Twenty-two new cases of serious linguistic discrimination suffered by Catalan-speaking citizens at the hands of the public administrations of the Spanish state

February 2017

“We don’t have the exam in Catalan: so you either do it in Spanish or leave”
Title: “We don’t have the exam in Catalan; so you either do it in Spanish or leave”. Twenty-two (22) new cases of serious linguistic discrimination suffered by Catalan-speaking citizens in 2016 at the hands of the public administrations of the Spanish State.

February 2017
Barcelona

Plataforma per la Llengua (Pro-Language Platform)
C/ Sant Honorat 7, principal 1a
08002 Barcelona
93 321 18 03
www.plataforma-llengua.cat
Introduction

The Spanish State is neither neutral nor impartial when it comes to the culture and identity of its citizens. In the national and linguistic domain, the elites and all the oligarchies that control the administrative apparatus and the distribution of resources are totally committed to a Spanish- or Castilian-based national identity, and more particularly so with regard to language: Spain can only be understood in the context of Castilian identity and language, which are called, and not casually, “Spanish”.

Although since the death of Francisco Franco and the transition towards the current system of apparent democracy inroads have been made in guaranteeing certain areas of linguistic freedom to the citizens of the State who are part of the historically consolidated national minorities, the nature of the State and its legal configuration continue to be highly adverse to these minorities. Moreover, even the linguistic freedom spaces that have been gradually chiselled out of the heart of this militantly “Pro-Castilian” system are often infringed by a corps of civil servants strongly linked to nationalist and supremacist ideology that underpins the core of the legislation. This situation originates numerous cases of violations of the rights of Catalan-speaking citizens by public officials, also in cases involving rights recognised by law: this highly ideologised nature and the public administrations lead such infringements to be tolerated, in a climate of impunity that leads Catalan-speaking citizens to feel increasingly more insecure.

This document is the Pro-Language Platform’s report on serious linguistic discriminations in the Catalan-speaking territories in 2016. The document is actually an update adding a further twenty-two cases to the seventy-seven contained in the 2015 document (corresponding to that year and to the ones reported as of 2007). It should be remembered that it is not a comprehensive document that compiles all the cases of severe linguistic discrimination in the language domain. Many cases are not reported, and many more are silenced by the day-to-day media hubbub or in some cases by the latter’s laziness or difference. There are also many cases that never become serious due to the fact that this pro-Castilian system leads many Catalan speakers to feel coerced and relinquish the possibility of exercising their rights in the face of the more or less overt pressure to which they are subjected in their dealings with the Administration. Moreover, many Catalan speakers do not even realise that they have
certain language rights, accustomed as they are to the “normality” of their language being demoted and neglected by a public administration that they help to support with their taxes.

The cases we present are always related to this supremacist State vision and the place that the different languages occupy in it, with one linguistic community that has all the possible rights in all territories and in all areas, as provided for by article 3 of the Spanish constitution, and other speakers who will only have certain rights in certain territories and in some areas provided for subsequently and expressly by the legislation. As we have just said, these twenty-two cases were publicly reported in the media or sent directly to the Pro-Language Platform.

These cases from 2016 are presented in standard data sheets identical to the previous reports, including all the information about the discriminations in question; situation, victims, aggressors, source, etc. The cases from previous years are also presented, listed and subsequently summarised on a smaller data sheet. They all involve situations in which the public administrations have infringed the rights of Catalan speakers, either through a restrictive interpretation of the law or simply through their contempt for these rights.

**Linguistic legislation and citizens' linguistic rights**

Catalan is not an official language of the Spanish State because it is thus established by the Spanish Constitution of 1978, upholding the State’s single-language tradition initiated with the enactment of the Nova Planta Decrees 300 years ago, a set of regulations which, by virtue of right of conquest, the Bourbon dynasties, the victors of the War of Spanish Succession, annexed the other states that were part of the Spanish monarchy, until then a dynastic union, to the Empire’s main state, Castile. The kingdoms of Valencia and Majorca, as well as the Principality of Catalonia, were some of these annexed states upon which a foreign administration, laws and language were imposed.

Nevertheless, following the end of Franco’s dictatorship in 1975, the new parliamentary regime allowed the regions to grant an official status to the autochthonous languages of their territory. The autonomous regions of Catalonia (1979), the Valencian Community (1982) and the Balearic Islands (1983) made Catalan official in the early versions of their Statutes of Autonomy, whereas Aragon (a new region and a former state in which Catalan is only a native language in part of the territory) only mentioned "linguistic modalities" as a part of its cultural and historic heritage, albeit without actually naming them or affording them any official regimen or any type of recognition of right of use to their speakers.
The current statutes of autonomy of the Balearic Islands and the Valencian Community of 2006 and 2007 establish a general right to use Catalan language and prohibit discrimination on account of language. This might infer that the administrations, including the central administrations, should respect their citizens’ right to use Catalan. This right was more explicitly established by the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia of 2006, whose articles 32 and 33 guaranteed the right to use Catalan with all the public administrations with jurisdiction in the territory of the region, and the validity of documents written in Catalan. However, the ruling 31/2010 of the Spanish Constitutional Court against the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia limited this right and gave the Spanish parliament the power to regulate the languages of the state administration without headquarters in autonomous communities with an official language of their own, which in practice means that at this point in time the right of Catalan speakers to communicate in Catalan with the central administration, which in many cases may refuse to attend to them, is not fully recognised.

On a lower level, Law 4/1983 on the use and teaching of Catalan in the Valencian Community, Law 3/1986 on language planning in the Balearic Islands and Law 1/1998 on linguistic policy of Catalonia guarantee the right of the citizens in these territories to express themselves orally and in writing in Catalan in public and private dealings and events, thus obliging the administration to take the necessary measures to enforce these rights. However, the state regulations never establish the requirement of public officials or civil servants needing to know the autochthonous language of the territory where they work because that would be “discriminatory”, even although they are obliged to understand Spanish, the native language of part of the population. This in fact further impinges upon the rights of Catalan-speaking citizens to deal with this administration in their own language. This situation involves major burdens on Catalan speakers, who have to expressly ask to be attended to in their own language, which slows down the formalities in question simply to be able to avail themselves of a right guaranteed to Spanish speakers all over the state, irrespective of whether their language is autochthonous or not. Moreover, in the case of magistrates and the police force, who are in a position of authority, the exclusive obligation to know Spanish generates all kinds of problems for the speakers of the other State languages. As will be seen, many of the cases of discrimination observed are prompted by this inequality in the language requirements of the central State administration and by the fact that many public servants, and particularly the most powerful ones, do not speak Catalan and make the most of this imbalance to evince coercive and arbitrary attitudes towards Catalan speakers.
With regard to the autonomous region of Aragon, where Catalan is the autochthonous language of a strip of land that bounds its eastern borders with Catalonia, the only official language is Spanish. Nevertheless, the current Statute of Autonomy of Aragon, from 2007, provides for the promotion of a law that establishes linguistic rights for Catalan speakers, although they are not expressed in these terms. Law 3/2013 on the protection and promotion of the languages and specific linguistic modalities of Aragon, which further develops the aforementioned statute, acknowledges the following rights to the citizens of the region: know the native languages (Catalan and Aragonese), use them orally and in writing in the domains in which they have been used historically, be educated in them, use them in the media, use them in their social and economic life and communicate in these languages with the administrations in their area. In practice, and with regard to dealing with the administrations, Catalan speakers in Aragon have the same limitation as other Catalan speakers: they cannot use their language with the general State administration outside their territory. Moreover, the right to be answered by the administration in Catalan is not guaranteed to them.

The reason why the Catalan speakers of Aragon do not have the right to be answered in their own language stems from the fact that the latter is not official, and Law 30/1992 on the legal system of the public administrations and the common administrative procedure, at Spanish level, reserves this right for the official languages of each place. It should be remembered that only official language all over the state is Castilian (Spanish), and the fact that Catalan is official in several places does not confer a general right to be able to use it outside the specific territories where it has been declared official. Moreover, priority is always afforded to Castilian: the aforementioned law establishes Spanish as the default language for administrative proceedings, and in legal proceedings where the parties speak different languages Spanish will always be imposed. In summary, although the rights of Spanish speakers are guaranteed throughout the State, the rights of Catalan-speaking citizens are only guaranteed in certain territories, and even then with restrictions.

The Spanish linguistic management described above is clearly at odds with the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe signed by Spain in 1992 and ratified in 2001. The Charter clearly establishes that the administrative authorities of states with circumscription in territories with regional languages must use these languages, make sure that their agents that deal with the public also use them and also allow the citizens to use these languages in their applications and documents. This document has been interpreted restrictively by Spain, which neither ensures that the agents who deal with the general public in Catalan-speaking territories understand Catalan (the most blatant cases
are judges and police agents) nor allows citizens to use Catalan in state institutions that do not have headquarters in Catalan-speaking territory (even though they have circumscription there).
Collection of serious cases of linguistic discrimination in 2016

1 (88). A family is obliged to speak Spanish in a court of law in the Catalan town of Igualada and the complaint is filed because “it was only a suggestion”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Territory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16/02/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Court no. 3 of Igualada</td>
<td>Igualada</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** R.P. Family.

**Description of the case:** the R.P. brothers filed a complaint with the Courts of Igualada since, during the process of having their mother declared incapable the official of court number 3 told them that they had to speak Spanish and refused to help them to lodge a complaint. In the subsequent complaint, the brothers stated that their linguistic rights protected by the regional law 1/1998 of 7 January on linguistic policy, pursuant to which everyone has the right “to be served in either of the two official languages” of Catalonia and to use them “freely in all areas” had been violated. As is customary in the central institutions, and more particularly in the legal apparatus of the Spanish State when it comes to the rights of Catalan speakers, the claim was eventually filed. The civil servants excused the official by arguing that his demand was a mere “suggestion” because the judge was from Seville and did not understand Catalan very well, arguing that the family made no such request at the time, while glibly omitting the fact that the brothers were complaining then precisely because they had not been allowed to file one at the time.

**Source:** report transmitted to the Pro-Language Platform.

As we shall see repeatedly, we are dealing with a case of language discrimination and defencenlessness that are covered up by the institutions of the State and its officials due to a deep-rooted Spanish nationalism in the law, the institutional fabric and the Spanish civil service corps. In this case, the pressure exercised upon a citizen was covered up as a mere “suggestion”, which would never have occurred if the language in question were Spanish.
2 (89). A judge humiliates two lawyers and a 6-year-old child for speaking Catalan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/03/2015</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Court no. 2 of Olot</td>
<td>Olot</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Marta Alsina and Montserrat Vinyets, lawyers

**Description of the case:** the Higher Court of Justice of Catalonia, the highest legal authority in the region, disciplined Ana María Caballero, a magistrate of court no. 2 of the town of Olot and well-known for constantly depriving Catalan speakers of their right to express themselves in their own language. Nevertheless, the Spanish Constitutional Court subsequently overruled the sanction. In the most famous case, Caballero ordered two lawyers to stop speaking Catalan “out of good manners” and because Spanish is a “universal language”, while also labelling them as uneducated. Following the lawyers’ refusal to comply with the demands of Caballero, who also rebuked them for not referring to her as “your Honour”, the magistrate appointed a court official *hic et nunc* as an interpreter, who had to struggle with Catalan expressions that are difficult to translate. In another case, Caballero had already evinced her dislike of the use of Catalan and ordered a six-year-old Catalan-speaking girl to address her in Spanish, causing the young girl great deal of distress, after which a psychologist eventually had to act as an interpreter.


Once again we are dealing with the absurdities generated by Pro-Spanish obstructionism, the idea of a linguistically homogeneous Spain turned into a legal doctrine, and the headaches created in the minority language populations submitted to it. In this case, the fact that Spanish civil servants are not obliged to learn Catalan to work in the territories where this language is spoken generates uncertainty and problems for the locals, who more often than not eventually give in to the demands of the civil servants who, as the very name of “public servants” indicates, should be adapting to the needs and to the reality of the population.
3 (90). The Higher Court of the Valencian Community tacitly confirms that the right to use Spanish takes precedence over the right to use Catalan as it could generate “defencelessness”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25/01/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Court of first instance number 2 of Benidorm</td>
<td>Benidorm</td>
<td>Valencian Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Francisco Manuel Escortell, lawyer

**Description of the case:** the lawyer Francisco Manuel Escortell filed a written complaint in Catalan with a court in Benidorm and shortly afterwards received a reply instructing him to have the text translated into Spanish within three days if he did not want to draw out the proceedings, under the provision that the other party to the proceedings could allege “legal defencelessness” because they did not understand the language of the country. When Escortell went to the court to complain, the prosecutor claimed that she lacked the resources to have the documentation translated into Catalan, warning him that if he wanted any notifications to be sent in Catalan the proceedings could be prolonged for more than five years. In view of the situation, the lawyer addressed several legal instances of the Valencian Community until the case was resolved by the Higher Court of the Valencian Community, the highest legal body in the region which, while it did actually detect “malpractice”, also noted “an overzealous professional attitude” by the lawyer from Benidorm and consequently upheld the idea that the use of Catalan could lead to “legal defencelessness”, which would not be the case if Spanish were used. In parallel, the defendant lawyer dismissed a final appeal by the lawyer asking to be addressed in Catalan, arguing that the use of Catalan by the Administration of Justice is discretionary and that they could not be asked to use Catalan if they use Spanish.

**Source:** If you file the complaint in Catalan, have it translated or wait 5 years. Levante-EMV [http://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2016/03/29/demanda-valenciano-traduzcalo-o-espere/1397153.html](http://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2016/03/29/demanda-valenciano-traduzcalo-o-espere/1397153.html)

Once again we are dealing with the injustices of a discriminatory system that guarantees a favourable framework for one linguistic group at the expense of others. The finding of the Higher Court of the Valencian Community tacitly confirms that the right to use Spanish takes precedence over the right to use Catalan because it could generate “defencelessness”. Moreover, it is particularly serious that the legal institutions cover up and protect a situation involving abuse in the face of an explicit petition by a citizen that reveals such a situation.
4 (91). Citizenship is denied to a Brazilian for doing the examination in Catalan, reaffirming that the only integration language is Spanish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Ministry of the Interior</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** A.M.S.

**Description of the case:** A.M.S., a Brazilian citizen who has been living in Catalonia for more than 10 years, answered the examination to obtain Spanish citizenship in Catalan, leading him to fail the exam and his application for nationality to be rejected.

The applicant, who speaks perfect Catalan and Spanish, chose to answer the examination questions in Catalan. Although the authorities claim that he also lacked knowledge of Spanish institutions, one of the reasons was that “he writes and reads Spanish with difficulty”, thus only admitting Castilian as the sole Spanish language. According to A.M.S., this is the real reason for the rejection of the application for nationality. In fact, although the rejection document describes a lack of “knowledge of the institutions, customs and adaptation to Spanish way of life”, it only substantiates this with two wrong answers.

AMS lodged an appeal with the Defensor del Pueblo, the Spanish Ombudsman, to provide protection in what is essentially a case of blatant discrimination for having chosen to use a language other than Spanish.

**Source:** Web Pl https://www.plataforma-lengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/3124/denegada-la-nacionalitat-espanyola-per-fer-lexamen-en-catala

This case of discrimination can be explained by the Castilian supremacist foundations of Spanish laws, which establish that the language of Castile is the only official State language. This vision verges on the absurd, in cases such as Law 19/2015, which requires Spanish as the only language requirement to obtain citizenship of the State and obliges applicants to do an examination in this language as proof of “integration”, overlooking the fact that Spanish is not the autochthonous language in many territories of the State.
5 (92). The auditorium of the provincial county council of Alacant does not use signage in Catalan on the façade because too many words is “anti-aesthetic”, although it does use Spanish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21/04/2016</td>
<td>Local administration</td>
<td>County Council of Alacant</td>
<td>Alacant</td>
<td>Valencian Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** The complainant and all the citizens of the province

**Description of the case:** A citizen from Alacant sent a complaint to the Ombudsman of Valencia because the signs on many parts of the façade of the Auditorium of the County Council of Alacant were only in Spanish. Once the complaints had been filed with the Fundació de la Comunitat Valenciana Auditori de la Diputació Provincial (ADDA), the reply he received was that the reasons why Catalan was not always present in signage was that cramming too many letters onto façades could look “anti-aesthetic”. This takes for granted the fact that the presence of Spanish on signs was an imperative need, whereas the presence of the local language was not.

**Source:** New case of linguistic discrimination of the County Council of Alacant. La Veu del País Valencià [http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/19650/%20nou-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-de-la-diputacio-dalacant](http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/19650/%20nou-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-de-la-diputacio-dalacant)

Once again we are dealing with a case of supremacism and denial through which the language of a part of the population of the State enjoys ubiquitous supremacy, whereas the language of the other populations that are part of it are second-class.
The courts of the Catalan town of Olot reject a document in Catalan “to prevent the legal defencelessness” of one of the parties

**Date:** 22/04/2016  
**Administration:** Central administration  
**Organisation:** Court of first instance of Olot  
**Place:** Olot  
**Territory:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Janina Juanola Coromina, court attorney

**Description of the case:** The lawyer of the Court of First Instance number 1 of Olot ordered the plaintiff in a monitoring proceedings to submit the notice of intention to defend in Spanish. This court proceedings justified this decision in order to prevent the plaintiff from being jeopardised and also to avoid a would-be legal defencelessness, calling for all the documents submitted in the proceedings to be worded in Spanish.

**Source:** The court of Olot demands proceedings in Spanish to avert “legal defencelessness”. La Vanguardia  

Once again we are dealing with a case of linguistic discrimination based on the Spanish nationalism that permeates the Spanish legal system and more specifically the Spanish constitution. In this case, the lawyer in question avails herself of the wording of article 3 of the Spanish constitution that imposes the obligation to know Spanish throughout the territory (wherever it is the only language or wherever it is not) without mentioning any other State language. Thus, according to this pro-Spanish standpoint, no one can claim legal defencelessness through failure to know Spanish, although they may do so if someone else wishes to exercise their natural right to use their own language (in this case Catalan) in their own country. This effectively creates first-class citizens whose linguistic rights are guaranteed everywhere and in all areas and second-class citizens whose rights are only guaranteed in some areas of their own territory and provided that they do not inconvenience speakers of the privileged community.
An oral court hearing about corruption is adjourned in Palma because one of the witnesses “had not informed the court that she wanted to speak Catalan”.

Date: 25/01/2016  
Administration: Central administration  
Organisation: Provincial Court of the Balearic Islands  
Place: Palma  
Territory: Balearic Islands

Victim: Consol Castillo, Councillor of the Compromís party in Valencia

Description of the case: when a councillor of the Valencian political party Compromís, Consol Castillo, went to give evidence, in Catalan, in the court proceedings in Palma (Majorca) pertaining to the Nóos case on corruption in the Spanish Royal family, the judge asked her to do so in Spanish because perhaps some of the parties might find it difficult to understand her. Nevertheless, the judge was willing to offer an interpreter even although this would lead the Councillor’s appearance in court to be adjourned. Finally, Consol Castillo declared in her own language with simultaneous translation by an interpreter.

On the social media of the political party Compromís, Castillo said: “I was giving evidence in Palma, not in Cuenca [Castile]”. Moreover, she continued by asserting that “since we have the firm conviction of defending the rights of each and every one of us we do not give in to the demands of “speaking Spanish” which lead justice to be far from normal in our country. Everyone has the right to speak the official language that they want”.

Source: The lack of an interpreter delays the declaration by Castillo in the Nóos case. Levante – EMV  

Once again, this case evinces the unequal treatment meted out to the mother tongues of the different human communities of the Spanish State: some people can use their own language everywhere and expect to be understood and attended to by everyone in that language, whereas others can only do so with limitations, giving advance notice and adapting to the needs of the privileged linguistic community. In the best-case scenario, the legal system offers condescending measures for well-meaning civil servants to be able to conserve a certain semblance of equality; in the worse case, the rights of the speakers of subordinate languages are being directly violated with impunity.
8 (95). An official examination panel in a town in Valencia orders a candidate to do the examination in Spanish or leave

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/06/2016</td>
<td>Local administration</td>
<td>Town Council of Godella</td>
<td>Godella</td>
<td>Valencian Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Roberto Benavent, a candidate for a position as administrative assistant

**Description of the case:** In the official examinations for the post of administrative assistant of the Town Council of Godella, one of the applicants was denied the right to use Catalan. When the candidate requested a version of examination in his own language, the president of the examining panel told him that “we do not have the exam in Catalan and we are not going to give you one; so either you do it in Spanish or you leave”. After the incident, the Town Council of Godella issued a public press release apologising for the unfortunate events, stating that it would take measures to prevent situations like that from occurring again. The examination was declared null and void at the request of the applicant and the Pro-Language Platform.

**Source:** “We don’t have the exam in Catalan; so you either do it in Spanish or leave” Levante-EMV [http://www.levante-emv.com/horta/2016/06/15/examen-valenciano-o-castellano-o/1432173.html](http://www.levante-emv.com/horta/2016/06/15/examen-valenciano-o-castellano-o/1432173.html)

This case demonstrates the existing hostility –often tolerated – among the personnel of the Administration to the Catalan-language population and their rights. Fortunately, this time the violation of the victim’s rights was acknowledged, although this should not lead us to forget that such attitudes are very common and may intimidate and even silence many speakers who would normally use Catalan in their dealings with the Administration.
9. **A man is ejected from a Spanish post office in Barcelona for calling for a greater presence of Catalan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29/06/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Jordi Joan Rubí, a resident of Barcelona

**Description of the case:** On 29 June a man was a victim of discrimination in a Post Office in Barcelona. Jordi Joan Rubí realised that the office sold postal greetings cards although none of them were in Catalan. Jordi therefore asked to see the office manager to suggest that the material also be provided in Catalan, upon which the manager responded belligerently, claiming that “this is Spain”, according to the complainant. In the face of the harassment, Jordi Joan took a photograph of the postcards, making the manager even angrier, who in no uncertain terms asked him to leave the premises. Several citizens in the office at the time defended the plaintiff on realising that his linguistic rights were being clearly infringed. The Pro-Language Platform, on learning of the case, provided assessment to Jordi Joan to file a complaint with the Spanish Administration and the regional Ombudsman.

**Source:** Report transmitted to the Pro-Language Platform.

As in the case of the court of Godella, which occurred last June, we are dealing with a case of ideological or xenophobic hostility by a public official, an attitude that is neither strange nor isolated and which, besides constituting blatant cases of discrimination or harassment, generates a sensation of uncertainty in Catalan speakers who often feel coerced into not using their language or not complaining when they are not allowed to use it. It should be added that failure to guarantee attention or service in an official language such as Catalan constitutes an infringement of article 54.11 of the Legislative Royal Decree 5/2015 which regulates the Basic Public Employee Statute in Spain. Moreover, these regulations establish behavioural principles in which public officials must handle all citizens properly and with respect and that any discrimination on account of language constitutes a disciplinary offence.
10 (97). A table-tennis trainer is ejected for cheering on his players in Catalan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26/06/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Spanish Table Tennis</td>
<td>Blanes</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Federation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Carles Font, Trainer of the Cassà Table Tennis Club

**Description of the case:** The Spanish table tennis championship was held in Blanes, on the Catalan coast, on the weekend of 25 and 26 June. During a match in the young boy’s category, the trainer of the Cassà Table Tennis Club was ejected after refusing to comply with an order to cheer on his player in Spanish. The trainer was shown the yellow card after cheering on his young player in Catalan, by saying “Come on Andreu, go for it!”. The referee cautioned him and ordered him to speak Spanish, but Carles Font replied that he was not breaking any rules and that he would continue to support his player in Catalan, while also complaining of abuse by the referee. He reminded him that many players often talk to their players in English or Chinese and have never been prevented from doing so. Upon the trainer’s insistence upon speaking Catalan to his player, the referee decided to “send him off”. The main judge of the competition did not even let him protest under the excuse that he had been sent off. The club says that this is not the first time that this has happened, since some years ago another trainer was also expelled for the same reason in a Spanish under-21 championship in Almeria.

**Source:** The trainer of the Cassà Table Tennis club is sent off for not “cheering on his player in Spanish” Nació Digital


This is a clear case of xenophobic and arbitrary attitudes that spread the general sensation of a lack of protection of the rights of Catalan speakers derived from the selective and indifferent, and sometimes hostile, action of the institutions of the Spanish State, particularly the police force and the justice system. Thus, any individual with a modicum of power knows that they can engage in xenophobic and despotic attitudes towards Catalan-speaking citizens without any risk of being disciplined or punished.
A citizen is thrown out of a public medical centre for asking to be attended to in Catalan

This is yet another case of pro-Spanish arbitrariness, this time by the administration of the Government of Catalonia. The law is applied selectively when it refers to the rights of Catalan speakers. In a similar case, O.I.F. filed a complaint because a health service official did not speak to him in Catalan even although he had addressed the official in this language, amounting to a blatant non-fulfilment of article 14 of Decree 107/1987, “Civil servants will normally communicate orally with citizens in Catalan and will respect the citizens’ right to choose the language in which they wish to be assisted”.

This is yet another case of pro-Spanish arbitrariness, this time by the administration of the Government of Catalonia. The law is applied selectively when it refers to the rights of Catalan speakers. In a similar case, O.I.F. filed a complaint because a health service official did not speak to him in Catalan even although he had addressed the official in this language, amounting to a blatant non-fulfilment of article 14 of Decree 107/1987, although the head of the Citizens’ Service Unit of the Department of Health of Catalonia, Isabel Albó, did not acknowledge any legal infringement and simply made excuses for the civil servant by arguing that “the job market reality” is delicate and non-local professionals “obviously” require a “period of adaptation and time to learn our language” (although Albó failed to consider that this should be implemented before they join the public service). This twisted reply by civil servants is neither uncommon nor infrequent and, as in the case of Albó, is usually accompanied by high-sounding proclamations of respect for other legal precepts or principles that have absolutely nothing to do with the subject matter of the ilk of “under no circumstances could it be acceptable for a worker to declare themselves incapable of (sic) understanding Catalan”, that “what matters most to us is guaranteeing the best possible communication to provide effective help as promptly as possible”, or that the doctor “could have been more empathetic”.

### Description of the case:
RJM asked a nurse at the Drassanes Primary Health Care Centre, a public health facility in Barcelona, if he could speak Catalan. According to the complainant, the nurse felt aggrieved and had him ejected, even though he had only gone there to pick up some test results. This is a blatant violation of RJM’s linguistic rights acknowledged in article 14 of the Catalan Decree 107/1987: “Civil servants will normally communicate orally with citizens in Catalan and will respect the citizens’ right to choose the language in which they wish to be assisted”.

### Source:
Complaint received at the Pro-Language Platform’s headquarters.
The court of the Valencian town of Sagunt avails itself of a fictitious law to stop a lawyer from using Catalan

**Date:** 01/07/2016  
**Administration:** Central administration  
**Organisation:** Court of First Instance no. 1 of Sagunt  
**Place:** Sagunt  
**Territory:** Valencian Community

**Victim:** Mercè Teodoro, lawyer

**Description of the case:** Mercè Teodoro denounced a further case of linguistic discrimination perpetrated by the lawyer of the Administration of the Court of First Instance number 1 of Sagunt, who ordered Teodoro, despite the clarity of the applicable legislation, to have an appeal submitted in Catalan translated into Spanish, although the former is one of the official languages of the Valencian Community and therefore perfectly valid for use in the courts. Following a complaint filed by Teodoro, the court defended its action by means of selective interpretations of the law and even by appealing to a non-existent one: the “Organic Law on Language Rights”, a draft proposed by extreme right-wing minority groups opposed to linguistic diversity which has never been voted on nor submitted to the Spanish parliament and advocates, for example, the use of the Spanish form of place names which are currently only in the specific language of each territory, imposing an educational system without language immersion in Catalan, or suppressing the requirement for regional civil servants to substantiate their knowledge of the languages of the territories where they are to work.

The issue was eventually resolved without the translation that had been demanded, inferring, albeit implicitly, the acknowledgement of the legal impossibility of demanding the translation of a language that is already official.

**Source:** *Another case of linguistic discrimination in the Valencian courts* La Veu del País Valencià  

This case brings to light the disrespect shown by the Administration of justice to rights that are theoretically acknowledged by Spanish law. This disrespect leads to the despotic handling of people by the administrations, who force them to knuckle under to non-existent language obligations without any fear of punishment. In this case, moreover, the oversight involved in resorting to a legislative proposal by non-parliamentary groups leaning closely to the extreme right hints at possible connections between the judiciary and certain reactionary ideological currents in favour of curtailing the language rights of Catalan speakers even further.
A lifeguard in the coastal town of Palamós refuses to assist someone who spoke to him in Catalan

As occurred in the case of the table tennis referee in the championship held in Blanes in June last year, we are dealing with another xenophobic and arbitrary attitude which the individual knows will go unpunished thanks to the supremacist structure of the Spanish state and these institutions’ lack of interest in enforcing the linguistic rights acknowledged to national minorities. This situation of vulnerability of Catalan speakers is one of the reasons why, for example, many of them switch languages when they realise that the other person does not speak Catalan as their mother tongue, even in cases in which the other person, in this case the lifeguard, has humiliated them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/07/2016</td>
<td>Local administration</td>
<td>Pro-activa Acuaticos</td>
<td>Palamós</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Lioba Costa

**Description of the case:** a lifeguard at the beach of La Fosca de Palamós (Catalonia) refused to provide first-aid to a child that had been stung by a jellyfish because the child and his mother addressed him in Catalan. Although they switched language and asked him for help in Spanish, he continued to refuse, evincing an insolent attitude.

**Source:** Ara Girona Daily and the user’s Facebook. 
14 (101). A ticket officer from the public railway service refuses to attend a user because he spoke to her in Catalan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/08/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Renfe</td>
<td>Benicarló</td>
<td>Valencian Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Xavier Lluís

**Description of the case:** Xavier Lluís was trying to buy a train ticket to return to Tortosa, a town in the south of Catalonia, in the train station of Benicarló, a town in the north of Valencia, and addressed the ticket officer in Catalan. The worker refused to attend to him or to fetch a colleague that could do so while she continued to attend other users who were speaking Spanish.

The complainant posted the case on Twitter, mentioning the official accounts of RENFE, the train operator and ADIF, which is the public train station management company, respectively. Neither of the two accounts gave him an answer, although they continued to answer enquiries from other users.

After learning of the situation, the Town Council of Benicarló issued a press release supporting the user. The town council said that it would investigate the occurrence and that if it were confirmed would demand accountability from the company. It refers to the case as “disrespectful” and a “major violation of the law that protects the official language of the Valencian people”, asserting that “No behaviour that limits the freedom of expression of Catalan speakers can go unpunished”.

**Source:** El Periódico del Mediterráneo


Once again we are dealing with a xenophobic and intolerant attitude that goes totally unpunished. The perceived - and more often than not real - defencelessness to which the national minorities of the Spanish State are submitted is very serious, not only because of cases of active infringements of rights, but also due to the mental framework it imposes, where individuals in a minority eventually consider the fact that they have fewer rights than the members of the privileged linguistic community as something normal.
15 (102). A Catalan-speaking citizen is repeatedly harassed by different Spanish police officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/08/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>The Spanish Police Force</td>
<td>Vic</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Montserrat Puig Cotado

**Description of the case:** Montserrat Puig went to have her passport renewed at a Spanish police station in Vic. At the door, a civil guard insisted several times that she should address him in Spanish after she had greeted him with “good morning” in Catalan, and at one point he even grabbed her by the arm. The police officer at the desk, who had witnessed everything, instead of giving her any support, pretended that he did not understand her until he eventually told her to go and have some photos taken outside. When she returned, the civil guard on the door continued to harass her and initially prevented her from entering, telling her that he would not let her in unless she spoke to him in Spanish. Montserrat Puig did not give in and eventually, after further harassment, the civil guard let her in. When her turn came, a police station official told the person that was to attend to Montserrat Puig not to do so and sent her to an empty table while they continued to attend to other people. When Puig complained, another official went to help her, although he demanded that she speak to him in Spanish because “he was from Madrid”. Montserrat Puig, by then fed up, told him to go back to Madrid, because in Catalonia she was entitled to speak Catalan. The official reported her for “disrespect for authority” and told her that if she wanted to have her passport renewed because she had lost it she would have to report it first to the Catalan Police Force and return in the afternoon. When Montserrat Puig asked him for his badge number, the officer told her it was on the report, and when she asked for the number of the civil guard on the door, the officer told her to ask him for it herself, immediately telling her not to bother to report the loss of her passport to the Catalan Police Force because “he was not going to do her the favour” of attending to her in the afternoon.


The case of Montserrat Puig is clear proof of the perverted nature of the Spanish system and the impunity and despotism that it creates for petty dictators who improvise arbitrary and discriminatory solutions without any consideration whatsoever for the established procedures and laws. The State police forces are often reported for harassing citizens who freely and legally decide to use Catalan when communicating with them. They are also well-known for employing intimidation to illegally order such people to change language. Moreover, the Spanish nationalism that pervades the civil service and the legal structure protects such arbitrariness: one common police tactic is to report the actual victims, almost always for would-be cases of “lack of respect for authority”. This whole situation means that speakers who are more aware of the rights often encounter problems and become anxious in their dealings with these entities or
that more timid people or those who lack a strong sense of awareness choose not to speak Catalan or simply knuckle under to the demands of people who are theoretically public servants.
The workers of a centre for the homeless refuse to help a Catalan speaker harassed by other residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/08/2016</td>
<td>Autonomous administration</td>
<td>Centre Integral de Zona Franca de Barcelona</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** L. B.

**Description of the case:** L. B. was living in the Centre Integral de Zona Franca de Barcelona, which accommodates the homeless. When he complained to the centre personnel that he and other Catalan speakers were being harassed for speaking Catalan by some of the interns that came from other Spanish-speaking areas, the staff did nothing to help him or to make sure that he was not mistreated. When he posted a text describing his situation on the notice board, it was quickly withdrawn because the workers claimed that it was aggressive and could create problems.

**Source:** report transmitted to the Pro-Language Platform.

In this case, the most serious issue is the indifference generated among the centre’s employees by a case of xenophobic discrimination and their failure to do anything about it. Pro-Spanish harassment, based on a supremacist idea, has been accepted as a matter of course by many citizens, irrespective of whether they belong to the privileged linguistic community or not. The harassment in itself is serious, but the fact that workers in centres with special needs are incapable of perceiving attitudes of intolerable xenophobia such as the ones mentioned above or of tackling it is merely an example of a lack of training and tools, as well as the impunity with which the rights of Catalan speakers are trodden on.
His right to receive notifications in Catalan is acknowledged but he is condemned anyway because while this right was violated it “did not constitute defencelessness”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Contentious- Administrative Court</td>
<td>Valencia</td>
<td>Valencian Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Victim: Lluís Olagüe

Description of the case: In the contentious-administrative court of 17 July, the magistrate Carmen Casado Guijarro issued a ruling on a case brought by Lluís Olagüe, a Notary Public of Valencia, against the official College of Notaries Public of the same city. The origin of the conflict lay in the fact that the Official College had fined the Notary Public in question €21,000 after discovering an alleged double serious offence by him following an inspection that had been notified to him in Spanish, against the wishes of Olagüe, who for years, and also in this case in question, had been telling the College that he wished to receive notifications in Catalan.

The judge decided that Olagüe was right and that the Official College should use Catalan in the administrative proceedings which led to the penalty. Nevertheless, she also found that use of Spanish did not constitute defencelessness on Olagüe’s part because he was obliged to understand Spanish, and she confirmed the 21,000-Euro fine on the Notary Public plus 500 Euros in legal costs.


This absurd (but also very injurious) situation stems from the Spanish nationalistic conception of the State embodied in article 3 of the Spanish constitution, which obliges all citizens in the State to know Spanish and not any other language. Thus, even although the citizens’ right to receive information in other languages is acknowledged, any administration or organisation that infringes these rights is, in practice, very well protected, since they can always claim that citizens are always obliged to understand Spanish, constituting a reversal of the roles between public servants and the people they serve. Spain’s determination to present itself to the world as a homogeneous nation-state gives birth to this article, which protects the exclusive “Spanishness” of the general institutions of the State and all those that are not more specifically regulated, thus providing civil servants with total protection in the face of populations that speak other languages. Even though Olagüe’s right had been violated, which in any other case would have rendered the proceedings brought by the College of Notaries Public ineffective (in the same way that evidence or proof obtained illegally cannot be used in court), the protection of Spanish as a mandatory language by the Constitution was invoked in order to effectively render this right ineffective.
Prevented from entering a branch of the Social Security if they did not speak Spanish to the security guard

**Date:** August 2016  
**Administration:** Central administration  
**Organisation:** Branch of the Ministry of Social Security (INSS)  
**Place:** Dénia  
**Territory:** Valencian Community

**Victim:** Josep Lozano-Seser and his mother

**Description of the case:** A security guard at a Social Security branch in Dénia (Valencian Community) refused to attend to the writer Josep Lozano-Seser and his mother in Catalan, claiming that he did not understand them and demanded they give him their identity card number in Spanish if they wanted to enter the Office. Eventually, Lozano-Seser and his mother were able to key in their respective ID card numbers and entered the building. When they filed a complaint for the infringement of their linguistic rights, they received a standard letter from the general administration of the State in which they simply stated that they were making every effort to improve the service.

**Source:** La Veu del País Valencià [http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/23299/loficina-de-la-seguretat-social-de-denia-nega-lacces-per-parlar-en-valencia?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&publicitat=true](http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/23299/loficina-de-la-seguretat-social-de-denia-nega-lacces-per-parlar-en-valencia?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&publicitat=true)

As Lozano-Seser himself said, “if a citizen speaking Spanish were refused attention in a public organisation in Valencia or Catalonia, it would be all over the news, dailies and the media and everyone would be talking about imposition and abuse. On the other hand, the fact that our language is belittled is a constitutional (anti-) right that is almost taken for granted”. The imbalance between languages (one that must be known by everyone everywhere, whereas the others, merely nice-looking decorations where they are spoken) is a consummated fact in the main documents of Spanish law. Thus, it would be unthinkable for a public administration to recruit someone that did not speak Spanish, and the fact that a public employee violated the right of someone to express her or himself in Spanish would probably generate a major scandal and widespread consternation in the majority of the published opinion in the state. However, someone not knowing Catalan, and the recruitment of people who claim that they do not speak it, is par for the course and is taken for granted as part of the natural order of things by major layers of the population.
A Catalan MP is ordered to speak Spanish at the airport because “Catalan cannot be spoken in the air”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Territory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22/09/2016</td>
<td>Central State Administration</td>
<td>AENA (el Prat Airport)</td>
<td>El Prat de Llobregat</td>
<td>Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Benet Salellas Vilar, lawyer and member of the Catalanian Parliament for the CUP party.

**Description of the case:** Benet Salellas, a member of the Catalanian Parliament for the CUP political party, was accosted by airport security personnel at El Prat when negotiating security control. When he replied in Catalan, the officials demanded that he switch to Spanish because “they were in the air and you cannot speak Catalan in the air”. They ended up speaking English.

This information subsequently came to light because the MP Albert Botran, a colleague of Salellas, made it public in the course of a motion to the Catalanian Parliament regarding the use of Catalan in companies.

**Source:** Complaint detected in a parliamentary session and referred to the Pro-Language Platform.

Yet again we are dealing with harassment derived from the sensation of impunity generated by the legal system, and more particularly by its selective and ideological application by the judicial echelons. Hence, the idea that a Spanish speaker can work anywhere in the State without any linguistic adaptation requirement prevails, whereas the same is never expected of a Catalan speaker or of a member of another linguistic community. This vision is often reinforced by the failure by the authorities and companies to apply the linguistic legislation and the Pro-Spanish world view of that selfsame law and of the people who interpret it.
A Catalan councillor is obliged to speak in Spanish in the “National Court”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/12/2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>“National Court”</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Victim:** Joan Coma, a councillor of the CUP political party in the City Council of Vic.

**Description of the case:** Joan Coma, a councillor of the CUP political party on the City Council of Vic, was summoned to declare in the Spanish “National Court” on account of an alleged offence of inciting sedition. When he failed to turn up he was arrested and taken to Madrid to declare. The court had not provided for an interpreter and Coma was told that they did not know when one would be available, hence the proceedings, which were being held more than 600 km from his home, might have to be adjourned for a few hours. In view of the legal pressure brought to bear upon him for attempting to continue to exercise his right to express himself in Catalan or remain under arrest, Coma eventually declared in Spanish.

**Source:** Information transmitted to the Pro-Language Platform.

Once again we are dealing with a case of the naturalisation of pro-Spanish nationalism by institutions which are maintained by all taxpayers. The state imposes a framework in which everyone is obliged to know Spanish and then leverages the very framework it has imposed to justify the infringement or restriction of the rights of speakers of other languages based on arguments of efficiency. Hence, in this defective framework, simply claiming a self-evident right, namely expressing oneself in one’s own language, is transformed into something abnormal and an attack against common sense and against the easy way of doing things, allowing a court to hold someone in custody for the simple reason that it failed to envisage the possibility of the person wishing to express themselves in their own language. Thus, in this perverted framework, coercion and intimidation become the natural reaction to someone who attempts to claim their language rights. Nevertheless, it is curious how interpreters are always available when people called to give evidence do not have Spanish citizenship.
A Valencian councillor is harassed and reported by the Civil Guard for speaking Catalan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Administration:</th>
<th>Organisation:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Territory:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>Civil Guard</td>
<td>Gata de Gorgos</td>
<td>Valencian Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Victim_: Jaume Monfort, Deputy Mayor of Gata de Gorgos for Podem.

_Description of the case_: Jaume Monfort, Deputy Mayor of Gata de Gorgos (Valencian Community) for the Podem political party, was harassed by two Civil Guard officers when he told them that they had parked their car in a forbidden area. The officers ordered Monfort to speak Spanish, and when he refused to comply they insisted that they were living in Spain and that he had to speak to them in Spanish. They also addressed him as “señorito”. When Monfort asked them to identify themselves so that he could complain about the way he had been treated, they ordered him to produce his identity card so that they could report him, since “he had shown disrespect to them” simply by speaking Catalan.

_Source_: Vilaweb; information also reported to the pro-language Platform by telephone [http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/parlans-en-espanyol-el-tinent-de-batlle-de-gata-victima-dun-atac-catalanofobic-per-part-de-la-guardia-civil/](http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/parlans-en-espanyol-el-tinent-de-batlle-de-gata-victima-dun-atac-catalanofobic-per-part-de-la-guardia-civil/)

Once again, the public officials of the State administrations show how they subscribe to the pro-Spanish doctrine that arises from the power and the configuration of the state, to the extent that they infringe its laws with impunity. This is particularly serious when it comes to the relationship between armed forces and citizens of national and linguistic minorities, since the former frequently treat the latter with discrimination and harassment and disguise their xenophobic attitudes with false claims which the legal system, equally protected by pro-Spanish ideology, will tend to uphold. The sensation of impunity is absolute.
A magistrate does not accept a document in a legal action in Alacant because “it is in Catalan and not in Valencian”

Date: December 2016
Administration: Central administration
Organisation: Contentious-administrative Court number 3
Place: Alacant
Territory: Valencian Community

Victim: Government of Catalonia.

Description of the case: The magistrate María Aristóteles Magán, the incumbent of a contentious-administrative Court of Alacant, called upon the government of Catalonia to have a document sent to the institution that he chairs translated into Spanish, arguing that Catalan is not official in the Valencian Community. This line of argument would infer that Magán subscribes to linguistic secessionism, a political doctrine rejected by the academy, according to which the Catalan that is spoken in Valencia (where it is called “Valencian”) is a different language to that which is spoken in Catalonia and in the Balearics. Curiously enough, Magán uses this unscientific line of argument (which in fact is contrary to the jurisprudence of the Spanish Supreme Court) to demand the translation of the document in question into Spanish, leaving no option for it to be translated into the other language (Valencian) which according to him is different. It should be remembered that Magán already had a record of disregard for the rights of Catalan speakers and as a militant in linguistic “pro-Spanishness” from the courts of justice: before he was transferred to Alacant from a court in Lleida he was fined by the Higher Court of Catalonia and by the Supreme Court for adding offensive personal remarks in his findings regarding the use of Catalan in the courts and the right to use it in certain situations. Nevertheless, this judge’s recurring discrimination and offences have not prevented him from continuing to practice and act in his own way, as is borne out in this case.


The magistrate Magán is the most extreme product of the national-Pro-Spanish ideology that permeates the institutions of the State and more particularly the legal system. His nationalistic zeal is such that it leads him to clash with the jurisprudence of courts that are above him in matters of scientifically indisputable matters, such as the unity of Catalan language, or legally incontestable ones, namely judges’ obligation not to bring value judgements or political opinions into their rulings.
Previous cases (2007–2015)

1. 16/03/2007 A magistrate of the Civil Registry of Badalona obliged a couple to get married in Spanish although his command of Catalan had already been substantiated.

Source: A couple file a complaint against a judge from Badalona before the Higher Court of Catalonia for forcing them to get married in Spanish. Vilaweb

2. 16/03/2007 A doctor is dismissed from a municipal sports centre in Prat de Llobregat for speaking Catalan to her patients.

Source: A doctor is sacked for talking to clients in Catalan. El Punt Avui
The doctor accused of refusing to speak Spanish is reinstated by the City Council of Prat de Llobregat
http://www.elprat.cat/noticies/detallNoticia/_ZCZRBu1Qu4chuvn2OwPJaTNgFe4I7t9YWGWAYmaltqgxYDFv6USRg

3. 17/04/2007 A former socialist senator is obliged to speak Spanish amid the jeers of some security guards.

Source: Obliged to speak Spanish by security guards on the AVE train from Lleida. E-Notícies
http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-1812/actualitat/vigilants-de-lave-de-lleidaobliguen-a-parlar-en-castell%e0-21976.html

4. 16/08/2007 A Moroccan translator is insulted for addressing the Civil Guard in Catalan in Palma (Majorca) and is fined for making offensive remarks.

Source: Disciplinary action will be taken against the police officers from Palma who harassed Saïda Saddouki Vilaweb
The judge finds Saïda guilty of making serious offensive remarks. Diari de Balears

5. 20/08/2007 A councillor of Indara (Marina Alta), fined, humiliated and described as a "yokel" by two Civil Guards for speaking Catalan

Source: Civil Guards reported for linguistic discrimination. Ràdio Pego

6. 03/12/2007 Héctor López Bofill and his wife are harassed and discriminated against for speaking Catalan in a RENFE station in Plaça Catalunya

Source: Renfe obliges López Bofill to speak "Spanish". E-Notícies

7. 07/01/2008 A police officer harasses and orders a citizen to shut up for speaking Catalan in the police station of Sant Feliu de Llobregat

Source: "I don't want to speak Catalan, this is Spain". E-Notícies
http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-2033/actualitat/no-me-da-la-gana-hablart-catalan%e1n-estamos-en-espa%fa-33423.html

8. 28/02/2008 A young man is tried for disobedience of authority in Maó (Minorca) for addressing National Police officers in Catalan.

Source: A young man will stand trial in Maó tomorrow accused of disobedience of authority after addressing National Police Force officers in Catalan. Europa Press

9. 30/08/2008 The Civil Guard deny the mayor of Montblanc his right to speak Catalan and report him.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. 15/11/2008</td>
<td>A young man brutally assaulted for interceding in a homophobic assault is insulted in the National Police Force station for speaking Catalan when he went to report it. The agents branded him as &quot;dumb&quot; and a &quot;show-off&quot;, according to his complaint.</td>
<td>Source: The Civil Guard of Montblanc oblige the Mayor to identify himself and speak Spanish. Vilaweb <a href="http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/elpunt/noticia?p_idcmp=2990136">http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/elpunt/noticia?p_idcmp=2990136</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. 22/05/2009</td>
<td>The Dean of the Electoral Board of Palma and a civil servant accuse an official representative of being &quot;radical&quot; for addressing them in Catalan and refuse to deal with him.</td>
<td>Source: Joan Miquel Chacón of ERC reports two public officials of the Electoral Board who accused him of being &quot;radical&quot; just for speaking Catalan. Diari de Balears <a href="http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/m-han-humiliat-per-xerrar-la-meva-llengua.html">http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/m-han-humiliat-per-xerrar-la-meva-llengua.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. 07/08/2009</td>
<td>Two civil guards assault a young man from Majorca for speaking Catalan to them in the airport and are eventually convicted.</td>
<td>Source: The Court upholds the conviction against the Civil Guard who assaulted Iván Cortès. Diari de Balears <a href="http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/m-han-humiliat-per-xerrar-la-meva-llengua.html">http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/m-han-humiliat-per-xerrar-la-meva-llengua.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. 11/08/2009</td>
<td>A Peruvian woman who was applying for her child's identity card, arrested for speaking Catalan on the phone in a police station. The police officer who held and harassed her is sentenced to a €70 fine for coercion.</td>
<td>Source: Rosario Palomino, Barcelona In Spanish! The security forces against Catalan. <a href="http://contraelcatala.blogspot.com.es/2012/11/">http://contraelcatala.blogspot.com.es/2012/11/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. 03/09/2009</td>
<td>A family misses its flight for addressing the Civil Guard in Catalan at Girona airport and is fined for disorderly conduct.</td>
<td>Source: A passenger is tried for shouting at a Civil Guard in Catalan at the airport. Diari de Girona <a href="http://www.diaridegirona.cat/comarques/2010/02/21/jutgen-passatgera-laeroport-ridarcatala-guardia-civil/389058.html">http://www.diaridegirona.cat/comarques/2010/02/21/jutgen-passatgera-laeroport-ridarcatala-guardia-civil/389058.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. 08/09/2009</td>
<td>A journalist from Northern Catalonia, held at a police control in La Jonquera for speaking Catalan and not knowing Spanish.</td>
<td>Source: Account of the young man in an interview on Ràdio Arrels in Perpignan. Ràdio Arrels <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4O9CvQWOM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4O9CvQWOM</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. 30/09/2009</td>
<td>A judge from Elx slights Catalan and questions the right of a defendant and a witness to speak Catalan in a trial.</td>
<td>Source: Judge and prosecutor slight Catalan and defend &quot;the common language&quot; during a trial in Elx. L’Accent. Periòdic Popular dels Països Catalans <a href="http://www.laccent.cat/index.php/paisos-catalans/repressio-i-drets/item/1457-jutgessa-ila-fiscalia-menyspreen-el-valenci%C3%A0-i-fan-apologia-de-la-lengua-com%C3%BAnen-el-judici-d-elx">http://www.laccent.cat/index.php/paisos-catalans/repressio-i-drets/item/1457-jutgessa-ila-fiscalia-menyspreen-el-valenci%C3%A0-i-fan-apologia-de-la-lengua-com%C3%BAnen-el-judici-d-elx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. 07/12/2009</td>
<td>A man is refused medical care in the clinic of Benicarló for speaking Catalan. The man complains and the Board of Health sanctions the practice by alleging that some of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. 02/02/2010</td>
<td>A Cuban citizen held at the Airport of El Prat denounces police harassment for speaking Catalan. The police were unpleasantly surprised at his proficiency and retorted: “Fuck me, you speak Catalan really well!”</td>
<td>“Fuck me, you speak Catalan really well!” Sant Andreu de Palomar (in the Avui newspaper) <a href="http://www.sant-andreu.com/catXppcc/agressionsllengua-cojonesquebienablascatalan-020210.htm">http://www.sant-andreu.com/catXppcc/agressionsllengua-cojonesquebienablascatalan-020210.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. 04/03/2010</td>
<td>A resident of Pollença, forced to speak Spanish by the Civil Guard during an identification even though the officers understood Catalan.</td>
<td>Criticism of the Civil Guard for demanding that drivers speak to them in Spanish. El Mundo <a href="http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2010/05/18/baleares/1274201518.html">http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2010/05/18/baleares/1274201518.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. 16/04/2010</td>
<td>A patient is ejected from a health centre in Inca for addressing a general practitioner in Catalan.</td>
<td>The OCB reports a further case of linguistic aggression, this time in the Inca health centre. OCB <a href="http://dretsling.blogspot.com.es/search?updated-max=2010-07-13T09:20:00-07:00&amp;maxresults=3&amp;start=27&amp;by-date=false">http://dretsling.blogspot.com.es/search?updated-max=2010-07-13T09:20:00-07:00&amp;maxresults=3&amp;start=27&amp;by-date=false</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. 14/05/2010</td>
<td>Two young Majorcans, held by the Civil Guard at a roundabout in Porreres for speaking Catalan.</td>
<td>The OCB reports three cases of linguistic discrimination by the Civil Guard. OCB <a href="http://dretsling.blogspot.com.es/search?updated-max=2010-07-13T09:20:00-07:00&amp;maxresults=3&amp;start=27&amp;by-date=false">http://dretsling.blogspot.com.es/search?updated-max=2010-07-13T09:20:00-07:00&amp;maxresults=3&amp;start=27&amp;by-date=false</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. 29/06/2010</td>
<td>Hours of delay in giving medical care to an 80-year-old woman from Alcoi because the emergency workers did not understand Catalan</td>
<td>Judgement by the Ombudsman of the Valencian Community, Complaint case 105524 Subject:: Rights of citizens to choose their language Ombudsman of Valencia <a href="http://www.elsindic.com/Resoluciones/10301154.pdf">http://www.elsindic.com/Resoluciones/10301154.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. 29/10/2010</td>
<td>A driver, insulted and harassed by the Civil Guard at the Andorran border for speaking Catalan to her partner.</td>
<td>An ADIF worker refuses to attend an enquiry in Catalan regarding a disabled passenger. Valencianisme.com <a href="http://www.valencianisme.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=2839&amp;Itemid=48">http://www.valencianisme.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=2839&amp;Itemid=48</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. 22/01/2011</td>
<td>A citizen from Costera, ridiculed by the Civil Guard for having a Catalan name in a routine control in Ontinyent.</td>
<td>An ADIF worker refuses to attend an enquiry in Catalan regarding a disabled passenger. Valencianisme.com <a href="http://www.valencianisme.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=2839&amp;Itemid=48">http://www.valencianisme.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=2839&amp;Itemid=48</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. 28/01/2011</td>
<td>An official of the Northern Station of Valencia refused to attend a disabled user because the person's companion addressed him in Catalan.</td>
<td>The Supreme Court ignores an appeal against a ruling issued in Barcelona because it is worded in Catalan. El Punt Avui <a href="http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-">http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
30. 23/05/2011 A citizen from Cambrils, ridiculed and humiliated at a Spanish ID card office for wanting to speak Catalan.

Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in May 2011.

31. 06/01/2012 Health care denied to a citizen from Crevillent, who is ridiculed for speaking Catalan.


32. 18/01/2012 A language planning officer is sacked from the City Council of Dénia for reporting non-fulfilment of the linguistic legislation.


33. 21/01/2012 A driver from Empordà, held and threatened for addressing a Civil Guard in Catalan.


34. 28/01/2012 A civil guard assaults a lawyer at El Prat airport (Barcelona) for refusing to speak Spanish.

Source: A young man reports the Civil Guard for assaulting him at Barcelona airport for speaking Catalan. Diari Ara http://www.ara.cat/societat/Guardia_civil-catala-El_Prat-agressio-Mossoslengua_0_635336654.html

35. 07/02/2012 A couple from Reus is made to pay the City Council €180 to get married in Catalan after the Civil Registry obliged them to be wed in Spanish.


36. 25/02/2012 A young Majorcan is reported for disrespect of the authority for speaking Catalan to a member of the National Police Force during a demonstration.

Source: A national police force officer reports a young Majorcan for speaking to him in Catalan. Diari ARA http://www.ara.cat/politica/Palma-Urdangarin-catala-guardia_civil-denunciatInstituto_Noops_0_652734836.html

37. 05/05/2012 A citizen enters a Civil Guard Police Station in Inca to make a complaint and is reported for speaking Catalan.

Source: “I wanted to make a complaint and ended up on the wrong end of one” Jordi Alegre summoned to the courts in Inca for disobedience of authority. He tried to speak Catalan to the Civil Guard. Diari de Balears http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/volia-posar-denuncia-citen-com-denunciat.html

38. 30/05/2012 A resident of Alt Empordà, verbally and physically assaulted by a pair of Civil Guard officers and tried for refusing to speak Spanish.


39. 27/06/2012 A resident of l'Ametlla del Vallès, illegally held at Barcelona airport for speaking Catalan and English.

Source: Held by the National Police Force at El Prat airport for speaking only English or Catalan. Diari ARA http://www.ara.cat/societat/Retingut-Policia-Nacional-aeroport-Pratcatala_0_726527425.html

40. 07/07/2012 A young Majorcan spends the night in jail for not answering the Civil Guard
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>20/08/2012</td>
<td>A police officer at the National Police Force station in Vic refuses to attend to a citizen for speaking Catalan and threatens him.</td>
<td>The Civil Guard arrests an Arran militant for failing to answer in Spanish. Setmanari Directa <a href="http://www.setmanaridirecta.info/noticia/guardia-civil-arresta-un-militant-maulets-negarse-contestar-los-castella">http://www.setmanaridirecta.info/noticia/guardia-civil-arresta-un-militant-maulets-negarse-contestar-los-castella</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>07/09/2012</td>
<td>A traveller is held by the National Police Force at Barcelona airport for giving his identity card number in Catalan.</td>
<td>Held at the airport for speaking Catalan. Pro-Language Platform Blog <a href="http://blogspersonals.ara.cat/elcatalasuma/2012/09/20/retingut-a-laeroport-per-parlar-encatala/">http://blogspersonals.ara.cat/elcatalasuma/2012/09/20/retingut-a-laeroport-per-parlar-encatala/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>10/10/2012</td>
<td>A female magistrate from Cantabria takes the custody of a daughter away from a Catalan citizen alleging that he spoke to her in Catalan to separate her from her mother.</td>
<td>A female magistrate from Cantabria takes away a Member of the Catalan Autonomous Police Force's custody of his daughter for &quot;not teaching her Spanish&quot;. El Periòdico <a href="http://www.elperiodico.cat/ca/noticias/societat/jutge-cantabria-retira-custodia-filamossos-per-enenyar-li-castella-2222913">http://www.elperiodico.cat/ca/noticias/societat/jutge-cantabria-retira-custodia-filamossos-per-enenyar-li-castella-2222913</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>30/10/2012</td>
<td>The tax authorities refuse to process a widow's pension alleging that the death certificate was submitted in Catalan.</td>
<td>The Pro-language Platform denounces that the Ministry of Finance failed to process a widow's pension because the death certificate was in Catalan. Pro-Language Platform <a href="http://www.plataformallengua.cat/noticies/interior/1967">http://www.plataformallengua.cat/noticies/interior/1967</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>21/12/2012</td>
<td>A driver from Almenara loses his driving license and is held for three hours at a Civil Guard control for speaking Catalan.</td>
<td>&quot;I lost my driving license for speaking Catalan&quot;. Vilaweb <a href="http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4068300/20121223/mhan-retitat-carnet-conduir-parlarvalencia.html">http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4068300/20121223/mhan-retitat-carnet-conduir-parlarvalencia.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>31/12/2012</td>
<td>A resident of Vistabella del Maestrat, harassed and called ill-mannered by a doctor of the Hospital Jaume I of Castelló de la Plana for speaking Catalan.</td>
<td>A resident of Vistabella del Maestrat, harassed and called ill-mannered by a doctor of the Hospital Jaume I of Castelló de la Plana. The Pro-Language Platform gives legal counselling to the victim of a new case of linguistic discrimination in the Hospital Jaume I in Castellón de la Plana. Pro-Language Platform <a href="https://www.plataforma-lengua.cat/noticies/interior/2050">https://www.plataforma-lengua.cat/noticies/interior/2050</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>05/03/2013</td>
<td>The Valencian Government shuts down Canal 9, the last remaining Catalan television station in the Valencian Community, and denies the dismissed workers the right to be given notice in Catalan.</td>
<td>The Ombudsman asks RTVV why it only notified the dismissed workers about the redundancy scheme in Spanish. Ombudsman of the Valencian Community. <a href="http://www.elsindic.com/es/noticias/2013/03/15/el-sindic-de-greuges-pregunta-a-rtvvpore-informa-a-los-despedidos-por-el-ere-solo-en-castellano.html">http://www.elsindic.com/es/noticias/2013/03/15/el-sindic-de-greuges-pregunta-a-rtvvpore-informa-a-los-despedidos-por-el-ere-solo-en-castellano.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>23/03/2013</td>
<td>The flute player in the Obrint Pas group, arrested, threatened and assaulted for addressing two National Police Force officers in Catalan.</td>
<td>A policeman shouts at Miguel Gironès (Obrint Pas): “Speak to me in Spanish, for fuck's sake!” Vilaweb <a href="http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4109561/20130427/policia-miquel-girones-obrint-pas-emparles-espanyol-collons.html">http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4109561/20130427/policia-miquel-girones-obrint-pas-emparles-espanyol-collons.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>27/03/2013</td>
<td>A lecturer at the Jaume I University of Castelló devotes his time to demonstrating the uselessness of Catalan and calls a student who complained about his in Spanish.</td>
<td>A lecturer at the Jaume I University of Castelló devotes his time to demonstrating the uselessness of Catalan and calls a student who complained about his in Spanish. The Ombudsman asks RTVV why it only notified the dismissed workers about the redundancy scheme in Spanish. Ombudsman of the Valencian Community. <a href="http://www.elsindic.com/es/noticias/2013/03/15/el-sindic-de-greuges-pregunta-a-rtvvpore-informa-a-los-despedidos-por-el-ere-solo-en-castellano.html">http://www.elsindic.com/es/noticias/2013/03/15/el-sindic-de-greuges-pregunta-a-rtvvpore-informa-a-los-despedidos-por-el-ere-solo-en-castellano.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
teaching methods a "crusty".


50. 05/03/2013 A father and his son are insulted by two National Police Force officers on a regional train in Figueres for speaking Catalan and failing to heed their coercion: "in Spanish or not at all".

Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in April 2013. New case of linguistic aggression by the Spanish police in Figueres. El Punt Avui [http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/640659-denuncia-unspolicies-que-li-exigien-de-parlar-en-castella.html]

51. 12/07/2013 A citizen is accused of disturbing the peace by a local policeman from Campello for speaking Catalan and saying that his name was Lluís-Xavier.


52. 21/07/2013 The National Police Force refuses to allow a citizen from Palma to lodge a complaint in Catalan.


53. 22/07/2013 A citizen is arrested at a demonstration in Elche for speaking Catalan to a National Police Force officer.


54. 03/08/2013 A resident of Puçol, falsely accused in a routine control by the Civil Guard for speaking Catalan.

Source: A resident of Puçol, victim of a false Civil Guard report for speaking Catalan. La Veu del País Valencià [http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/3936/un-wei-de-pucol-victima-dunadenuncia-falsa-de-la-guardia-civil-per-parlar-en-valencia]

55. 04/08/2013 Two young people are beaten and humiliated by security guards and civil guards in the Arenal Sound festival in Borriana for speaking Catalan.


56. 22/08/2013 A Court in Vinaròs refuses to accept a complaint submitted in Catalan alleging that it is not an official language in the Autonomous Valencian Community.


57. 23/08/2013 An ex-councillor from Olleria is harassed by a National Police Force officer for addressing him in Catalan in Valencia.

Source: A former councillor of Olleria, victim of a new case of language discrimination by the
58. 13/09/2013 A National Police Force officer refuses to process a complaint by a citizen because the latter spoke to him in Catalan, ordering the citizen to "speak Spanish". 


59. 18/11/2013 A court in Barcelona denies a lawyer the right to conduct a legal action in Catalan. 


60. 05/12/2013 A grandfather and his grandson are ejected from a TALGO train by a conductor for speaking Catalan. 

Source: A Talgo train conductor ejects a grandfather and his grandson for being Catalan. El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/1-territori/-/700188-la-revisora-duntalgo-fa-baixar-un-avi-i-un-net-per-ser-catalans.html The conductor who had two passengers removed from the train because they were Catalan is now threatening to report them. Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4161210/20131211/revisora-baixar-dospassatgers-eren-catalans-amenaca-denunciar-los.html

61. 01/02/2014 A civil guard of the Assistant Office of the Spanish Government in Castelló obliges a member of the Regional Assembly of Valencia to speak Spanish. 


62. 21/03/2014 A female magistrate from Tenerife removes a child from the custody of her mother, who went to live in Ripollet, considering that Catalan could be a "problem" for the young girl. 

Source: A young girl is separated from her mother because Catalan is a hindrance. El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/-/726516-aparten-unanena-de-la-seva-mare-per-lescull-del-catala.html

63. 10/04/2014 A court sentence by a female magistrate in Granollers considers that the use of Catalan is a nuisance in legal proceedings even although she has accredited knowledge of the language as a merit. 


64. 26/04/2014 Officers from the police station in Xirivella refused to attend to a citizen because she spoke Catalan, they hung up the phone on her and she was made to wait for more than an hour until a translator arrived. 

Source: The Police Station of Xirivella refuses to attend to a woman in Catalan and calls in an interpreter. Levante http://www.levante-emv.com/comarcas/2014/04/26/comisaria-xirivellaniega-atender-mujer/1104512.html

65. 30/04/2014 A demonstrator was threatened with a €200 fine for speaking Catalan to National Police Force officers in Dénia.
66. 05/05/2014 The Board of Traffic of Osca ignores a petition in Catalan from a young person who was fined after speaking Catalan at a Civil Guard control in Ribagorça.


67. 21/05/2014 A teacher from Elx hired by the prison of Fontcalent was harassed and threatened by an official from the centre for addressing him in Catalan.

Source: El Tempir reports a new case of linguistic harassment in the prison of Fontcalent and gives its support to Maria Carme Viudes. El Tempir http://www.eltempir.cat/ca/2014/06/01/el-tempir-denuncia-nou-cas-de-vexaciolinguistica-a-la-preso-de-fontcalent-i-se-solidaritza-amb-m-carme-viudes/ A new case of linguistic xenophobia is reported in the prison of Fontcalent. La Veu del País Valencià http://www.laveupv.cat/noticia/9509/denuncien-un-noucas-de-xenofobia-linguistica-a-la-preso-de-fontcalent

68. 04/06/2014 A resident of Caldes de Malavella, threatened, insulted and held for speaking Catalan to two police officers in the station of Figueres.


69. 11/10/2014 A Barcelona court has an appeal in Catalan translated, claiming that one of the lawyers is from Madrid.

Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in November 2014.

70. 29/12/2014 An application for Spanish nationality by a Chinese citizen who speaks Catalan and barely any Spanish is rejected.


71. 02/02/2015 Linguistic discrimination in the Punt Verd of Emaya, in Palma.


72. 25/02/2015 A resident of Castelló de la Plana, held and harassed by officers of the
### National Police Force for talking Catalan.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Source/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73. 02/03/2015</td>
<td>A female magistrate in Figueres threatens a witness with suspending the proceedings if they speak Catalan.</td>
<td>Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in March 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74. 02/03/2015</td>
<td>A lawyer is harassed in a CIE (Foreigner Internment Centre) by the Spanish police for speaking Catalan.</td>
<td>Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in March 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77. 10/03/2015</td>
<td>National Police Force officers refuse to process two ID cards in Mollerussa because the supporting official documentation was in Catalan.</td>
<td>National Police Force officers refuse to process two ID card applications in Miralcamp because the application was in Catalan. Segre, 12 March 2015. <a href="http://www.segre.com/detall-dela-noticia/article/policies-nacionals-rebutgen-tramitar-dos-dni-de-miralcamp-alestar-en-catala-la-solicitut">http://www.segre.com/detall-dela-noticia/article/policies-nacionals-rebutgen-tramitar-dos-dni-de-miralcamp-alestar-en-catala-la-solicitut</a> The day before the news was published, the journalist contacted the Pro-Language Platform to address some legislative aspects and the possible existence of other cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78. 27/04/2015</td>
<td>An unemployed woman from Reus is harassed on a course subsidised by the SOC for asking for a course to be given in Catalan.</td>
<td>Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in April 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80. 11/06/2015</td>
<td>An application for nationality by a foreign citizen was rejected because part of the documentation had been submitted in Catalan.</td>
<td>Reported by the Department of Social and Family Welfare of the government of Catalonia to the Pro-Language Platform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81. 18/06/2015</td>
<td>Catalan leads the Higher Court of Justice of Aragon to withdraw the custody of a minor.</td>
<td>Information transmitted to the Pro-Language Platform. Catalan leads the Higher Court of Justice of Aragon to withdraw the custody of a minor. Pro-Language Platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21/06/2015</strong> A doctor threatens to report a patient in Sant Joan Despí for speaking to her in Catalan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in June 2015.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21/06/2015</strong> A doctor threatens to report a patient in Sant Joan Despí for speaking to her in Catalan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>05/08/2015</strong> The National Police Force arrests an Argentinian citizen who was speaking Catalan and for disobeying an order to speak Spanish, causing him to miss his flight.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>06/08/2015</strong> A paediatrician humiliates a patient twice for talking to him in Catalan in two towns near Castelló.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12/09/2015</strong> A National Police Force officer assaults a young man for speaking Catalan at la Jonquera.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: The Pro-Language Platform regards the new case of discrimination at la Jonquera as unacceptable <a href="https://www.plataforma-lengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2944/la-plataformaper-la-lengua-considera-intolerable-el-nou-cas-de-discriminacio-a-lajonquera">https://www.plataforma-lengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2944/la-plataformaper-la-lengua-considera-intolerable-el-nou-cas-de-discriminacio-a-lajonquera</a> The Pro-Language Platform detected the complaint through the social media.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23/12/2015</strong> A county spokesperson of Joves amb Compromís held by the police for speaking Catalan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1  Cases of linguistic discrimination by territory, March 2007 – December 2016

![Figure 1](image1)

Figure 2  Cases of linguistic discrimination by territory and by administration involved, March 2007 – December 2016

![Figure 2](image2)
**Figure 3** Cases of linguistic discrimination by territory and year, March 2007 – December 2016

**Figure 4** Cases of linguistic discrimination by the organisation or institution involved, March 2007 – December 2016
Conclusions

This year, 2016, the Spanish parliament voted on whether Catalan should be established as a requirement for working in the state administrations in Catalan-speaking territories. This hypothetical change would mean that the State is accepting and addressing a structural problem: a lack of qualifications of its personnel in Catalan-speaking lands that can generate situations of serious discrimination. Moreover, acknowledging Catalan as a requirement would make it possible to make further progress in the fulfilment of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, an international commitment taken on by Spain when it ratified this charter more than fifteen years ago.

Despite these compelling reasons, the proposals made by the Podem parliamentary group encountered the opposition of the PP, PSOE and Ciutadans, which together form a very vast majority in both legislative houses. In the upper house, the proposal was only seconded by 14% of the senators.

The data we present seem to indicate that in 2016, the cases of linguistic discrimination against Catalan speakers, far from diminishing, have actually increased. Nevertheless, this perceived increase is likely to have been caused by an increase in the number of reports and the media-focus on such discrimination, as well the fact that Catalan speakers are now more aware of their rights. Be that as it may, what is evident is that the Spanish State is by no means comparable to other advanced democracies in terms of respect for historic national and linguistic minorities, contrary to what the official line would have us believe.

This report therefore makes two main points. Firstly, it tells us that the central administration of the Spanish state continues to see the existence of Catalan as an abnormality and the citizens that speak it as a problem. Change is called for in a state that does not wish to acknowledge an undeniable reality: no other European state has a language of its own spoken by more than 10% of the population (nor by more than 5
million people) that is not an official language of the State and of the European Union. The situation of discrimination and subordination of Catalan is unheard of in Europe; and Spain, far from righting this situation, thwarts any minor significant improvement, as would have been the case of training court workers to understand and speak Catalan in the territories in which the latter is the autochthonous and official language.

In the latest elections in December 2016, none of the programmes of the 4 major state parties promoted the reform of the Constitution to make Catalan, Galician or Basque official state languages. We might even say that a greater number of members of Parliament were in favour of permitting a referendum for self-determination in Catalonia rather than changing the State’s linguistic model. Catalan speakers in Spain need states that respect their right to live in Catalan and do not constantly act against them. The Spanish state is therefore hostile to Catalan speakers, who would do well to look elsewhere to achieve the respect and the protection that is denied to them.

The other salient point of the report is that there are reasons to believe that Catalan speakers and the mass media in their linguistic domain realise that the treatment meted out by the Spanish administration to national minorities is neither normal nor acceptable. This second point provides some room for optimism: an injustice can only be put right when the citizens are aware of its existence.