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French Penal Code

TITLE 2. OFFENCES AGAINST THE HUMAN PERSONS

CHAPTER 5. OFFENCES AGAINST THE DIGNITY OF PERSON

SECTION 4. VIOLATION OF RESPECT FOR THE DEAD

ARTICLE 225-17

Any violation of the physical integrity of a corpse, by any means, is punished by one year's imprisonment and a fine of €15,000.

The violation or desecration of tombs, burials grounds or monuments erected to the memory of the dead, committed by any means, is punished by one year's imprisonment and a fine of €15,000.

The penalty is increased to two years' imprisonment and to a fine of €30,000 where the offences defined under the previous paragraph were accompanied by a violation of the physical integrity of the corpse.

ARTICLE 225-18

Where the offences defined under the previous article were committed by reason of the membership or non-membership, true or supposed, of the deceased persons to any given ethnic group, nation, race or religion, penalties are increased to three years' imprisonment and to a fine of €15,000 in for the offences defined under the first two paragraphs of article 225-17 and to five years' imprisonment and to a fine of €15,000 in relation to the offence defined by the last paragraph of that article.

ARTICLE 225-18-1

Legal persons may incur criminal liability for the offence defined under article 225-17 and 225-18, pursuant to the conditions set out under article 121-2.

The penalties incurred by legal persons are:

- 1° a fine, pursuant to the conditions set out under article 131-38;
- 2° the penalties enumerated under 2° to 9° of article 131-39;
- 3° the penalty referred to under 1° of article 131-39 for the offences referred to under article 225-18.

The prohibition referred to in 2° of article 131-39 applies to the activity in the exercise of which or on the occasion of the exercise of which the offence was committed.