Cyprus

Criminal Code, Section 47 (2), Cap. 154

Whoever enters into an act publicly with the intention to promote feelings of ill will and hostility between different communities or religious groups by reason of his racial or ethnic origin or his religion is guilty of an offence and may be convicted to a maximum sentence of imprisonment for up to five years.

Criminal Code, Section 51(A), Cap. 154

Whoever publicly in any manner and in any way procures the inhabitants to acts of violence against each other; or promotes feelings of ill will and enmity between different classes or communities or persons in the Republic, is guilty of misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for twelve months or to a fine of 1000 pounds or both and in case of a legal entity a fine of 3000 thousand pounds may be imposed.

Criminal code, Article 138 - Any person who destroys, damages or defiles any place of worship or any object which is held sacred by any class of persons with the intention of thereby insulting the religion of any class of persons or with the knowledge that any

class of persons is likely to consider such destruction, damage or defilement as an insult to their religion, is guilty of a misdemeanour.

Article 141 - Any person who with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person, or makes any gesture in the sight of the person, or places any object in the sight of that person, is guilty of a misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for one year.

Article 142 1) Any person who publishes a book or pamphlet or any article or letter in a newspaper or periodical which any class of persons consider as a public insult to their religion, with intent to vilify such religion or to shock or insult believers in such religion, is guilty of a misdemeanour. (2) A prosecution for an offence under the provisions of this section shall not be commenced except by, or with the consent of, the Attorney-General of the Republic.

Amending Laws 11/92, 6(III)/95 and 28(III/99) amending the law ratifying the CERD establish as criminal offences:

- To incite acts which are likely to cause discrimination, hatred, or violence against any person or group of persons on account of their racial or ethnic origin, or their religion. The offence is committed when a person incites as above in public either orally or through the press or by means of any document or picture or any other means. The criminalty is that of imprisonment not exceeding two years, or a fine not exceeding one thousand pounds, or both.
- To express ideas insulting to any person or group of persons by reason of their racial or ethnic origin, or their religion. The offence is committed when a person acts as above in public either orally or through the press or by means of any documents or pictures or any other means. The criminalty is that of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds, or both.

In conformity with a recommendation of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the 1999 amendments mean that it is no longer necessary that the incitement to racial hatred be intentional for the corresponding offence to be committed.

Case Law

Cyprus

Judiciary organisation:

 $\underline{http://www.supremecourt.gov.cy/judicial/sc.nsf/DMLindex_en/DMLindex_en?OpenDocument}$

