

# 2025 Annual Summary

## Harassment against Christians in Israel | Based on RFDC Data

**Extent of the Phenomenon | In 2025, 181 incidents of harassment targeting Christians, Christian symbols, and Christian institutions were documented in Israel.**

### Breakdown by Type of Harassment

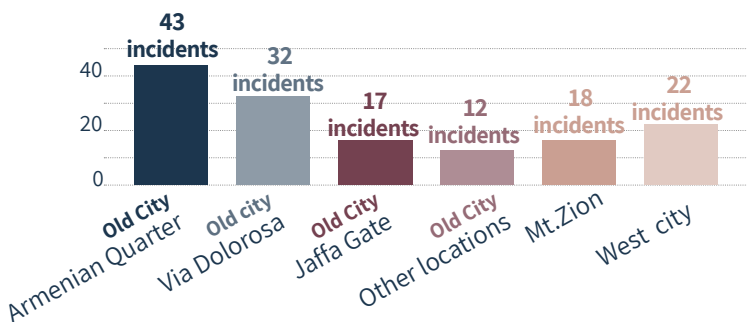
- 60% Spitting** | ≈109 incidents
- 18% Verbal abuse** (insults, threats, shouting) | ≈ 32 incidents
- 12% Vandalism / damage to religious symbols** | ≈ 22 incidents
- 5% Physical violence** | ≈ 9 incidents
- 3% Desecration of holy sites / degrading behavior** | ≈ 6 incidents
- 2% Online incitement** | ≈3 incidents

**Many cases are not reported at all, while others are reported with delay and are therefore not included in the quarterly reports.**

### Incidents by Region (2025)



### Incidents in Jerusalem - Location Breakdown (2025)



### Seasonal Patterns

A sharp increase in incidents is observed during periods of heightened religious intensity and Jewish and Christians holidays, including Elul (Selichot), the High Holy Days, Hanukkah, December–January holidays, Passover and the Easter period, Shavuot and Pentecost, Jerusalem Day, the period of Bein HaMetzarim, and Tisha B'Av.

An increased number of incidents was also recorded during religious processions and in situations involving visible Christian symbols.

### Enforcement

In 2025, the RFDC assisted in filing 33 complaints with the police. In addition, at least 12 complaints were filed directly by Christians or as a result of police-initiated action. Most of the complaints were closed, some remain under investigation, and the rate of indictments is very low in relation to the scale of the phenomenon. Unfortunately, up till now there is no police officer specifically designated to liaise with the Christian community in Israel.

### Repair of Vandalized Signage

During the year, 16 vandalized church directional signs were reported and, following the intervention of our volunteers, repaired by the responsible authorities.

### Rabbinical Statements Against Spitting and the Desecration

Recently, clear statements have been issued by leading rabbis opposing spitting and the abuse against Christians, voiced by figures of recognized authority and influence: Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu (Chief Rabbi of Safed), Rabbi Nebenzahl (the Jewish Quarter), and Rabbi Rabinovitch (Rabbi of the Holy Sites). In the future, we will launch a dedicated website presenting rabbinical opinions and rulings on this issue.

### Limitations of the RFDC

#### • Unfunded Volunteer Framework

All RFDC activities are conducted on a fully volunteer basis. Approximately 90% of the data in this report is collected by volunteers, and about 10% by the Rossing Center. None of the volunteers, including the Director, receive compensation, and operational costs are largely covered by the volunteers themselves. This reality limits availability, responsiveness, and initiative.

For the first time, a much valued donation was recently received, from an anonymous Orthodox Jewish donor, and was designated for website design, graphics, quarterly reports, and special projects.

#### • Relations with Christian Institutions

The RFDC works proactively and continuously to establish cooperation with all churches and their institutions. Ongoing cooperation was established with the Latin Patriarch and the Franciscan Custos, who, for the past three years, annually circulate an official letter encouraging reporting and cooperation. Supportive cooperation also exists with representatives of the Armenian and Syriac churches. However, without the endorsement of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and several other church leaders, comprehensive reporting coverage remains limited.

### Letters of Support and Acknowledgements

The letters of the Patriarch and the Custos are attached herewith.

[https://report-hotline-jlm.co.il/documents/Recommendation\\_Letter\\_Latin\\_Patriarch\\_RFDC.pdf](https://report-hotline-jlm.co.il/documents/Recommendation_Letter_Latin_Patriarch_RFDC.pdf)

[https://report-hotline-jlm.co.il/documents/Presentation\\_Letter\\_Yisca\\_Harani.pdf](https://report-hotline-jlm.co.il/documents/Presentation_Letter_Yisca_Harani.pdf)

We thank them for their call to cooperate with the RFDC, and we express our appreciation to all members of the Christian communities who reach out to us and, together with us, give life to the verse: "Seek peace and pursue it" (Psalm 34:14).



**Yisca Harani,**  
Religious Freedom Data Center



**REPORT Hotline JLM**

☎ 052-5554008

🌐 [www.report-hotline-jlm.co.il](http://www.report-hotline-jlm.co.il)

RFDC RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DATA CENTER