

# Linguistic discrimination of Catalan speakers in Spain

25 NEW CASES OF SERIOUS LANGUAGE DISCRIMINATION  
SUFFERED BY CATALAN-SPEAKING CITIZENS AT THE HANDS  
OF THE SPANISH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN 2018.



PLATA  
FORMA  
PER LA  
LLENGUA

L'ONG del català

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## Introduction

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Discrimination against Catalan speakers is a structural problem in the Spanish State and the ideology that supports it: Spanish nationalism. Over the centuries, the Spanish State and the very idea of Spain have been built exclusively around Castile, its culture, its tradition, its history, its world view, its law, its symbols and, particularly, its language. Since the annexation of the various states of the Crown of Aragon to the Crown of Castile between 1707 and 1716, and the shaping of a single State that would take the name of Spain, the Catalan language has been sidelined from official usage and prohibited in some areas, its use has been disincentivised and its speakers have been treated as if they were second-class citizens.

Even now, the Spanish Constitution imposes a language arrangement that can be defined as supremacist. This term defines systems and ideologies that reserve more rights for the members of a particular group and treat the members of other groups as second-class citizens defined in cultural, religious, racial, linguistic and other terms. In general, supremacist systems identify with the privileged group and its interests, features, and symbols and try to dilute subordinate groups or make them invisible. In this kind of system, legislation also imposes unequal relations between the different groups, establishing deference from the secondary groups towards the principal one.

The Spanish Constitution of 1978 establishes that Spanish (Spanish) is the official language of the whole State and all its authorities, regardless of whether it is the traditional native language of the territories in question or the number of speakers it has in them. At the same time, the Spanish Constitution limits the possibility of making Catalan official where it is the native language. That means Spanish-speaking citizens have the right to be understood and attended in their own language anywhere in the State, even in places where their language has never been spoken or where a different language is spoken in normal, family use. At the same time, Catalan speakers have language rights only in their traditional territories and then only if this is established by specific legislation.

At the same time, the Spanish Constitution imposes on all citizens of the State the duty to know Spanish while – according to the Spanish Constitutional Court in a decision against the Statute of Catalonia – prohibiting an equivalent duty being imposed for Catalan, even where it is the native language. In practice, this means that citizens whose family language is Catalan (or Basque, or Galician) have the duty to understand citizens whose family language is Spanish, but those citizens do not have any equivalent duty to adapt.

The supremacist order that the Spanish Constitution imposes on society has important effects on people's rights. It is unthinkable that civil servants will not understand citizens who address them in Spanish, but it is very common for Catalan-speaking citizens to find difficulties and obstacles when they express themselves in their own language to the authorities and public servants. State civil servants are almost all exempt from knowing any language other than Spanish. Spanish nationalism usually justifies these inequalities by appealing to concepts such as “freedom of movement” and “equality” between all citizens. In fact, assisted by this anti-egalitarian constitutional and legal system, some groups have a duty to adapt to another, and one language community has the right to ignore the others, even in a context where public services are being provided.

In practice, the Spanish Constitution and the country's legislation are a translation into law of a distribution of power and an ideology that predate them. This is shown in the structures of the State and it influences the selection of public sector workers and their behaviour. Every year, this situation brings with it many cases of discrimination against Catalan speakers by the authorities, which go as far as breaking the law. Abuses occur even in areas where it has been possible to achieve equal language rights, up to a point, over the last few decades. The fact that the language system is not a level playing field and that anti-egalitarian State nationalism has widespread support among civil servants incentivises xenophobic behaviour and makes it difficult to supervise, monitor and eradicate it properly. In other words, there is a feeling of impunity.

As a reaction to the situation, *Plataforma per la Llengua* has been drawing up annual reports on the language discrimination suffered by Catalan speakers at the hands of the Spanish State public authorities since 2015. *Plataforma* considers that one way of achieving change is to raise the awareness of Catalan speakers of their natural and recognised rights and the ways they can enforce them.

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Por favor, en castellano.»

Many Catalan speakers have internalised situations of diglossia, convergence towards Spanish and submission to public servants who often impose their will in an arbitrary way (this is particularly clear in the case of the Spanish police, viewed by many Catalan speakers with suspicion and fear). Cases of explicit discrimination are therefore only the tip of the iceberg of a bigger language exclusion problem where the most important phenomenon is the inhibition and self-censorship of Catalan speakers. Explicit knowledge of cases of discrimination, if accompanied by information and a consideration of the rights Catalan speakers have and the ways they can demand them, should raise their awareness and empower them rather than inhibiting them still further.

The report corresponding to 2018 includes 25 cases of serious language discrimination occurring in a public service provision context. They have either been published in the media or reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua* by those affected. The figures are similar to those for previous years: in 2017, *Plataforma per la Llengua* detected 26 cases of language discrimination and in 2016 there were 22. As in previous years, the cases detected during 2018 have occurred in various areas of public administration, in the different Catalan-speaking territories and at different administrative levels. However, as is also common, the majority of the discrimination cases involve central government authorities. The police forces, courts and health centres have been the main contexts for them.

## Compilation of cases

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### 1 (136). “Well, if you’re from Ibiza... But if you were Catalan you’d still be fucking Francisco Javier to me”

**Date:** 06/01/2018

**Authority:** Local

**Body:** Municipal police

**Place:** Ibiza Town (Ibiza)

**Region:** Les Balears

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**Victim:** Francesc Xavier M. T.

**Description of the case:** On the night of January 5, before the Epiphany public holiday, a young man from Ibiza called Francesc Xavier was having a party in the street with a group of friends. As drinking alcohol in the street is not allowed, some municipal police officers asked them to identify themselves. When returning their identity cards, they called the young man “Francisco Javier” (the equivalent of his name in Spanish) and he did not realise they were referring to him. They repeated his name in Spanish twice without receiving an answer and, in the end, they approached him directly. When he told them he was called Francesc Xavier, an officer snapped: “As far as I’m concerned, you’re called fucking Francisco Javier!” Then the policeman looked at the identity card and asked the boy: “Where are you from?”. Francesc Xavier answered that he was from Ibiza and the policeman decided to let him off: “Well, if you’re from Ibiza... But if you were Catalan you’d still be fucking Francisco Javier to me.”

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

One of the most extreme obsessions of Spanish nationalism is to Spanishise the names of places and even individuals from the country’s non-Spanish language communities. Altering proper names is one of the oldest acculturation strategies for assimilating populations beneath the dominant groups and classes. It is very serious that a public servant, particularly one belonging to an armed force, should harass and abuse a citizen from a minority national and language community with this supremacist attitude and humiliate him for forming part of it.

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## 2 (137). A Renfe security guard at Arc de Triomf station belittles a passenger for speaking to him in Catalan

**Date:** 10/01/2018

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Region:** Catalonia

**Body:** Renfe

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**Victim:** Cèsar Porta

**Description of the case:** Cèsar Porta was at the Arc de Triomf railway station in Barcelona. He needed information for his journey and went to a Renfe train company security guard to ask him for help. When the worker heard him speaking in Catalan, he shouted “Don’t talk to me like that!”, clearly referring to the language. Porta had to go without getting his information. Annoyed, he later asked the Catalan police force whether there was anything he could do. They recommended that he make an official complaint against Renfe.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

This case is interesting because it shows that many public sector workers – even those with little hierarchical authority, such as a Renfe security guard – feel there is such a degree of impunity that they can harass Catalan-speaking citizens and deny them their rights, even those recognised by law, such as being attended when speaking Catalan. In Spain, anyone with a tiny fragment of power can become a petty dictator when dealing with Catalan-speaking citizens, without fearing consequences of any kind.

It should be noted that this feeling of impunity may have increased since the campaign of hatred and othering against everything Catalan undertaken by the official and officious Spanish authorities and media after the independence referendum in Catalonia on 1 October 2017. If the impunity was palpable before, since the xenophobic campaign and the normalisation of hatred towards Catalonia many Spanish nationalists have lost any inhibitions restraining their intolerant attitudes towards Catalan speakers.

## 3 (138). A Catalan Health Service worker refuses attention in Catalan to a child with psychological problems and lies, saying that knowledge of Catalan is not a requirement

**Date:** 22/01/2018

**Place:** Reus (Baix Camp)

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Region:** Catalonia

**Body:** Catalan Health Service

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**Victim:** Núria Navàs i el seu fill de 8 anys

**Description of the case:** Núria Navàs accompanied her son Bernat on visit to the psychologist at the Children’s and Young People’s Mental Health Centre in Reus belonging to the Catalan Health Service. The facility is publicly owned although the service is run by the Pere Mata Foundation. It was not the first time Bernat had been to the centre, but the professional in charge of his case was new, and as soon as she introduced herself she told them she did not understand Catalan. In addition, when the surprised mother asked her if it was not a requirement for her to know Catalan, the young woman incorrectly replied that it was not, saying that, in fact, most of the professionals at the centre were from elsewhere and did not understand Catalan either.

In fact, the first point of article 11 of the Language Policy Act 1/1998 establishes that “staff working for the public authorities, corporations and institutions of Catalonia must have an adequate and sufficient spoken and written knowledge of both official languages so that they can carry out the duties associated with their post”. Point 3 of this article establishes that the staff selection processes for the Catalan government and other Catalan authorities, including contract staff, should include accreditation of their knowledge of Catalan.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

The impunity with which Catalan speakers’ rights are infringed by the absolute normalisation of diglossia and language subordination means some civil servants dare to refuse to provide attention to citizens in Catalan even in cases where they are obliged to provide it by law. Many Catalan government public servants either do not know that there are rules protecting language rights approved by the Parliament of Catalonia or even consciously break them. The situation also shows the lack of capacity or diligence of the Government of Catalonia in ensuring that the rights of Catalan-speaking citizens are not violated.

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Por favor, en castellano.»

#### 4 (139). A woman keeps an illegally-built mansion standing despite an unfavourable court decision of October 2016 because the demolition order is written in Catalan

**Date:** 22/01/2018

**Place:** Sant Josep (Ibiza)

**Authority:** Central government

**Region:** Balearic Islands

**Body:** Regional Office of the Spanish Ministry of Justice on the Balearic Islands

**Victim:** Sant Josep Municipal Council; Catalan-speaking citizens

**Description of the case:** On 22 January, the newspaper *El Mundo* published that a woman from Ibiza was avoiding demolishing a large part of a large house she had built illegally, and from which she made money renting out rooms, because the demolition order had been drawn up in Catalan. On 11 October 2016, Administrative Disputes Court number 3 of Palma ordered Paquita Marsans, known for providing accommodation for powerful people like the former Prime Minister José María Aznar and his Partido Popular colleague Esperanza Aguirre, to demolish the illegal works. Marsans alleged legal defencelessness because she claimed she did not understand Catalan. In these circumstances, on 28 October, the court asked the Regional Office of the Ministry of Justice on the Balearic Islands for a translation of the order, in accordance with the established procedure. In January 2018, the Spanish government body, clearly neglecting its duties, had not yet provided the translation. Meanwhile, Marsans was still making from the illegal luxury house, which she was offering on the internet for rent at 60,000 euros a week.

**Source:** *El Mundo*

<http://www.elmundo.es/baleares/2018/01/22/5a64ddb7ca4741592f8b466c.html>

The Spanish State's absurd and unjust language regulations which oblige everyone to know Spanish but relegate Catalan to an optional, second-class language give those who claim not to know Catalan an excuse for committing crimes and disobeying the orders and decisions of the authorities. In fact, this excuse is not legally sustainable – the official status of Catalan gives the order full legal effect under article 7 of the Language Policy Act 1986 – but those on the wrong side of the law also have the cooperation of administrative and judicial authorities which fraudulently deprive Catalan of effectiveness. If to this is added neglect by a central government always controlled by parties that are against language equality, abnormal situations like the one described can arise. In this case, there another a factor going beyond language and indicating the corruption of the State: the highly suspicious inaction of the Spanish government in failing to resolve a case which, while nothing is done, benefits a criminal with very powerful contacts among the political classes.

#### 5 (140). A court clerk illegally requires a lawyer to translate his response into Spanish

**Date:** 30/01/2018

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Authority:** Central government

**Region:** Catalonia

**Body:** Court of First Instance no. 6

**Victim:** Carles Franco, advocat

**Description of the case:** Article 142.3 of the Civil Proceedings Act 1/2000 recognises the right of lawyers to use Catalan in judicial actions in Catalonia. Article 142.4 also establishes that, if one party requests a Spanish translation of judicial actions drawn up in Catalan, the judicial bodies will automatically provide one. Despite the clarity of these rules, a Barcelona court clerk, María Rosario Martínez, took the liberty of requiring the lawyer Carles Franco to translate into Spanish a response he had written in Catalan, giving him ten days to do so, because the other party had alleged legal defencelessness.

When Franco protested that this was perversion of justice by the public servant, Martínez backed down, but claimed the requirement had been made “appealing to cooperation and goodwill between the parties and to avoid delays in the proceedings”. However, Martínez – regardless of the reasons for the requirement – could not demand a translation from the lawyer, nor was it true that she had appealed at any time to goodwill or a spirit of cooperation. Instead, in her requirement she had simply ordered Franco to translate the document.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

Once again, we have a civil servant enjoying impunity when breaching the legal regulations protecting Catalan speakers. In this case, the fact that the lawyer remained firm in upholding his right to use Catalan forced the civil servant who was apparently perverting the course of justice to back down, probably also because she realised she was dealing with a legal professional who was good at his job. The case also shows that many public sector workers are not only aware of their position of power over Catalan speakers, they exploit it, even to the point of committing offences, without fear of any kind of repercussion, because they are protected by a State structure deeply associated with official Spanish nationalism. One of its doctrines is the superiority of the Spanish language and the subordination of the country's other languages.

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### 6 (141). A body offering training and help with jobseeking responsible to Valencia City Council recommends that a citizen should not draw up her CV in Valencian because “this isn’t Catalonia”

**Date:** 30/01/2018  
**Authority:** Local  
**Body:** València Activa

**Place:** València (Horta)  
**Region:** Valencian region

**Victim:** Clara Berenguer

**Description of the case:** Clara Berenguer, a Valencian citizen, went to València Activa, a Valencia City Council body providing employment training and help with jobseeking, to get help and advice. The first worker who attended her was surprised by the fact that her CV was written in Valencian (the name given to Catalan in the Valencian region) and the second municipal employee suggested to her directly that next time she should bring it in Spanish as “this isn’t Catalonia”.

The attitude of the public employees, apart from being essentially discriminatory, has no basis outside the prejudices of Spanish nationalism and encourages the marginalisation of Catalan. They insinuated that the language had already been marginalised, creating a vicious circle.

**Source:** Twitter <https://twitter.com/ClaraBerev/status/958307813276692481>

It is common for many people, including public employees, to assume that the language situation penalising Catalan is normal. Many of these people, without necessarily intending any harm, recommend Catalan speakers not to use their language in some areas so it does not damage their chances. In this sense, these people help maintain a vicious circle censoring Catalan and making it invisible while normalising the catalanophobic attitudes of some sectors which take advantage of this to limit the rights of speakers of Catalan, even where it is the native language.

### 7 (142). A court refuses to translate a judge’s order during a trial into Catalan, although the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages obliges it to do so

**Date:** 08/02/2018  
**Authority:** Central government  
**Body:** Criminal Court no. 3

**Place:** Vilanova i la Geltrú (Garraf)  
**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Miquel Nadal, advocat

**Description of the case:** In February, Criminal Court no. 3 of Vilanova i la Geltrú refused to translate a judge’s order made during a trial into Catalan even though lawyer Miquel Nadal Borràs made an entirely valid request. In refusing Nadal’s request, the court clerk, Luis Simón Morales Revuelto, argued that neither the Judicial Authority Act nor the Civil Proceedings Act nor the Catalan Language Policy Act obliged him to obtain the translation.

However, Article 9 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Language establishes that the parties undertake “to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages” and to “to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned”. It should be remembered that Spain ratified the European Charter in full in 2001 and that international treaties are laws ranking higher than Spanish laws. In this sense, it can be stated that the court’s refusal to translate the judge’s order in the proceedings into Catalan is against the law.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

The Spanish legal system once again shows it is absolutely arbitrary and discretionary when it comes to applying the law, at least where the language rights of minority language communities are at stake. In this case, the Vilanova court makes a partial interpretation of the rules during a trial to deny a party the right to have the judge’s order in its own language. Ultimately, with a discretionary selection of the rules, the Spanish legal system is refusing language rights which Spain has recognised on paper. It is not surprising that confidence in judicial professionalism, impartiality, neutrality and independence are being continually questioned.

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Por favor, en castellano.»

### 8 (143). A Renfe customer service worker tells off a user at Sants station for talking to him in Catalan and snaps: “Speak to me in Spanish!”

**Date:** 11/02/2018

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Body:** Renfe

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Cinta Arasa

**Description of the case:** Cinta Arasa was at the railway station in the Sants district of Barcelona, intending to travel to Girona on the high-speed train. When she spoke to an employee of the public train company Renfe, responsible to the Government of Catalonia, to ask him to tell her which were the high-speed train platforms, the employee shouted at her to speak to him in Spanish. Arasa did not want to continue interacting with him and went away, but she contacted *Plataforma per la Llengua* to express her displeasure and incredulity that a worker for a public service, funded by the taxpayer, not only did not know the language of the country but also rudely demanded that a citizen should not use it.

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

As with Cèsar Porta in January, this is a case of language discrimination by an employee of the public company Renfe against a user. It must also be borne in mind that workers in stations are responsible to the Government of Catalonia (the State transferred the running of stations to the Autonomous Community authorities) and that, at the time of this aggressions, the Government of Catalonia was occupied by the Spanish government after Mariano Rajoy invoked article 155 of the Spanish Constitution to take over the Catalan administration. (This was, in fact, probably a fraudulent invocation of the article, which does not explicitly mention the possibility of taking the measures carried out by Rajoy). The fact that there should be two such similar pieces of discrimination in such a short time reinforces the conviction that the feeling of impunity for xenophobic, anti-Catalan actions and refusal of rights to Catalan speakers increased with the arbitrary behaviour and messages of hatred from the State institutions and media, associated with the independence referendum of October 2017.

### 9 (144). A judge illegally orders a lawyer to translate a response into Spanish

**Date:** 14/02/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Court of First Instance no. 11

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Frederic Munné, advocat

**Description of the case:** The case of Carles Franco described on another form is no exception. Just a month after that case, another court illegally required another lawyer, Frederic Munné, to translate into Spanish a document he had provided in a case in which he represented one of the parties. The court clerk involved in this possible case of perversion of justice, Juan Sanabra Gafarot, made the requirement to Munné after the lawyer for the company Liberbank, S.A. claimed legal defencelessness as he did not understand Catalan.

However, the Civil Proceedings Act 1/2000 establishes that in these cases it should be the judicial bodies that should automatically make the translation because the parties and the lawyers have the right to use the official language of the Autonomous Community where the judicial actions are being carried out. After Munné presented an appeal for reconsideration, Sanabra backed down and acknowledged that the lawyer had the right to present the documents in Catalan without the need for a translation.

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

This case is exactly the same as Carles Franco's: a judicial public servant enjoys absolute impunity when ignoring the few articles of the Civil Proceedings Act that protect Catalan speakers. If Frederic Munné had not been aware of his language rights and had not presented an appeal for reconsideration he would have had to give up his right to use Catalan. This situation means that many citizens, and many lawyers, give up their right to use their own language without even trying, to avoid encountering possible problems.

## 10 (145). A lawyer asks to receive court notifications in Catalan and is refused because “he only wants to delay proceedings”

**Date:** Febrer de 2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Court of First Instance no. 6

**Place:** Vilanova i la Geltrú (Garraf)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Maudili Prieto, lawyer

**Description of the case:** Article 9 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Language establishes that the parties undertake to “to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language, if necessary through the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned”. Despite the clarity of the text and the fact that Spain ratified the Charter almost 20 years ago, the Spanish judicial system continues to be one of the countries most in breach of it.

In a case that occurred in Vilanova i la Geltrú in February 2018, the lawyer Maudili Prieto asked the court to send him notifications in Catalan. The court ignored this request and Prieto presented complaints to various organisations, including the Government of Catalonia and the Catalan Ombudsman. When these administrations became involved in the dispute, court sources stated that they had ignored the request because they understood that Prieto was only trying to “delay the process”. Finally, they blamed the irregularity on an “error” by a public servant. Finally, the court undertook to get a language worker to translate all communications to be sent to the lawyer into Catalan.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

As often occurs, the Spanish legal authorities act with total impunity in an arbitrary and selective fashion when it comes to dealing with the legally acknowledged rights of Catalan speakers. Although the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is very explicit concerning the obligation on States to use regional languages when the parties so request, and the Spanish State has incorporated this treaty into its legal system, the legal obligations deriving from it have very little effect because of the attitude of judges and employees of the justice system. The fact that a court can refuse a citizen an acknowledged legal right, making judgements that he is trying to delay proceedings is highly revealing and calls into question not only the respect Spanish justice has for the language rights of Catalan speakers in particular, but also the very notions of legal security and judicial guarantees.

## 11 (146). Yet another judge illegally orders a lawyer to translate his documents into Spanish

**Date:** 09/03/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Court of First Instance no. 44

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Carles Franco, lawyer

**Description of the case:** In the third month of the year came the third case of a court ordering a lawyer, in an irregular fashion, not to use Catalan in his answers. This time, the lawyer concerned was, once again, Carles Franco, but the court of first instance and the court clerk acting irregularly were different.

The problem in this case began when the claimant, an important private clinic in Barcelona, asked the court if it could receive the case documents in Spanish, without any other specification. At this point, the court clerk, Sara Vilamunt, took matters into her own hands and ordered the defendant’s lawyer to translate his responses into Spanish. As we have seen on other factsheets, such an order is automatically null and void because article 142 of the Civil Proceedings Act establishes that the parties and their representatives have the right to use the official languages of the autonomous communities in their territory, and that any translations that have to be made are the court’s responsibility. It should be mentioned that article 142 also establishes that the automatic translations into Spanish will be made only when a party claims legal defencelessness. It seems that in this case that did not occur.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

The regularity with which illegal translation orders are made by the judicial authorities calls into question the professionalism and good faith of the judicial system, as well as denoting a worrying lack of sensitivity and respect for the rights of Catalan speakers.

This case shows even further that the treatment received by the different language communities in Spain is utterly asymmetrical: when one party demands the documents in Spanish, even though it does so without mentioning the only reason that should have any effect (legal defencelessness), the court is quick to require the other party to give up its right to use Catalan, without considering whether the judicial authorities should be the ones adapting to the needs of citizens and not the other way round.

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The situation is even more ridiculous when it is considered that the party demanding the documents in Spanish is not an ordinary citizen who does not know Catalan – citizens are entitled not to know Catalan, after all, although the Spanish Constitution obliges them to know Spanish, in another demonstration of discriminatory treatment – but rather a large company which, to make matters worse, is based in Catalonia.

La situació és encara més ridícula quan es té en compte que la part que demana la documentació en castellà no és un ciutadà normal i corrent que desconeix el català –els ciutadans poden no saber català, tot i que la constitució espanyola els obliga a saber castellà, una altra mostra de tracte discriminatori–, sinó una gran empresa que, a més escarn, radica a Catalunya.

**12 (147). Spanish police abuse their authority with a mother and son wearing yellow ribbons in support of the political prisoners and require them to speak to each other in Spanish**

**Date:** 12/03/2018

**Place:** Tenerife (Spain)

**Authority:** Central government

**Region:** Spain

**Body:** Civil Guard

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**Victim:** Jordi Sànchez Marquès i la seva mare

**Description of the case:** Jordi Sànchez Marquès and his mother landed at Tenerife Airport having flown there from Barcelona for a holiday. When Civil Guard officers who were at the airport saw they were wearing yellow ribbons in support of the Catalan political prisoners, they stopped them, took them into a room and searched their suitcases. During the search, the officers heard the mother and son speaking in Catalan and required them to use Spanish when talking among themselves. The victims of this abuse refused to comply and they also refused to take off their ribbons. It initially seemed that the policemen wanted to continue harassing the two Catalan-speaking citizens, but they stopped when Sànchez phoned his lawyer.

**Source:** Case published by the victims on the Facebook social network.

<https://www.facebook.com/jordi.sanchezmarques/posts/10215045516716844>

This is yet another case where public servants abuse their authority to harass and humiliate Catalan-speaking citizens inspired by the Spanish nationalism that dominates the State authorities – particularly the paramilitary body in question – and encouraged by the climate of impunity of an equally nationalist judicial system offering few guarantees.

We should repeat that Catalan speakers are often victims of varying degrees of aggression by public servants, who go unpunished. This situation encourages self-censorship and self-repression among speakers of the language who are less aware of the rights they have or less capacity to uphold them and helps to consolidate the Spanish supremacist attitudes among public servants. It is also worth repeating as many times as necessary that this kind of aggression by public servants acting as petty dictators is particularly serious when it comes from armed forces because they have great capacity for intimidation.

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### 13 (148). The Civil Guard rebuke a group of friends because they are speaking Catalan among themselves in the queue for a concert and try to stop them going in

**Date:** 30/04/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Civil Guard

**Place:** Villarrobledo (Spain)

**Region:** Spain

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**Victim:** Jordi Sempere and a group of friends

**Description of the case:** A group of friends from Vall d'Albaida were at the entrance to Viña Rock, a rock music concert held periodically in the Spanish municipality of Villarrobledo. The young people, who had gone to hear the group Gandia La Raíz, were talking among themselves in Catalan while they waited for a friend. When he heard them, a Civil Guard officer who was checking access to the concert spoke to them aggressively and rebuked them for speaking Catalan. The police officer even cut the bracelet giving one of the young people access to the event to prevent him going in. Although the young people managed to speak to workers from the event and explain the situation, and they let the young man in without a bracelet, all of them missed almost all of La Raíz's performance because of the public servant's gratuitous aggression.

**Source:** Case explained by the victims on the social network Twitter [https://twitter.com/jaume\\_monfort/status/991262154585190400?s=19](https://twitter.com/jaume_monfort/status/991262154585190400?s=19), published on *Vilaweb Ontinyent*

<https://ontinyent.vilaweb.cat/noticies/expulsat-del-vina-rock-per-parlar-valencia/>

As in the previous case, we once again have xenophobic action against Catalan speakers by an officer of the Civil Guard – a paramilitary police force. This armed public servant also showed himself incapable of tolerating citizens talking among themselves in Catalan and he gratuitously attacked them for this reason. Although these cases are sometimes reported and even make an impact in the media, the most worrying thing once again is that political representatives and State civil service bodies show no intention of pursuing this conduct or eradicating anti-Catalan xenophobia from the public sector.

### 14 (149). The Speaker of the Senate, Pío García Escudero, humiliates a senator for speaking in Catalan and refuses to accept her being sworn in if she does not use Spanish

**Date:** 08/05/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Senate (Spanish Parliament)

**Place:** Madrid (Spain)

**Region:** Spain

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**Victim:** La senadora Mirella Cortés and the people she represents

**Description of the case:** In May, the new senators appointed by the autonomous communities were inducted. Among them was Senator Mirella Cortés, of the Esquerra Republicana party, appointed by the Parliament of Catalonia. When she was sworn in so she could occupy her seat, Cortés decided to use Catalan, her mother tongue. The speaker of the chamber, Pío García Escudero, a member of the right-wing Partido Popular, interrupted her as many as four times to order her to do it in Spanish, while other members of the same party shouted at Cortés and mocked her. In the fourth interruption, García Escudero went as far as to say that if Cortés did not take her oath in Spanish he could not “consider that she had accepted the Constitution” – words that won her an ovation from the PP senators. Finally, the Catalan representative decided to give in and make the pledge in Spanish.

**Source:** *Vilaweb* <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/el-president-del-senat-espanyol-intenta-humiliar-una-senadora-derc-obligant-la-a-prometre-en-castella/>

The case described is extremely serious and it is very useful for clearly showing the regime of language supremacism at the basis of the Spanish institutions, which explains many of the cases of discrimination described in this report.

«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»

The fact that the speaker of an institution representing citizens has no qualms about showing an intolerant and authoritarian attitude towards Catalan speakers at a public event and in front of cameras, and that the representatives of the biggest political party in Spain should accompany this action with shouts against the use of the Catalan language, are clear proof that there is a climate of absolute impunity. The behaviour of Pío García Escudero and the PP representatives clearly gives the message that citizens can only be represented in Spanish and that Catalan speakers have fewer rights and are obliged to show deference and submission towards speakers of Spanish, the only language that is useful for dealing with political issues.

This situation of legal inferiority and inequality of rights cannot be justified without a supremacist view of society, considering that Catalan is also a native language in Spanish territory.

### **15 (150). A doctor does not understand a patient who speaks to her in Catalan and the Balearic Islands Health Service humiliates him, telling him the woman “was very kind” to speak to him in Spanish**

**Date:** 28/05/2018  
(originally 2017)

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Body:** IB-Salut

**Place:** Palma (Majorca)

**Region:** Balearic Islands

**Victim:** Xavier Frau

**Description of the case:** In 2017, Xavier Frau reported that a doctor from his health centre did not understand him because he was speaking to her in Catalan. Frau sent a complaint to the Balearic Islands Health Service, IB-Salut, stating that she had breached his language rights. It must be borne in mind that article 4 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Balearic Islands of 2007 establishes that citizens of the islands have the right to use Catalan, that they cannot be discriminated against for this reason, and that the islands' institutions are obliged to ensure its normal use. Article 14 protects the rights of citizens to “deal with the Autonomous Community administration in either of the two official languages and to receive a response in the language they use”. It must also be remembered that in 1986 the Language Normalisation Act established the right of citizens to communicate in Catalan with the regional government orally and in writing.

In May 2018, Xavier Frau received a response from the public health service. In the letter, the deputy medical director of the health centre, Maite Corredor, and the managing director of primary care, Miquel Caldentey, ignored the fact that Frau had reported that he was not understood and countered that the doctor had been “very kind to speak to you in Spanish”. Although the letter from Corredor and Caldentey reviewed the language legislation, and it was clear that Frau had the right to use and be attended in Catalan without having to change language, the bureaucrats reached the conclusion that the service he received had been impeccable because the law did not oblige public servants to speak Catalan. All they needed to do was to speak “one of the official languages”.

**Source:** *Diari de Balears* <https://dbalears.cat/balears/2018/06/04/315957/queixan-entenent-catala-salut-contesta-professional-ser-molt-amable-dirigir-voste-castella.html>

The deliberate obscuring of citizens' rights and authoritarian treatment by public servants have no place in a modern, liberal and democratic state. However, this is precisely what Catalan speakers often receive from the Spanish administration, both the central government (most of the time) and the regional government (less often, but on more than merely a residual basis). Although Balearic Island law does not establish a direct obligation for public servants to speak Catalan to Catalan-speaking users (which is bad enough in itself), it is clear that, based on the right of citizens to speak Catalan, the administration has a duty not to refuse them service. The administration cannot, therefore, force citizens to change language simply because a particular employee does not understand Catalan. In these cases, it is the administration's duty to ensure the citizen receives the service from another professional who does understand. The fact that certain senior public servants obscure the sense of the legal regulations, and even take the liberty of humiliating the victim of discrimination when faced with a complaint about a serious breach of recognised rights, shows the point to which Catalan-speaking citizens are subject to the arbitrary attitudes of those they have to deal with when they want to exercise their language rights.

## 16 (151). The Spanish police refuse to deal with a phone call from a citizen who has to renew her identity document because she speaks in Catalan

**Date:** 31/05/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Spanish police

**Place:** Camprodon (Ripollès)

**Region:** Catalonia

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**Victim:** E. D. V.

**Description of the case:** At the end of May, E.D.V., a resident of Sant Joan de les Abadesses, phoned the Spanish police station in the neighbouring town of Camprodon. E. D. V. had to renew her official identity document and decided to phone the police station because the website for making an appointment to do it was not working. After trying a couple of times, a man answered. When he heard she was speaking to him in Catalan she snapped: “I don’t understand” in Spanish. E.D.V. did not want to give up her right to express herself in Catalan and repeated what she had said more slowly, but the man repeated that he didn’t understand. After several more attempts, the civil servant told her: “You’re blocking my line. I’m going to hang up.” Then he hung up on her.

E.D.V. knew she had the right to speak Catalan and that police officers and public servants working for the police had the obligation to ensure citizens who expressed themselves in Catalan were dealt with (if necessary by finding a colleague who understood), so she decided to phone back. When the civil servant once again said he did not understand, she told him she was recording the conversation. Strangely, he did understand that, because he told her, in Spanish, “Well, I’m going to record your number right now.” However, when E.D.V. pointed out the inconsistency of him understanding certain things and not others, the public servant quickly returned to his refrain of “I don’t understand you.” Then he told her she was blocking the line and hung up again.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

The events set out on this form show that the regulations to protect language rights have no effect whatsoever if attitudes contrary to them dominate among the people who are supposed to guarantee those rights. In this sense, the internal regulations of the Spanish police force which establish that if an officer spoken to in Catalan does not understand the language he or she must look for a colleague who does, are worth nothing as soon as officers are aware that catalanophobic attitudes are present at all levels of the force and will therefore not be investigated or punished.

## 17 (152). A nurse from Son Espases harasses a patient and throws her out because she speaks to her in Catalan and “we’re in Spain”

**Date:** 12/07/2018

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Body:** Hospital  
Son Espases (IB-Salut)

**Place:** Palma (Majorca)

**Region:** Balearic Islands

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**Victim:** Cristina F.

**Description of the case:** Cristina, a young Majorcan, went to the Son Espases public hospital for a traumatology appointment. Because of a computer error, the machine issuing appointment slips did not detect that she had an appointment so Cristina had to go to the office to ask them to give her one. To her surprise, far from helping her, the nurse she found there rebuked her for speaking in Catalan, saying: “Tell me in Spanish, we’re in Spain.” Cristina, very surprised, answered that the woman had at least the obligation to understand her, because she was a regional government public employee. The nurse did not like that answer, throwing the patient out and telling her to go to a desk. When Cristina went there to ask for a slip and the nurse identified her, the woman appeared again, repeated that “we’re in Spain” and wrote Cristina’s name on a sheet of paper. Curiously, the sheet was the back of one of the appointment slips the nurse had not wanted to issue her with because Cristina was speaking in Catalan and “we’re in Spain”.

**Source:** *Diario de Mallorca* <https://www.diariodemallorca.es/mallorca/2018/07/12/son-espases-paciente-hablaba-catalan/1330434.html>

The expression “we’re in Spain” is a phrase very commonly used by linguistic aggressors, and specifically by public employees denying Catalan speakers their rights. This occurs because, unlike other multilingual countries, the Spanish State has historically identified with only one of its language communities – the Spanishs – and the official State nationalism has always been based on denying the rights (when it is not denying the very existence) of the subordinate language groups. The word “Spain” therefore has a very specific history quickly associated with a supremacist language regime and distribution of power between language communities. Phrases such as “we’re in Belgium” or “we’re in Canada” would not have similar connotations in a similar context. In fact, they probably would not make much sense because the words “Belgium” and “Canada” do not encapsulate meanings that evoke a system of language inequality. However, the term “Spain” does.

### 18 (153). A taxi driver who has been living in Catalonia for 16 years throws a woman out of his vehicle because “they’re not obliged to know Catalan, only Spanish”

**Date:** 12/07/2018

**Authority:** Local

**Body:** Metropolitan Taxi Institute

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Maria Dolors Vidal

**Description of the case:** Maria Dolors Vidal stopped a taxi in Carrer de Felip II in Barcelona. Once inside, Vidal told the taxi driver (licence 7906, registration number 4701KDH) that she wanted to go to Rambla del Poblenou. The taxi driver made a gesture as if searching for the address with Google Maps and then suddenly told the woman not to speak to him in Catalan. Vidal, surprised by the demand and by the fact that it did not seem as if he had not understood, asked him whether he understood her. The taxi driver just said “Catalan, no”, adding, “Speak to me in Spanish. Just Spanish or English. Do you speak English?” Vidal complained to the man for making the demand when offering a public service, but he insisted: “Catalan’s not an obligation for us. I’ve lived here 16 years and we’re not obliged. Only Spanish.” After a little more argument, the taxi driver stopped the vehicle and ordered the woman to get out.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

Article 26 of the Taxi Act, passed by the Parliament of Catalonia in 2003, establishes that “users of the taxi service have the right to express themselves in Catalan in communications with drivers”. The Metropolitan Taxi Regulations also protect this right and establish the circumstances when a taxi driver does not agree to the user using Catalan in the indications necessary to provide the service as a punishable offence.

With such clear rules it is very revealing and worrying that there could be a case of language discrimination like the one we have described, particularly taking into account that the driver had more than 16 years’ experience in Catalonia. Cases like this one show that the rules alone do not protect users’ language rights effectively and only determined, active supervision can stop the abuses and change mentalities in the long term (including those of Catalan speakers, who often exercise self-censorship and switch language without even being asked because they know about these intolerant attitudes, the impunity with which they occur and the obstacles they might encounter).

### 19 (154). Two Spanish police officers rebuke, harass and refuse attention to a 69-year-old Catalan speaker because she speaks to them in Catalan

**Date:** 24/08/2018

**Authority:** Central

**Body:** Spanish National Police Force

**Place:** Barcelona (Barcelonès)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Cristina Brullet

**Description of the case:** Cristina Brullet, a 69-year-old citizen, went to a Spanish police station in Carrer de Balmes in Barcelona to renew her passport. When she went in, she asked an officer behind a desk for information. Brullet was speaking Catalan, her mother tongue, which the public servant apparently did not like, because he was short and bad-tempered in reply. The police officer then became irate and demanded that she speak to him in Spanish because he “didn’t understand” and “we’re in Spain and Catalonia is Spain”. This demand is absolutely illegal because article 54.11 of the Basic Public Employees Statute Act establishes that public servants must offer “attention to citizens in the language they request provided it is official in the territory” and the internal Spanish police protocols in Catalonia establish that officers who do not understand Catalan must look for a colleague who speaks it when they are dealing with citizens who express themselves in the language.

When Cristina Brullet carried on speaking Catalan, stating that it was also an official language, the public servant ordered her to identify herself because she had been disrespectful to him. After identifying herself, Brullet asked the police officer, a public servant, to show her his identification number, but he refused, despite the fact that Royal Decree 1484/1987 obliges police officers to identify themselves when a citizen so requests. He repeated that the woman had been disrespectful because she was speaking Catalan. Faced with the harassing attitude of the officer, Brullet asked to speak to his superior. The officer ignored her, but, after she insisted, another police officer told her where she had to go to find a more senior officer.

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Por favor, en castellano.»**

When Brullet was able to speak to the “superior”, who turned out to be the administrative manager, she also appeared not to understand. However, she did understand that the citizen was asking her to make the aggressor officer identify himself because she explicitly refused – an entirely illegal attitude. Then, Brullet asked for a complaint form, the woman gave her one and she filled it in. Finally, the 69-year-old citizen returned to the first officer’s table to tell him that, if he identified himself, as he was obliged to do, she would not present the complaint form. At this point, the man became angry and, showing her some handcuffs, threatened to arrest her. He desisted, however, when some witnesses protested about his attitude.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

Although the behaviour of the two police officers described in this case is clearly against the law and constitutes xenophobic aggression, it is not in any way unusual. Considering that the official State nationalism is an ideology broadly shared among State public servants, and particularly the officers of the State police force, aggression against members of national and language minorities often goes unpunished.

The behaviour of the superior of the officer who first attacked the Catalan-speaking citizen is very revealing: not only does she cover up for him, she also probably shares the same Spanish supremacist ideology as her subordinate and participates in the same illegal conduct: she refuses the citizen attention and will not identify the first aggressor. It must be borne in mind that the obligation on police officers to identify themselves when requested to do so by a citizen is basic for preventing and being able to correct abuses and arbitrary behaviour by individuals who are armed, enjoying the status of a public authority and a presumption of truthfulness which citizens do not have.

It should also be pointed out that in this case, on top of the violation of the citizen’s right to enjoy public service (because the officer said he did not understand but did not look for another agent competent in Catalan), and the police officer’s failure to comply with his duty to identify himself, the expressions, manners and hot-headed behaviour of the public servants in question also point to an offence of discrimination as set out in the Spanish Criminal Code. Article 511 of these regulations punishes with fines, prison and disqualification from office public servants who refuse service to citizens because of “their ideology, religion or beliefs, the fact that they belong to an ethnic group or race, their national origin, gender, sexual orientation, family situation, illness or disability”. The case described is specifically discrimination for “belonging to an ethnic group”. The Spanish Royal Academy of the Language (the Criminal Code was drawn up in Spanish) describes an ethnia (ethnic group) as “a human community defined by racial, linguistic or cultural affinities, etc.”

**20 (155). A doctor tells a pregnant woman and her husband that they have no right to receive medical attention if they speak Valencian**

**Date:** 28/08/2018

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Body:** Juan Llorens Integrated Health Centre (Valencian Health Agency)

**Place:** Valencia (Horta)

**Region:** Valencian region

**Victim:** A couple from Montcada

**Description of the case:** A couple from Montcada (L’Horta) went to the Juan Llorens Integrated Health Centre for a pregnancy check-up and scan of the mother and baby. When they went into the consulting room, the doctor, Adriana Paredes Ríos, asked them in Spanish about the woman’s condition and she replied, in Catalan, that she had had an umbilical hernia. The doctor then snapped that unless they spoke Spanish she would not attend them because she “didn’t understand them”. The husband, annoyed at the demands of someone who was a public servant, repeated his wife’s reply slowly. He told her it was not difficult to understand and that they had the right to communicate with the administration in Valencian (Catalan). At that point, Paredes told them that if they wanted attention they had to speak Spanish and she asked them to make an appointment with another doctor if they did not agree.

Faced with the doctor’s blackmail and the risk of losing the appointment, the couple ended up giving in and switched to the language imposed by the public servant. When the appointment, which had continued in a palpably tense atmosphere, was over, the couple asked Paredes to give them a copy of the scan photo so they could keep it. But the woman refused their request and took the opportunity to humiliate them again: “I’m not a photographer, I’m a doctor.” Not content with the abusive attitude she had shown, Paredes wrote on the appointment slip she gave the couple that “the patient refused to speak Spanish” and that “they behaved arrogantly”.

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Por favor, en castellano.»**

It must be said that the public servant's demands for them to speak Spanish were clearly illegal: article 9 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Valencian Autonomous Community of 2006 establishes that "Valencian citizens will have the right to approach the administration of the Valencian Autonomous Community in either of its two official languages and to receive a response in the same language". Also, article 2 of the Use and Teaching of Valencian Act 4/1983 says that citizens have the right to use Valencian "orally and in writing in both their private relationships and in relationships with public bodies". Article 10 of the same Act says that "citizens have the right to address and conduct any relationship with the regional government and with local and other public bodies in Valencian".

**Source:** *Vilaweb* <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/denuncien-un-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-a-lambulatori-de-montcada/>

The case of this Valencian couple once again shows the difficulties and intolerant attitudes Catalan speakers can encounter in their everyday lives. Many people, influenced by Spanish nationalism and the dogma of "the common language" take advantage of any fragment of power to deny their Catalan-speaking fellow citizens the right to express themselves in that language. They show rather colonialist attitude which means that the speakers of one language – Spanish – can move through the whole territory of the State without learning the local language of each place and without adapting to the local people, while speakers of Catalan, Basque and Galician, have, at most, a few rights applying only in their own territory, always limited by the convenience of the speakers of the "superior" language.

The fact that many public employees – and, in fact, the civil servants and administrative structure itself – reproduce these anti-egalitarian and supremacist attitudes is particularly serious and has damaging effects on the rights and self-esteem of Catalan speakers. It is particularly serious and worrying that these public servants dare to behave in this way despite the fact that these attitudes are explicitly prohibited by regional government laws.

**21 (156). The Civil Guard refuse to make a sworn statement on events related to language discrimination because "if we don't both understand you we can't take the statement"**

**Date:** 16/09/2018  
**Authority:** Central government  
**Body:** Civil Guard

**Place:** Lluçmajor (Majorca)  
**Region:** Balearic Islands

**Victim:** Antoni B. S.

**Description of the case:** Antoni, a young Majorcan architect, had been sitting on the terrace of the Colón Cafe in Lluçmajor. He tried to communicate with the waitress in Catalan several times, but she told him she did not understand Catalan, although she spoke six languages. Finally, he gave in and spoke Spanish. However, he wanted to present a complaint. When he did so, the managers refused to give him a complaint form and they rebuked him several times, saying things like "You radical Catalanist, we ought to burn you". They even took a photo of him. At this point, faced with the refusal of the management to give him a complaint form, Antoni phoned the local police. The officers, however, wanted nothing to do with the matter and referred him to the Civil Guard.

The young man waited outside the cafe until two Civil Guard officers arrived: a man (badge Z-14430-P) and a woman (badge N-14748-P). As soon as she introduced herself, the woman told him "I don't understand you" and "They don't ask me to know any Catalan". The other officer did understand and took notes of the case but refused to take a statement because "if we don't both understand you we can't take the statement". They invited him to go to the police barracks to make the official complaint.

When the Civil Guard officers were in the cafe talking to the management, a man came past and started insulting Antoni: "Radical! Catalan nationalist!" Antoni told him: "I don't know you at all." The man reacted by kicking him in the knee. Antoni called the officers and they came out, but they refused to identify the aggressor or corroborate the facts with witnesses. Finally, the Civil Guard told him he would have to ask the local police for the complaint form. Antoni called them again and this time they sent two officers.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

While the local police officers who had just arrived (badges A-270010 and A-270083) were talking to the victim, another man who had been following the altercation started talking on the telephone: “There’s an extreme Catalan nationalist here. Come on!” Intimidated, Antoni asked the municipal police officers to identify the man, but they did not want to do so. “Can’t you hear what he’s saying?” he asked them. “No, we can’t hear him,” they replied. A little later, the municipal police officers finally demanded the complaint form from the cafe so Antoni could fill it in, but they did not allow him to do it in a discreet place away from the cafe managers who had insulted him.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua. Also in *Diari de Balears*: <https://dbalears.cat/cronica-negra/2018/09/16/319465/denuncia-nova-discriminacio-linguistica-cafe-colon-guardia-civil-diu-entiendo.html>

The Civil Guard refused to help Antoni obtain the complaint form, refused to take a statement on the events because of the language the victim spoke (although one of the agents understood him) and also refused to identify an individual who had attacked the young man. All three factors appear to indicate that the agents had a hostile attitude towards the young man which, if we consider the history of the paramilitary force they belong to, would be related to the language he was speaking.

**22 (157). A doctor who discriminated against a pregnant woman and her partner because they spoke Catalan also refused attention to a patient and wrote down that she did this because she “speaks Valencian”**

**Date:** 16/10/2018

**Authority:** Government of Catalonia

**Body:** Torrent Health Centre  
(Valencian Health Agency)

**Place:** Torrent (Horta)

**Region:** Valencian region

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**Victim:** Núria Cadenes

**Description of the case:** In October, Adriana Paredes Ríos, a gynaecologist who provides services at various Valencian public health centres, was once again involved in a case of language discrimination, this time at Torrent, less than two months after she harassed a pregnant woman and her partner because they were speaking Valencian (Catalan) and she “didn’t understand them” and “they had the obligation to speak Spanish” if they wanted care (see the corresponding factsheet in this report).

In this new case, the repeat offender Paredes refused care to a patient – Núria Cadenes – because she was speaking Catalan. She once again used the argument that she “did not understand Valencian” and that it was the patient who had to adapt, and not her. When Núria Cadenes went to an appointment with the gynaecologist and walked in saying “Good morning!” in Catalan, Paredes cut her short, replying “In Spanish”. The doctor added that it was in Cadenes’s best interest that she should make herself understood, and she did not understand Catalan. After Cadenes pointed out that she had the right to speak Catalan, Paredes said she considered the appointment to be over and printed out a form on which she asked the hospital to give the patient an appointment with someone else. On it, in the “background” section, she wrote that “the patient speaks Valencian”.

**Source:** *Diari La Veu* <https://www.diarilaveu.com/noticia/85061/nuria-cadenes-denuncia-no-ser-atesa-centre-de-salut-per-parlar-valencia>; *Vilaweb* <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/la-metgessa-la-incompetencia-lanamnesi/>

«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»

In this new case of discrimination, Paredes slightly altered her approach, switching from illegality (in the previous case she had demanded that patients speak Spanish because “they were obliged to”) to a grey area between illegality and discrimination allowed by the anti-egalitarian Spanish legislation. Now Paredes was trying to convince the patient to give up the right to speak Catalan in her own interests before refusing her the service.

This change in argument is useful, however, for showing the degree of difference with which the Spanish administration treats its native language communities and the way it disempowers members of the communities not enjoying privilege. All citizens and all public servants have the obligation, imposed by the Spanish Constitution, to know only one of the country’s languages – Spanish – regardless of their family language or the traditional language of the area where they live. By contrast, Catalan is not compulsory, not even for many of the public servants who work in areas where the traditional language is Catalan and where there are large numbers of citizens for whom it is their mother tongue.

This inequality represents the fact that members of just one of the Spanish State’s language communities has a guaranteed right to be understood in their own language, automatically and without obstacles, by all State administrations. Meanwhile, speakers of other languages have these rights severely limited by the privilege enjoyed by the majority of public servants, paid for with their taxes, not to know these other languages.

## 23 (158). A justice of the peace is forced to sign his swearing-in document in Spanish

**Date:** 05/11/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Granollers court coordinator’s office

**Place:** Granollers (Vallès Oriental)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Jordi Sedó i Solé

**Description of the case:** On 5 November, Jordi Sedó was sworn in as a justice of the peace at Ametlla del Vallès. On the same day, he went to the Granollers court coordinator’s office to pick up his credentials. There, Sedó had to sign a document in which he promised to respect and ensure respect for the Spanish Constitution, but he was offered it in Spanish only. He asked for it in Catalan, but he was not given it in that language because, he was told, no translation of it exists. Although Sedó told them that the legislation included his right to have the document in Catalan and that the authorities were bound to have a translation of it in that language, he was offered no solution.

It should be noted that Sedó was right, as article 5 of Royal Decree 1465/1999, of 17 September, establishing the criteria of institutional image and governing the production of the documents and printed material of the General Administration of the State, establishes that the standard forms in administrative offices in territories with more than one official language should be available in bilingual versions in Spanish and the respective “co-official languages” (or, if they are very complex, in monolingual versions in each of the co-official languages).

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

Spain presents itself to the world and also to its own population as if it were a single-nation, monolingual State. Except for the language community identified with the State and granted privileges, speakers of other languages are relegated and made invisible, and this is the case with Catalan.

The general regulatory framework imposing a requirement to know the privileged language – Spanish – on the speakers of other languages feeds the perception that the language rights of minority communities are not, in fact, rights but rather personal preferences which the authorities have no real obligation to respect. That means when they do respect them they are making a concession. In this context, it is easy to explain why the few regulations protecting the language rights of Catalan speakers are often ignored, which may or may not be due to lack of knowledge.

## 24 (159). A man is refused admission to a Spanish police station in Terrassa because he speaks Catalan

**Date:** 06/11/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Spanish State Police Force

**Place:** Terrassa (Vallès Occidental)

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Jaume Arbós

**Description of the case:** Jaume Arbós went to the Spanish police station in his town, Terrassa, to obtain a criminal record certificate he needed. At the door, an officer stopped Arbós, asking “Where are you going, sir?”. He answered in Catalan: “I’m here to apply for a criminal record certificate.” The policeman told him he did not understand. Jaume repeated what he had said more slowly. Then, instead of going to look for someone who understood Catalan, as he was bound to do under the police rules deriving from the obligation included in the Basic Public Employees’ Statute Act guaranteeing service to citizens speaking Catalan, snapped that he should speak to him in Spanish because “I’m Andalusian”. Jaume carried on speaking Catalan because he was aware that he had the right to speak it, but the policeman still did not attend to him and did not let him in. Finally, he left without having been able to carry out the procedure.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

The case of Jaume Arbós illustrates various facets of language discrimination against Catalan speakers. Firstly, there is a structural problem: a public servant in traditionally Catalan-speaking territory has no obligation to understand citizens who speaks that language. This creates an obstacle to Catalan speakers enjoying their language rights which, by contrast, is not tolerated for Spanish speakers (all public servants, like all citizens, have the obligation to know the Spanish language).

Secondly, attention is refused to person because he speaks Catalan: the police show no solidarity of any kind and do not try to make things easier for citizens. This refusal of attention is also clearly illegal, which indicates that the public servant either does not know the legislation protecting language rights or does know it but believes he can afford to disobey it. In both cases, the situation indicates that there is little culture of language rights among public servants and little respect for Catalan-speaking citizens. All this is particularly serious because the abuse is perpetrated by a member of an armed force of the State who has coercive capacity that can intimidate citizens and inhibit the exercise of language rights still further.

## 25 (160). A man is refused a cup of coffee on a train because he has ordered it in Catalan and, when he makes a formal complaint, he is told staff have no obligation to understand the language

**Date:** 02/12/2018

**Authority:** Central government

**Body:** Renfe

**Place:** Barcelona-Valencia route

**Region:** Catalonia

**Victim:** Robert Comet Gàlvez

**Description of the case:** A Valencian citizen was travelling by train between Barcelona and Valencia on the State-owned railway service provided by the company Renfe. During the journey the man wanted to use the bar service and asked a waiter for “a small coffee, please” in Catalan, accompanying the request with gestures so there could be no doubt about what he was ordering. The worker did not bring him the coffee and when another waiter passed he ordered again, this time in English: “A cup of black coffee, please”. This time he was served the drink. When the citizen arrived at Valencia station, he made a complaint. Instead of helping, the public service workers there simply said that they had no obligation to know Catalan.

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

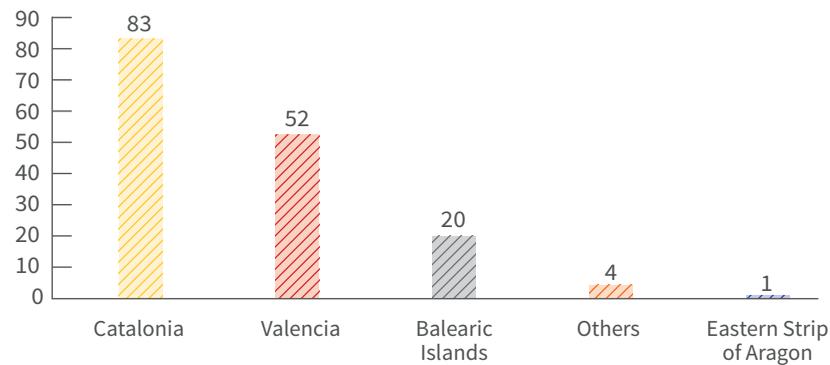
This case shows, firstly, the clear subordination of Catalan speakers and their rights to the convenience of the authorities (there is no obligation for public service workers to understand Catalan but Catalan speakers do have the duty to know Spanish). Secondly, it makes clear that the rights of speakers of foreign languages are considered superior to those of Catalan speakers.

Concerning this second situation, it is unthinkable that an English speaker, or the speaker of any other language, would not have received attention simply because the worker he spoke to did not understand the language (the worker would have found someone else who understood the service user). It is even more unthinkable that a customer would present a complaint for this reason and, instead of receiving an apology, would be told that workers had “no obligation to understand”.

## Graphs (2007 - 2018)

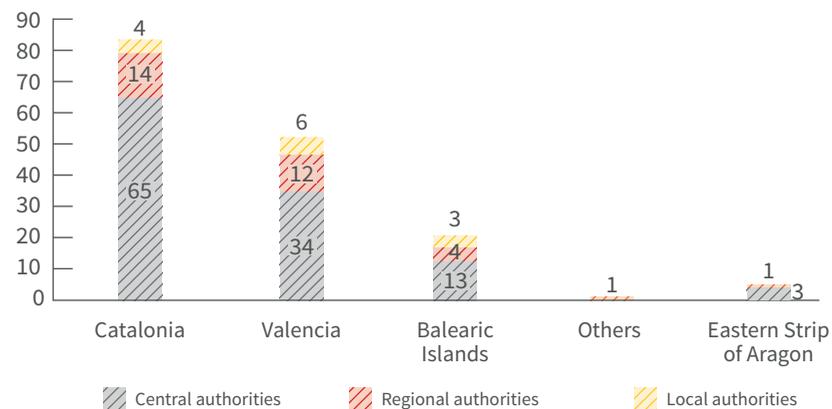
**Figure 1.**

Cases of language discrimination by territory (March 2007-December 2018)



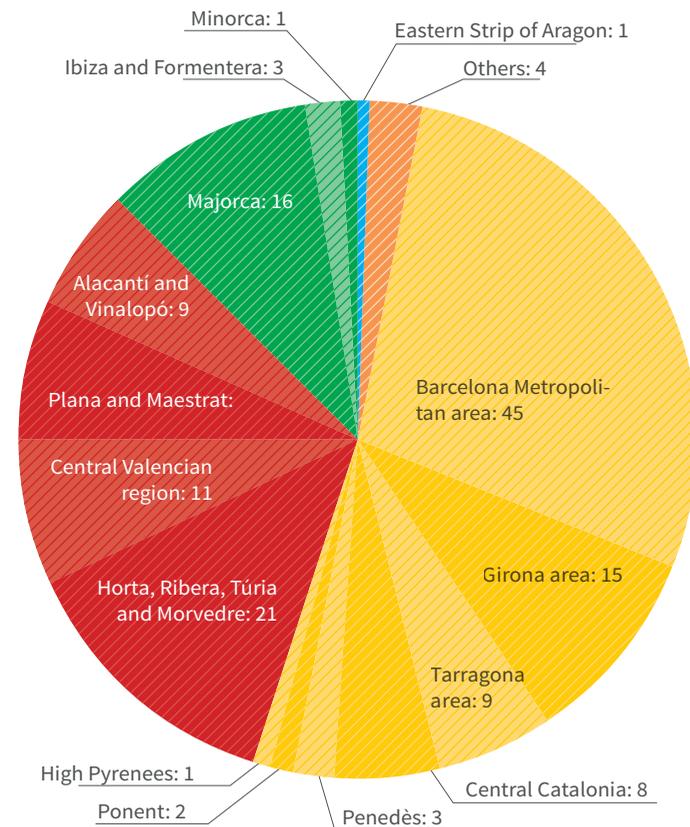
**Figure 2.**

Cases of language discrimination by territory (March 2007-December 2018)



**Figure 3.**

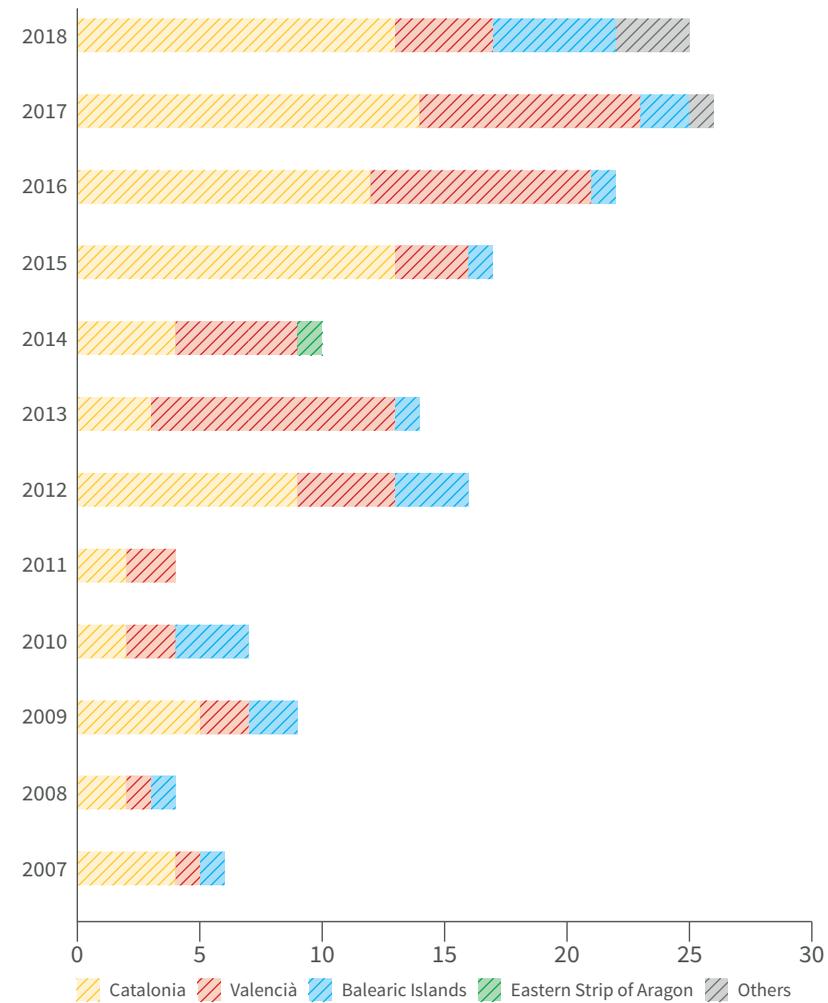
Cases of language discrimination detected by *Plataforma per la Llengua* by groups of counties (March 2007 - December 2018)



«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»

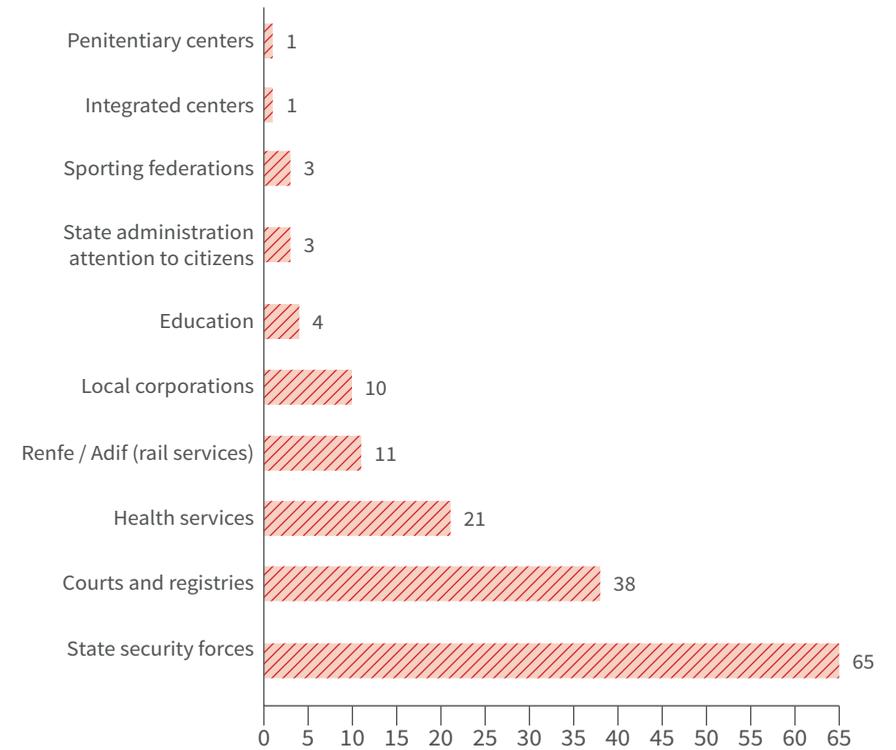
**Figure 4.**

Cases of language discrimination detected by *Plataforma per la Llengua* by territory and year (March 2007 - December 2018)



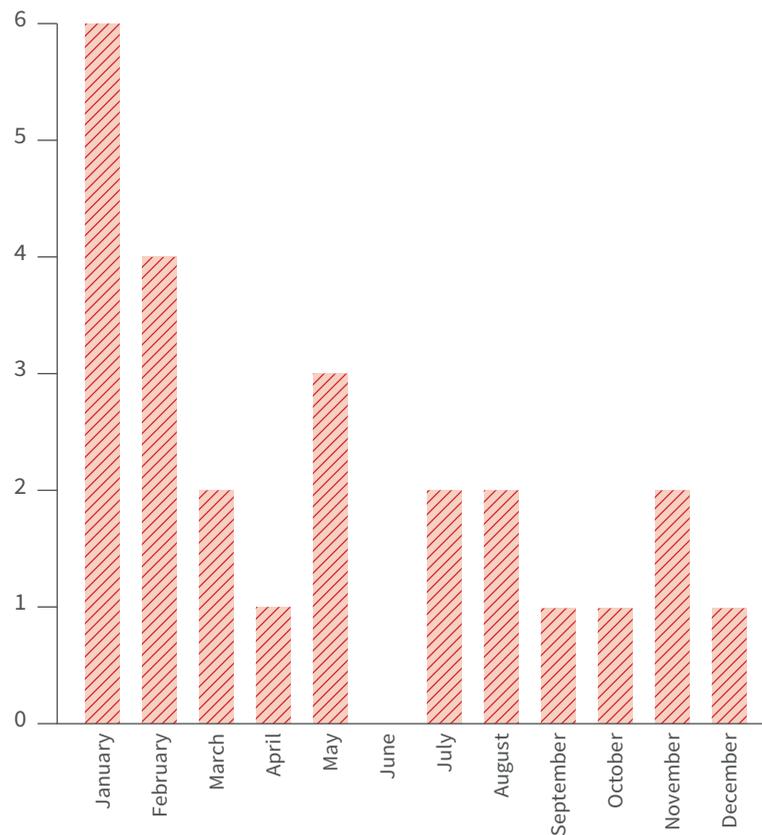
**Figure 5.**

Cases of language discrimination by body or institution involved (March 2007-December 2018)



**Figure 6.**

Case of language discrimination detected during 2018 by month



## Conclusions

2018 has not brought an improvement in the recognition and protection of the rights of Catalan speakers compared to 2017. Nor was it any different from 2016 or 2015. Intolerant and Catalanophobic attitudes are a structural evil of the Spanish administration and the varying degrees of discrimination against Catalan speakers have never been fought with conviction or specific measures.

In general, discrimination and harassment of Catalan speakers is relativised as “exceptional” or “isolated cases” or is directly denied. It is also common for the media and the political and social agents of Spanish nationalism to reverse the blame, the responsibility and the roles and treat the discriminating public servants as victims and the citizens discriminated against as intolerant. The combination of the relativisation of cases of discrimination and the pernicious discourse criminalising the exercise of language rights helps to consolidate the vicious circle even further. Firstly, this set of arguments covers and promotes intolerant attitudes among the privileged language community and the public servants forming part of it and, secondly, reinforces inhibitions and language-switching among the minority community.

This situation, where the authorities lack diligence and fail to monitor language discrimination, has not historically depended on the political colour of the Spanish government. It has both when the PP (right-wing Popular Party) and the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Party) are in power. In 2018, there was a change of Spanish government when a motion of no-confidence from Pedro Sánchez's PSOE brought down Mariano Rajoy's PP government. However, language discrimination continued to be encountered in the following months (a total of nine cases).

Because of this structural impasse, at the end of 2018 *Plataforma per la Llengua* began a campaign to fight language discrimination against Catalan speakers and to demand that the various governments take firm, specific measures to stamp it out. The campaign, called «*Prou de catalanofòbia*» (That's Enough Catalanophobia) presented an emergency plan with different legislative proposals to correct the anti-egalitarian regulations that encourage discrimination and to establish appropriate control and supervision mechanisms for the real practices of public employees in terms of language. At the same time, “*Prou de catalanofòbia*” also had a clearly communicative side, trying to strengthen the language awareness of Catalan speakers and educate citizens about their language rights. The aim is to increase pressure on the public authorities.

These annual language discrimination reports have the same aim of raising awareness, as well as offering instruction and encouraging activism, as do the reports on new legislation which we publish every year (see the 2017 report [here](#)). In fact, the two series of reports should be seen as complementary: one set studies spontaneously occurring everyday inequalities and discrimination and the other presents regulatory and official inequalities and discrimination. In both cases, the origin of the unfairness lies in the official State ideology, influenced by nationalism and supremacism, which considers that the Spanish State belongs to just one of the traditional language communities making it up, whose members have more recognised rights.

In this sense, our reports and our campaigns show the nature of the Spanish State and demonstrate that it is not similar to the multilingual Western democracies that respect native language communities, such as Belgium, Switzerland and Canada. No other European state does not treat a native language of similar dimensions to those of Catalan (five million native speakers or 10% of the total population) as an official language and does not fully recognise the language rights of its speakers.

Apart from raising awareness and encouraging activism, reports of discrimination – and also impositional legislation – have direct, practical usefulness. In 2001, the Spanish State ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), an international treaty promoted by the Council of Europe that obliges the Spanish State to protect and ensure respect for a series of language rights for Catalan speakers. A committee of experts supervising compliance with the ECRML over a three-year period meets and takes advice from bodies on the ground and then draws up reports about the level to which States have adapted to the treaty. *Plataforma per la Llengua* works actively with the committee of experts and the information included in the reports can be reflected in the subsequent observations and recommendations by the committee to Spain. In fact, in 2018 a meeting was held in which *Plataforma per la Llengua* shared with the committee some of the cases of language discrimination set out publicly for the first time in this report and also some of the cases during the previous two years included in the corresponding reports.

## Annex. Previous cases (2007–2017)

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### 1. 16/03/2007. Badalona Civil Registry judge forces couple to celebrate their marriage in Spanish, despite having demonstrated knowledge of Catalan

**Source:** “Couple files complaint with High Court of Justice in Catalonia after Badalona judge forces them to have their wedding in Spanish” [www.vilaweb.cat/ep/ultima-hora/2316923/20070316/parella-denuncia-davant-tsjc-jutgebadalona-forcar-casament-castella.html](http://www.vilaweb.cat/ep/ultima-hora/2316923/20070316/parella-denuncia-davant-tsjc-jutgebadalona-forcar-casament-castella.html), *Vilaweb*.

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### 2. 16/03/2007. Doctor fired from municipal sports centre in El Prat de Llobregat for speaking to patients in Catalan.

**Source:** “Doctor fired for speaking to clients in Catalan” <http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-1793/actualitat/acomiaden-una-metgesserqu%e8-es-dirigia-als-clients-en-catal%e0-20711.html>, *El Punt Avui Avui* [link no longer active]; “Readmission of doctor accused of not wanting to speak Spanish in El Prat de Llobregat Town Council” [http://www.elprat.cat/noticies/detallNoticia/\\_ZCZRBU1Qu4chuvn2OwPJatNgFe417t9YWGwAYmaltqgxYDFv-6USRg](http://www.elprat.cat/noticies/detallNoticia/_ZCZRBU1Qu4chuvn2OwPJatNgFe417t9YWGwAYmaltqgxYDFv-6USRg), *El Punt Avui* [link no longer active].

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### 3. 17/04/2007. Former Socialist senator forced to speak Spanish amid taunts by security guards.

**Source:** “AVE train guards in Lleida force passengers to speak in Spanish” <http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-1812/actualitat/vigilants-de-lave-de-lleidaobliguen-a-parlar-en-castell%e0-21976.html>, *E-Noticies* [link no longer active].

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### 4. 16/08/2007. Moroccan translator insulted for speaking Catalan to Civil Guard in Palma (Mallorca) and ordered to pay a fine for insults.

**Source:** “Proceedings to be opened against Palma officers who harassed Saïda Saddouki” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/2533496/20070831/obriran-expedient-agents-palma-vexarsaida-saddouki-parlar-catala.html>, *Vilaweb*; “Judge sentences Saïda for serious insults” <https://dbalears.cat/politica/2010/11/16/244162/la-jutgessa-condemna-saida-per-injuries-greus.html>, *Diari de Balears*.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**5. 20/08/2007. Ondara (Marina Alta) councillor fined, harassed and branded a “yokel” by two Civil Guard officers for speaking in Valencian.**

**Source:** “Complaint filed against Civil Guard for language discrimination” <http://www.radiopego.com/denuncien-la-guardia-civil-per-discriminacio-linguistica/>, Ràdio Pego.

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**6. 03/12/2007. Hèctor López Bofill and wife harassed and discriminated against for speaking Catalan at Plaça Catalunya Renfe train station.**

**Source:** “Renfe demands that López Bofill speak ‘in Spanish’” <http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-2006/actualitat/renfe-exigeix-parlar-encastellano-a-l%F3pez-bofill-32317.html>, *E-Notícies* [link no longer active].

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**7. 07/01/2008. Un policia vexa un ciutadà i el fa callar per haver parlat català a la comissaria de Sant Feliu de Llobregat.**

**Source:** «No me da la gana hablar en catalán, estamos en España» <http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-2033/actualitat/no-me-da-la-gana-hablar-encatal%e1n-estamos-en-espa%0f1a-33423.html>, *E-Notícies* [Link no longer active].

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**8. 28/02/2008. Young man stands trial for disobeying authority in Maó for speaking to national police in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Young man to stand trial tomorrow in Maó accused of disobeying authority after speaking to national police in Catalan” <http://www.europapress.es/00059/20080227184617/jove-sera-jutjat-dema-mao-acusatdesobeir-lautoritat-despres-parlar-catala-policia-nacional.html>, *Europa Press*.

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**9. 30/08/2008. Civil Guard denies mayor of Montblanc the right to speak in Catalan and files complaint against him.**

**Source:** “Montblanc Civil Guard forces mayor to provide his ID and speak in Spanish” [http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/elpunt/noticia?p\\_idcmp=2990136](http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/elpunt/noticia?p_idcmp=2990136), *Vilaweb*.

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**10. 15/11/2008. Young man brutally assaulted for protecting victim of homophobic attack is insulted at national police station for speaking in Catalan while reporting the incident. The officers branded him “stupid” and “smart ass”, according to the report.**

**Source:** “Ferran Giménez, Dénia” <http://contraelcatala.blogspot.com.es/2012/11/ferran-gimenez-denia.html>, “In Spanish! Security forces against Catalan” (blog).

**11. 16/02/2009. Young man detained, pushed and insulted for speaking in Catalan during national police control at Cadí Tunnel.**

**Source:** “CAT on licence plates. An account of colonialism, from Cadí Tunnel” <https://www.llibertat.cat/2009/03/el-cat-a-les-matricules.-una-cronica-colonial-al-tunel-del-cadi-5989>, *Llibertat.cat*.

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**12. 18/03/2009. Cultural expert from Reus City Council and student are verbally harassed by teacher for using Catalan on a course subsidised by Department of Labour and European Union.**

**Source:** “Two Reus citizens file complaint against discrimination for speaking Catalan on course paid for by government” <http://reusdigital.cat/noticies/dos-reusencs-denuncien-discriminaci-parlar-en-catal-en-un-curs-pagat-pel-govern>, *Reus Digital*.

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**13. 22/05/2009. Dean of Electoral Board in Palma and civil servant accuse political representative of being “radical” for addressing them in Catalan and refuse to deal with him.**

**Source:** “Joan Miquel Chacón of ERC [Republican Left of Catalonia] files complaint against two civil servants for accusing him of being ‘radical’ at Electoral Board for speaking in Catalan” <http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/m-han-humiliat-per-xerrar-la-meva-llengua.html>, *Diari de Balears*.

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**14. 07/08/2009. Two Civil Guard officers attack young man from Mallorca for speaking to them in Catalan at airport and end up convicted.**

**Source:** “Audiencia Nacional court convicts Civil Guard officer who attacked Iván Cortès” <https://dbalears.cat/politica/2011/07/25/255804/l-audiencia-confirma-la-condemna-al-guardia-civil-que-agredi-ivan-cortes.html>, *Diari de Balears*.

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**15. 11/08/2009 Peruvian woman filling out paperwork for her son’s ID document is detained for speaking on her mobile in Catalan at police station. Police officer who detained and harassed her ends up ordered to pay 70 euros for coercion.**

**Source:** “Rosario Palomino, Barcelona” <http://contraelcatala.blogspot.com.es/2012/11/rosario-palomino-barcelona.html>, *In Spanish! Security forces against Catalan* (blog)

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**16. 03/09/2009. Family misses flight after speaking to Civil Guard in Catalan at Girona airport and is fined for public disorder.**

**Source:** “Airport passenger stands trial for shouting at Civil Guard in Catalan” <http://www.diaridegirona.cat/comarques/2010/02/21/jutgen-passatgera-laeroport-cridarcatala-guardia-civil/389058.html>, *Diari de Girona*.

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**17. 08/09/2009. Journalist from French Catalonia detained at police control in La Jonquera for speaking in Catalan and not knowing Spanish.**

**Source:** “Account by young man detained in interview with *Ràdio Arrels Perpinyà*” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4O9CvQW0M>, *Ràdio Arrels*.

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**18. 30/09/2009. Elx judge dismisses Catalan and questions the right of accused and witness to speak it during a trial.**

**Source:** “Judge and prosecutor dismiss Valencian and advocate use of ‘common language’ in Elx trial” <http://laccent.cat/jutgessa-i-la-fiscalia-menyspreen-el-valencia-i-fan-apologia-de-la-lengua-comun-en-el-judici-delx/>, *L'Accent. Periòdic Popular dels Països Catalans*.

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**19. 07/12/2009. Healthcare refused to man at Benicarló outpatients’ clinic for speaking in Catalan. The man filed a complaint and the Ministry of Health defended the practice, claiming that there are staff members from elsewhere and that the man can speak Spanish. Valencian Ombudsman confirms it is an infringement of language rights.**

**Source:** “Ombudsman urges Ministry of Health to use Valencian” [http://elpais.com/diario/2009/12/07/cvalenciana/1260217077\\_850215.html](http://elpais.com/diario/2009/12/07/cvalenciana/1260217077_850215.html), *El País*.

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**20. 06/01/2010 Spanish national police intimidate journalist for speaking Valencian.**

**Source:** “Spanish police harasses journalist for speaking Valencian” <http://www.racocatala.cat/noticia/21539/policia-espanyola-vexa-periodista-parlarvalencia?pag=1>, *Racó Català*.

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**21. 02/02/2010. Cuban citizen detained at El Prat airport files complaint against police harassment for speaking in Catalan. Police officers were shocked at his level of Catalan and shouted (in Spanish): “Bloody hell, you speak good Catalan!”**

**Source:** “Bloody hell, you speak good Catalan!” <http://www.sant-andreu.com/catXppcc/agressionsllengua-cojonesquebienablasacatalan-020210.htm>, *Sant Andreu de Palomar* (taken from the newspaper *Avui*).

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**22. 04/03/2010. Pollença citizen forced to speak in Spanish to Civil Guard during identification, even though officers understood Catalan.**

**Source:** “Criticism for Civil Guard for forcing drivers to speak to them in Spanish” <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2010/05/18/baleares/1274201518.html>, *El Mundo*.

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**23. 16/04/2010. Patient thrown out of Inca health centre for speaking to GP in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Balearic cultural association OCB reports a new case of language abuse, this time at Inca health centre” <https://dbalears.cat/part-forana/2010/04/16/234272/l-ocb-denuncia-una-nova-agressio-linguistica-aquest-cop-al-centre-de-salut-d-inca.html>, *OCB*.

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**24. 14/05/2010. Two young Mallorcan citizens detained by Civil Guard at roundabout in Porreres for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Balearic cultural association OCB reports three cases of language discrimination by Civil Guard” <http://dretsling.blogspot.com.es/search?updated-max=2010-07-13T09:20:00-07:00&maxresults=3&start=27&by-date=false>, *OCB*.

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**25. 29/06/2010. Several-hour delay in medical care for 80-year-old woman from Alcoi as emergency-service telephone operators did not understand Catalan.**

**Source:** “Valencian Ombudsman’s Resolution” <http://www.elsindic.com/Resoluciones/10301154.pdf>, complaint file 105524, subject: Rights of citizens to choose their language, Valencian Ombudsman.

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**26. 29/10/2010. Driver insulted and harassed by Civil Guard at Andorra border for speaking in Catalan with her passenger.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**27. 22/01/2011. Costera citizen scorned by Civil Guard during routine control at Ontinyent for having Catalan name.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**28. 28/01/2011. Civil servant at Valencia's Estació del Nord refuses assistance to disabled passenger because his companion spoke to him in Catalan.**

**Source:** "ADIF employee refuses to deal with query in Valencian regarding disabled passenger" <https://www.racocatala.cat/forums/fil/137619/funcionari-dadif-nega-atendre-consulta-valencia-sobre-passatger-invalid>, *Valencianisme.com*.

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**29. 02/03/2011. Spanish Supreme Court dismisses appeal for judgement issued in Barcelona as it is written in Catalan.**

**Source:** "Supreme Court ignores appeal for Barcelona judgement because is it written in Catalan" <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/377283-el-suprem-ignoraun-recurs-a-una-sentencia-de-barcelona-perque-esta-fet-en-catala.html>, *El Punt Avui*.

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**30. 23/05/2011. Cambrils citizen ridiculed and humiliated at Spanish ID office for wanting to speak in Catalan.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**31. 06/01/2012. Crevillent citizen denied healthcare and ridiculed for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** "Crevillent doctor denies care to patient because he spoke in Catalan" <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/496105-un-metge-decrevillent-es-nega-a-atendre-un-pacient-perque-parla-en-catala.html>, *El Punt Avui*.

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**32. 18/01/2012. Language normalisation expert dismissed from Dénia City Council for reporting failure to comply with language regulation.**

**Source:** "Unacceptable action against defender of language" <http://acpv.cat/web/actualitat/acte-intolerable-contra-un-defensor-de-la-llengua>, *Acció Cultural del País Valencià*.

**33. 21/01/2012. Empordà driver detained and threatened for speaking in Catalan in front of Civil Guard.**

**Source:** "Civil Guard investigates coercion in use of Catalan" <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/24-puntdivers/4-divers/497809-la-guardia-civilinvestiga-les-coaccions-per-lus-del-catala.html?dema=1>, *El Punt Avui*.

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**34. 28/01/2012. Civil Guard officer beats lawyer at El Prat airport for refusing to speak in Spanish.**

**Source:** "Young man files complaint against Civil Guard for attacking him at El Prat airport for speaking in Catalan" [http://www.ara.cat/societat/Guardia\\_civil-catala-El-Prat-agressio-Mossosllengua\\_0\\_635336654.html](http://www.ara.cat/societat/Guardia_civil-catala-El-Prat-agressio-Mossosllengua_0_635336654.html), *Ara*.

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**35. 07/02/2012. Reus couple forced to pay 180 euros to city council to have their wedding ceremony in Catalan, after Civil Registry forced them to have it in Spanish.**

**Source:** "If you want to get married in Catalan in Reus, you have to pay 180 euros" <http://reusdigital.cat/noticies/reus-si-et-vols-casar-en-catal-et-fan-pagar-180-euros>, *Reus Digital*.

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**36. 25/02/2012. Young Mallorcan man reported for failure to respect authority by speaking to national police force officer in Catalan during demonstration.**

**Source:** "National police officer files complaint against young Mallorcan man for speaking to him in Catalan" [http://www.ara.cat/politica/Palma-Urdangarin-catala-guardia\\_civil-denuncialInstituto\\_Noos\\_0\\_652734836.html](http://www.ara.cat/politica/Palma-Urdangarin-catala-guardia_civil-denuncialInstituto_Noos_0_652734836.html), *Ara*.

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**37. 05/05/2012. Citizen enters Inca headquarters of Civil Guard to file complaint and ends up with complaint filed against him for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** "I wanted to file a complaint and now a complaint has been filed against me' Jordi Alegre summoned to Inca court for disobeying authority. He wanted to speak in Catalan to Civil Guard" <http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/volia-posar-denuncia-citen-com-denunciat.html>, *Diari de Balears*.

**38. 30/05/2012. Alt Empordà citizen verbally and physically abused by two Civil Guard officers, and faces trial for refusing to speak in Spanish.**

**Source:** “Two Civil Guard officers face trial for harassing Vilajuïga citizen who refused to speak in Spanish” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4025869/20120704/dos-guardies-civils-judici-vexar-veivilajuiga-negava-parlar-espanyol.html>, *Vilaweb*.

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**39. 27/06/2012. Ametlla del Vallès citizen illegally detained at Barcelona airport for speaking in Catalan and English.**

**Source:** “Detained by national police at El Prat airport for speaking only Catalan or English” [http://www.ara.cat/societat/Retingut-Policia-Nacional-aeroport-Pratcatala\\_0\\_726527425.html](http://www.ara.cat/societat/Retingut-Policia-Nacional-aeroport-Pratcatala_0_726527425.html), *Ara*.

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**40. 07/07/2012. Young Mallorcan man spends the night in jail for not answering Civil Guard in Spanish.**

**Source:** “Civil Guard arrest Arran activist for not answering them in Spanish” <http://www.setmanaridirecta.info/noticia/guardia-civil-arresta-un-militant-maulets-negarse-contestar-los-castella> [link no longer active; This story can be read on Racó Català: <https://www.racocatala.cat/forums/fil/162194/guardia-civil-arresta-militant-darran-mallorca-no-contestar-los-castella?pag=1>], *Setmanari Directa*.

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**41. 20/08/2012. Civil servant at Vic national police station refuses to use Catalan and threatens a citizen for speaking it.**

**Source:** “*Plataforma per la Llengua* reports a new case of language discrimination at Vic National Police Station” <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/1978/la-plataforma-per-la-llengua-denuncia-un-nou-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-a-la-comissaria-de-la-policia-nacional-de-vic>, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog).

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**42. 07/09/2012. Passenger detained by Spanish national police at Barcelona airport for giving ID number in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Detained at airport for speaking in Catalan” <http://blogspersonals.ara.cat/elcatalasuma/2012/09/20/retingut-a-laeroport-per-parlar-en-catala/>, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog).

**43. 10/10/2012. Cantabria judge takes custody of daughter away from Catalan citizen claiming that he spoke to her in Catalan to separate her from her mother.**

**Source:** “Cantabria judge takes custody of daughter away from Catalan police officer for ‘not teaching her Spanish’” <http://www.elperiodico.cat/ca/noticias/societat/jutge-cantabria-retira-custodia-fillamosso-per-ensenyar-li-castella-2222913>. *El Periòdic*.

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**44. 30/10/2012. Treasury refuses to process widow’s pension on grounds that death certificate was submitted in Catalan.**

**Source:** “*Plataforma per la Llengua* reports Treasury for not processing widow’s pension because death certificate was submitted in Catalan” <http://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/noticies/interior/1967>, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog).

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**45. 21/12/2012 Almenara driver’s licence taken away and held for three hours at Civil Guard control for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** “‘They’ve taken away my driving licence because I spoke in Valencian.’” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4068300/20121223/mhan-retirat-carnet-conduir-parlarvalencia.html>, *Vilaweb*.

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**46. 31/12/2012. Vistabella del Maestrat citizen harassed and branded rude by doctor at Jaume I hospital in Castelló de la Plana for speaking in Valencian.**

**Source:** “*Plataforma per la Llengua* gives advice to victim in new case of language discrimination at Jaume I hospital in Castelló de la Plana” <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/noticies/interior/2050>, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog).

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**47. 05/03/2013. Valencian government shuts down Canal 9, the last remaining television channel in Catalan in Valencia, and denies dismissed employees the right to be notified in Valencian.**

**Source:** “Ombudsman asks Valencian radio and television broadcaster RTVV why laid-off employees were only informed of lay-off proceedings in Spanish” <https://www.elsindic.com/va/actualidad/el-sndic-pregunta-a-rtvv-per-qu-informa-les-persones-acomiadades-per-lero-solament-en-castell>, Valencian Ombudsman.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**48. 23/03/2013. Dolçaina player from the group Obrint Pas detained, threatened and attacked for speaking in Catalan to two national police officers in Valencia**

**Source:** “Police officer to Miquel Gironès (of Obrint Pas): ‘Speak to me in Spanish, bloody hell!’” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4109561/20130427/policia-miquel-girones-obrint-pas-emparles-espanyol-collons.html>, *Vilaweb*.

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**49. 27/03/2013. Professor at Jaume I University in Castelló spends teaching hours demonstrating uselessness of Catalan and calls student who complained about teaching method a “hippie”.**

**Source:** “Spanish indoctrination by professor at Jaume I University in Castelló” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4099387/20130327/adoctrinament-espanyolista-professoruniversitat-jaume-castello-acabar.html>, *Vilaweb*.

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**50. 05/03/2013. Father and son insulted by two national police officers on regional train to Figueres for speaking in Catalan and refusing to be coerced to speak “Spanish or nothing”.**

**Source:** “Complaint filed against police officers who made him speak in Spanish” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/640659-denuncia-unspolicies-que-li-exigien-de-parlar-en-castella.html>, *El Punt Avui*. Complaint received by e-mail via the language complaint section of the *Plataforma per la Llengua* website in April 2013. New case of linguistic abuse by Spanish police, in Figueres.

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**51. 12/07/2013. Citizen accused of altercations by Campello local police officer for speaking in Catalan and saying that his name is Lluís-Xavier.**

**Source:** “Our support for Lluís Xavier Flores, victim of insults by local police officer for speaking in Valencian” <http://eltempir.cat/el-nostre-suport-a-lluis-xavier-flores-victimadels-insults-dun-policia-local-per-parlar-li-en-valencia/>, *El Tempir*, civic association for language in Elx; “Elx to report language discrimination” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/679777-elxdenunciara-la-discriminacio-lingueistica.html>, *El PuntAvui*.

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**52. 21/07/2013. National police deny Palma citizen the right to file a complaint in Catalan.**

**Source:** “New case of language discrimination by national police” <https://dbalears.cat/politica/2013/08/14/271009/nou-cas-discriminacio-linguistica-per-part-policia-nacional.html>, *Diari de Balears*.

**53. 22/07/2013. Citizen detained at Elx demonstration for speaking to national police officer in Catalan.**

**Source:** “*El Tempir* association reports a new case of language discrimination in Elx for speaking to a police officer in Catalan” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4143605/20130913/lassociacio-tempirdenuncia-cas-discriminacio-linguistica-elx-adreca-policia-catala.html>, *Vilaweb*; “Support for Paco Muñoz Giménez, detained by national police for speaking to them in Valencian” <http://eltempir.cat/suport-a-paco-munoz-gimenez-detingut-per-la-policia-nacional-per-parlar-los-en-valencia/>, *El Tempir*, civic association for language in Elx.

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**54. 03/08/2013. Puçol citizen falsely accused during routine control by Civil Guard for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Puçol citizen falls victim to false accusation by Civil Guard for speaking in Valencian” <http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/3936/un-vei-de-pucol-victima-dunadenuncia-falsa-de-la-guardia-civil-per-parlar-en-valencia>, *La Veu del País Valencià*.

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**55. 04/08/2013. Two young people beaten and humiliated by security guards and Civil Guard officers at Arenal Sound festival in Borriana for speaking in Valencian.**

**Source:** “Kicked and punched for speaking in Catalan, on last night of Arenal Sound festival” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4137716/20130806/cops-peu-puny-haverparlat-catala-lultima-nit-darenal-sound.html>, *Vilaweb*.

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**56. 22/08/2013. Vinaròs court refuses request submitted in Catalan as it considers it not to be an official language in Valencia.**

**Source:** “Vinaròs court demands Spanish from Ebre lawyers” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/671782-unjutjat-de-vinaros-exigeix-el-castella-a-advocats-de-lebre.html?cca=1>, *El PuntAvui*.

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**57. 23/08/2013. Former councillor of Olleria harassed by national police officer for speaking in Catalan in Valencia.**

**Source:** “Former councillor of Olleria falls victim to a new case of language discrimination by police” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4140008/20130823/ex-regidor-lolleria-victima-cas-discriminacio-linguistica-policia.html>, *Vilaweb*.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**58. 13/09/2013. National police officer refuses to attend to report by citizen because he spoke in Valencian and demands that he speak “in Spanish”.**

**Source:** “Speak to me in Spanish, this is Spain” <http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/4649/hableme-en-espanol-esto-es-espana>, *La Veu del País Valencià*; “*El Tempir* reports a new case of language discrimination in Elx by national police officer and supports Francisco Escortell” <http://eltempir.cat/el-tempir-denuncia-un-nou-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-produida-a-elx-per-un-policia-nacional-i-es-solidaritz-a-amb-francesc-cortell/>, *El Tempir*, civic association for language in Elx.

**59. 18/11/2013. Barcelona court denies lawyer the right to process legal proceedings in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Lawyer denied the right to request Catalan in legal proceedings” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/694408-deneguen-a-un-advocat-el-dret-a-demanar-el-catala-en-un-procediment-judicial.html?cca=1>, *El Punt Avui*; personal account by Miquel Panadès.

**60. 05/12/2013. Grandfather and grandson thrown off TALGO train by ticket inspector for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** “TALGO train ticket inspector throws grandfather and grandson off for being Catalan” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/1-territori/-/700188-la-revisora-duntalgo-fa-baixar-un-avi-i-un-net-per-ser-catalans.html>, *El Punt Avui*; “Ticket inspector who threw two passengers off train for being Catalan threatens to report them” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4161210/20131211/revisora-baixar-dospassatgers-eren-catalans-amenaca-denunciar-los.html>, *Vilaweb*.

**61. 01/02/2014. Civil Guard officer at Spanish government sub-office in Castelló forces Valencian Parliament deputy to speak in Spanish.**

**Source:** “Marina Albiol reports language discrimination at Spanish government subdelegation in Castelló” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4170744/20140202/marina-albiol-denunciadiscriminacio-linguistica-subdelegacio-govern-espanyol-castello.html>, *Vilaweb*.

**62. 21/03/2014. Tenerife judge takes away custody from mother who went to live in Ripollet as she believes that Catalan could be a “problem” for the girl.**

**Source:** “Girl separated from her mother due to Catalan ‘choice’” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/-/726516-aptarten-unanena-de-la-seva-mare-per-lescoll-del-catala.html>, *El Punt Avui*.

**63. 10/04/2014. Granollers judge regards the use of Catalan in legal proceedings to be a burden, according to court resolution, despite claiming knowledge in the language to be a valuable skill.**

**Source:** “Magistrate considers use of Catalan in legal proceedings to be a burden” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/731980-unamagistrada-considera-una-nosa-lus-del-catala-en-un-procedimentjudicial.html?cca=1>, *El Punt Avui*.

**64. 26/04/2014. Officers at Xirivella police station refuse to attend to a citizen for speaking in Catalan, hang up the phone on her and make her wait over an hour until interpreter arrives.**

**Source:** “Xirivella police station refuses to attend to woman in Valencian and calls interpreter” <http://www.levante-emv.com/comarcas/2014/04/26/comisaria-xirivellaniega-atender-mujer/1104512.html>, *Levante*.

**65. 30/04/2014. Protester threatened with fine of 200 euros for speaking in Catalan to national police officers in Dénia.**

**Source:** “Threatened with fine of 200 euros for speaking to police in Catalan” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4188568/20140430/amenacat-multa-200-euroshaver-parlat-catala-policia.html>, *Vilaweb*; “Complaint filed against national police for threatening to fine him for speaking in Valencian during protest by mortgage-victim platform PAH” <http://lamarinaplaza.com/2014/04/30/denuncia-que-la-policia-nacional-leamenazo-con-multarle-por-hablar-en-valenciano-durante-una-protesta-de-lapah/#.U2FH6JyvILU>, *twitter*, *La Marina Plaza*, newspaper for the Marina Alta and Baixa districts [link no longer active].

**66. 05/05/2014. Huesca traffic authorities ignores claim in Catalan by young man fined after speaking in Catalan during a Civil Guard check in Ribagorça.**

**Source:** “State discriminates against young man for speaking Catalan and Occitan” <http://ebreexpres.com/lestat-discrimina-un-jove-per-parlar-catala-occita/>, *Ebre Expres*; “Young man reports that the native Aragonese language of the eastern area is also discriminated against in Aragon” [http://www.ara.cat/societat/denuncia-larago-tambe-discriminaLAPAO\\_0\\_1142885892.html](http://www.ara.cat/societat/denuncia-larago-tambe-discriminaLAPAO_0_1142885892.html), *Ara*.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**67. 21/05/2014. Elx teacher contracted by Fontcalent prison harassed and threatened “by civil servant from centre for speaking to him in Valencian”.**

**Source:** “*El Tempir* reports a new case of linguistic harassment at Fontcalent prison and supports Maria Carme Viudes” <http://eltempir.cat/el-tempir-denuncia-nou-cas-de-vexacio-linguistica-a-la-presos-de-fontcalent-i-se-solidaritz-a-amb-m-carme-viudes/>, “*El Tempir* civic association for language in Elx; “Civil servant at Fontcalent prison threatens teacher for speaking in Valencian” <https://www.diarilaveu.com/noticia/9509/denuncien-un-nou-cas-de-xenofobia-linguistica-a-la-presos-de-fontcalent>, *La Veu del País Valencià*.

**68. 04/06/2014. Caldes de Malavella citizen threatened, insulted and detained for speaking in Catalan to two police officers at Figueres station.**

**Source:** “Caldes citizen accuses two police officers of threats and insults for speaking in Catalan” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/3-politica/17-politica/749322-un-vei-decaldes-acusa-dos-policies-damenaces-i-insults-per-haver-parlat-encatala.html?dema=1&tmpl=component&print=1&page>, *El Punt Avui*; “Two national police officers reported for detaining young man for speaking Catalan” <https://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/69773/denuncien/dos/policies/cnp/van/retenir/jove/parlar/catala>, *Nació Digital*.

**69. 11/10/2014. Barcelona court demands translation of clarification appeal in Catalan on the grounds that one of the lawyers is from Madrid.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**70. 29/12/2014. Chinese citizen who speaks Catalan and only a little Spanish is refused Spanish nationality.**

**Source:** “Courts refuse Spanish citizenship to Chinese man who speaks Catalan, but not Spanish” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4225606/20141229/tribunals-denegaciudadania-espanyola-xines-parla-catala-parlar-espanyol.html>, *VilaWeb*; “Judges refuse nationality to Chinese man unable to speak Spanish” <https://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2014/12/29/jueces-deniegan-nacionalidad-chino-incapaz/1206521.html>, *Levante. El mercantil valenciano*.

**71. 02/02/2015. Language discrimination at EMAYA Green Dot centre in Palma.**

**Source:** “Language discrimination at EMAYA Green Dot centre in Palma” <https://dbalears.cat/politica/2015/02/02/284731/discriminacio-linguistica-punt-verd-emaya-palma.html>, *Diari de Balears*, 2 February 2015; “EMAYA says that language discrimination at Green Dot centre was ‘an impression’” <https://dbalears.cat/politica/2015/02/05/284761/emaya-diu-discriminacio-linguistica-punt-verd-ser-impresio.html>, *Diari de Balears*, 5 February 2015.

**72. 25/02/2015. Castelló de la Plana citizen detained and harassed by officers from national police force for speaking in Valencian.**

**Source:** “Castelló citizen detained for speaking Valencian” <http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/13296/unvei-es-retingut-a-castello-per-parlar-valencia>, *La Veu del País Valencià*, 25 February 2015.

**73. 02/03/2015. Figueres judge threatens witness with suspending the trial if he speaks in Catalan.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**74. 02/03/2015. Spanish police harass lawyer for speaking in Catalan at immigration detention centre.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**75. 04/03/2015. Catalan Football Federation cancels licence for six children because their census certificate was not attached in Spanish.**

**Source:** “Catalan Football Federation: an embarrassment!”, letter to *El Punt Avui* newspaper dated 11 March 2015, Girona edition, published on the website of the association *Ara o Mai*: “Catalan Football Federation reported for having cancelled licences because a document was written in Catalan” <http://araomai.cat/denuncien-que-la-f-c-futbol-ha-anul%2%b7lat-unes-licencies-perque-un-document-estava-escrit-en-catala/>.

**76. 10/03/2015. Thrown out of Spanish consulate in Brussels for a document written in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Thrown out of Spanish consulate in Brussels for a document written in Catalan” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4235277/20150310/expulsat-consolat-espanyolbrusselles-escrit-catala.html>, *Vilaweb*, 10 March 2015; “Spanish government justifies citizen being thrown out of consulate in Brussels for a document written in Catalan” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4363594/20150609/govern-espanyol-justificalexpluio-consolat-brusselles-ciutada-escrit-catala.html>, *Vilaweb*, 9 June 2015.

**77. 10/03/2015. National police officers refuse to process two national ID documents in Mollerussa because official documentation written in Catalan was attached.**

**Source:** “National police officers refuse to process two national ID documents in Miralcamp as request was in Catalan” <http://www.segre.com/detall-dela-noticia/article/policies-nacionals-rebutgen-tramitar-dos-dni-de-miralcamp-alestar-en-catala-la-sollicitud/>, *Segre*, 12 March 2015 [link no longer active; see alternative: <https://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/83904/policia/nacional/rebutja/tramitar/dos/dnis/mollerussa/estar/sollicitud/catala>]. The day before publication, the journalist sought advice from *Plataforma per la Llengua* regarding legal aspects and the existence of other cases.

**78. 27/04/2015. Unemployed woman from Reus harassed on a course subsidised by public employment service SOC for requesting that they run a course in Catalan.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**79. 13/05/2015. Teacher at IES Terrassa high school mocks student for speaking Catalan.**

**Source:** Direct e-mail contact by someone close to the victim. “Teacher at IES Terrassa high school mocks student for speaking Catalan” <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2856/un-professor-de-liesterrassa-fa-mofa-a-un-alumne-per-parlar-catala>.

**80. 11/06/2015. Nationality denied to foreign citizen for submitting part of the documentation in Catalan.**

**Source:** Case reported to *Plataforma per la Llengua* by the Catalan Government’s Department of Social Welfare and the Family.

**81. 18/06/2015. Catalan leads High Court of Justice in Aragon to take away custody of a child.**

**Source:** “Catalan leads High Court of Justice in Aragon to take away custody of a child”, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog) <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2881/el-catala-motiva-al-tribunal-superior-de-justicia-de-larago-a-retirar-la-custodia-dun-menor>. Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**82. 21/06/2015. Doctor threatens to file complaint against patient in Sant Joan Despí for speaking to her in Catalan.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**83. 28/07/2015. Doctor at Torelló health centre harasses and refuses to attend to patient who spoke to him in Catalan.**

**Source:** “*Plataforma per la Llengua* deems it unacceptable not to be attended to in Catalan at a health centre” <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2920/laplataforma-per-la-llengua-considera-inadmissible-no-poder-ser-ates-en-catala-enun-cap>. The victim had published details of the discrimination on her Facebook page. “Ministry of Health opens informative file against Torelló paediatrician who forced people to speak in Spanish” <https://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/91803/salut/obre/expedient/informatiu/al/pediatre/torello/va/exigir/parlar/castella>, *Nació Digital*.

**84. 05/08/2015. National police detain Argentinian citizen and cause him to miss flight for speaking in Catalan and disobeying order to speak in Spanish.**

**Source:** “Tiger nuts, language and a Spanish police officer” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/societat/article/5-societat/883544-xufles-llenguai-un-policia-espanyol.html>, *El Punt Avui*.

**85. 06/08/2015. Paediatrician harasses patient on two occasions for speaking to him in Catalan in two towns near Castelló.**

**Source:** “Where are the Valencian speakers’ rights?” <https://www.facebook.com/daniel.andresroig/posts/41397975545557>, publicació al mur de Facebook de Daniel Andrés Roig.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**86. 12/09/2015. National police officer attacks young man for speaking to him in Catalan in La Jonquera.**

**Source:** “Plataforma per la Llengua deems new case of language discrimination in La Jonquera intolerable” <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2944/la-plataformaper-la-llengua-considera-intolerable-el-nou-cas-de-discriminacio-a-lajonquera>, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog). *La Plataforma per la Llengua* identified the complaint on social media.

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**87. 23/12/2015. District spokesperson for Pro-Valencian Youth Group *Joves amb Compromís* detained by police for speaking in Valencian.**

**Source:** “District spokesperson for Pro-Valencian Youth Group *Joves amb Compromís* detained by police for speaking in Valencian” <http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/17476/%20un-portaveu-comarcal-dejoves-amb-compromis-retingut-per-la-policia-per-parlar-en-valencia>, *La Veu del País Valencià*.

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**88. 16/02/2016. Family forced to speak in Spanish at Igualada court and complaint left on file because “it was only a suggestion”.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**89. 15/03/2016. Judge harasses two lawyers and six-year-old girl for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** “High Court of Justice in Catalonia cautions Olot judge for her lack of respect towards use of Catalan” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/punt-divers/article/4-divers/1010229-el-tsja-amonesta-una-jutgessa-d-olot-pel-seu-poc-respecte-a-l-us-del-catala.html>, *El Punt Avui*.

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**90. 25/01/2016. Valencian High Court underhandedly ensures that right to use Catalan is inferior to right to use Spanish, as it could lead to “defencelessness”.**

**Source:** “If you file the complaint in Valencian, translate it or wait 5 years” <http://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2016/03/29/demanda-valenciano-traduzcalo-o-espere/1397153.html>, *Levante –EMV*.

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**91. April de 2016. Brazilian refused citizenship for doing exam in Catalan; confirmation that only language of integration is Spanish.**

**Source:** “Refused Spanish nationality for doing exam in Catalan” <https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/3124/denegada-la-nacionalitat-espanyola-per-fer-lexamen-en-catala>, *Plataforma per la Llengua* (blog).

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**92. 21/04/2016 Alicante District Council Auditorium does not include Catalan on the building’s sign because having too many letters on it would be “unsightly”, but it does include Spanish.**

**Source:** “New case of language discrimination by District Council of Alicante” <http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/19650/%20nou-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-de-la-diputacio-dalacant>, *La Veu del País Valencià*.

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**93. 22/04/2016. Olot courts refuse document in Catalan “to prevent defencelessness” of one of the parties.**

**Source:** “Olot court demands documents in Spanish to prevent ‘defencelessness’” [http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20160421/401264996002/juzgado-de-olot-catalan-espanol-indefension.html?utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=Social](http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20160421/401264996002/juzgado-de-olot-catalan-espanol-indefension.html?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social), *La Vanguardia*.

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**94. 25/01/2016. Hearing postponed in trial for Nóos case in Palma as a witness “hadn’t warned them that she wanted to speak in Catalan”.**

**Source:** “Lack of interpreter leads to delay in Castillo declaration in Nóos case” <http://val.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2016/05/07/falta-interprete-retrasa-declaracion-castillo/1414428.html>, *Levante –EMV*.

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**95. 15/06/2016. Godella board of examiners tells candidate to do exam in Spanish or leave.**

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

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**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**96. 29/06/2016. Man thrown out of Correos post office in Barcelona for requesting increased presence of Catalan within this administration.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**97. 26/06/2016. Table-tennis coach dismissed for encouraging his players in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Cassà Table Tennis coach dismissed for not ‘encouraging his player in Spanish’” <http://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/111464/expulsen/entrenador/tennis/taula/cassa/no/animar/seu/jugador/espanyol>, *Nació Digital*.

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**98. 11/07/2016. Citizen thrown out of Drassanes health centre for requesting to be attended to in Catalan.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**99. 01/07/2016. Sagunt court uses fictitious law to prevent lawyer from using Catalan.**

**Source:** “Another case of language discrimination at Valencian courts” <http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/20864/%20un-altre-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-als-jutjats-valencians>, *La Veu del País Valencià* i <http://www.laveupv.com/documents/decret-jutjat-sagunt-llengua.pdf> [Link no longer active].

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**100. 10/07/2016. Palamós lifeguard refuses to attend to an individual because he was spoken to in Catalan.**

**Source:** *Ara Girona* <http://www.aragirona.cat/noticia/2016/07/11/la-denuncia-a-un-socorrista-catalanofob-a-la-platja-de-palamos-es-torna-viral> [Link no longer active] and user’s Facebook page.

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**101. 04/08/2016 Renfe ticket salesperson refuses to serve customer because he spoke to her in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Renfe passenger reports refused service due to speaking Catalan” [http://www.elperiodicomediterraneo.com/noticias/comarcas/usuario-renfe-denuncia-desatencion-hablar-catalan\\_1008032.html](http://www.elperiodicomediterraneo.com/noticias/comarcas/usuario-renfe-denuncia-desatencion-hablar-catalan_1008032.html), *El Periódico del Mediterráneo*.

**102. 04/08/2016. Catalan-speaking citizen repeatedly harassed by various civil servants from the Spanish police.**

**Source:** “Anti-Catalan treatment at Spanish police station in Vic: ‘You must speak Spanish!’”, <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/catalanofobia-a-la-comissaria-de-la-policia-a-vic-estas-obligada-a-parlar-en-espanyol/> *Vilaweb*.

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**103. 09/08/2016. Employees at homeless centre refuse to help Catalan-speaking resident harassed by other residents.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**104. August de 2016. Court acknowledges the right to receive notifications in Catalan, but convicts defendant anyway because the fact that this right was infringed “did not imply defencelessness”.**

**Source:** “State denies Valencian notary the right to use Catalan, arguing that he has ‘full knowledge of Spanish’” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/lestat-nega-lus-del-catala-a-un-notari-valencia-perque-te-ple-coneixement-del-castella/>, *Vilaweb*.

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**105. August de 2016. Entry refused to Social Security office for not speaking to security guard in Spanish.**

**Source:** “Dénia Social Security office refuses access for speaking in Valencian” [http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/23299/loficina-de-la-seguretat-social-de-denia-nega-laces-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-laces-per-parlar-en-valencia?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&publicitat=true), *La Veu del País Valencià*.

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**106. 22/09/2016. Benet Salellas forced to speak Spanish at airport as “you can’t speak Catalan in the air”.**

**Source:** Complaint identified during parliamentary session and reported to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

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**107. 28/12/2016. Catalan councillor forced to speak in Spanish at “Audiencia Nacional”**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**108. December de 2016. Valencian councillor harassed and reported by Civil Guard for speaking in Catalan.**

**Source:** “‘Speak to us in Spanish’: deputy mayor of Gata falls victim to anti-Catalan attack by Civil Guard” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/parlans-en-espanyol-el-tinent-de-batlle-de-gata-victima-dun-atac-catalanofobic-per-part-de-la-guardia-civil/>. Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua* and later published on *Vilaweb*.

**109. Judge does not accept document at trial in Alicante because “it’s in Catalan, not Valencian”.**

**Source:** “Scandal in Alicante as judge says that Catalan is not co-official there” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/escandol-a-alacant-perque-un-jutge-diu-que-el-catala-no-es-cooficial/>, *Vilaweb*; “Supreme Court fines Lleida judge for criticising Catalan” <http://www.publico.es/politica/supremo-multa-juez-lleida-criticar.html>, *Público*; “José María Magán: ‘I’ve given up. They’ve silenced me’” <http://www.lasprovincias.es/v/20130506/comunitat/jose-maria-magan-rendido-20130506.html>, *Las Provincias*.

**110. 13/01/2017. Health centre patient challenged for speaking in Valencian in Castelló de la Ribera.**

**Source:** “New case of linguistic discrimination in a Valencian health centre” <http://www.elpuntavui.cat/societat/article/5-societat/1052518-nova-discriminacio-lingueistica-en-un-centre-de-salut-valencia.html>, *El Punt Avui*.

**111. 22/02/2017. Renfe challenges Valencian regional education minister, Vicent Marzà, on Twitter as new Civil Service Act sets forth knowledge of Catalan as a requirement to be a civil servant.**

**Source:** «Renfe obri expedient disciplinari al responsable de la piulada contra Marzà» <https://www.diarilaveu.com/noticia/73585/renfe-obri-expedient-autor-piulada-contra-marza>, *La Veu del País Valencià* and “One-day suspension without pay for employee who branded Marzà ‘Pan-Catalanist’ in tweet by Rodalia” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/sancionat-amb-un-dia-de-sou-i-feina-el-treballador-que-va-titllar-marza-de-pancatalanista-en-un-tuit-de-rodalies/>, *Vilaweb*.

**112. 02/03/2017. Two Spanish national police officers harass and file complaint against citizen for speaking to them in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Reported for speaking to two police officers in Valencian” [https://www.elnacional.cat/ca/societat/denuncia-policia-valencia\\_141239\\_102.html](https://www.elnacional.cat/ca/societat/denuncia-policia-valencia_141239_102.html), *El Nacional*.

**113. 03/03/2017. Municipal sports centre supervisor to Catalan-speaking citizen: “I don’t understand you. Speak to me in Spanish. I don’t want to speak in Catalan because we’re in Spain”.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua*.

**114. 16/03/2017. The Spanish Tax Agency removes Catalan version of VAT forms due to “economic and convenience reasons”.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to *Plataforma per la Llengua* and later published in “Treasury removes Catalan from forms for ‘economic and convenience reasons’” [http://www.elnacional.cat/ca/politica/hisenda-liquida-catala-formularis\\_146340\\_102.html](http://www.elnacional.cat/ca/politica/hisenda-liquida-catala-formularis_146340_102.html), *El Nacional*.

**115. 21/03/2017. Alicante court threatens to file complaint against the Catalan government for disobedience, as it does not want to translate claims written in Catalan into Spanish, as Catalan is apparently “not an official language of Valencia”.**

**Source:** “Alicante court demands that Generalitat de Catalunya translate document into Spanish” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/un-jutjat-dalacant-exigeix-a-la-generalitat-de-catalunya-que-tradueixi-al-castella-un-document/>, *Vilaweb*.

**116. 23/03/2017. Spanish police harass, threaten and give 601-euro fine to university professor for speaking to them in Catalan at El Prat airport.**

**Source:** “Fined 601 euros for speaking to Spanish police in Catalan at El Prat airport” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/multat-amb-600-euros-per-haver-parlat-en-catala-a-la-guardia-civil-a-laeroport-del-prat/>, *Vilaweb*.

**117. 23/03/2017. Catalan song plays on ringing mobile phone at medical visit in Canary Islands and doctor insults patient and brands her “trash”.**

**Source:** “Menorcan woman files complaint against linguistic abuse by doctor in Canary Islands” <http://dbalears.cat/estat/2017/03/23/299922/menorquina-denuncia-agressio-linguistica-per-metge-canaries.html>, *Diari de Balears*.

**118. 24/03/2017. University professor harassed by Spanish police in Reus for speaking to them in Catalan.**

**Source:** “Professor from Rovira i Virgili University threatened at police station for speaking in Catalan” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/un-professor-de-la-rovira-i-virgili-amenacat-en-una-comissaria-per-haver-parlat-en-catala/>, *Vilaweb*.

**119. 12/04/2017. Catalan Federation of Winter Sports denies healthcare to injured member as insurance provider does not provide care in Catalan due to “price reasons”.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**120. 16/04/2017. Waiter humiliates passenger at catering trolley on train paid for by public sector.**

**Source:** Facebook (described by lawyer, M. Busquets).

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**121. 25/04/2017. Spanish police officers demand that vice-president of provincial council of Valencia speak to them in Spanish and take down her details when she refuses.**

**Source:** “Spanish police ask for ID from vice-president of provincial council of Valencia for speaking in Catalan” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/la-policia-espanyola-identifica-la-vice-presidenta-de-la-diputacio-de-valencia-per-haver-parlat-en-catala/>, *Vilaweb*.

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**122. 27/04/2017. Public railway company returns letter to Brull town council because it is written in Catalan, an “unofficial language”.**

**Source:** “Renfe apologises for dismissing Catalan in Brull Town Council letter” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/renfe-es-disculpa-per-haver-menyspreat-el-catala-en-una-carta-de-lajuntament-del-brull/>, *Vilaweb*.

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**123. 07/03/2017. Ministry of the Treasury requires Catalan-speaking taxpayer to communicate with them in Spanish and archives queries when he does not obey.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**124. Juny de 2017. Civil servant at public health centre refuses to deal with Catalan-speaking patient on phone.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

**125. 01/07/2017. Civil Guard in Vinaròs harasses Catalan speaker from Ulldesona and fines him “in Valencian, not in Catalan”.**

**Source:** “Young Ulldesona citizen reports anti-Catalan treatment received by Civil Guard in Vinaròs” <http://www.naciodigital.cat/tarragona/noticia/22557/jove-ulldecona/denuncia-tracte/catalanof/bic/rebut/part/gu/rdia/civil/vinar>, *Nació Digital*.

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**126. 11/07/2017. Doctor at Formentera hospital demands that patient speak to her in Spanish and, when he refuses, accuses him of “being drunk”.**

**Source:** “‘In Spanish or I won’t understand you’: Carles Rebassa reports a case of linguistic abuse at Formentera hospital” <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/denuncien-un-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-a-lhospital-de-formentera/>, *Vilaweb*.

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**127. 15/07/2017. Right to express himself in Valencian infringed and complaint form refused.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**128. 31/07/2017. Civil Guard challenges Cuban citizen who addresses them in Catalan because “we’re in Spain”.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**129. 21/09/2017. Police force family of senior member of Catalan government, arrested for organising referendum on self-determination on 1 October, to speak Spanish.**

**Source:** “The Civil Guard does not provide service in Catalan” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LaXwoFGPQw&feature=youtu.be>, TV3 (on the *Plataforma per la Llengua* YouTube account); “The brother of Terres de l’Ebre citizen Lluís Salvadó complains that ‘a man full of reason is locked up in jail’” <https://www.diaridetarragona.com/ebre/El-germ-de-lebrenc-Lluís-Salvado-lamenta-que-un-home-ple-de-rao-estigui-tancat-a-la-preson-20170921-0025.html>, *Diari de Tarragona*.

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**130. 19/11/2017. Woman and her young children are forced to leave taxi for speaking in Catalan in Palma.**

**Source:** “Woman reports being thrown out of taxi in Palma for speaking Catalan” <http://www.diariodemallorca.es/mallorca/2017/11/18/mujer-denuncia-haber-sido-expulsada/1265115.html>, *Diario de Mallorca*.

**«Así yo no puedo darle por acatada la Constitución.  
Por favor, en castellano.»**

**131. Doctor from public health service in Catalonia refuses to speak in Catalan to foreign resident who does not understand Spanish.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**132. 30/11/2017. Doctor from Catalan Health Service harasses patient for speaking to her in Catalan and demands that she speak in Spanish.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**133. 01/12/2017. Civil servant from Spanish police tells 12-year-old Catalan-speaking boy to speak to him “in Spanish”.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**134. 08/12/2017. Bus driver tells Catalan-speaking passenger that he does not have to give her change, but that he might make an effort, if she speaks to him in Spanish.**

**Source:** Case reported directly to Plataforma per la Lengua.

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**135. 12/12/2017. Judge from Spanish high court mocks activist Santiago Espot for declaring in Catalan at trial in which he is accused of lèse-majesté.**

**Source:** “Espot pleads not guilty and says that freedom of expression protects the whistling during the Spanish national anthem” <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/espot-es-declara-innocent-i-diu-que-la-llibertat-dexpressio-empara-la-xiulada-a-lhimne-espanyol-felipe-vi-camp-nou-2015-audiencia-nacional/>, *Vilaweb*; “Spanish Audiencia Nacional judge laughs at Santiago Espot for responding in Catalan” <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/el-jutge-de-laudiencia-espanyola-sen-riu-de-santiago-espot-per-les-respostes-en-catala/>, *Vilaweb*.

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