

Media Coverage of Attacks on NYC Houses of Worship in 2026

Catholic Churches

St. Ann's Church

On January 16, man stormed the altar during Mass, disrupting the service and assaulting two responding police officers who attempted to restrain him in Staten Island.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: NO

Media Coverage:

- ABC7 New York (WABC-TV)
- PIX11 News (WPIX)
- *New York Post*
- Staten Island Advance/SILive
- EWTN News

St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church

On March 15, a 100-year-old statue of the Blessed Mother was knocked over and smashed beyond repair in Far Rockaway.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- *New York Daily News*
- QNS (Queens New York)
- *Queens Chronicle*
- The Wave
- *The Rockaway Times*
- *The Tablet*
- *The Washington Examiner*
- *The New York Post*

St. Rita Roman Catholic Church

On March 21, a vandal in Long Island City spray-painted the church's statue of St. Francis of Assisi and wrote the word "pagan" on the sidewalk and the statue's pedestal.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- CBS New York (WCBS-TV)
- PIX11 News (WPIX)
- 1010 WINS
- *New York Daily News*
- QNS (Queens New York)
- *Queens Chronicle*
- *The Tablet*
- *Washington Examiner*

St. Athanasius Church

In late March, a vandal in Brooklyn breached the church fence, toppled a large crucifix, and set fire to an American flag hanging outside the building.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- News 12 Brooklyn
- ABC7 New York (WABC-TV)
- 1010 WINS
- *The New York Post*
- Brooklyn Paper
- *The Tablet*
- NetNY (Currents News)

St. Fortunata Church

On July 6, a man in the East New York area of Brooklyn defaced church doors and the parish's Sacred Heart of Jesus statue.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- NetNY (Currents News)
- *The Tablet*

St. Adalbert-St. Roch Roman Catholic Parish

On July 10, a man in Staten Island threw a large rock at the church, breaking a window.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- WNBC (NBC 4)
- Staten Island Advance/SILive
- Catholic Staten Island News and Happenings

Other Houses of Worship

Chabad-Lubavitch World Headquarters

On January 24, Dan Sohail rammed his car five times into the Chabad-Lubavitch World Headquarters in Crown Heights. He had a history of mental health issues and had previously expressed interest in converting to Judaism attending several events at the location. He has pled guilty to knowingly attacking a religious institution to avoid hate crime charges.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- *The New York Post*
- Fox News
- Breitbart News
- The Daily Wire
- Associated Press
- Al Jazeera
- *The New York Times*
- *The Washington Post*
- CNN
- NBC News
- WABC (ABC 7)
- WNBC (NBC 4)
- WCBS (CBS 2)
- The Forward
- Jewish Insider
- Ynetnews

Islamic Mission of America (Daoud Mosque)

On March 9, a man threw pages ripped from a Quran at the mosque in Brooklyn Heights. He proceeded to smear feces on the door.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- ABC7 New York
- CBS New York
- *New York Daily News*
- *The New York Post*
- Patch

Congregation Machane Chodosh and Rego Park Jewish Center

In early May, there was a string of vandalism targeting Jewish houses of worship and other properties owned by Jewish people.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- ABC7 New York (WABC)
- CBS News New York (WCBS)
- Fox 5 New York
- *The New York Post*
- 1010 WINS
- *Queens Chronicle*
- *Queens Eagle*
- *The Guardian*
- Jewish News Syndicate
- Jewish Telegraphic Agency
- The National Desk/CBS 12

Manhattan Synagogue Terror Plot

On May 15, the New York Police Department and federal prosecutors arrested two men who allegedly were plotting an attack on an undisclosed synagogue in Manhattan.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: NO (federal prosecutors elected to pursue more stringent anti-terrorism charges)

Media Coverage:

- *The New York Post*
- Fox News
- BBC News
- *The Guardian*
- The Independent
- *The New York Times*
- Associated Press
- *The Boston Globe*
- NBC New York (WNBC)
- CBS New York (WCBS)
- PIX11 News (WPIX)
- *Los Angeles Times*
- KTLA 5 News

Iglesia Bautista El Mesias and Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

On June 25, police allege that Yogesh Sayrange attempted to fire bomb the two churches and several other buildings in Queens. According to federal prosecutors, Sayrange confessed that he committed the attacks and justified his actions using anti-Muslim slurs. He was arrested twice in the weeks prior to the attack for threatening violence and brandishing a knife and an ax.

Investigated as a Hate Crime: YES

Media Coverage:

- ABC7 New York
- NBC New York
- Fox5 New York
- Pix11
- Spectrum News NY1
- Fox News Channel
- CNN
- *New York Post*