

RELIGION ON FIRE: --- THREE YEARS OF WAR IN NUMBERS

February 2022 –
February 2025

REPORT OF *RELIGION ON FIRE* PROJECT



Religion on Fire: Three Years of War in Numbers. Report of *Religion on Fire* project (February 2022 - February 2025). Kyiv, 2025. 9 p.

The report *Religion on Fire: Three Years of War in Numbers* contains the results of monitoring and analysis of damage to religious buildings in Ukraine as a result of Russian military aggression. The research covers the period from February 2022 to February 2025. The collected data can be used in human rights activities, academic research, and public discussions on the impact of the war on the religious sphere in Ukraine.

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ABOUT RELIGION ON FIRE PROJECT

The project *Religion on Fire: Documenting Russia's war crimes against Ukraine's religious communities* was initiated in March 2022 by the NGO *Workshop for the Academic Study of Religions* and supported by state institutions and public organizations. The project is aiming at recording and documenting the facts of damage to religious buildings as a result of Russian military aggression, as well as analysing changes in Ukraine's religious communities after the start of the full-scale invasion. The collected materials can be used in academic research of the impact of the war on the religious life of Ukraine, in the preparation of reports by domestic and international public and human rights organizations.

Materials of *Religion on Fire* project are published on the official website and the organization's Facebook page, detailed reports are issued based on the results of the monitoring of destroyed and damaged religious buildings, project researchers regularly publish articles in academic journals, make presentations at conferences and to the general public, give interviews and comments for media, etc.

In 2023, a bilingual website *Religion on Fire* was created, containing detailed information about specific damaged or destroyed religious buildings, as well as illustrative materials and links to sources. You can find the link to the website on the last page of this report.

Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings

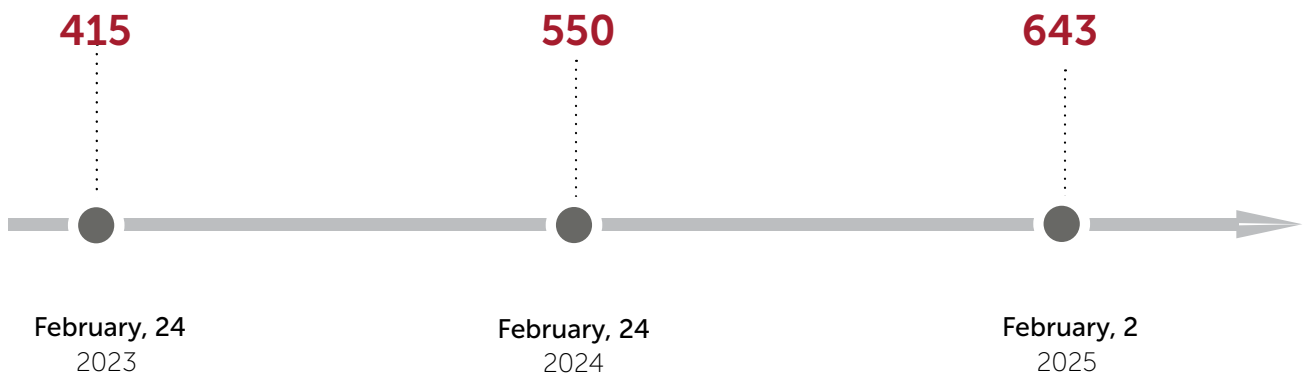
	Orthodox (UOC MP)	338		Muslim	8
	Orthodox (OCU)	58		Jewish	17
	Greek and Roman Catholic	24		Religious educational institution	9
	Protestant	176		Buildings of other religions	15

TOTAL NUMBER: 643

(religious educational institutions belong to different religions)

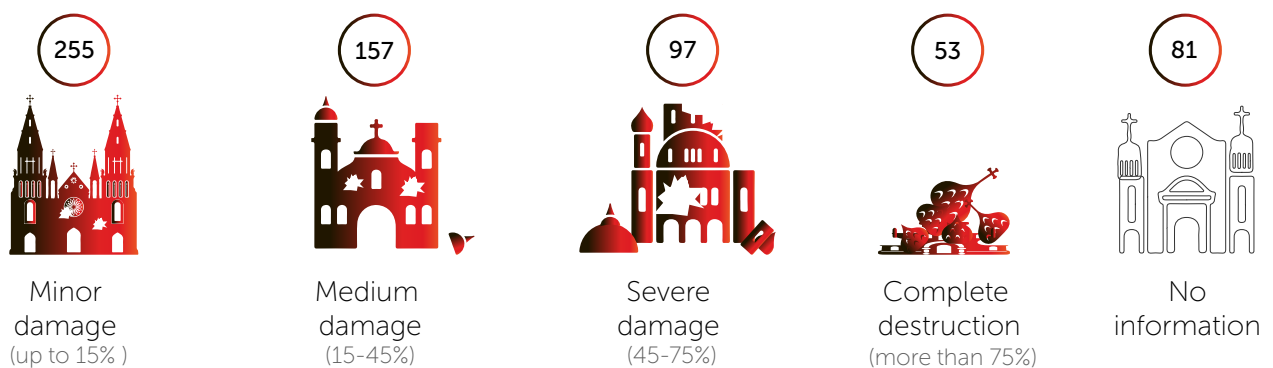
Using various methods of collecting data, namely open source monitoring, field trips by the research team, as well as targeted contacts with religious organizations and military regional state administrations, the project team recorded that as of February 2, 2025, at least 643 places of worship had been damaged and destroyed in Ukraine. These include: cathedrals, mosques, synagogues, chapels, houses of worship, Kingdom Halls, cemeteries, memorials, and religious educational institutions.

Number of Damaged and Destroyed Religious Buildings as of



We would like to emphasize that this data is not exhaustive, for a number of reasons: the inability to gain access to the structure or even obtain information about its condition, if it is located in a zone of constant shelling or hostilities, or is located on temporarily occupied territories. Given that a number of towns are completely destroyed, it is foreseeable that religious buildings have also suffered significant damage or been completely destroyed. However, processing this data set requires the involvement of other resources and tools that the project researchers do not yet possess. Also, information about damage or destruction to religious buildings in open sources sometimes appears with a delay, which makes a certain statistical mistake. These factors suggest that the number of damaged or destroyed religious buildings is significantly higher, than recorded and documented by the project team.

Degree of Damage to Religious Buildings



Information about the degree of damage to religious buildings reflects the possibility or impossibility of the restoration of the structure, as well as its continued use for religious purposes. Complete destruction and severe damage account for 23.6% of the total number of destroyed and damaged structures. 53 buildings were completely destroyed, 97 objects suffered severe damages. Majority of religious buildings have medium or minor damages:

412 objects. Unfortunately, based on some reports, it is impossible to determine the extent of damage to religious sites; there are 81 of those in the *Religion on Fire* project database.

Completely Destroyed Religious Buildings on the Map of Ukraine

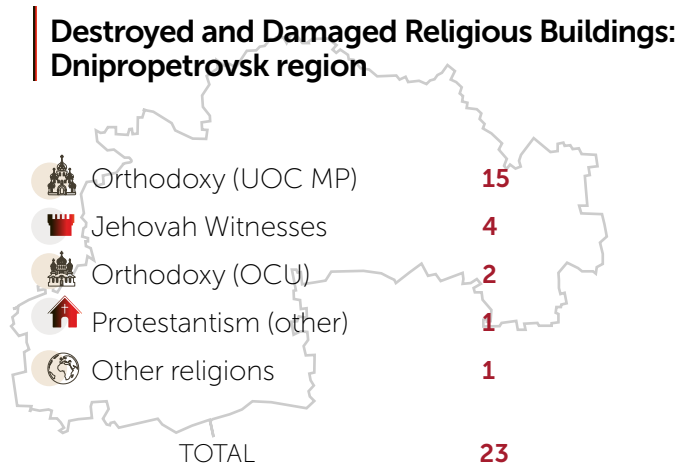
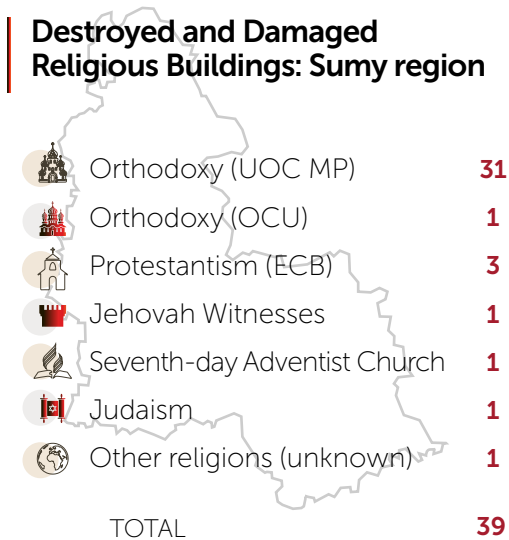
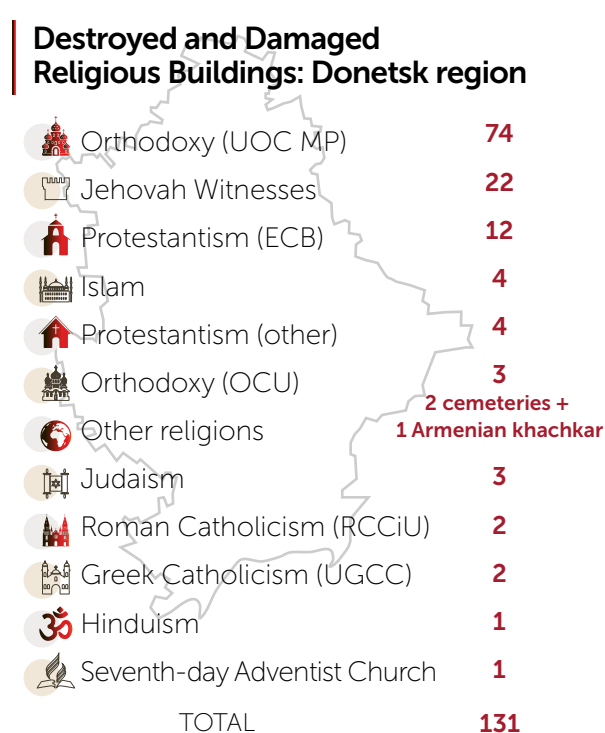
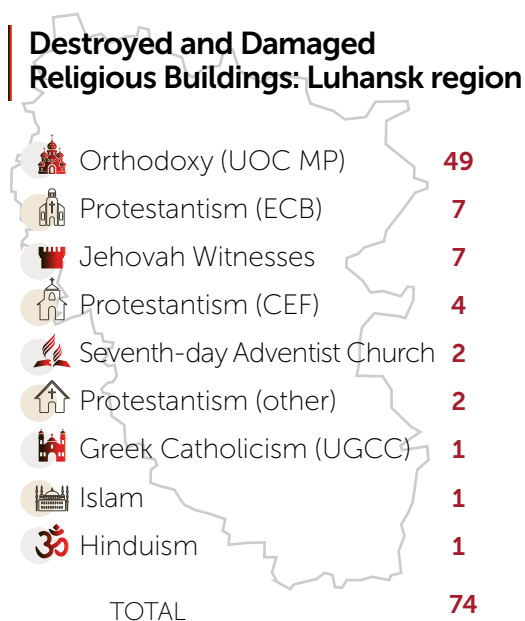


The complete destruction of religious buildings causes irreparable losses to religious communities and the cultural heritage of Ukraine. In total, since February 24, 2022, 53 religious buildings have been completely destroyed, among which the largest number (31 buildings) belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), 5 each to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Evangelical Christian Baptists and Jehovah Witnesses, 2 to the Christians of Evangelical Faith, 1 each to Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, other Protestants and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The fact that religious buildings are under special protection under international humanitarian law is not an obstacle to their deliberate shelling and deliberate destruction by the Russian army.














Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings on the Map of Ukraine



The regional distribution of destroyed and damaged religious buildings clearly demonstrates that religious infrastructure suffers significant losses in territories that were or are still under occupation, as well as in zones of active hostilities. The greatest losses were inflicted on religious communities in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions, and the largest number of destroyed and damaged churches belonged to the UOC (MP), Protestant denominations, and to Jehovah Witnesses. This can be explained by the fact that the infrastructure of these religions was quite extensive in these territories. However, there are also regions where no religious buildings were damaged (as of February 2, 2025), such as Volyn, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Cherkasy, and Chernivtsi regions.














Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Kharkiv region

	Orthodoxy (UOC MP)	51
	Jehovah Witnesses	12
	Orthodoxy (OCU)	11
	Protestantism (ECB)	3
	Judaism	3
	Protestantism (other)	2
	Other religions	1
	Seventh-day Adventist Church	1
	Islam	1
	Greek Catholicism (UGCC)	1
	Roman Catholicism (RCCiU)	1
	Karaim	1
	Protestantism (CEF)	1
TOTAL		90








1 cemetery + 1 religious community
Christian Church

Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Kherson region

	Orthodoxy (UOC MP)	38
	Orthodoxy (OCU)	18
	Greek Catholicism (UGCC)	3
	Roman Catholicism (RCCiU)	2
	Protestantism (ECB)	4
	Protestantism (other)	2
	Jehovah Witnesses	10
	Seventh-day Adventist Church	3
	Judaism	1
	Islam	1
	Other religions	1
TOTAL		86

1 Tauric Chersonesos,
1 cemetery, 1 complex
of buildings of the stauropegian
community, 1 unknown


Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Mykolayiv region

	Jehovah Witnesses	7
	Orthodoxy (UOC MP)	6
	Seventh-day Adventist Church	4
	Orthodoxy (OCU)	2
	Roman Catholicism (RCCiU)	1
	Protestantism (ECB)	1
	Protestantism (other)	1
TOTAL		22


Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Zaporizhzhia region

	Orthodoxy (UOC MP)	12
	Protestantism (ECB)	10
	Jehovah Witnesses	4
	Judaism	3
	Orthodoxy (OCU)	2
	Mennonites	2
	Greek Catholicism (UGCC)	1
	Seventh-day Adventist Church	1
TOTAL		35

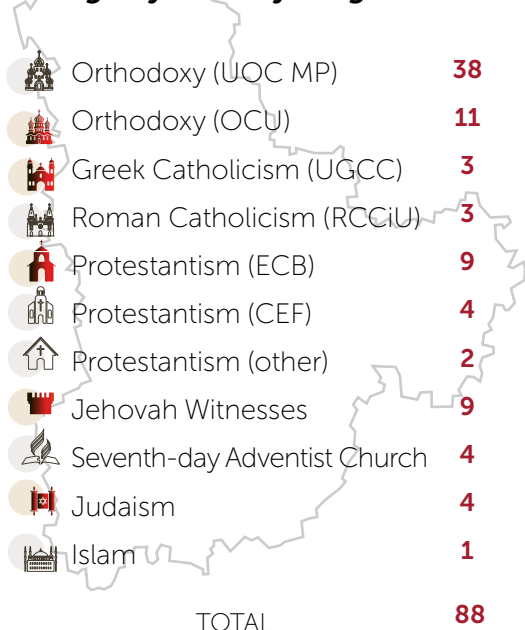
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Poltava region

	Protestantism (other)	1
TOTAL		1

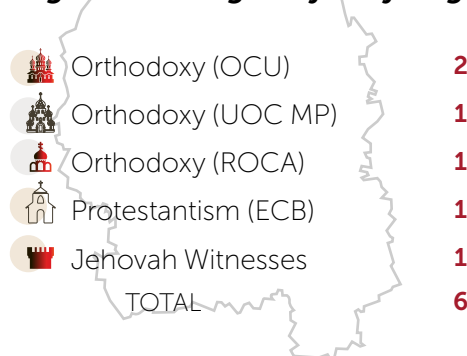
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Khmelnytsky region

	Roman Catholicism (RCCiU)	1
TOTAL		1

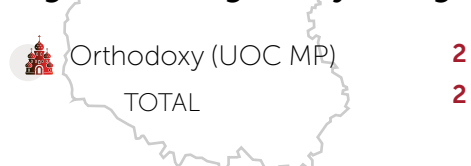
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Kyiv and Kyiv region



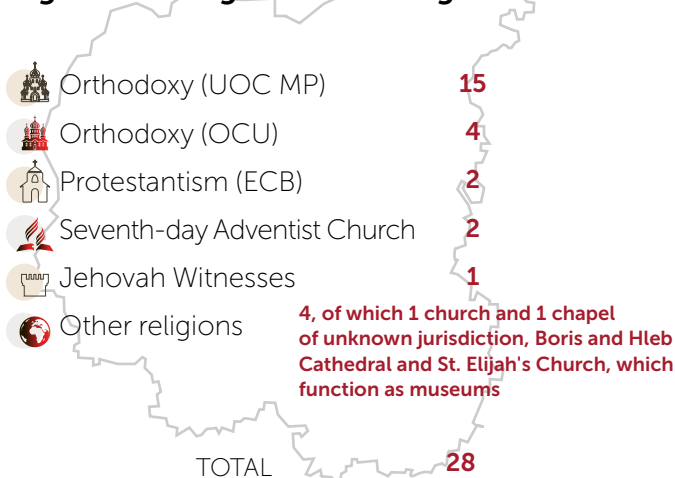
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Zhytomyr region



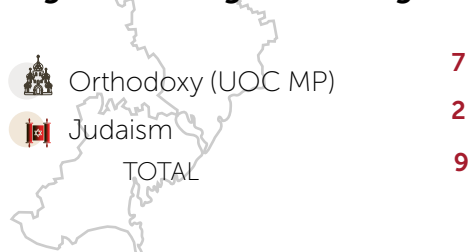
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Vinnytsia region



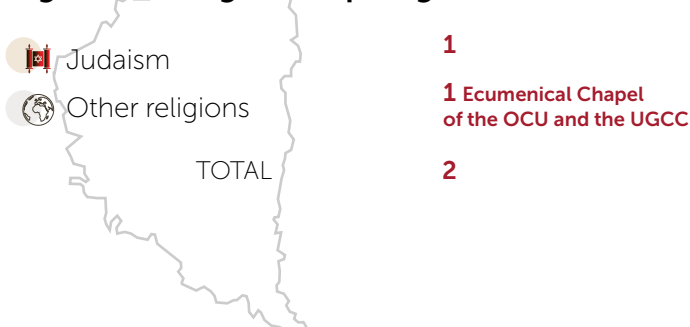
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Chernihiv region



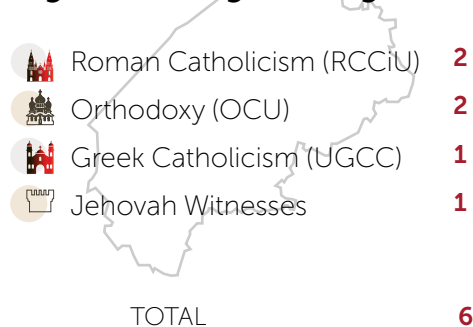
Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Odesa region



Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Ternopil region



Destroyed and Damaged Religious Buildings: Lviv region





<https://www.facebook.com/officialmarinua>



https://twitter.com/Religion_Fire



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceTQ_SDCmus&list=PLD4ff6oXooZd2mp5jhyLSTkzbdQ1ury3Z

NGO Workshop for
the Academic Study
of Religions



<https://www.mar.in.ua/en/>

Project Religion
on Fire



<https://en.religiononfire.mar.in.ua/wiki/Mai>

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