of this project for protection of Holy Sites and for creating better atmosphere in society, atmosphere of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. On the press conference where we announced the beginning of the pilot project of monitoring of the Holy Sites, we had all major TV and radio stations as well as representatives from the so called printed media present. The project was announced in

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the central news programs of all public services. Private TV and radio stations as well as newspapers conveyed the message as well.

Many media continued to follow the project and to convey messages of condemnations from the organized response gatherings. Reporting is generally fair and balanced. Usually the journalists only transmit information without any special comments or personal visions. Usually only printed media and web portals are the ones who publish these statements regularly. All in all we can be satisfied with media interest in the project.

7. Challenges and benefits in the project implementation

One of the biggest challenges is to persuade the religious officials of the need to report an attack. Also, the challenge is to convince the religious leaders of the need for a joint public announcement. We already had opportunity to propose recommendations to the local administration authorities regarding video-surveillance of frequently attacked religious sites. After joint condemnation of the attack on Sarajevo Cathedral, we had meeting with deputy mayor of Sarajevo and we were informed about initiative to put religious sites in Sarajevo under CATV video-surveillance with direct link with the police. Than we were asked to give the recommendation letter in order to help to find assets in city budget for such initiative.

A part from main goals of the project we noticed following additional benefits of the Project such as:

- raising awareness of need for public condemnation
- raising awareness of need for common condemnation
- pressure on police to do their job
- encourage inter-religious dialogue in local community

We noticed more frequent visits to our website and more circulation of the information that we put on the web site of attacks on religious sites.

In some cases, in the second half of the year we noticed that the attacks on religious objects are treated as a crime of inciting religious and ethnic hatred (case: the attack on the church in Blažuj).

From the religious leaders, whose houses of worship are attacked we were informed that they have noticed more frequent police patrols. (Case: attack on a Catholic church in Doboј)

In some municipalities, the initiative was set up for video surveillance of religious buildings. (Cases: the attack on the Orthodox Church in Sarajevo, the attack on mosque in Modrica)

8. Recommendations

Considering the analyzed results of the monitoring of attacks on religious sites, Inter-religious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the following recommendations:

- Setting up video surveillance over religious buildings which were subject of attacks

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- Increase police patrols around religious buildings
- Recommend that the municipality at least once a year hold a meeting with local representatives of religious communities
- Attacks on religious buildings treated as a crime of inciting religious and ethnic hatred in accordance with the Criminal Code of FBiH and RS, if the facts indicate that.

9. Charts and Graphs

Table of attacks per municipality:

1. BANJA LUKA	10
2. BIJELJINA	2
3. BUSOVAČA	1
4. ČAPLJINA	1
5. DOBOJ	4
6. FOČA	1
7. FOJNICA	1
8. GACKO	2
9. GRAČANICA	2
10. GRADAČAC	1
11. GRADIŠKA	1
12. ILIDŽA	1
13. ILIJAŠ	1
14. KALESIJA	1
15. KAKANJ	1
16. KOZARSKA DUBICA	3
17. LUKAVAC	1
18. MODRIČA	1
19. NOVI GRAD	1
20. NOVO GORAŽDE	1
21. PRNJAVOR	2
22. SAPNA	1
23. SARAJEVO	4
24. TESLIĆ	1
25. TRAVNIK	2
26. TUZLA	1
27. VISOKO	2
28. ZAVIDOVIĆI	2
29. ZENICA	3
30. ZVORNIK	1

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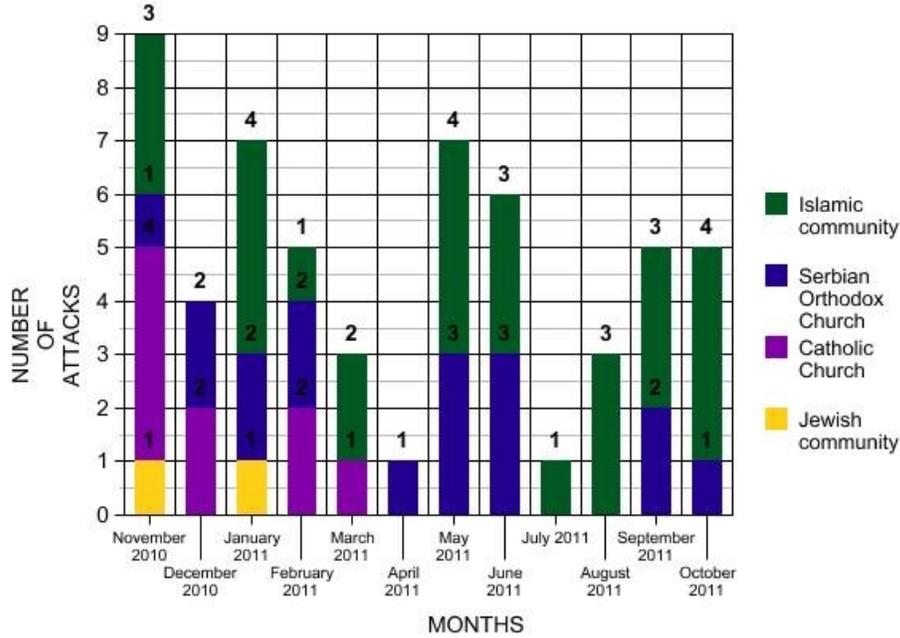
Table of attacks per month and the attacked party:

Month	Islamic community	Serbian Orthodox Church	Catholic Church	Jewish community	Total
Nov. 2010	3	1	4	1	9
Dec. 2010	0	2	2	0	4
Jan. 2011	4	2	0	1	7
Feb. 2011	1	2	2	0	5
Mar. 2011	2	0	1	0	3
Apr. 2011	0	1	0	0	1
May 2011	4	3	0	0	7
Jun 2011	3	3	0	0	6
Jul. 2011	1	0	0	0	1
Aug. 2011	3	0	0	0	3
Sep. 2011	3	2	0	0	5
Oct. 2011	4	1	0	0	5
Total	28	17	9	2	56

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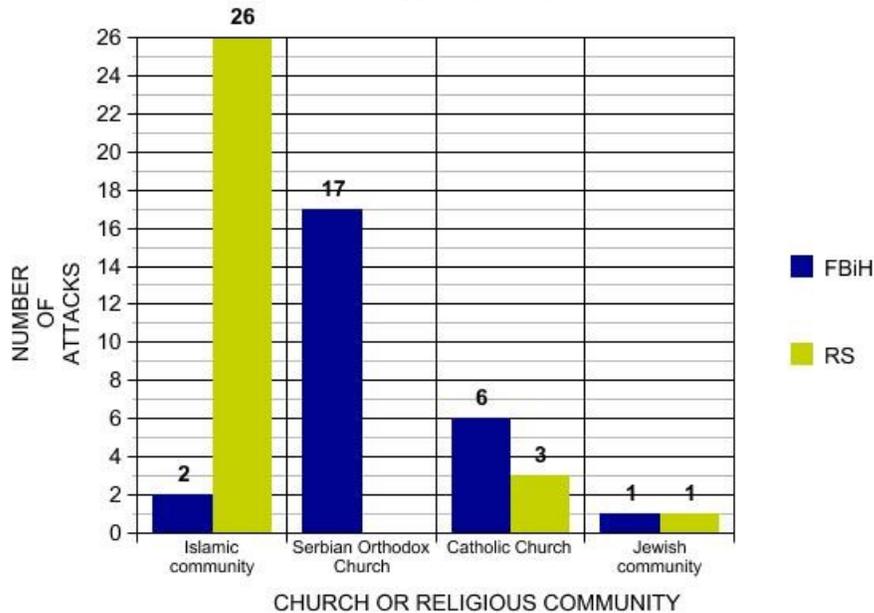
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NUMBER OF ATTACKS BY MONTHS



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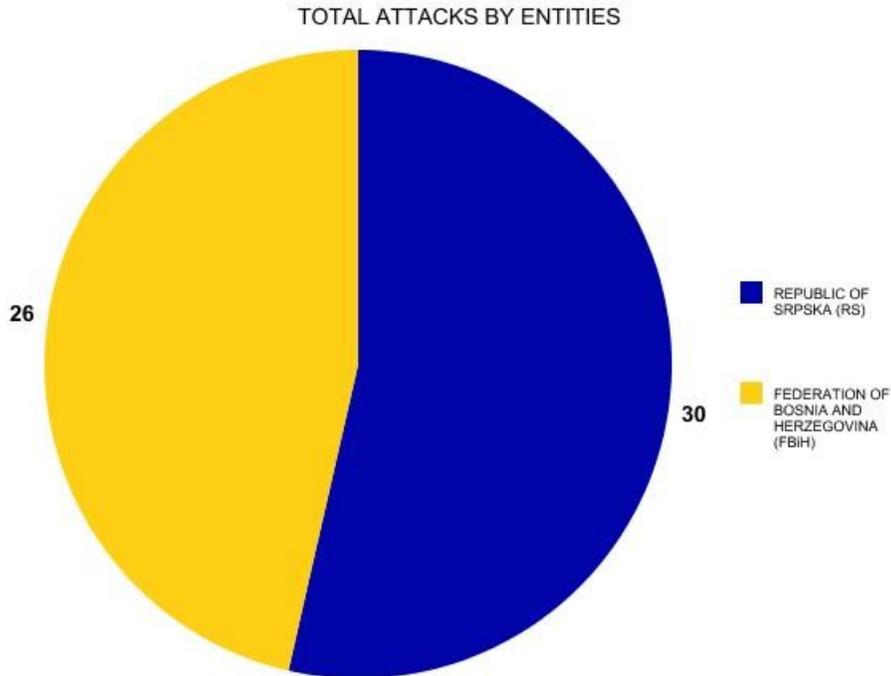
ATTACKS TOTAL IN RS AND FBiH BY CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES



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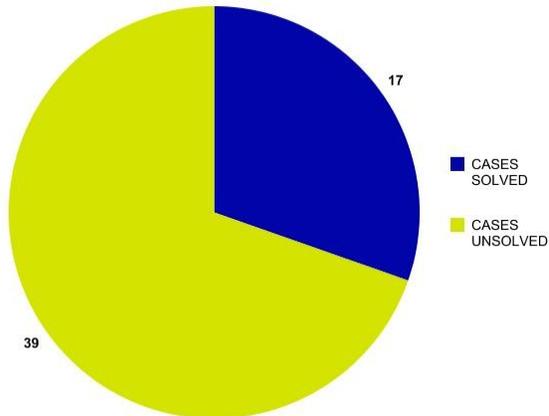


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THE RATIO OF SOLVED AND UNSOLVED CASES IN NUMBERS



THE RATIO OF SOLVED AND UNSOLVED CASES IN PERCENTAGE

