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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Member of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF)

Parallel Report by ABTTF on the 2010 Human Rights Report: Greece

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices
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* Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) would like to use interchangeably the phrase “Turkish Minority in Western Thrace” to notify “the Muslim minority in Thrace”, while it indicates the ethnic identity of the Muslim minority.

Although the Treaty of Lausanne does not specifically mention the ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace, there is a specific reference to the Turkish ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace in legal and international documents. “Etabli Documents“ which were the documents given to the people of Greek and Turkish origin who were left out of the exchange procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on the Exchange of Turkish and Greek Populations on 30 January 1923 mentioned the ethnic origin of Muslim minority in Western Thrace as Turkish. The document of the League of Nations submitted to the Council on 23 December 1924 and remarked C. 774 on the “Minorities of Turkish Race in Western Thrace” used the term “Turkish” for the minority living in Greece.

** ABTTF would like to remind that the phrase Western Thrace is a geographical term which does not include any connotations inconsistent with the national unity.

ABTTF would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs for the 2010 Human Rights Report on Greece. We would like this report to urge the Greek State to look to the future in a constructive spirit and establish an open and constructive dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding with members of non-Orthodox religious groups, including the Turkish minority of Western Thrace¹.

Tough the report does partially mention the problems of the Turkish Minority in Western Thrace; ABTTF finds the report facile and imperfect regarding the problems of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace. ABTTF would like, hereby, to present its parallel report on the 2010 Human Rights Report on Greece.

¹ Although the Treaty of Lausanne does not specifically mention the ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace, “Etabli Documents“ given to the people of Greek and Turkish origin who were left out of the exchange procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on the Exchange of Turkish and Greek Populations on 30 January 1923 mentioned the ethnic origin of Muslim minority in Western Thrace as Turkish.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom From:

e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

Trial Procedures

Shari'a is recognized by the Greek State and its representative Government as the law regulating family and civic issues for the Muslim minority in Thrace (Turkish Minority of Western Thrace). Although the report states that many NGO and media reports characterized Shari'a as discriminatory against women, especially in child custody, divorce, or inheritance cases, all decisions of the muftis (appointed) on marriages, divorces or inheritance issues are liable to be null and void by first instance courts in Thrace, yet the decisions of muftis (appointed) are obliged to be ratified by Greek authorities in order to have a legal effect.

Regional Human Rights Court Decisions

On March 27, 2008, the ECHR notified in writing its Chamber judgments in the cases of *Emin and Others v. Greece* (application no. 34144/05) and *Tourkiki Enosi Xanthis and Others v. Greece* (no. 26698/05). The Court held unanimously that there had been a violation of Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights in both cases, which concern associations founded by persons belonging to the Muslim minority of Western Thrace (Greece). In the case of *Tourkiki Enosi Xanthis and Others* the ECHR also held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time) of the Convention.

Failure to execute or enforce judgments – that is, the carrying out of a final judgment in order to ensure that obligations actually are imposed or fulfilled in practice – constitutes a further obstacle to access to justice. Further to the Court's judgments, the applicants requested a new registration of their associations (cases *Bekir-Ousta and Others* and *Emin and Others*) or revocation of the previous decisions ordering the dissolution (case *Tourkiki Enosi Xanthis and Others*) before the national courts. The domestic proceedings are still pending.

In the case of *Bekir-Ousta and other*, on the basis of the ECHR's judgment, the applicants applied again for registration of the association in the national courts. On 09/12/2008, the Single Member Court of First Instance of Alexandroupoli (judgment No. 405/2008) rejected the application as inadmissible on the ground of *res judicata*. The decision referred in particular to the fact that under national law, retrial of a case further to a finding of a violation by the European Court is foreseen only for criminal proceedings (Article 525§5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) but not for civil ones. The applicants appealed to the Court of Appeal of Thrace. The Court of Appeal of Thrace, by a decision made public on 31/07/2009, also rejected the application.

In the case of *Tourkiki Enosi Xanthis and others*, on the basis of the European Court's finding of a violation regarding the dissolution of the applicant association, the applicants introduced two separate claims currently pending: one before the Court of First Instance of Xanthi, seeking annulment of its earlier decision No. 36/1986 ordering the dissolution; and one before the Court of Appeal of Thrace, seeking annulment of its earlier decision No. 31/2002 confirming the decision No. 36/1986. Regarding the first claim, the Court of First Instance of Xanthi (judgment No. 12/2009 published on 30/04/2009) rejected the application on the basis of *res judicata*. Concerning the second claim, the hearing before the Court of Appeal of Thrace was scheduled for 03/04/2009. The application was rejected by a decision published on the 18/08/2009 for reasons similar to those adduced in the decision of the Court of Appeal of Thrace in the case of *Bekir-Ousta and others*. In the present case, the Court of Appeal noted that the possibility, under the Article

758§1 of the Code of Civil Procedure, of an annulment or revision of a final domestic judgment in the framework of a non-contentious procedure, on the basis of new facts or a change in the circumstances in which the judgment had been handed down, does not extend to a judgment of the European Court.

In the case of Emin and others, on the basis of the European Court's judgment, the applicants again applied for registration of the association before the national courts. A hearing was held at the Court of First Instance of Rodopi on 08/04/2009. The Court of First Instance of Rodopi, rejected the application on the ground that it was introduced by a lawyer who did not belong to the Bar of Rodopi. The Greek authorities confirmed that the application was rejected as inadmissible. Under the terms of the Code of Civil Procedure and Code of Lawyers, claims lodged before civil courts must be signed by a lawyer belonging to the bar of the geographical jurisdiction of the court. If not, the lawyer must jointly sign the claim with a colleague of the Bar from the geographical area of the court. Since in the present case, the claim was only signed by the applicants' lawyer who belongs to the Xanthi Bar, the applicants' request was rejected.

Section 2 Respect for Civil Liberties, Including:

a. Freedom of Speech and Press

The report states that the constitution and law generally provide for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government generally respected these rights in practice, although the law provides for the government to exercise "immediate control" over radio and television stations.

The report notes that the law requires that radio and television stations broadcast primarily in Greek and that radio stations broadcast 24 hours a day and that it sets minimum capitalization requirements and numbers of employees. The requirement for minimum disbursed capital for radio owners applies to regions with at least 100,000 inhabitants and no more than 150,000 inhabitants, although they are some of the poorest in Greece. It is unlikely to be met by local radio stations, in particular Turkish local radio stations broadcasting in the region of Western Thrace where an estimated population of 150.000 Turkish people lives in. When considering that Western Thrace is the poorest region in Greece, the minimum disbursed capital for radio stations is disproportionate and it is almost impossible for radio owners in the region and other smaller local media organizations to obtain a license.

With regard to the requirement for broadcasting which is that radio station must provide a 24 hour programming regardless of whether the station does broadcast news and information or music, this will burden a hardship on smaller media organizations and radio stations owned by the Turkish Minority. The law further states that the main transmission language must be Greek. This provision hinders the freedom of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace to expression and media. Besides, the requirement that radio stations must employ a certain number of full time employment burdens an additional economic barrier which most of radio station owners belonging to the Turkish Minority cannot afford.

It is stated in the report that the government had begun to enforce the law, with one Turkish-language radio station receiving a violation notice. On 30 November 2009, National Council for Radio and Television (ESR) issued an administrative penalty recommendation and stated that Tele Radio 104. 2 FM that broadcasts in Turkish language from Xanthi, Western Thrace must broadcast for 25 percent in Greek language. The Committee (Dec. 473- 19.10. 2009) issued a recommendation decision of warning that the Committee could even impose more harsh sanctions if the Tele Radio FM which only broadcasts in Turkish language does not broadcast 25 percent of qualifying time for works produced in Greek language.

In its decision of 416-19.9.2010, the ESR states that it checked the transmission of the radio station on 1.9.2009 and 3.9.2009 and found that the program had consisted of transmission by 11% in Greek, and issued an administrative penalty of a fine of 3,000 euros. The ESR with the Dec. No. 363/26.6.2007 had imposed on KRAL FM the administrative sanction of the permanent closure as the radio station broadcasted without upper secondary logo program, and illegally on the frequency 107.8 i.e. outside the area of private broadcasting stations. The execution of the decision of the ESR had been suspended by the Decision No. 374/2008 of the Council of State. In its decision, the ESR stated that in view of the facts outlined and the gravity of the infringement and previous sanctions with the decisions of 121/17.12.2002 and 112/5.3.2007, the Council had decided to impose an administrative sanction of a fine with an amount of 3.000 euros. On 30 November 2010, the ESR² discussed the KRAL FM's application for improvement of the decision (Dec 416/14.9.2010) which issued an administrative sanction on the radio station, and rejected the demand for an improvement on the ground that the application has no solid ground.

ABTTF would like to state that law 3592/2007 contains a number of provisions regarding language, employment and finances that hinder potential local and regional media from obtaining licenses for news and music radio stations. This further minimizes any opportunity for local and smaller media organizations to express its opinion through media instruments and excludes the members belonging to the Minority from access to information. OSCE Representative on the Freedom of Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, stated in her regular report³ to the Permanent Council that she wrote to the authorities to request details about the decision of the Greek National Council for Radio and Television to levy a penalty of €3,000 against radio station KRAL FM in Xanthi Prefecture on 28 February and received the reply from the authorities confirming the penalty levied on KRAL FM, indicating that the station had violated the language-content requirements. The Representative noted that her Office said on several occasions that the relevant Greek legislation needs to be reformed, as it sets a high threshold for minority, community and low-cost broadcasters because of the language requirement, as well as financial and personnel requirements, which can endanger media pluralism.

With regard to freedom of press, ABTTF would like you to pay attention to the cases of two minority newspapers that were given high fines by a civil court for their articles about a Greek teacher in a Muslim minority school. Gündem and Millet have been penalized to pay compensation in suit for damages by Hara Nikopoulous, Greek teacher in the Turkish Minority School in Büyük Dervent (Megalo Derio) village. Hara Nikopoulous claimed that news published in Gündem, Millet and Birlik about the teacher asked the first-grade kids to draw the picture of God were false accusations, and preceded a file against Gündem, Millet and Birlik newspapers. Birlik apologized to Nikopoulous for ungrounded news published in the newspaper, and Nikopoulous withdrew an action against Birlik newspaper. On 20 December 2010, Komotini Multi-Judge Civil Court of First Instance pronounced its judgement on the case of Hara Nikopoulous v. Gündem, and decided that a compensation of 150 thousand euros will be paid to Nikopoulous, of which 20 thousand will immediately be paid to the claimant. Even Gündem appeals the decision to an upper court; it has to pay the initial amount. If the compensation amount is not paid, the penalty of imprisonment is anticipated for 10 months to Cemil Kabza, editor of the newspaper. On 22 September Xanthi Multi-Judge Civil Court of First Instance pronounced its judgement on the case of Hara Nikopoulous v. Millet, and decided that a compensation of 120 thousand euros will be paid to Nikopoulous, of which 30 thousand will immediately be paid to the claimant. The newspaper appealed the decision of the court, yet the decision of the appeal court has not been announced. High fines of compensation by the competent courts is not an amount Gündem and Millet are able to be pay which redeem with very limited resources of income. This may eventually threaten the maintenance of their publication life. On 8 March 2011, the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of Media, Ms.

² See link http://www.esr.gr/arxeion-xml/pages/esr/esrSite/listweb?last_clicked_id=link1&no_of_links=2&date_all=&date_from=&date_to=&meso=&velocity=&station=&ekpompes=&thema=&ste=&num_apof=588-2010&order=date_publ+desc

³ See link <http://www.osce.org/fom/76158>

Dunja Mijatovic, has already stated in her Regular Report to the Permanent Council that she wrote to the authorities and asked for the details in the cases, and added that she stressed the importance of capping compensatory damage awards that can be levied to ensure that judgments do not lead to bankruptcy and thus weaken media pluralism in the country (for the full report, please see link <http://www.osce.org/fom/76158>).

b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Freedom of Association

The report notes that the government continued to place legal restrictions on the names of associations involving certain ethnic minorities, although the law provides for freedom of association.

Established in 1927 Xanthi Turkish Union was banned to operate in 1983 due the term “Turkish” in its name, and subsequently shut down in 1986 as a result of the lawsuit filed by the Governorship of Xanthi. With its judgment on 27 March 2008, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) convicted Greece of violating Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights (case of *Tourkiki Enosis Xanthis and Others v. Greece* (no. 26698/05). Lawsuit filed by Xanthi Turkish Union before the Xanthi Civil Court of First Instance to retrieve its legal status as of before 1983 ended up negatively. On 30 September 2009, the Thrace Court of Appeal rejected the application of the Union on the grounds that it is not envisaged in the procedural law of Greek civil code that the regarding court judgment already taken is not altered in this manner by ECHR. Hence, both applications of Xanthi Turkish Union for restitution of its legal rights to the Greek court authorities were rejected. On 30 September 2009, Thrace Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Xanthi Turkish Union on the ground that Greek rules of civil procedure do not require decision of the ECHR to be directly implemented. On 27 October 2009, Thrace Court of Appeal decided to adjourn the case of Xanthi Turkish Union to the date of 8 October 2010.

Furthermore, on 4 February 2010, the Komotini Civil Court of First Instance refused the application of the Cultural Association of Turkish Women of the Region of Rodopi, which had applied to the ECHR after its request for registration had been rejected by Greek courts, dismissed its appeal for the registration. The Civil Court of First Instance refused the application of the Cultural Association of Turkish Women of the Region of Rodopi with the justification that none of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), excluding criminal cases, are required to be implemented in the Greek domestic law. After the decision of ECHR in the case of *Emin and Others v. Greece* (application no. 34144/05), which convicted Greece that it had had violated Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Cultural Association of Turkish Women of the Region of Rodopi had applied to the Rhodope Civil Court of First Instance. But in June 2009, the Court had stated the invalidness of the case due to improper application, because Orhan Hacibram, lawyer of the association, was not registered in the province of Rhodope, but in the prefecture of Xanthi.

ABITF would like to state that associations which bear the title of “Turkish” are still not registered, although associations that bear the title of “Roman” and/or “Pomac” are registered by Greek authorities. Not only the associations which bear the title of “Turkish”, but the title of “Minority” are not being registered in Greece, although the ECHR ruled that Greece violated the freedom of association of Evros Minority Youth Association in the case of *Bekir-Ousta and Others vs. Greece* (No. 35151/05). On 9 December 2008, the First Instance Court of Alexandroupolis rejected the application of the Evros Minority Youth Association to be registered within the framework of relevant ECHR decision on the ground that the decisions of ECHR are not obligatory regarding the Greek domestic law and they do not necessarily require the Greek authorities to register the association. Furthermore, on 7 December 2009, the Thrace Court of Appeal rejected the petition for foundation of the Western Thrace Minority Educational and Cultural Association of South Evros,

which applied for registration of the association in April 2009. The Thrace Court of Appeal rejected the petition for establishment of the association, relying on the decision of the Alexandropolis Civil Court of First Instance. Alexandropolis Civil Court of First Instance had rejected the petition on the ground that the word “minority” in its title does have a vague meaning.

Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government

ABTTF would like to address the problem of political representation of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace. The Minority is however inadequately represented in society’s policy and decision making system. After the Turkish Minority elected an independent deputy in 1989, a new electoral law was introduced in Greece, which set a threshold of 3% of the nationwide vote for a party and for an independent candidate to be represented in the Parliament. Under the current electoral law of “reinforced proportionality”, political parties and independent candidates cannot enter the Parliament unless they obtain at least 3 % of the votes throughout the country, although they may have enough votes to get electoral seats in specific electoral districts. This provision makes it almost impossible for members of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace to be elected to the Parliament, unless they run candidates with majority parties. Law 2240/1994, which reduced the number of prefectures and sub-districts, established enlarged electoral districts in Western Thrace which in turn caused a decrease in number of elected representatives from the Minority. The redistribution of the electoral districts in 1994 has very adversely influenced the chances for the election of Muslim prefects or prefectural councillors, because the election law Xanthi with neighbouring Kavala and Drama, and Rhodope with neighbouring Evros, where Turkish Minority is densely populated.

Section 6 Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons

Women

Law 1250/1982 of Civil Code of Greece states that people who reside in Greece might get married in accordance with their traditions and belief unless it is contrary to the public order. Prior to the Civil Code of Greece, marriage under Islam in Western Thrace is only realized with marriage licence document which is given by Mufti offices, which in any case needs to be declared to the civil registry.

The Civil Code of Greece (Article 1348) states that divorce is only realized by decision of courts, which means that any special form of divorce in private courts is prohibited by law. Prior to this provision, divorce by unilateral declaration of will by husband should not be realized. If there is a marriage, it is not possible to establish a new marriage before the Mufti decides to end existing marriage. If unilateral expression of will on divorce by husband is not approved by Mufti, it will, without doubt, be against to Article 21 of the Greek Constitution. Therefore, there needs to be a decision of Mufti to end a marriage, which in turn needs to be approved by first instance courts in Greece. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the courts to approve and/or deny any decision of Mufti which is incompatible with the Constitution and the legislation, and international norms and values.

The report refers to an unprecedented case of March 2008 that a court of first instance in Rhodopi Prefecture refused to ratify a mufti’s decision that awarded a woman only a small share of her parental inheritance, instead of the one-half share provided by the law. ABTTF would like to state that the general statement that Qur’an orders that a woman is given the half of a man’s share from parental inheritance does not represent the truth in fact. Besides, *İrade-i Seniye* of 1847 in the Ottoman Empire granted equal rights to boy and girl in division of parental inheritance, and *Arazi Kanunnamesi* (Land Code) of 1858 had a provision that inheritance would be divided equally between children of the family. Therefore, Mufti could divide inheritance equally between a woman and a man under Shari’a law. Besides, the Court of Appeal in 1986 overturned the decision of a Mufti that awarded a woman 2/3 of inheritance of her family and ruled that this was against the equality

principle between men and women stated in the Greek Constitution and cancelled the decision of the Mufti. After cancellation of decision, all public notaries were informed. Therefore, there is no more devolution of legacy under Islamic law in Greece. Furthermore, a woman who had given only a small share of the inheritance in the past could sue a file against the decision in the court and demand an equal share from her parental inheritance.

National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities

The report states that the Ombudsman noted that delays in citizenship processing were excessive and unjustified. The ombudsman reported that the Ministry of the Interior and Public Order accepted few applications for citizenship and that many applications were pending for years, even when applicants met all requirements. Law 3370/1955 which had remained in force and been practiced from 1955 to 1998, totally 43 years, and under this article, approximately 60.000 Turks were deprived of their Greek citizenship. It provided for the denationalisation of ‘citizens of different [non-Greek] descent’ (‘alloyenis’, as opposed to ‘omoyenis’, that is, ‘of the same [Greek] descent’) who left Greece ‘with no intent to return’. According to the reply by Greek Parliamentary to the notice of question asked by İlhan Ahmet in May 2005, MP for Rodopi in the Hellenic Parliament, 46,638 Turks (Muslims) in Western Thrace and the Island of Rhodes (Dodacanese Islands) were deprived of citizenship until 1998.

On 19 January 2011, Mr. Çetin Mandacı, Xanthi PASOK Deputy put a motion for question on the subject of undue delay in the inspection of applications for citizenship and asked to the Minister of Internal Affairs that when the Minister will establish the Citizenship Committee to inspect pending applications of Western Thracians who lost their Greek citizenship under Article 19 of Decree 3370/1955. ABTTF notes that there is no further information on any other measures to tackle the situation of all persons who lost their Greek citizenship under former Article 19 of the Citizenship Code, including those who are currently residing abroad and/or have acquired the citizenship of another country.

ABTTF urges the Greek authorities to take steps to ensure the immediate rectification of the unfortunate consequences arising from deprivation of Greek citizenship on the basis of former Article 19 of the Citizenship Code for all persons concerned, although they no longer live in Greece even they have acquired citizenship of another country. In particular, Greece should genuinely facilitate these persons’ recovery of their citizenship by removing any obstacle, including the need for them to go through the naturalisation procedure”.

It is stated in the report that a number of citizens identified themselves as Turks, Pomacs (Slavic-speaking Muslims), Vlachs (a Balkan minority group speaking a dialect of Romanian), Roma, Arvanites (Orthodox Christians who speak a dialect of Albanian), or Macedonians. The government considers the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne as providing the exclusive definition of minorities in the country and defining their group rights. Accordingly, the government recognizes only a “Muslim minority.” ABTTF would like to remind that although the Treaty of Lausanne does not specifically mention the ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace, there is a specific reference to the Turkish ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace in legal and international documents. “Etabli Documents“ which were the documents given to the people of Greek and Turkish origin who were left out of the exchange procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on the Exchange of Turkish and Greek Populations on 30 January 1923 mentioned the ethnic origin of Muslim minority in Western Thrace as Turkish.

Although the government does not confer official status on any indigenous ethnic group nor recognize “ethnic minority” or “linguistic minority” as legal terms, it affirms an individual’s right of self-identification, not right of collective self-identification by members of an ethnic or linguistic group. Therefore, the terms Turk and Turkish are prohibited in titles of any organizations and associations.

Additional Contribution by ABTTF

Hate-motivated incidents and attacks against persons, properties and places of worship belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace

ABTTF would like to make an additional contribution on hate-motivated incidents and attacks against persons, associations, and places of worship, cemeteries and assets belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, in the region of Western Thrace, northern Greece throughout 2010, since human rights in a country should directly include acts of violence based on hatred against members of a particular group which defines itself different on grounds of religion or ethnicity of language from majority of the society.

In this regard, the fact that Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) is a non-governmental organization which does a particular focus on the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece, the incidents that are documented in this submission only report hate motivated incidents and attack against the Turkish Minority.

There were recorded six attacks against persons, properties and places of worship belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, and three attacks in the first months of 2011. Six involved damaging, vandalising and spraying graffiti on the wall of a graveyard, and one incident was religious humiliation and threat with a pig head nailed at the door of an historical mosque. Two were direct physical attacks against the animals which belong to the Turkish people, which are a group of unknown person/s attacked a sheepfold and a cattle shelter and killed thirty of sheep in the fold. There occurred attacks against the places of worship and Muslim cemeteries in Western Thrace in the year 2010 and the first months of 2011. Of the five incidents we documented, three were carried out on mosques and included throwing Molotov cocktail and pieces of asphalt and stones, the smashing of windows and damaging the interior part of the mosques, and nailing an object (a severed pigs head on the entrance door).

Beyköy (Avato) Mosque in Xanthi, Greece was attacked by vandals in the early hours of December 13, 2010 (<http://www.iskecemuftulugu.org/haber.php?duyid=96>). The exterior window was broken by the explosion, and the Molotov bomb did not get inside the mosque.

On February 3, 2011, Halil Bey Mosque, which is today known as Alaca Mosque in Kavala, staged an atrocious incident. An unknown person and/or a group of persons cut off a pig, which is forbidden to eat in Islam, in front of the front-entrance door of the mosque, nailed its head to the door and left other pieces there.

On 2 March 2011 the mosque of the Uysallı village in Komotini was attacked by an unknown person or a group of persons. The two windows of the mosque were broken with pieces of asphalt and stones brought about by the assailants.

Two incidents took place against the Muslim cemeteries in Komotini and involved a far-right organization which sprayed the name of the organization, *Chrysi Avyi* (Golden Dawn), and the other attack took place in Komotini, and it included breaking of gravestones in the cemetery. On none of incidents the assailants were caught and arrested. On 20 May 2010, some gravestones in the cemeteries of Kahveci and Kirmahalle of the city Komotini, Greece were destroyed by an unknown person or a group of persons. According to the news of daily Olay (<http://www.btrolay.gr/haberdetay.asp?ID=13>), it was supposed that the attacks had been occurred in the previous days, and mainly the cemetery of Kahveci had been destroyed.

On 13 August 2010, the Muslim cemetery in the northern city of Komotini, Greece was desecrated late on Friday, on the holy day of Ramadan (Vandals desecrated the Muslim cemetery of Pospos (Poşpoş) and Ifestos (Kalkanca) districts. The unidentified assailants destroyed more than twenty

gravestones in the cemetery, and they spray painted “The Consulate General, Get Out” on the cemetery walls. The perpetrators spray painted the name of the organization, *Chrysi Avgi* (Golden Dawn), which is a Greek Nationalist political organization that describes itself as a popular nationalist movement and supports National Socialism).

The persistent hate speech in the mainstream media with an explicit manifestation of hatred against Turkey makes the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, of which all of whom are Greek citizens, a vulnerable target for far-right and/or extremist groups. There occurred an attack on a Turkish association in Komotini which involved throwing stones and smashing the windows in March 2010. The Turkish Consulate General in Thessaloniki was attacked two times, respectively in August and September 2010. The assailants threw firebomb to the consulate general, no serious damage occurred.

An attack against the properties of the different Turkish people was recorded in March 2011. The attack in the village of Ircan, Komotini caused fear among the Turkish people, because the assailants attacked a sheepfold and a cattle shelter at the same night, while cutting the tyres of two cars and one tractor. On 2 March 2011, an unknown person and/or a group of persons invaded into a sheepfold in the village of Ircan and killed thirty sheep belonging to Mr. Sali Fikret, a member of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace. Mr. Fikret, the owner of the herd said that thirty sheep had been cut from their throat but none of them had been stolen. On the same day at the same night in the same village, assailants fired a cattle shelter belonging to a member of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, and cut the tyres of three cars and two tractors.