

Spain Briefing: November 2024

Reporting period: 1st November - 30th November 2024

Spain National Developments:

The Valencia DANA Floods:

On 29 October, large hail storms and tornados hit the area of Valencia, which was the deadliest in Spain's modern history and the most [catastrophic](#) flood-related event in Europe since 1967. Even though the event was predicted, the corresponding measures were completely [ignored](#) by the authorities, [leaving](#) the residents to save themselves for almost an entire week. The death toll has risen to 222 people to date.

The contradictory actions of the Spanish state towards Palestine since October 7th:

Following the aforementioned DANA floods, the Europe League organised a minute of silence for the over 200 victims during a football match that took place in Amsterdam between Ajax Amsterdam and Maccabi Tel Aviv. The minute was [disrupted](#) with chants and firecrackers by the Maccabi Tel Aviv hooligans. Less than 24 hours later, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation [published](#): "The Government condemns the attacks on Maccabi CF fans that occurred last night in Amsterdam. Spain categorically rejects anti-Semitism anywhere and under any circumstances." At the same time, Mr. Josep Borrell, the Spanish High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the EU published: "I strongly condemn the violence in Amsterdam around a football match. Any manifestation of antisemitism or racism is unacceptable." Once again, only [Podemos](#) was on the side of the citizens and State they [work](#) for.

The municipal plenum of Barcelona decided in July that one of 25 of the Barcelona [Medals of Honor](#) would be awarded to the Palestinian Community "for its commitment to the defense of human rights, which has contributed to the construction of an open, supportive and fraternal Barcelona." The Community, however, criticizes that the mayor "has not promoted any declaration or institutional action" to denounce the situation in Gaza and therefore, they reject the medal.

[Despite](#) the supposed suspension announced by the Government in May that banned the carrying of military material bound for Israel to stop in Spanish territory, ships carrying military equipment to Israel not only stop in Algeciras, but also in Valencia and Barcelona. The investigation by Progressive International and the Palestinian Youth Movement "[Mask Off Maersk! — Cutting ties with genocide](#)" indicates that between May and September of this

year, 1,185 shipments of military supplies from the US passed through the port of Algeciras for the Israeli Ministry of Defense, via the transport and logistics company Maersk.

Palestine solidarity movement:

On 8 November, the platform “Defendamos Palestina Plataforma Antirrepresiva 5” [declared](#) in the Congress of Deputies and recounts the numerous repressive and violent measures taken against the solidarity movement since October 7 th 2023, that have been recounted through the past briefings. They expose how not all these situations have been published due to the vulnerability of the Activists, i.e. Migrants and/or Arabs.

National Security & Counter-terrorism:

The biased and racist [conflation](#) of terrorism and terrorists with the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to defend themselves from occupation and genocide: “The National Court has been trying a resident of the town of Calonge (Girona), who is accused by the Prosecutor’s Office of the crimes of jihadist self-indoctrination and glorification of terrorism, and who became radicalized throughout 2023 by exalting, for example, the armed wing of Hamas. He also makes constant laudatory references to leaders of terrorist organizations, such as Abu Ubedah, the nom de guerre of a Palestinian militant who acts as spokesman for the Ezzeldin Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the terrorist organization Hamas, and responsible for carrying out attacks and violent actions”. The accused, who suffers from mental illness, threatened neighbors and passersby with knives, for which he was condemned to [two](#) years in prison.

Terrorism in Public Schools. In 2018, Terrorism was [introduced](#) by the Ministries of the Interior and Education in middle and high schools at a national level in the mandatory classes of Geography and History. The highly Islamophobic [material](#) has been circulating through classrooms ever since, despite the numerous warnings of Muslim communities and Academics. In November this year, the [Canarian](#) “Ministry of the Presidency, Public Administration, Justice and Security, through the Vice- Ministry of Justice and Security, will promote, together with the Vice-Ministry of Education, the project Memory and Prevention of Terrorism, which aims to promote the values of rejection of terrorist violence from the educational system, providing students with the valuable testimony of victims of terrorism in the classroom.” It is notable that there has never been any terrorist action in the recent history of the Canary Islands. Only Catalonia has [refused](#) to promote said material. [The Memorial Centre](#) for Victims of Terrorism and the Victims of Terrorism Foundation are involved in all of the aforementioned biased and prejudiced school material.

Islamophobia & anti-Arab racism Figures:

Every year in Autumn for six years now, [the Moroccan Association for the Integration](#)

[of Immigrants](#), coopts the anti-Muslim hatred space with State Authorities, Academics, Journalists, etc. through the VI National Congress ;Dismantling Islamophobia. It is notable, that with such an opportunity to reach Public Administrations, teachers and social actors, the organization decided since its first Congress to ignore the effects of biased and highly discriminatory legislation in the name of National Security towards the Muslim population, the advocacy needed to have a separated category for Islamophobic hate crimes within the hate crimes legislation, and (3) the little amount of Muslim voices that are invited, and when they are, they are only invited as victims and not experts in the matter. Furthermore, [this year](#), as the genocide against the Palestinian people expand, there was no space in the Congress to expose how it has notably affected Muslim populations across the world and in the Spain, and how anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hatred deeply intersect with the Palestinian history.

Situations:

The lack of cemeteries for the Muslim population in Spain, which was legislated in 1992, is ongoing and creating difficult situations for Muslims like the father of little Mamadou Baldé, who died in Alcarràs, Catalonia, and who had to [bury](#) his son 30 km from home due to the lack of a Islamic space in the local cemetery.