OBSERVATORY OF
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
IN LATIN AMERICA

Manual for searching for incidents

Violent Incidents Database

May 2019

www.olire.org

1. Purpose

The Violent Incident Database - VID is a service of the Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America, designed to collect, record and analyze violent incidents related to violations of religious freedom. It is intended to be used by our partners in the region.

2. Methodology

The VID follows the following methodological elements:

(a) Definitions

- *People who profess a certain faith:* Within this category, we do not refer only to those who identify themselves with a particular religion, we also refer to those people who actively live out their beliefs and, therefore, display religious behavior that is recognized as such in the community/society (religious participation, religious lifestyle, missionary activity or civic participation inspired by their religious convictions, etc.)

- *Persecution:* Persecution is 'any hostility experienced as a result of one's identification with a particular religion. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards the adherents to this religion.'

(a) Persecution engines

The categorizations used in the VID take the following contexts into account:

1. How many people who profess a certain faith have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?

2. How many churches or religious buildings (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?

3. Have people who profess a certain faith been detained without trial for reasons related to their beliefs?

4. People who profess a certain faith have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?

5. Have people who profess a certain faith been abducted for faith-related reasons?

6. Do people who profess a certain faith have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?

7. Have there been cases of forced marriages of young women of a certain faith to men of a different faith?

8. Have people who profess a certain faith been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including torture and mistreatment)?

9. Have houses of people who profess a certain faith been attacked, seriously damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed or burned down for faith-related reasons?

10. Have shops or businesses of people who profess a certain faith attacked, seriously damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed or burned down, for faith-related reasons?

11. Have people who profess a certain faith been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?

12. Have people who profess a certain faith been forced to flee their country for faith-related reasons?

(c) Persecution drivers

The drivers of persecution are people and/or groups embodying the main sources of pressure and violence against those who profess a certain faith in a particular country. We can distinguish:

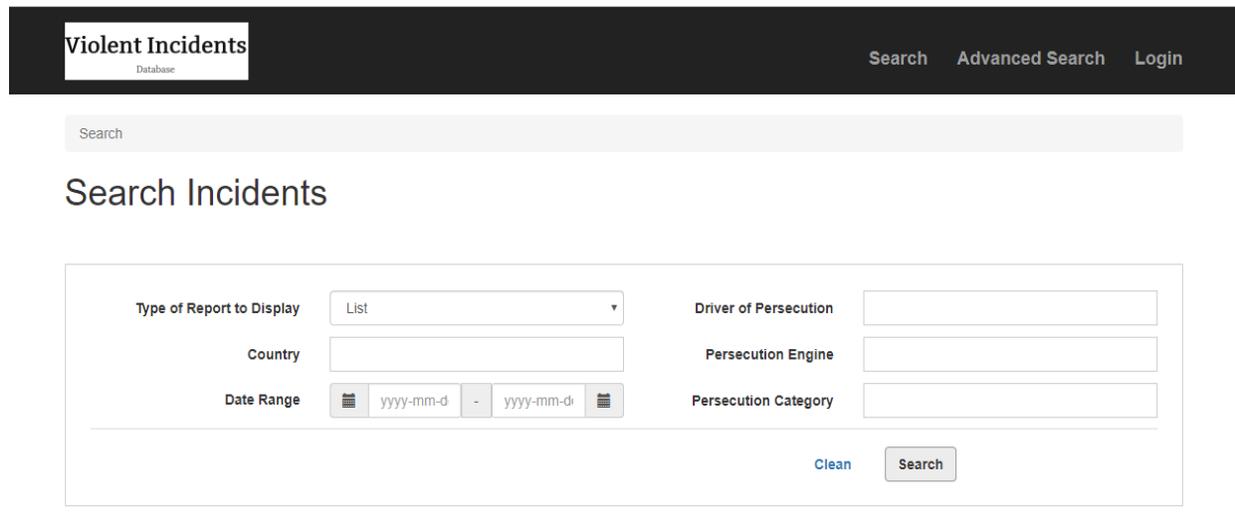|	*Drivers of persecution*	
Government	Government officials at any level from local to national E.g. teachers, police officers, local officials, presidents	
Society	Ethnic group leaders E.g. tribal chiefs	
	Non-Christian religious leaders at any level from local to national E.g. imams, rabbis, senior Buddhist monks	
	Christian religious leaders at any level from local to national E.g. popes, patriarchs, bishops, priests, pastors	
	Violent religious groups E.g. Boko Haram, Islamic State, Al Qaeda	
	Ideological pressure groups E.g. radical secular groups	
	Normal citizens (people from the general public), including mobs E.g. students, neighbors, shopkeepers	
	Extended family E.g. one's direct family members or the wider circle of kinsmen	
	Political parties at any level from local to national E.g. Independent Democratic Union (Chile), Justicialist Party (Argentina), National Concertation Party (El Salvador)	
	Revolutionary or paramilitary groups E.g. FARC, ELN	
	Organized crime cartels or networks E.g. The Gulf Cartel, Los Zetas, Las Maras	
	Multilateral organizations (e.g. UN/OIC) and embassies E.g. UN, OAS	

(d) Persecution engines

Each of the persecution engines display their own brand of hostility towards people who actively profess a certain faith. We can differentiate eight different persecution engines:

Persecution engine	*Description*
Islamic oppression	This engine describes the persecution situation where countries, communities and households are being forced under Islamic control.
Religious nationalism	This engine describes the persecution situation where countries, communities or households are being forced under the control of one particular religion (other than Islam).
Ethnic antagonism	This engine describes the persecution situation where communities and households are being forced to adhere to age-old indigenous customs established by clans, tribes or ethnic people groups.
Denominational protectionism	This engine describes the situation where members of a religious denomination are being persecuted by another denomination to make sure it remains the only legitimate or dominant religion expression in the country.
Communist and post-Communist oppression	This engine describes the situation where religious denominations are being persecuted and churches controlled by a state system that derives from Communist values. Key for controlling churches is a rigid system of state registration and monitoring.
Secular intolerance	This engine describes the situation where Christian faith is being forced out of the public domain, if possible even out of the hearts of people, and imposes an atheistic form of secularism as a new ruling ideology.
Dictatorial paranoia	It does everything to maintain power, not specifically focused on realizing a vision. Although the engine is based on a combination of pressure and violence, often the threat of violence is enough to force the uncontrolled Church to remain hidden.
Organized corruption and crime	It tries to create a climate of impunity, anarchy and corruption as a means to self-enrichment.

3. How to search for incidents

This section will provide a step-by-step explanation on how to search the violent incident database.

1. Go to https://olire.org/monitor/violent-incidents-database/. To go to the VID search function, you must click on the first menu option at the bottom of the page: "Basic search"

2. Specify the criteria of your search query:

- Select the type of report to display (List or Table). If you select 'List', you will get an enumeration of all the incidents that match the filters of your search query. If you select 'Table', you will get a matrix displaying the number of incidents by country and persecution category.

Select one or more countries by clicking on them. (Note: To select ALL countries automatically, leave all blank.)

- Select the Date Range. Leave open if you do not want to specify a date range.
- Select the Persecution Engine(s) and the Persecution Driver(s). Leave all blank if you wish to select all.
- Select the Persecution Category/Categories you are searching for. Leave all blank if you wish to select all.

3. Click 'Submit'. You will be taken to a new page with the results of your query. This will be a List or a Table depending on the type of report to display.

List display:

Title	Country	State/Province	City	Other Address	Security Level	Incident Date	Summary	Driver Name	Driver of Persecution	Persecution Engine	Actions
Pastor flees after death-threats	El Salvador	San Salvador	*Other Address	Apopa / Valle Verde	Public	2019-03-02	A pastor and his family had to flee their home in ...	Barrio 18	Organized crime	Organized Corruption and Crime	👁
Religious leaders targeted by the regime	Cuba	La Habana	*Other Address	Habana	Public	2019-02-24	The Office of Religious Affairs threatened a Bapti...	Office of Religious Affairs and the police	Government officials	Dictatorial Paranoia	👁
Pastor and his son are killed	Guatemala	Zacapa	Estanzuela		Public	2019-02-12	The Evangelical pastor of the "Abundant Life" ...	Criminal groups	Organized crime	Organized Corruption and Crime	👁
Pastor killed in area controlled by guerrillas	Colombia	Antioquia	Caucasia		Public	2019-02-09	A youth pastor was shot dead by gunmen after preac...	Criminal groups	Organized crime	Organized Corruption and Crime	👁
Pro-abortion pressure groups vandalized tha "Christian Revival Center"	Argentina	Chaco	Resistencia		Public	2019-01-23	Radical feminists vandalized the Christian Revival...	Radical Feminists	Ideological pressure groups	Secular Intolerance	👁
Bomb found at Child Jesus Sanctuary	Brazil	Distrito Federal	Brazlandia		Public	2019-01-03	The police had defused a bomb planted on Christmas...	Criminal groups	Organized crime	Organized Corruption and Crime	👁
Churches in Ceara threatened	Brazil	Ceara	Ceará		Public	2019-01-03	Gospel Mais reported that several Protestant churc...	Criminal groups	Organized crime	Organized Corruption and Crime	👁
Catholic priest transferred due to threats	Colombia	Antioquia	Caucasia	Cuturú	Public	2018-12-30	A Roman Catholic priest serving in Antioquia in Co...	Criminal groups	Organized crime	Organized Corruption and Crime	👁

You can click 'View Details' (the 👁 icon) on each incident to view the complete information that has been registered with this incident.

Search Results / Pastor flees after death-threats

Incident: Pastor flees after death-threats

General Information	
Title:	Pastor flees after death-threats
Country:	El Salvador
State/Province:	San Salvador
City:	*Other Address
Other Address:	Apopa / Valle Verde
Date of Incident:	2019-03-02
Security Level:	Public
Summary:	

A pastor and his family had to flee their home in Apopa due to continual death-threats by "Barrio 18" gang members. The gang has been targeting him for speaking out against their criminal activities and for accusing leaders of the local council of collusion.

Persecution Category	
Killings:	0
(Attempts) to destroy Churches or Christian buildings:	0
Closed Churches or Christian buildings:	0
Arrests:	0
Sentences:	0
Abductions:	0
Sexual assaults:	0
Forced marriages:	0
Other forms of attack (physical or mental abuse)	1
Attacked Christian houses:	0
Attacked Christian shops or businesses:	0
Forced to leave home:	1
Forced to leave country:	0

Driver of Persecution	
Driver name:	Barrio 18
Driver of persecution:	Organized crime

Persecution Engine	
Persecution engine:	Organized Corruption and Crime

Additional Information	
Created By:	
Comments:	

Web Sources	
Name:	Evangelical pastor denounces attempted murder by gang members of the 18 -R in Valle Verde, Apopa
Url:	http://cronio.sv/nacionales/video-pastor-evangelico-denuncia-intento-de-asesinato-por-parte-de-pandilleros-de-la-18-r-en-valle-verde-apopa/
Image:	📄

Table display:

4. Optional: If you wish, you can download the result of your search query as an Excel document by clicking on the [Excel icon] icon at the top of the List or Table.

4. How to report incidents

If you wish to report a case of persecution of which you have knowledge, you can access our Incident Registration Form, complete the pertinent information and send it to info@olire.org.

If you have any additional questions, please contact info@olire.org.